

AARP Blacksburg Chapter

Minutes

October 11, 2022

Attendees:

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

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

The minutes from the September meeting were considered and approved.

Treasurer's Report. Pat Ballard provided a brief report with the main item being that the Health and Wellness Fair yielded an approximate total of \$3743 after 25% being taken out for the participation of VCOM.

Health and Wellness Fair report. Leslie Pendleton reported that a "Fair Debriefing" will be held on Thursday, October 13. Leslie promised a full report at our next Board Meeting. Leslie mentioned again the Fair included 80 exhibitors, of which 66 were paid exhibitors or sponsors.

Ben Crawford shared a large number of photos he took at the event, including a thumb drive with digital copies. The board discussed briefly ways to use the photos. Leslie agreed to upload the photos into Google Drive.

Town of Christiansburg Benefits Fair. Don Creamer and John Burton, who had provided a Chapter table at the event, reported that the Fair was a pretty routine affair, with some interesting exhibits.

Newsletter. Susan Terwilliger reported that progress is being made on the next newsletter and that any remaining copy is needed by October 17. The Board discussed including membership and Holiday Luncheon registration and payment details in the newsletter. It was reported that David DeBiasi, AARP Virginia Associate State Director, was invited to be the speaker. Becky Coffey has tentatively agreed to play the harp.

Terry Wildman will contact Lynn Epperly, Catering Director at Warm Hearth, for information and pricing regarding the Holiday Luncheon. The Board approved a price of \$25 for the luncheon, which is within the price range of prior luncheons.

Leadership. Jerry Niles reported on possible changes in how the Chapter will handle the newsletter given we will begin the new year without our current newsletter editors. Jerry suggested moving to an online newsletter format possibly modeled on the current LLI

newsletter. The conversation quickly moved to the possibility that we could use MailChimp, already in use to communicate with Chapter members. It was noted that MailChimp does have a newsletter option.

Feedback from Beth Grabau, current newsletter editor, suggested three considerations: First, MailChimp may be easy to use relative to Microsoft Word. Second, the possibility that some members may be disappointed at not receiving a paper copy. Third, using an online version may yield some cost savings.

Following a bit more conversation, Judy Jones suggested that we make the change to an online newsletter and make the announcement at the Holiday Luncheon. Ben Crawford presented a motion that the Chapter make this change and the Board voted approval.

Community Service. Judy Jones commented on the success of the Chapter's cash "food drive," yielding \$400 in contributions this year during Chapter meetings. What to do with these funds (i.e., who to contribute to and how often?), stimulated an extended conversation. Ben Crawford reiterated an opinion expressed earlier that the Salvation Army would be a worthy recipient. Ben talked about the Salvation Army being the largest non-profit in the world, and how the local unit provided free meals each Monday and Friday. Ben suggested that recipients of our donations be invited to the Holiday Luncheon.

Pat Ballard suggested streamlining the Chapter's "giving program" by merging the Community Service committee with the Charitable Giving Committee charged with dispersing funds from the Health and Wellness Fair. This recommendation was favorably regarded and it was decided that the merged committee would meet once each year to decide on possible recipients and make a recommendation to the Board.

Day of Service. Judy Jones next led a discussion dealing with how Chapter members might participate in an annual day or days of service. One proposal was that the Chapter focus this year on the book section at the Christmas Store. A motion was made and passed that we concentrate on the Christmas Store and contact Shirley Cline, who coordinates the book section, to determine how and when we might be of assistance. On behalf of the Board, Kai Duncan agreed to contact Shirley.

Standing Rules. Linda Correll reported on the progress of updating the Chapter's "Standing Rules." At this point the process is close to completion with a few sections still in need of review and updating as needed. A deadline of October 28 was set for members of the board to report on their particular responsibilities whether as Chapter officers or committee chairs. Linda will send links to the particular sections in need of further review.

During this discussion, a related issue arose as what to do with committees that are currently inactive and/or without chairs. Initially several members suggested either discontinuing or moving to inactive status those committees not currently in operation. Ben Crawford cautioned to not take any action until the Chapter By-Laws were examined to determine what

course of action would be consistent with the By-Laws. Further action on this matter was tabled.

Mural Reveal and Reception. Leslie reminded the Board that the long-anticipated mural to be displayed on the corner of Draper Road and College Avenue will be unveiled on Friday, October 21, 3pm, and followed by a reception at the Lyric Theatre. Members of the Board were encouraged to attend and join others from the community to celebrate the completion of this project. A brief discussion on funding for food and champagne resulted in a motion to approve up to a \$200 contribution from the Chapter. Ben Crawford suggested that the State AARP office might be inclined to contribute as well. Leslie will follow-up on this suggestion.

Leadership. Jerry Niles presented a slate of officers for the coming year 2023. This slate will be presented to members at the regular October 18 membership meeting, with a call for any further nominations. Once the slate is finalized, a member vote will be held at the November meeting. The proposed slate is as follows:

President – Leslie Pendleton, for a third term

Vice President – Don Creamer/Jerry Niles, for a shared term

Treasurer – Pat Ballard

Secretary – John Burton

It was further noted that Wilma Dotson and Pamela Knox will become new board members.

Awards. John Burton reported that the awards committee has received excellent nominations for the Community Spirit Award, but no nominations for the Chapter Service award. Leslie Pendleton reported that she has a Service award nomination if the deadline could be extended, which was then set for October 14 at 5pm.

Trick or Treat Trail. Leslie asked the Board to review the invitation extended to AARP Blacksburg to participate in the Warm Hearth Foundation event “Trick or Treat Trail” scheduled for Friday, October 28 from 4-7pm at the WWII Park. The Board decided not to participate by bringing a table to the event.

Other Notes. Leslie expressed concern that the closet containing AARP Blacksburg materials at the Recreation Center was in great need of cleaning and reorganization. Leslie will continue to explore best solutions.

Ben Crawford reported that the Ruritan apple butter sale is now on with quarts going for \$9 and pints for \$5. See Ben to purchase apple butter.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05pm

Submitted by Terry Wildman, Chapter Secretary

