

Blacksburg AARP Board

Minutes/Notes

May 7, 2024

Blacksburg Recreation Center

Attendees: Don Creamer, Terry Wildman, Jerry Niles, Pam Knox, Fred Piercy, John Burton, Pat Hipkins, Joy Herbert, Wilma Dotson, Wendy Baldwin, Ben Crawford, Pat Ballard, Debora Martin, Sue Magliaro, Jamie McReynolds.

Co-President Don Creamer called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

The agenda: The agenda was approved without revision.

The minutes: The minutes from the April 2 Board Meeting were considered and approved by voice vote.

Finances: Pat Ballard reported that we are in good shape financially and that there was a lot going on (Health & Wellness Fair, Picnic and such). So far, we have 10 registered for the picnic and 10 registered for the Fair. We have been invited by the Virginia Tech Retirement Association (VTRA) to set up a table at their upcoming May event. We will do so. The TaxAid program filed over 960 returns for seniors this year.

Updates:

Newsletter-Fred reported that he has strong evidence that at least 2 people read the Newsletter.

Imagination Library Project-Wendy Baldwin reported that over 1100 children have been enrolled. She says they are actively pursuing sponsorship at meetings such as the Breakfast Lions Club and the 100+ Women Who Care organization. They now have a full-size Dolly Parton (2 D) available for photo ops. (Ben interjected that Wendy has been awarded the Leading Lights Award for this year.)

Chapter Awareness Grant- Don reported that specific info should be out sometime this month.

LLI-Jerry Niles reported that LLI has over 400 members so far this year. A last-minute invitation to an LLI social at the Eastern Divide attracted some 75 people.

Health & Wellness Fair-Susan Magliaro reported that the Health & Wellness Committee has been meeting and is on schedule. They have reconnected with VCOM who appears to be enthusiastic about continuing their relationship and involvement. Don and Jerry will follow up with a letter to legitimize the "split" between the two organization. Sue feels they are on track to meet their goal of 150 tables. They have added an additional sponsorship level, Platinum, to accommodate sponsors that want to do more. This year we will have a speaker, Mike Friedlander. There will be more hands-on screening and interventions this year. The Radford University School of Nursing and the NRV Community College Nursing Program will be involved in screening such things as blood pressure and the Blacksburg Pharmacy will make flu shots available. Print marketing materials

are complete. The NRV Magazine will do a piece on the Fair. Sue especially noted Debora Martin's role in the Committee's work

AARP Driver Education- Don reported that Judith Jones had investigated the program and decided to not get involved. Don will be the contact if someone else might be interested.

Andrus Award- Don and Jerry will meet at Panera at 9:30 on May 7 to screen nominations if anyone wishes to join them.

Aging in Place-The Aging in Place materials need to be revised and updated. Jerry and Don will be meeting at Panera at 10:00 on May 7 if you wish to be part of it.

Role of the Chapter in Access to the SNAP- Don reported that he had spoken to Brian Jack at AARPVA who was enthusiastic about our possible involvement in such a project and referred him to Norm Gold whose area of assignment is Hunger (SNAP, food banks, etc). Don, Jerry, Pat, and Judith will meet with Norm Gold when possible. Three out of 5 seniors who qualify for SNAP benefits do not collect them. Montgomery County has a poverty rate of nearly 25% including many seniors.

Leadership Development Plans-Don reminded us that we need to have our nominees for next year's Board and Officers in place by September or so. He also mentioned the continuing need to replace ourselves and spoke of efforts like last year's luncheon which helped recruit new Board members. He will do that again in September and is looking for other ideas to help in this area.

June Picnic plans-The picnic will be held at Smithfield Plantation on June 15th from 5:00 to 7:00. The menu will be BBQ. Payment of \$10.00 per person can be made on our website.

AARP Volunteer Assembly Recognition Dinner-Ben Crawford reported (with a PowerPoint presentation!) on the annual state awards meeting at the Marriott in Richmond. (PowerPoint presentation included!) Basically, over 55 million senior collect Social Security benefits and 67 million are on Medicare. Over 1/3 of seniors depend on Social Security as their sole retirement income.

Fall Social-Don mentioned the possibility of a Fall social such as the one last year at Eastern Divide. There was definitely interest. Terry Wildman will come back with a plan in the near future. Jerry recommended 3:00 on a Wednesday when it is not crowded.

"This is not a Scam!"- Don reported on the presentation he attended last week in Blacksburg. All agree scams are a big problem for everyone and most especially senior who are disproportionality targeted.

Committee Reports:

Programs-Pat Hipkins reported that they have changed from 8 programs to 7 because of the Health and Wellness Fair. She and Wendy have produced a survey to be distributed and collected at the next Member Meeting Program to get input on potential topics and/or speakers.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44