

## **AARP Blacksburg Chapter Minutes**

November 1, 2022

### **Attendees:**

Don Creamer, Leslie Pendleton, Ben Crawford, Jerry Niles, Terry Wildman, Fred Piercy, Pat Ballard, Linda Correll, Wilma Dotson, Joy Herbert, John Burton, Kai Duncan, Judith Jones, Wendy Baldwin, Nola Elliott, Pat Hipkins

Leslie Pendleton called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

The Chapter minutes from October were considered and approved.

Pat Ballard provided a brief treasurer's report. The net proceeds from the Health and Wellness Fair were \$3652, and of that amount \$2400 will be donated to selected non-profit organizations at our December Holiday Luncheon. The remaining funds will be placed in the Chapter's savings account. Pat noted that funds are currently coming into the Chapter as members renew their memberships, donate to the chapter, and register for the Holiday Luncheon.

During the treasurer's report the Board moved into a side discussion concerning the various categories of membership we have and whether these lists are correct and up to date. Specifically, we have lists of current members, past members, and deceased past members. No concrete decision was made as to how membership lists might be better managed, but all agreed that action should be taken to update membership lists and correct them as needed.

**New AARP Covid Guidance.** Leslie reported that as of October 17 AARP National has eased prior Covid restrictions, particularly regarding public meetings, and that now Chapters could resume all normal activities.

**Health and Wellness Fair final report.** Leslie reported that a debriefing meeting was held on Thursday, October 13 and that a final report will be posted to the Google Drive. The report includes a summary of planning activities, sponsors and exhibitors, income and expenses (\$8825 and \$3941 respectively), visitors to the fair (165) and a listing of feedback received across a number of categories. Overall, considering the long delay due to the pandemic, the Fair was considered a success and planning will resume at some point for the next fair, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 18, 2024.

**Chapter Newsletter.** Jerry Niles reported that beginning January 2023 the Chapter newsletter will be co-edited by Fred Piercy and Pam Knox. The newsletter will be electronic in form and the first edition will appear in February.

A discussion then arose dealing with an issue previously noted but not resolved—what to do about members who do not have computers and/or who would want to continue receiving paper copies anyway. The answer for those who have the capability to receive the newsletter electronically is that this will be the only option. An announcement will be made to the membership at the Holiday Luncheon or before. The problem regarding those without computers is first, who are they, and second, how to make paper copies accessible to them.

Several actions were proposed. One is to send a mail communication informing members of the newsletter change and asking those without a computer to mail back a card indicating whether a paper copy of the newsletter is preferred.

Another is to put a small number of paper copies in area libraries and inform the membership of that. And finally, it was suggested that we simply check the membership list to see who has, and who doesn't have an email address. This would be a good clue as to how many members would likely be able to receive the newsletter electronically. Leslie will pursue this suggestion.

**Standing Rules.** Linda Correll reported that work on the Chapter's procedures for operating (i.e., Standing Rules) is near completion. However, with a change in Newsletter operations Linda noted that the new co-editors will need to revise what is currently described for producing, printing and distributing a print version. Linda will place the current version in a separate folder on the Google Drive so that work can be more easily accomplished.

Leslie then brought up the fact that our "Legislative" committee is currently without a chair, and opened a discussion of whether the AARP Virginia Liaison committee and the Legislative committee might be combined. During this discussion Wendy Baldwin said that she would be willing to help with such a committee by focusing on Federal Legislation. However, during the discussion Ben Crawford made the case that the two committees really were quite different, in part because the AARP Virginia liaison deals with far more than just legislative affairs.

The Board then decided to put out a call to the membership on Mailchimp inviting members to consider whether someone with a particular interest in legislative affairs might be willing to join the Board and lead the Legislative Committee. Don Creamer and Leslie will prepare such a message and Don will send it out.

**Awards.** John Burton provided a comprehensive report on the process and results of this year's selection of recipients for the *Chapter Service Award*, and the *Community Spirit Award*. John reported that the Awards Committee has selected Linda Correll to receive the Chapter Service Award, and then proceeded to read a lengthy and impressive array of service projects that Linda has designed and implemented including creating a Google Drive system to enable storing and managing information regarding the Chapter's standing rules and programs. She has provided leadership for the AARP Challenge Grant that involved collaboration with the Blacksburg Regional Art Association. The outcome of that project is a mural now displayed in downtown Blacksburg.

Regarding the Chapter Spirit Award the committee broke somewhat with tradition by proposing two award recipients for 2022. These two recipients will be Irene Peterson and Judith Jones. Some of Irene's notable service accomplishments are with the Montgomery Christmas Store, the Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley, the Red Cross Disaster Action Team, the Montgomery Museum of Art and History, and many more. For Judith Jones, the committee noted that her nomination included outstanding service to the Blacksburg AARP Chapter, the Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution, the Southwest Virginia Cemetery Volunteers, the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, the Montgomery County School Board, the Virginia Master Gardener Association, and many more.

Members who attend the Holiday Luncheon will hear in more detail about the service and accomplishments of these award recipients.

**Charitable Giving.** Judith Jones provided a brief report of the Charitable Giving Committee's recommendations for Chapter donation for 2022. The recommendations are as follows:

- \$200 – Community Foundation of the NRV
- \$300 – Town of Blacksburg Community Center
- \$300 – Town of Christiansburg Community Center
- \$300 – St. Michael Lutheran Church
- \$200 – NRV Agency on Aging
- \$300 – Montgomery County Christmas Store – Seniors
- \$300 – RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program)
- \$200 – Warm Hearth Dementia Program
- \$300 – SW Virginia Veteran's Cemetery

Judith also reported that the following organizations will be awarded donations from the proceeds of the Chapter's ongoing food drive conducted during Chapter meetings.

- \$150 – Interfaith Food Pantry
- \$100 – NRV Agency on Aging – seniors and pets
- \$125 – Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program
- \$125 – Salvation Army Post of the NRV

The above donations were approved by the Board.

**Programs.** Linda Correll reported that the January program will feature Ruth Waalkes, whose topic will be "Inside the Moss Arts Center."

Finally, the Board was reminded of the wreath laying ceremony at the Dublin Veteran's Cemetery scheduled for December 17 at 1:00pm.

The Meeting was adjourned at noon.

Submitted by Chapter Secretary Terry Wildman