

Minutes
AARP Blacksburg Chapter
April 4, 2017
Blacksburg Community Center

Present: Terry Wildman, Lisa Moose, Don Creamer, Ben Crawford, Joy Herbert, Jerry Niles, Peter Magolda, Wendy Baldwin, Thais Beams, Sally Anna Stapleton, Val Coluni, Ruth Anne Niles, Jim Montgomery, Wanda Smith, Pat Ballard

The meeting was called to order by President Terry Wildman at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of March Board Minutes: Minutes of the March 14, 2007 meeting were approved.

Officer Reports/Announcements: Terry Wildman reported that two representatives from AARP are invited to participate in the Leading Lights presentation dinner. Ryan Martin will be attending; others were not available. Pat Ballard will check her calendar.

Old and New Business: The April newsletter may have room for additional announcements. Pat Hyer to send note to Carolyn to include classic movies and other Fathom Events and suggestion to sign petition and/or donate to OneVirginia2021 to support gerrymandering reform. Terry to ask Carolyn to include announcement of AARP Chapter picnic, June 15, 5-8:00 p.m. at the Wildman/Magliaro farm.

Steppin' Out: A table has been reserved for Blacksburg Chapter participation in Steppin' Out in August. Announce in May newsletter and create sign-up sheet for volunteer shifts. (Last opportunity to recruit volunteers at June Board meeting.)

Welcome letter to new members: Wanda Smith will draft the letter. Ryan Martin can send. See further discussion below under "Membership."

Newsletters to other Virginia chapters: Recommend sending a pdf of newsletter via electronic email attachment to other chapters in Virginia. Brian Jacks may be source of email addresses for other chapter presidents. Ryan reported that other AARP leaders he met in state legislative work have commented positively about our newsletter.

Reports:

AARP Virginia Liaison: Ben Crawford reported that five AARP members met with Congressman Morgan Griffin, including Associate Director of AARP Virginia and Bob Blancato from the national board. They had a frank discussion with Griffin.

Awards: Shirley Peterson is out of town until May. Terry may need to contact her to make sure we don't miss nomination deadlines.

Community Service: Sally Anna Stapleton requested that Board members complete a survey of priorities being conducted by the Agency on Aging. The same survey will be shared at the open meeting. AARP is sponsoring additional "Movies for Grownups" at Grandin Theater: Hacksaw Ridge is showing on April 27 at 2:00 and American Masters - James Beard: America's First Foodie will show on May 11 at 2:00. Sign up in advance if planning to attend by calling 1-844-418-2281.

A health fair will be hosted by *Senior News* at the Salem Civic Center on April 12 from 9:00-3:00. The fair is open to the public. State AARP will have a table at the event.

Downtown Blacksburg Inc: Wendy will send out notices of meetings to Board members in case others would like to attend.

Health Fair: The team met recently to debrief and discuss how to continue. They propose structuring the work into "clumps" where people can volunteer for discrete assignments in a certain time frame. Contacts for exhibitors begin in January/February of the fair year. Jennie Reilly may be willing to continue in a leadership role; Angela and Wendy are not available to continue. Google Docs was extremely useful for sharing work. The middle of September has been the traditional timeframe for hosting the fair. The chapter open meeting date (Sept. 18) should be used as a starting point for securing the facility. Wendy reminded the board that it is critical to identify and commit "gold" level sponsors first and foremost since they anchor the health fair. (Non-profits don't pay.)

Hospitality: Thais Beams is looking for someone who could assist with recruiting musicians for June picnic. Terry has an idea of a group from Floyd, The Wildmans. Peter Magolda will work with Thais on music as needed.

Holiday event at Warm Hearth Village Center, Tuesday, Dec. 5: The Board will conduct its monthly meeting at 10:00 a.m. Thais will reserve the small conference room. The luncheon begins at 11:30.

Legislation: Val Coluni reported that the General Assembly reconvenes April 6 to review legislation vetoed by the Governor. Senator John Edwards sponsored a number of bills, several bills of significance passed. Delegate Yost proposed several bills, including more training in mental health issues for campus-based personnel; the bill was approved. Medical marijuana has been approved in many states; will get more attention in Virginia in future. Wendy Baldwin urged attention to use of medical marijuana in the context of nursing homes, if such legislation is proposed in Virginia. The state revenue shortfall was met without raising taxes. Val encourages members to read and share the Fighting Fraud brochure from AARP.

Ryan Martin added that May 16-17 is the state-level legislative training; he will attend. He has been asked to attend the federal level training; Ben Crawford will also attend.

LLI Partnership: Pat Hyer reported that LLI had 435 members in Spring 2017. About 25 courses are under development for Fall term. The Fall term begins in October and ends before Thanksgiving. Registration will begin after Labor Day.

Membership: Ryan Martin reported that 2017 renewals have slowed down. It is time to send reminder letters to those who have not renewed. Don Creamer sent about 33 letters last year (to just those who were members in the previous year and had not paid for 2016). Ryan suggested trying to contact non-continuing members from prior years also. Pat Ballard sends info to Ryan when new member joins. Don Creamer can send bounce backs to Ryan so he can update the roster. Don removed names of those who did not renew membership last year from Mail Chimp listserv. Don needs email addresses of new members from Ryan. They will develop a protocol for sharing information.

Peter Magolda made a case for moving chapter records to a data base for greater sharing and flexibility. Pat urged that we use a common software format such as excel that is more widely available. Ryan agreed to develop a report on the issue of collecting, maintaining, and sharing chapter membership data for the next meeting and provide a recommendation on newsletter distribution to other chapters and legislative members.

Warm Hearth Cheeseburger event sponsorship: Last year some individuals gave individual donations; the remainder of the \$500 donation came from AARP. Ben Crawford moved and Don Creamer seconded a motion that AARP chapter provide a sponsorship of \$500 for 2017. The event will be in August; we will receive four tickets.

Community Foundation and GiveBigNRV 2017: The Community Foundation is hosting its own "build interest" event on April 25, 5:00-7:00, at Kent Square second floor lobby, to encourage donations to the Foundation. Pat will attend; others are urged to join. The "click and pledge" fundraising for more than 100 NRV non-profits will be held on April 26th. Pat will send out a reminder to the Board to donate on that date.

Program: The guest speaker for the April meeting is Lisa Garcia on Dialogue on Race. Don Creamer purchased several adaptors/connectors for use with presentations; these will be stored with our other AARP supplies in Rec Center closet.

Jim Wightman noted that the AARP banner is out of date. Don and Terry are recommending a new banner to hang at our meetings. Wanda Smith recommended that "Sign Spot" (a local business) be used to help design and print the banner. Don will work on a banner layout.

Website: Don reported that the updated website is complete and functioning. He continues to work on small improvements and welcomes additional feedback.

TimeBank: Val Coluni reported that 55 members have now registered. The leadership team is now pushing for more communication and camaraderie among those registered, including events and outings for the group. Don recently conducted a Scotch tasting for the registered members.

Minutes were prepared by Pat Hyer and submitted for review on April 5, 2017.