

Minutes
AARP Blacksburg Board

October 1, 2024

Blacksburg Recreation Center

Attendees: Don Creamer, Pat Ballard, Jerry Niles, Jackie Jones, John Burton, Jamie McReynolds, Fred Piercy, Pam Knox, Nola Elliott, Ben Crawford, Judith Jones.

Co-President Don Creamer called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

The Minutes: The minutes from the 3 September 2024 board meeting were considered and approved.

Finances: Pat Ballard reported that we are in good shape financially. The Health & Welfare Fair was a success so we will be able to give to charities as planned (approximately \$11,000). All bills paid. Waiting on \$1,000 check from our chapter grant.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Recent Hurricane Damage- Ben Crawford talked about the devastation along the New River. Happened to meet Congressman Morgan Griffin while surveying the damage. Griffin mentioned the Library of Congress Annual Book Grant. He also mentioned that he and John Burton would be going to the Veteran's Benefits Fair in Pulaski to man a Blacksburg AARP table.

Health & Welfare Fair- Jerry Niles reported that we had some 89 sponsors including one Platinum (NBB) and 10 Gold. Jerry commended particularly the hard and effective work of Susan Magliaro, as chair, and Jackie Jones, for her work obtaining sponsors and door prizes. Tammie Caldwell and her staff were invaluable. Ben opined that this was the best H&W Fair in his experience. Evaluations by participants were overwhelmingly high. There were a few complaints from vendors about parking and lack of help moving materials to the floor. The data showed that the majority of the participants (48%) were from Christiansburg, Blacksburg accounted for 18%, Floyd 5% and Montgomery County at large 11%. There was wide agreement that Susan and her committee were exemplary.

NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet- Wilma Dotson attended as our representative along with Judith Jones (and her husband Roy Jones). Wilma raved about the event and suggested that next year we fund 1/2 of a table with participants covering the other one half. No action was taken at this time.

Andrus Award- Don contacted the AARP State office to inquire about the status our candidate for the Andrus Award. While he was not informed who won the award, he did find out that the winner was not from SW Virginia...

Holiday Luncheon- Don announced that although Terry Wildman (and Susan) was at the beach, he could announce that the Holiday Luncheon would be held on 10 December at Warm Hearth Community Center from 11:30-2:00,

Hunger Action Month- Don summarized a report from Leslie Pendleton on the food drive that our chapter and The Common Ingredient collaborated on. It was a big success, securing a “truck load” of food and personal items as well as \$160 in cash for those in need in the Pulaski area.

ACTIONS-

Health & Wellness Fair-Jerry mentioned that the role of VCOM has changed considerably over the years. He suggested that we continue VCOM as a non-paying sponsor. It was **Moved.**

Seconded, and Passed that we donate \$500 to their scholarship fund.

Leadership Development Report- Jerry announced that the recommended slate to be presented to the membership be: Pat Ballard & John Burton for Co-Presidents, Don Creamer & Jerry Niles for Co-Vice Presidents, Pat Ballard for Treasurer and John Burton for Secretary. It was Moved, Seconded, and Passed to approve the slate presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

Programs. Don reported that Pat Hipkins says our program planning is complete through Spring 2025.

Advocacy. Jackie reported that the VAAARP was offering a \$1,000 grant for local chapters to use in gathering information about issues to be advocated and share advocacy efforts. It was decided to host a social meeting to discuss advocacy issues at brewery or distillery in Blacksburg. (Don was noticeably moved by this solution.) It was agreed that we will try to meet at the Eastern Divide on a Wednesday in early December.

Don **Adjourned** the meeting at 11:14