

## **Minutes/Notes**

January 3, 2023

Blacksburg Recreation Center

**Attendees:** Don Creamer, Terry Wildman, Leslie Pendleton, Jerry Niles, Pam Knox, Fred Piercy, John Burton, Pat Hipkins, Nola Elliot, Joy Herbert, Wendy Baldwin, Wilma Dotson, Sandy Birch.

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

**The minutes:** The minutes from the December 2022 meeting were considered and approved.

**Treasurer:** In the absence of Pat Ballard, Leslie reported that the Chapter's Bulk Mail Permit was expiring and will cost \$240.00 to be extended for the coming year. It requires a minimum of 200 individual pieces for each mailing to be used. Given that we are transitioning to digital newsletters this year, we would generally meet this criterion only once every other year for the Health and Wellness Fair mailings. It was moved, seconded, and passed by voice vote, that we discontinue our Bulk Mail Permit

**Member Memorials:** Sandy Birch presented the amended list of the Blacksburg AARP chapter members who had passed away in 2022.

**Annual Chapter and Retired Educator Association Unit (REA) Community Service Award:** Leslie announced that we have a request from REA. Following a brief discussion with past history and criteria, it was decided that Leslie would send the letter from REA to the board. Action was tabled until the February board meeting.

**Chapter Reports:** Leslie announced that the Annual Chapter Reports are due. Pat Ballard will provide the Treasurer's Report and Leslie will coordinate and produce the Chapter Census and Activities Report. Leslie will send the data request to the committee and the board members for input. Don suggested that we access last year's reports, which are already on-line, as a start. Some discussions around the issue of our involvement or lack of involvement in long-term care efforts. It was determined that Leslie would reach out to Judith Jones to contact long-term facilities, particularly their Activities Directors, to see what they have in place and what they might need, particularly in the area of socialization. Don gave a few "random thoughts" which precipitated a trip down the rabbit hole of Mail Chimp, membership lists, who has e-mail and who doesn't, etc.

**Newsletter Update:** To try to get email addresses for members who don't currently have email addresses listed in our Member Master database, Leslie mailed postcards to those members. The goal is to include those members in Mailchimp announcements, including the new digital newsletter.

Jerry, Pam, Don, and Fred gave an update on the new digital newsletter. They have met and plan to meet again later this month. They plan on quarterly newsletters with special releases

like a memorial edition in February. The advantages of the digital format were discussed, including no required length, easy inclusion of pictures, as well as sound and video. The plan is to transition administrative duties to Pam and Fred as a long-term goal. Issues like maintenance and knowing where we are in the transition were discussed.

**Chapter Programs:** Leslie announced that the next two programs are Ruth Waalkes (Moss Arts Center) on “Inside the Moss Arts Center” and David Ayares (Revivacor, Inc.) on “Xenotransplantation: The Solution for Overcoming the Organ Shortage Crisis” After two attempts, Leslie has been unable to schedule Helen Royal (Montgomery County Commissioner of Revenue) for a presentation on recent real estate reassessments, a suggestion made by Terry Wildman. April is set for Jamie Reygle (InStill Mindfulness) on “Mindfulness for Interconnection: An Interactive Exploration.”

Suggestions for future topics/speakers included Wild Gardeners of Floyd, speakers from the Citizen’s Climate Change Lobby, someone from the Vet School to discuss pets, a speaker from the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI), someone from the hospice, someone from the Agency on Aging to discuss the role of an ombudsman, aging caregivers and support, a representative of the Blacksburg Police Department to discuss the Blacksburg Police and aging, and Hahn Horticulture Garden. Wendy or Pat H will contact the News Messenger to explore publicizing the chapter's news and announcements.

**Committees that will need Leadership:** Leslie announced that the Program Committee and the Membership Committees need new Chairs. Pat H and Wendy volunteered for the Program Committee. Wilma will lead the Membership Committee. The Legislative Committee Chair position continues to be vacant.

**Chapter Goals:** Leslie and Don led a discussion of partnerships-what they are (mostly on paper) and aren’t (partnerships)-and how to strengthen them. Don suggested a planning group to work with partners and potential partners to find out what they have, what they need, and how the Chapter could also benefit. Leslie asked Don to chair the committee. Wilma, Pam, and Leslie volunteered to work with Don on this special committee. Potential outside contributors are Jenny Reilly and Michael Sanborn.

**Committee Reports:** Jerry reported on LLI. Joy reported on upcoming “Joy Rides” and other programs. Jerry and Nola will work with Pat Ballard for the Fiscal Review.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:49**