

Minutes
AARP Blacksburg Chapter
November 7, 2017
Blacksburg Community Center

Present: Terry Wildman, Wendy Baldwin, Tamara Hodsdon, Lisa Moose, Don Creamer, Ben Crawford, Thais Beams, Val Coluni, Pat Ballard, Joy Herbert, Jim Montgomery, June Schmidt, Pat Hyer, Sally Anna Stapleton.

The meeting was called to order by President Terry Wildman at 10:04 a.m.

Approval of October Board Minutes: Minutes of the October 3, 2017 meeting were approved with a correction. Sally Ann Stapleton noted that information about the food bank collection had been omitted.

Agenda:

Officer Reports/Announcements:

Treasurer's report: Pat Ballard reported a balance of \$11,300 in the AARP account; \$5,500 of the total is attributed to LLI-related funds. The charitable giving committee (Ballard, Stapleton, and Crawford) selected eight agencies/organizations to receive a total of \$2,600 from chapter funds.

- \$400 – Community Foundation of NRV, Town of Blacksburg Senior Center Endowment Fund
- \$400 – Town of Blacksburg Community Center Senior Programs
- \$300 – Micah's Soup for Seniors
- \$300 – Christiansburg Recreation Center Senior Programs
- \$300 – Salem VA Med Ctr for the Community Living Center
- \$300 - Montgomery County Christmas Store (undergarments for seniors)
- \$300 – TimeBank
- \$300 – NRV Agency on Aging (RESPITE program)

Checks will be presented to the recipient organizations at the Holiday Luncheon on December 5.

Blacksburg Community Center: Joy Herbert requested clarification on the AARP inclement weather policy. Cancellation of the public meeting for inclement weather follows the Montgomery County Schools actions; however school opening delays do not affect our meetings. The Board meeting will take place unless the AARP chapter president makes an emergency cancellation. Joy requested that the Board president keep the staff informed about any cancellations so they can respond appropriately to questions at the front desk.

Old and New Business:

Nominating Committee: Don Creamer reported on a conversation with Bill Baker, who expressed interest in the Tax Aide program (referral made to Pat Ballard). Don also extended an invitation to Bill to join the Board. If he responds in the next few days, his name may also be placed on the ballot for

the public meeting on November 21, along with the other two members who agreed to serve on the board if elected. Terry Wildman will propose approval of the slate to the membership at that meeting and call for a vote.

Awards: Tamara Hodsdon, chair, reported on nominations for state and chapter awards. Ben Crawford, Don Creamer, Sally Anna Stapleton, and Nola Elliott also served on the selection committee. Don Creamer prepared a nomination to the Virginia AARP for the Lifelong Learning Institute as the Community Partner of the Year Award. LLI was selected; the award will be presented at the November 14 state banquet. Jerry and Ruth Anne Niles will attend to receive the award on behalf of LLI. Natalie Snyder at Virginia AARP requested some LLI photos to include at the presentation. Pat will follow up with her to provide images and Don Creamer will notify her about the LLI attendees. Lisa Moose was nominated as Virginia AARP Rookie of the Year, but was not selected.

For chapter-level awards, Molly McClintock was selected to receive the Community Spirit Award. The Chapter Service Award will go to Val Coluni as chair of Legislative Committee and Terry Wildman for continual dedication to chapter leadership and activities. Award nominations were approved. Last year's recipients, Jerry Niles and Sally Anna Stapleton, will present the Community Spirit and Chapter Service awards.

Tamara distributed information on the Leading Lights award nomination process and upcoming deadline. Ben Crawford and Pat Ballard have both received the award in the past.

Holiday luncheon, Dec. 5: The luncheon cost will be \$20/person. Thais Beams shared the news that Jerome, the Warm Hearth chef, will be leaving his position. Thais and Wendy Baldwin will meet with him to assure a smooth transition. Carolyn Rude will prepare the program. The luncheon is a good opportunity to introduce potential new members to the organization. Terry suggested that the successful mayoral candidate be invited to give remarks for five minutes. After some discussion, members favored inviting the successful Blacksburg and Christiansburg mayors to the luncheon, but not ask them to speak. Instead Terry would elaborate on some of the chapter achievements this year and use Peter Magolda's photographs to highlight chapter activities and members in a brief powerpoint. Terry, Don, and Peter will work on the presentation and technology issues at Warm Hearth. Ben also suggested that the new chapter brochure be set at each place setting.

Reports:

AARP Virginia Liaison: Ryan Martin will be trained by Virginia AARP to serve as a state legislative liaison. Ben Crawford has been very active in support of gerrymandering initiatives. He distributed a petition in support of a Virginia constitutional amendment to adopt an independent commission as the authority to draw new districts after the next census. Wendy Baldwin urged everyone to support the Census itself which is grossly underfunded and being undermined at this time.

Community Service: No report.

Downtown Blacksburg Inc: Wendy Baldwin encouraged the chapter to consider decorating a tree as part of the DBI holiday display at Kent Square next year, since we were not able to identify a volunteer leader for this year. Some 25 organizations will participate. This is a nice way to share information about the chapter activities with the community.

Blacksburg Community Center: See comments above from Joy Herbert.

Finance Committee: Pat Ballard will provide audit materials to the Finance Committee before she leaves town in mid-December.

Health Fair: The date of the Health Fair will now be Wednesday, September 19. The VCOM Blue Shirts were not available for the Tuesday date and their participation is essential to the fair operations. Jennie Reilly will be chairing the first planning committee meeting prior to the Nov. 21 open meeting of AARP membership.

Hospitality: Nothing further.

Legislation: Val Coluni urged us to pay attention to the data breach at Equifax and determine if our account had been hacked. If so, he strongly recommends taking action, including setting a freeze on your account so that new credit requests cannot be confirmed without your permission. Lifelock sells protection for all credit sites for an annual fee. There is also a place on social security.gov where you can set up a password to protect against fraudulent tax submissions to claim refunds
<https://blog.ssa.gov/protecting-your-social-security/>

LLI Partnership: Pat Hyer reported that there are 345 LLI members this fall; courses and events are going well. The Spring Term Preview and LLI Social is scheduled for December 13, 3:00-4:30 at the German Club. This is a great time to introduce new people to LLI

Membership: 3 new households.

Newsletter: No report.

Community Foundation: Pat Hyer reported that the Community Foundation is holding its annual meeting on November 14 at the Inn at Virginia Tech. Unrestricted donations to the Foundation prior to the end of the year would be most welcome since there is a shortfall for operations and administration.

Program: Several programs have already been confirmed for early months of 2018 including presentations on the importance of lighting for senior drivers by researchers at VTTI, weather preparedness, and cybersecurity. Jim Dau, Virginia AARP Director, will speak at the April meeting.

TimeBank: Lisa Moose is serving as the liaison the TimeBank initiative. Ellen Stewart will prepare some brief content that can be shared on the AARP website and Facebook. The same information

might be shared on the LLI Facebook page. Pat offered to include a TimeBank presentation in future LLI terms.

VTRA: The Fall luncheon was well attended. VTRA assisted retirees with parking permit renewal.

Website: All's well.

Minutes were prepared by Pat Hyer and submitted for review on November 7, 2017.