

Minutes
AARP Blacksburg Chapter
September 4, 2018

Present: Wendy Baldwin, Isabel Berney, Hugh VanLandingham, Don Creamer, Sally Anna Stapleton, Peter Magolda, Jeannanne Dixon, Jerry Niles, June Schmidt, Ben Crawford, Terry Wildman, Jennie Reilly, Pat Ballard.

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

Minutes of the June 5 meeting were approved.

Old and New Business

Health and Wellness Fair

Jennie reported that registration of exhibitors ended August 15. There are 65 non-profits, 12 gold exhibitors, 11 silver exhibitors, 32 bronze exhibitors for a total 120 and \$11,950. It is a bit lower than 2016, but most exhibitors are returning. The floor is filled. A lot registered online; that seemed to be preferred way. Enormous work fell to the committee since VCOM no longer helped with credit card processing. The 50-50 split needs to be revisited. Wendy suggested 75-25 to Diane Sutphin at VCOM and that seems to be OK. VCOM is still a lot of help. There will be 60 students in maroon shirts, they have done the printing. VCOM gets a discount from Wordsprint, for the printing. Jennie has not seen the bill yet.

Notices have been given to all pharmacies in the NRV to enclose with purchases, all businesses in NRV are being given posters to display.

Jennie suggested that the farmers markets would be a good place to hand out flyers. She will do Christiansburg's next week. Sally Anna volunteered to do Radford. Ben will do Blacksburg. Jerry has bags and other materials that he will get to Jennie. Blacksburg farmers market is more restricted in giving a place at the back, away from foot traffic, but still valuable.

Jennie urged people to share the poster on Facebook with friends. LLI sent an email blast for the health fair. The state AARP sent a mailing to the southwest region, over 1,000 addresses. Don can send out a blast at the end of week. Jim Dau, state director of AARP, will be there and Brian Jacks also. Jim Dau will be there for the welcome and opening words with the 2 mayors and to meet the gold exhibitors. Wendy will write to him with the schedule and what we hope he will do. Ours is the one of most successful in the state and he is eager to see how we do it.

Mike Reily will help with parking. Others will be recruited, perhaps some VCOM students. Jerry and Terry offered to help.

The Roanoke Times is alerted to be there for the welcome with a photographer. The News Messenger has been informed. Pat and Jim will help with the gold exhibitors from 9:45-10:30.

Jim Montgomery update

Wendy and Ben reported Jim is in good spirits. He is home with home care. He would appreciate a phone call or visit, but no drop-ins – call first.

Reports

AARP Virginia

Ben reported that AARP has invested 30 million for its Disrupt Dementia/Alzheimer campaign. There is also a 50-year Vietnam veterans recognition. We have material for the table.

Legislative report

Ben reported that Val has posted it online. There are 4 crucial items plus gerrymandering. This needs a constitutional amendment. There is an urgent need to contact legislators to get this process started. Check out www.onevirginia2021.org/citizenscommittee

Website and mass email system

Don reported the move to the new hosting company will be in October. New website has capabilities for online payment with a shopping cart, no changes to the website until that day. Charges will be made for the move, but then the rate is the same. The hope is to get it all done in one day.

Treasurer's report

Pat said we have to decide how much LLI pays for the merchant fee. There was a discussion, but it was agreed that the charge should be simple. Pat should decide and just charge LLI. There were 29 online payments for the health fair and 20 checks.

June Picnic

Terry reported it went smoothly and he had excellent helpers. He is happy to do it again. Tentative date is June 18.

Steppin' Out Wendy thanked Hugh. We had a good location and Hugh said he had good help.

Chapter Summit meeting

Wendy and Ben said the meeting is Sept. 10 in Bedford. It is good for networking and to exchange ideas. It is from 10-2:30. Jerry will attend with Don. There are 2 more places for others.

Wendy sees a need to increase helpers, so not just the board members are doing the work. She encouraged us to think of a person at monthly meetings to get people drawn in. We agreed we need a membership list. Wendy and Jerry will contact Ryan Martin. Perhaps a password protected page for board members on the new website is a possibility. Don will think about it after the migration.

Awards

Nominations are needed for the chapter service award and the community spirit award. There is an article about nominations in the September newsletter. The board decided that Jennie should receive the chapter service award.

Community Service

Sally Anna Stapleton said there was too much going on in September for the usual food drive. She will have it in October for Micha's backpack. She suggested having a pet food drive in November to work with the homebound meals delivery program. We agreed this was a good idea.

DBI Membership

Wendy said Lauren Blakemore had done a good job. She is grateful to Lauren.

Hospitality

Thais Beams will continue with the monthly meetings, but Terry will pick it up. the holiday party and other hospitality responsibilities. Dec. 4 is confirmed with Warm Hearth for the holiday lunch.

Program

Don has programs through February. October is transportation in this area, November is political cartoons.

TimeBank Partnership

Lisa Moose has turned over this role. Wendy will see about new person.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50.

Minutes prepared by Isabel Berney and submitted for review on September 4, 2018