

Blacksburg AARP
Board Minutes/Notes

November 7, 2023

Blacksburg Recreation Center

Attendees: Don Creamer, Terry Wildman, Leslie Pendleton, Pam Knox, Fred Piercy, John Burton, Nola Elliot, Joy Herbert, Wilma Dotson, Britton Gildersleeve, Judith Jones, and Ben Crawford.

President Leslie Pendleton called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

The minutes: The minutes from the October 2023 board meeting were considered and approved.

Old Business

Report on Virginia Tech Retirement Association (VTRA) 16 October Luncheon: In Jerry Niles's absence, Wilma Dotson reported on the luncheon. Wilma staffed a table with AARP information while Jerry made a pitch for AARP by differentiating between AARP National and our local chapter.

Report on Montgomery County Christmas Store (MCCS): Leslie reported that Board members had volunteered in the book and senior shops and would send two more at Beth Waggenpack's request.

Report on the proposed slate of officers for 2024: Don announced the slate proposed at the last meeting had not changed. The slate was accepted without amendment.

Holiday Luncheon: Terry Wildman presented the quote for the December 12. The Board agreed to keep the per person cost at \$25.00. Paul Seigel will be the speaker. Terry is exploring background music possibilities with Warm Hearth. A deadline of December 5 for registration was established to allow for planning. Judith Jones will present donations to community partners, including food bank donations. John Burton will announce Chapter Service and Community Spirit awards (and work with Ben Crawford on ordering the plaques). Leslie will present the 2023 chapter highlights, and Brian Jacks will install officers.

New Business

Judith Jones distributed her committee's recommendations for 2024 partner donations (\$2,400) using the 2023 amounts and charities. Those amounts were accepted. Given a vacancy in the Executive Director position, it was decided to table an earlier discussion about a donation to the Fine Arts Center of the New River Valley. Judith also reported that we have collected \$800 for Food Project Drives and gave suggested distributions, those amounts were accepted. Both sets of figures are appended to these minutes.

Judith reminded the board of the December 16th wreath-laying ceremony at the Southwest Veterans Cemetery.

Membership renewal: Don Creamer will send reminders (via MailChimp) to the Chapter members that annual dues should be paid by the first of the new year. Also, dues, Holiday Luncheon fees, and donations may be paid online or by mail.

The Common Ingredient (TCI-NRV): Leslie announced that The Common Ingredient is soliciting “100 recipes in 100 Days” between November 6 to February 14 to draw awareness of food insecurity. Recipes may be shared on: thecommoningredientNRV.com.

Committee Reports:

AARP Liaison. Ben Crawford reported some current statistics shared by AARP. Sixty-five million people in the US (not all seniors) receive Social Security, and 60M are on Medicare. Of these, 1.6M report that SS is their primary source of income and for 25% of those, it is 90% of their income or more. AARP advocates on behalf of sustaining both programs. Currently, there are 7.6M+ AARP members nationally and 979,000+ in Virginia. Seventy-one thousand are in our district.

Newsletter. Pam and Fred report that the next issue of the newsletter will be published in February. Rather than having a separate issue for Member Memorials, the Memorials will be included in the February issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 AM.

**Charitable giving for 2023
Funds from Health Fair**

Amt	Check #	Awardee	Check made payable to	Memo line	Contact
\$200		Community Foundation of the NRV	Community Foundation of the NRV	Town of Blacksburg Senior Center End. Fund	Joy/Jess
\$300		Town of Blacksburg Community Ctr	Town of Blacksburg	Senior Center	Joy
\$300		Christiansburg Community Center	CDPR	Senior Programs	Tammy
\$300		St. Michael Lutheran Church	Micah's Soup for Seniors	Micah's Soup for Seniors	Dianne
\$200		NRV Agency on Aging	NRV Agency on Aging	Meals on Wheels	Tina King
\$300		Mont. Co. Christmas Store-Seniors	Mont. Co. Christmas Store	Senior Undergarments	Sally Bohland
\$300		RSVP(Retired Senior Volunteer Programs)	RSVP	Supplies for Seniors	Mandy
\$200		Warm Hearth Dementia Program	Warm Hearth	Dementia Program	Amy We
\$300		SW Virginia Veteran's Cemetery	SW Virginia Veteran's Cemetery	Wreath laying program	Mary L
\$2,400		Total			

**Charitable giving for 2023
Funds from Food Project Drives**

Amt	Check #	Awardee	Check made payable to	Memo line	Contact
\$250		Interfaith Food Pantry	Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry	Food Pantry	Andrea
\$175		NRV Agency on Aging	NRV Agency on Aging	Fido's Pantry	Shannon
\$225		Mont. Co. Emergency Assistance Program	MCEAP	Food Pantry	Margie
\$150		Salvation Army Post of the NRV	Salvation Army Post of the NRV	Food Pantry	Captain
\$800		Total			Merissa

*Lindsey Gleason - CFNRF Assistant Director

*Shannon Cook is volunteer with Agency on Aging and will be there for Tina King and Shannon Hammons who are attending a board meeting

*Norma Cox & Lisa Holland are Christmas Store folks that work in the Senior Department. Sally Bohland is doing pick up at the store today.

*Ginger Clayton - Vice Chair of Memorial Bell Tower Subcommittee for Cemetery

*Shannon Cook is volunteer with Agency on Aging and will be there for Tina King and Shannon Hammons who are attending a board meeting

*Phillip Pappas - long time volunteer with MCEAP. Margie is at a board meeting.

Tammy Caldwell is director of Senior Programs at the Christiansburg Rec. Center and Brad Epperly is the Direct of Christiansburg Dept. of Parks and Recreation (one of them will attend but not both)

