

AARP Blacksburg Chapter
February 5, 2019
Minutes

Attendees: Jerry Niles, Don Creamer, Judith Jones, Terry Wildman, Sally Anna Stapleton, Lisa Moose, Ben Crawford, Leslie Pendleton, Doug Feuerbach, Pat Ballard, Hugh VanLandingham, Tamara Hodsden, Joy Herbert, Isabel Berney

Minutes for January 8, 2019 board meeting were approved.

Announcements:

- Inclement weather policy reiterated: If Montgomery County Schools are closed, our monthly membership meeting is cancelled. If the schools announce a delayed opening, the membership meeting will proceed. Board meetings will proceed unless explicitly canceled by the chair.
- Brian Jacks invited four chapter members to attend the Chapter Summit Meeting in Bedford, Monday, March 18, about 10:00-2:30. If interested in attending, let Jerry know.
- February 20 will be a Scotch Tasting fundraiser for the Blacksburg Museum. Don Creamer and Steve Janosik are conducting the tasting.
- Terry Wildman expressed appreciation for Ben Crawford's well-stated op-ed piece on the proposed constitutional amendment to eliminate gerrymandering.

Treasurer's Report:

John Hillison and Jerry Lawton will conduct the audit in June Schmidt's absence. Pat Ballard shared thank you notes received from non-profit organizations that received chapter donations at the holiday luncheon. Pat presented the summary of budget versus expenditures for 2018, highlighting a few minor changes. The proposed budget for 2019 was approved.

Officer Reports:

Don Creamer reported that the installation of several new plug-ins to our software will now allow delivery of the necessary reports to the Treasurer.

Reconceptualizing the Care Committee:

Leslie Pendleton proposes that we reconceptualize the Care Committee to address a larger agenda associated with the many dimensions of Living Well and Successful Aging. Several board members expressed strong support for the enlarged framework presented in Leslie's handout. There are a variety of vehicles for addressing the 8 topic areas, including monthly meetings, LLI courses or events, articles in the newsletter, and other strategies. Jerry noted that many of the materials available through AARP national are very well done, such as the HomeFit Guide, and ought to be featured in our own local chapter meetings. Judith Jones urged us to think about follow up after giving out material, helping people move from reading about an issue to taking action. Members cited numerous examples of need in the community, such as a newly widowed persons confronted with financial responsibilities they have never managed before. Some discussion focused on how to collect and share information about existing resources (Agency on Aging, financial info, TimeBank, Aging in Place Taskforce, etc.). Being part of a caring community and sharing relevant local

resources should be a key response to the question of “why should I belong to my local AARP chapter?” The board strongly encouraged further development of the initiative and a possible structured conversation at the April membership meeting. Joy Herbert shared a Caregivers Notebook prepared by a colleague that contains a great deal of relevant information. The March newsletter should highlight the upcoming April conversation.

Newsletter:

Carolyn Rude is in Richmond today with League of Women Voters. We need to think about a few issues, including need for others to produce content and the mechanics of getting the newsletter to the mail. Will take up the newsletter topic in all its dimensions at the March meeting when she is available.

Membership:

We have about 380 people on list – that includes annual-renewal members, lifetime members, complimentary members, and honorary members. Probably about 200 actual members. Coreen Mett has already tackled the hard work of updating and reconciling the membership list. Coreen is happy to manage the data base, but she does not want to recruit new members or be the face of the membership committee. Jerry assured Pat B (and Coreen) that responsibilities for recruiting and supporting members will be handled by others. He expressed immense gratitude for Coreen’s work to date and her willingness to manage the data base. Don reported that he has 178 people on his email list, but this needs to be reconciled with the membership list and cull out deaths or non-active members.

Senior Safety:

Wendy Baldwin will be giving a presentation soon about senior safety. She is looking for examples of safety devices and experience with their benefits or problems encountered. Don recommended that a call to the Center for Gerontology and the Agency on Aging might provide more than enough material.

Use of the Email Distribution List:

Some discussion about requests to use the chapter email distribution list to collect information from members. Jerry stated that collecting such information through a survey or similar strategy should require prior approval of the board.

GiveBig Event:

Pat Hyer made a pitch for a repeated contribution to the Community Foundation for sponsorship of the GiveBig NRV event on April 24. Ben Crawford moved approval of the \$500 sponsorship for the GiveBig event, the cost to be split between LLI and chapter funds. The motion was approved. Ben also recommended that Jerry bring up this event with Brian Jacks at the Chapter Summit and urge Brian to consider supporting this NRV-wide priority.

AARP Virginia:

Ben Crawford reported that there are about 37-38M AARP members nationally and about 1M members in Virginia. The largest single volunteer group works on the Tax Aide program. Carol Downs is the new state AARP president. Ben distributed copies of the previously approved resolution for the constitutional amendment on gerrymandering and his op-ed piece in the Roanoke

Times. Senate Bill 306 passed creating an independent commission. The Senate bill now goes to the House.

Legislative:

Val Coluni not available today. Ben distributed a copy of Val's report that will also appear in the upcoming newsletter.

Community Service:

Sally Anna Stapleton reported that the tax aide program is up and running. February is the first general food drive for 2019; please bring basic staples to the membership meeting to share.

LLI:

Pat Hyer reported that LLI reached an important milestone in Spring term 2019, now enrolling more than 500 members. More than 300 of the members have registered for the popular special event lectures, field trips, and tours.

Programs:

The next membership meeting includes Sandy Birch's memorial remembrances and Peter Magolda's slide show. Pat Hyer offered a Costa Rica travelogue in future months if desired.

Hospitality:

The annual picnic will be Tuesday, June 18; Terry Wildman and Sue Magliaro are happy to host the picnic at their home once again. Terry asked that Pat Ballard invite her DJ friend again.

Terry will request Tuesday, December 10 for the holiday luncheon at Warm Hearth Village Center. Pat Ballard will confirm the date of the Christmas Store to avoid conflicts during the first week of December.

The Whitebarrel contribution of \$500 arrived today from the proceeds of the Fall social at the winery. Don Creamer and Terry Wildman will make a personal visit to the owner to talk about difficulties that members experienced trying to get information or cancel their reservations – calls were not returned, nor were refunds issued.

Minutes prepared by Pat Hyer and submitted February 6.