

AARP Blacksburg Chapter

Minutes

June 1, 2021

Meeting held by Zoom Conference

Attendees:

Don Creamer, Leslie Pendleton, Linda Correll, Todd Solberg, Chuck Burress, Pat Ballard, Kai Duncan, Ben Crawford, Jerry Niles, Doug Feuerbach, Terry Wildman, Carolyn Rude, Judith Jones

President Leslie Pendleton called the meeting to order at 10am.
Minutes of the May 4 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Pat Ballard reported that Chapter activity related to the budget is pretty quiet currently. Pat noted that \$100 has been contributed to help fund the tax-aid program. A question arose concerning the cost of maintaining the Chapter's online payment function. Currently the cost is outpacing the rate of donations. Pat recommends we continue to offer the online payment function for the remainder of this year.

Newsletter: Carolyn Rude announced that she desires to pass on the newsletter editorship to another person effective at the end of the current year. Carolyn asked the board to begin the process of looking for another editor. Carolyn reported that she has created a job description, and went on to suggest that a change in editorship would be an opportunity for the Board to rethink what we're doing with the newsletter. An extended discussion followed that included questions about the cost of the newsletter (estimated at \$1100 per year), whether the Chapter might reconsider the need to continue producing and mailing hardcopies, whether the work could be divided with co-editors, whether we have data on how many people actually read the newsletters, and how we might proceed to search for another editor. Leslie Pendleton asked if the leadership development committee could take on the task of beginning the editor replacement process. Jerry Niles agreed to convene a meeting of the committee to begin the process.

Note: The entire Board recognizes the fantastic contribution and commitment that has characterized Carolyn Rude's service as newsletter editor. Much more will be said on this as we move toward finding a replacement editor. In the meantime, we just say: Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Books for Vets: Leslie Pendleton shared on her computer screen a brief report from Tom Hohenshil. Basically, collection of books has been halted effective May 31. Given that so many books have been collected (between 1700 and 2,000) and none have yet been delivered to our two target Veteran centers, a decision will need to be made as to how this project will go forward, if indeed it does. Tom will continue to keep the books at his home. Some discussion

followed concerning what to do with the books if all of them cannot be accepted at the Veteran centers.

By-Laws Revision: Linda Correll reported that a vote on the revised by-laws will be conducted at the upcoming June membership meeting. Leslie briefly discussed with the board what message should be given to the membership about the revision. The board decided not to refer members to particular changes in different sections of the proposed by-laws revision mainly because of the tedium in doing so. Linda reported that the “standing rules” for Chapter operation will be finished in the fall following more information being gathered from Chapter committees.

Chapter Awards: Chuck Burress commented that for the State level awards process not much guidance is given as to how the award applications should be written. Chuck reported that the main application needed now is for the Anders award—the top state award given. Some discussion followed concerning desires to nominate two of our members, with each of them attempting to defer to the other. “Too much modesty” someone commented with a smile. The conversation ended with the matter left for Chuck to decide on a path forward. All agreed the two possible nominees are excellent choices.

Chapter Programs: Judy Jones provided a brief report on Chapter programs for the remainder of the year as follows: September is devoted to our health and wellness week. October is expected to be a presentation by Ladale Winling on the national highway system. November will feature April Martin presenting on historic cemeteries in our area, and December will feature the Chapter’s holiday luncheon.

Health and Wellness Week: Leslie Pendleton presented an outline of the week’s activities which will be held on Tuesday September 14 through Thursday, September 16. Possible locations for the events include Warm Hearth Village, Christiansburg Recreation Center, and the Christiansburg Moose Lodge. There will be two presentation each day, plus two hands-on activities each day. Presenters currently proposed include Abraham Hardee, Associate Chair for Primary Care for Rural and Medically Underserved Populations at VCOM, Gerhart Shurig, Emeritus Professor of Immunology and former dean of the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, and Michael Friedlander, Executive Director, Fralin Biomedical Research Institute. Other speakers on various health topics are being considered.

Chapter picnic: Our Health and Wellness Week will conclude with the Chapter picnic. This will be held at the home of Terry Wildman and Sue Magliaro on Friday September 17 from 3:00 to 6:00 pm.

Membership: The Board briefly discussed our ongoing process for maintaining and increasing membership in the chapter. No decisions were reached, and continuing discussion will continue.

Leslie Pendleton ended the meeting with a request that the Board take steps to quickly fill the Vice –President position which has been essentially vacant due to conflicting commitments by our current Vice President.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:01 pm.