

Minutes  
AARP Blacksburg Chapter  
May 1, 2018

Present: Wendy Baldwin, Jim Montgomery, June Schmidt, Don Creamer, Sally Anna Stapleton, Jerry Niles, Jennie Reilly, Ben Crawford, Pat Hyer, Hugh VanLandingham, Val Coluni, Carolyn Rude, June Schmidt

The meeting was called to order by President Wendy Baldwin at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of April Minutes: Minutes of the April 3, 2018 meeting were approved.

Officer Reports/Announcements:

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer was unavailable, but there are no significant issues to report. Don raised the issue of managing costs for new online payment system. This will need more discussion with the Treasurer is present.

Food Drive: Wendy thanked Sally Anna Stapleton for organizing the food/supply collection at the last public meeting. 245 pounds of food /baby supplies and \$54 in cash were delivered to the Food Bank with the help of Jerry and Ruth Anne Niles. The Food Bank especially appreciated the non-food items, such as diapers and wipes, since they receive very little of this and they are much needed. Sally Anna will consider repeating this collection in May for next year.

Old and New Business:

Senior Housing: Pat contacted Anne McClung of the Town Planning staff multiple times, however calls and emails have not been returned. AARP remains available to assist as needed.

Arts Across the Generation: Wendy Baldwin reported on behalf of Peter Magolda. They received four submissions; two are three-generation submissions. Expected to get more entries from Blacksburg High School art program, however the teacher contact, who was initially enthusiastic, had family issues this spring so that link did not result in any submissions. Decided to proceed with selection(s) from the current submissions rather than extending the deadline.

Online Payment System: Don Creamer reported that the online payment system is working well. 37 payments were processed for BBQ and Blues event and several health fair exhibitors. It will take some time to get members used to paying online, but many may be willing. Don recommends that we develop a plan by fall for how to handle membership renewal for coming year. The principal players (Wendy, Treasurer(s), Don, Lisa, Ryan, Jerry) need to meet and talk through the operational details. Hopefully the new software will allow a more streamlined and effective process. Wendy will set up a date for a meeting early this summer when Ryan becomes available. Jerry needs to receive new member information so he can send a welcome note.

Envisioning the Future: Wendy has asked Terry Wildman to give some thought to what the future might bring for our AARP chapter. Terry will have a report for the board in June.

Adult Day Services: Jerry reported a contact with this program. They center received a small grant to create a course on mild cognitive impairment. They are planning a pilot class at the end of May; there may be opportunities for others to participate in the fall.

Reports:

Awards: Don Creamer reported on behalf of Tamara Hodsden. A packet describing five possible awards from AARP Virginia was distributed. The chapter has won several of these awards in recent years. Any nominations should go to Tamara. Jerry Niles is coordinating the nomination of Pat Hyer for the Andrus Award. Don will check whether a board member is still eligible for Rookie of the Year award.

AARP Liaison Report: Ben Crawford distributed a letter from OneVirginia2021 addressing the urgency of redistricting reform. Ben will be visiting the Hill on behalf of AARP next week to discuss food stamps and medical deductions. Meetings have been set up with Senators Warner and Kaine, and Congressman Griffith. AARP has named their new campaign for mid-term elections as "Be the Difference".

Community Service: Sally Anna reported that she will be attending a meeting on June 15 on elder abuse awareness day. Jean Ann Dickson has been asked to handle Steppin' Out event this summer.

Legislative Report: Val Coluni reported that the Virginia legislature has not passed a budget yet. The Senate has not agreed to expand Medicaid; this is a key feature of the House budget bill. May 14 is the next date for the special session. The Family Care Givers Act passed and was signed by President Trump. The Virginia legislature has blocked a similar care-giver bill. The General Assembly approved some greater authority for nurse practitioners who deliver much care in rural areas. The federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is highly contested territory under the Trump Administration. Many complaints have been filed, but the agency is paralyzed by disagreement about scope of responsibility.

Health Fair: The team has contacted the 140 exhibitors from 2016; 80+ have expressed interest in participating in the fair this fall. Two gold sponsors have signed up; also some silver and bronze sponsors have come through. The team meets again this Friday; they are working on a marketing plan. They are also working on suggested topics for 3 to 4 special sessions. They plan to give the exhibitors a free lunch this year.

LLI Partnership: Finishing up Springfield trips. 110 attended the Bluegrass and BBQ event, jointly sponsored with AARP. The event was well received and broke even in terms of costs and revenue.

Newsletter: Carolyn could use filler and calendar events for the newsletter. Wendy volunteered to write up a short piece on immunizations, including new shingles vaccine.

Hospitality: Pat will set up a Qualtrix survey for registering for June 19 AARP chapter picnic at Wildman/Magliaro home; link needs to go to Carolyn for newsletter.

Community Foundation: The BigGiveNRV fundraising event was very successful, serving about 121 non-profits in the NRV and raising almost \$310,000. The Aging in Place taskforce will be testing their model workbook and workshop with a Floyd audience in May. Pat might contact Kim or others to ask for a brief couple of paragraphs re Aging in Place in NRV for newsletter.

Program: All programs for this year are confirmed, as well as two for next year, including Rebecca Hester.

Minutes prepared by Pat Hyer and submitted for review on May 6, 2018