

Blacksburg AARP Board

Minutes/Notes

February 4, 2025

Blacksburg Recreation Center

Attendees: Don Creamer, Terry Wildman, Pam Knox, Fred Piercy, John Burton, Pat Hipkins, Pat Ballard, Joy Herbert, Jamie McReynolds, Wilma Dotson, Wendy Baldwin, and Jackie Jones.

Co-President Pat Ballard called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

Announcements: Jackie Jones briefly summarized the AARP advocacy efforts for the coming legislative year. Pat Ballard and Don Creamer spoke of the Soup for Seniors effort in Roanoke and our involvement as volunteers. Jamie McReynolds reminded the group of the Rural-Urban Divide Program to be held at the Unitarian Church on Feb 15 at 9:30-12:00.

Agenda: The posted agenda was amended to include a presentation on the breakfast with the Blacksburg Police and an upcoming meeting to brainstorm solutions to the leadership problems

The minutes: The January 2025 board meeting minutes were approved as posted.

Vittles for Vets: January Gerow, Director of Operations for Vittles for Vets, explained her organizations mission and status. VfV works with some 55 local vets and their families in the area to provide \$50 per person per week for vets who are in need (income-based), are “clean,” and have housing. Vittles for Vets will work with vets who are homeless or have other needs to get them qualified. The group also provides \$25 a month for pets since for many vets their pet is one of their only friends. Although founded as a national group (and indeed have some vets as far away as Oklahoma), the focus has become more NRV and January would like to make it the mission focus. They have local partners such as the Agency on Aging.

Treasurer’s report: Jamie and Pat B met and transferred documents to Jamie. He is now officially the Treasurer.

Committee for Charitable Giving: We need a new chair for this committee.

Locations for the June Picnic: Jerry Niles has suggested that we use the Unitarian Church for our June Picnic (LLI plans to use this venue this year). Some questions were asked and other sites suggested. The date will be June 17, but the larger discussion will be tabled until the March Board meeting when Jerry is present.

Possible Different Format for the Holiday Luncheon: There was some consensus for a drop-in reception format for the Holiday Luncheon. It would still be at Warm Hearth but rather than a meal, it would feature reception food. The cost would be \$15 per person (as opposed to \$25 which was probably going to go up). There were some questions about whether there should be a speaker and if so, what type of speaker we might look for. It was suggested that award ceremony could be the center piece instead. Pat Hipkins and Wendy Baldwin will conduct a survey to find out what the membership at large would prefer.

Committee Chairs: No reports.

Leadership Challenges: Don announced that he, Jerry, Pat B and John would meet to discuss leadership needs and solutions.

Police Department Breakfast: Don said that most of the people at the breakfast were AARP members. Lt Carver, the Outreach Officer for the Blacksburg Police gave an overview of the mission of his office. In answer to a question from Ben Crawford, he stated that he was unaware of the Attorney General's TRIAD group that meets in Christiansburg.

Standing Committees:

Programs- Pat H. and Wendy Baldwin presented a handout of planned programs through Fall 2025.

Newsletter- Fred thanked everyone for meeting the deadlines.

Blacksburg Center- Joy Herbert asked for a volunteer to make sure the flag is in the meeting room or gets moved to the meeting room. Terry Wildman will check when he comes in to set up coffee and donuts for the meeting. Joy said that she had booked our meeting room through spring.

Pat B adjourned the meeting at 11:45.