

Minutes  
AARP Blacksburg Chapter  
February 6, 2018

Present: Wendy Baldwin, Tamara Hodsdon, Don Creamer, Ben Crawford, Thais Beams, Val Coluni, Pat Ballard, Jim Montgomery, Pat Hyer, Leslie Pendleton for Jennie Reilly, Hugh VanLandingham, Ryan Martin, Jerry Niles, Gene Cielinski, Carolyn Rude, Terry Wildman, June Schmidt

The meeting was called to order by President Wendy Baldwin at 10:00 a.m.

**Approval of January Board Minutes:** Minutes of the January 2, 2018 meeting were approved.

**Agenda:**

**Officer Reports/Announcements:**

**Treasurer's report:** Ruth Anne Niles is checking the mailbox and recording deposits. Pat Ballard will maintain Quicken records and prepare documentation for audits. For convenience, Terry Wildman will remain one of the bank signatories.

The annual audit report was circulated by June Schmidt. The report documents their review process; the committee certified that the records have been appropriately maintained. The committee commended the Treasurer for establishing strong links between the budget, revenues, and disbursements, and providing timely and informative reports to carry out their audit. The committee recommended that the Treasurer consider ways to further segregate LLI revenues and disbursements.

June presented the 2018 budget on behalf of John Hillison who was unable to stay for the meeting. The proposed budget covering the 2018 calendar year projects \$8,020 in revenues from membership fees, donations, the Holiday Luncheon and Health Fair, and other miscellaneous sources. Proposed expenditures include routine chapter expenses, including newsletter and chapter operating expenses, the picnic and Holiday Luncheon, various program commitments, and donations to various charities and partner non-profit organizations. A motion to approve the 2018 budget was approved.

**Newsletter:** Carolyn Rude offered available column space in upcoming newsletter for topics or events. Members recommended that she feature upcoming programs.

**Partners' Meeting:** Wendy Baldwin reported on the successful meeting with AARP partners and donation recipients, held on January 16. (Notes from this meeting were previously distributed.) She contacted earlier/additional recipients about a second discussion session, but only received a response from the Center for Gerontology. After some discussion, Wendy offered to follow up individually with Pam Teaster, director of the Center. Jerry Niles, Don Creamer, and Lisa Moose had recently met with her and the Center is also a member of the Aging in Place Taskforce, so connections are already strong between the chapter and the Center.

**Arts Across the Generations:** Peter Magolda was ill today, so Wendy gave a report on this initiative. They are advertising through schools, LLI, and the Blacksburg Regional Art Association.

**Greeter for monthly meeting:** Wendy proposed more systematic greeting of guests to our open meetings, urging them to join and pay membership, etc. Vice President Jerry Niles will take on this role with Jim Wightman. Ryan suggested that he create a section in his spreadsheet for prospective members so that we can contact them if they do not respond with a membership application.

**Summer Solstice:** Board members recommended that we not participate in this town event and save our volunteer efforts for Steppin' Out where there is a substantial non-profit organization presence.

**Tech Table after meeting:** Wendy suggested that we try to provide opportunities to learn a very specific technology skill/task for our members, perhaps after a regular open meeting. Ryan Martin offered that he has survey information already that might be helpful in determining what skills might be needed. He is willing to place student volunteers on such an effort. It was further suggested that holding these mini sessions BEFORE the regular meeting, rather than afterward, might be more effective. Wendy will follow up.

**Online payments:** Don Creamer reviewed the status of the investigation of online payments for membership, exhibitor, and event fees. Isabel Berney suggested that we use PayPal. Don met with Ryan Martin to discuss options. Ryan reported that Downtown Blacksburg Inc is using a National Bank system (Thrive). There is no cost for transactions, but \$10/month fee. Thrive can be used on Smartphone or tablet. Deposits are made directly to our bank account. Pat Ballard had questions about how deposits would be displayed, so that she could record memberships versus donations, etc.

Group Spaces may be another alternative. It creates a data base for us, which other options do not. Don and Ryan will continue exploration of options, hoping to make a recommendation at the March meeting. There was considerable discussion about application of online payments for the Health Fair, now that VCOM is unable to provide this service. The YMCA may be able/willing to collect exhibitor fees for AARP as a temporary solution. The Health Fair team will tell exhibitors that payment information will be shared in April.

**AARP Officers Summit** in Bedford: Wendy and Jerry Niles will attend on March 1. Brian Jacks is expecting about ten chapters to be represented at the meeting. Officers who are interested should notify Wendy ASAP so she can RSVP to Brian in a timely way.

**GiveBigNRV Event:** Pat Hyer proposed that AARP increase its sponsorship of the GiveBigNRV event on April 18 from \$250 to \$500, using LLI funds to split the total cost with the AARP chapter. The GiveBigNRV event raises money for more than 100 regional non-profits in a single day. The sponsorships provide incentive grants to the organizations which participate and achieve particular milestones. Ryan moved to increase our sponsorship to \$1,000, soliciting board member personal contributions for the additional \$500. However, after some discussion, the motion was not approved. The board then approved a \$500 sponsorship donation (\$250 from chapter funds previously included in the 2018 budget and \$250 LLI-designated funds). Pat Ballard will complete the sponsorship form and prepare a

check. Board members will be encouraged to make individual donations to the Fund for the NRV (Community Foundation) on the online giving day.

**Reports:**

**Awards:** Leading Lights nominations are due March 4; nominations can be made online at [leadinglightsNRV.org](http://leadinglightsNRV.org)

**Health Fair:** Leslie Pendleton reported on Health Fair preparations for Jennie Reilly. (Jennie Reilly, Sandra Griffith, Leslie Pendleton, Tammy Caldwell, and Jill Stewart are committee members.) They have held three meetings; the team is meeting every other week. They are updating flyers and documents. Leslie has contacted about 75% of 130-140 exhibitors from last year and she is starting to hear back. The committee will continue to handle calls to exhibitors to ensure close coordination; board members offered to be available for assigned tasks before and during event.

**Programs:** Don reported that programs are planned through May; Sept. will be the health fair. Lisa Moose and Don will meet with Karen Nelson at Warm Hearth, who has requested an opportunity to address our group. They will explore her interests, but AARP does not want to endorse a particular retirement or assisted living facility. Wendy is working on a session that might highlight transportation alternatives for those who can no longer drive themselves.

**Chapter picnic:** The proposed date for the annual chapter picnic is Tuesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at Terry's farm.

**Holiday luncheon:** Thais Beams will request Tuesday, Dec. 4 for Holiday Luncheon at the Warm Hearth Tall Oaks Room at the Village Center.

**Website:** Don will make a few minor changes.

**Senior Housing:** Pat Hyer will speak at Planning Commission meeting tonight (2/6) concerning support for additional senior housing, in the context of a proposed age-restricted development, Huckleberry Vistas.

**Legislative report:** Val Coluni distributed his legislative report. He reported that a bill passed to require transparency about legislators' votes on various bills, which were not previously disclosed. The Supreme Court is going to hear two cases on gerrymandering that may set uniform guidelines for states re redistricting. Governor Northam has been emphasizing bipartisanship as he begins to work with the General Assembly.

**Membership:** Ryan reported that there are 7 or 8 new chapter members and that there will be no AARP advocacy day this year because of dislocation of House offices during building renovations.

Minutes were prepared by Pat Hyer and submitted for review on February 6, 2018