

Minutes  
AARP Blacksburg Chapter  
June 5, 2018

Present: Wendy Baldwin, Don Creamer, Sally Anna Stapleton, Jerry Niles, Ben Crawford, Pat Hyer, Hugh VanLandingham, Val Coluni, Carolyn Rude, Peter Magolda, Isabel Berney, Joy Herbert, Jeanne Anne Dixon-Bame, Ryan Martin, Sally Anna Stapleton, Lisa Moose, Thais Beams, Terry Wildman

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

Approval of May Minutes: Minutes of the May 1, 2018 meeting were approved.

Officer Reports/Announcements:

Report on board member, Jim Montgomery, who was involved in a serious accident. Card was circulated.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer was unavailable, but there are no significant issues to report.

Old and New Business:

Health and Wellness Fair: Wendy reported that planning is moving along smoothly. Wendy will make some calls to potential exhibitors. Wendy has submitted a grant proposal of \$1,000 to AARP Virginia to showcase the Health Fair.

Arts Across the Generation: Peter reported that the reception for participating artists was Friday; about 35 attended. The exhibit is at the Lyric. Award winners were pleased with the prizes from AARP. There have been several requests to purchase one or more pieces. Peter will prepare a report and provide several recommendations if we decide to continue.

Online Payment System: Currently not able to use the shopping cart with available software, but have made a work-around. Health Fair exhibitors have been able to make payments without a problem. After September, we will change hosting company so that we can incorporate membership payments. Ryan, Don, and Lisa will start working on this aspect during the summer.

Envisioning the Future: Terry Wildman has begun thinking about time horizons for imagining the future and how such prognostications might affect AARP locally and nationally. We can expect pensions to become less certain, more pressure to age well, and greater divisions between those who have resources and those who do not. Many things to consider. He wants to define a few major domains and then engage members in investigating them in greater detail. Locally, we can expect greater need/interest in LLI and other such programs. We need to help our members find ways to deal successfully with a changing world. Health, need for more care providers, transportation, dealing with isolation, and other topics are obvious for attention. Terry would like to convene a few volunteers

during the summer to think further about the issues. Carolyn suggested a possible book review for the newsletter.

Senior housing: Pat reported that the Aging in Place team has put their workbook online, available for free. We can put an article in a future newsletter featuring this resource as soon as they determine how one might buy a printed copy (this option may be of more interest to our members). Pat also attended the recent neighborhood meeting at Town Council Chambers for a presentation on the Old Blacksburg Middle School property. The plan no longer includes age restricted housing, but they are expecting to build apartments that will be attractive to seniors wanting to locate near downtown. They will also set certain restrictions on rentals and purchases that may minimize the use of residential spaces for students.

June picnic: Picnic will be a home at Sue Magliaro and Terry Wildman on June 19. Tents have been ordered, DJ secured, and Thais has discussed order with Due South BBQ. While there is no cost, members are asked to bring an appetizer/side/or dessert.

Steppin' Out: Hugh VanLandingham is organizing the volunteers to take care of the AARP table during the event. Volunteer list was passed around and will be re-circulated at the picnic. Looking for two or three people per slot.

Warm Hearth/Alzheimer's Event: WHV is hosting an event, Alzheimer's Walk, and inviting AARP to participate on Sept 29. Wendy will follow up.

#### Reports:

Membership: Ryan is looking for feedback on who should have access to the membership list. He is reluctant to share the list, even when requested by our own board members. Ryan proposes a vetting process and a protocol for handling such requests (for example, producing labels or sending an email blast instead). In terms of scheduled activities, it would be helpful to have all volunteers involved have the contact information for everyone (such as Steppin' Out volunteer schedule). Ryan will produce a board roster with contact information which may be helpful for board-work purposes. (Contact info is also on the website.)

Legislative Report: Val underlined the importance of the recent news of Medicaid expansion in Virginia. Much effort went into making this vote possible. Val recently met with Chris Hurst and had a productive conversation. Chris expressed concern about lack of skill set for many residents of SW Virginia, hampering their economic resilience. Chris is supportive of the ACCE program providing tuition support for community college attendance. Jeanne Anne Dixon-Bame volunteered to talk to Chris about the ACCE program. The Virginia Supreme Court rejected the request to review gerrymandered districts in Virginia based on non-compact districts. Val feels that AARP efforts on these important legislative initiatives make compelling recruiting information for chapter membership.

Program: Programs have been planned through February 2019. Health and Wellness Fair, transportation, political cartoons (Edd Sewell), and VT researchers for Jan/Feb. are on the docket. Val suggested we include Chris Hurst in a future program. After some discussion, decided we would not invite “candidates” for the purpose of election (rather encourage attendance at League of Women Voters candidate forums), but many generally agreed that a meeting with an elected delegate where our membership is allowed to shape the conversation with questions may be appropriate. A decision on invitations to political folks was tabled for the time being; Ryan, Val, Lisa, and Don will meet to discuss the most useful and appropriate way to involve elected representatives/senators in our meetings. Ryan suggested speakers from Torc Robotics; he recently heard them speak at Blacksburg Partnership meeting. Val suggested that two subjects continue to be hot topics – eminent domain and 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment.

TimeBank: Another TimeBank orientation is scheduled for Nov. 6 through LLI.

Awards: Tamara reported that a chapter nomination has been submitted for the Andrus award.

AARP Liaison Report: Ben Crawford reported that AARP is hosting voter education on June 19-20. Ben and others have been supporting OneVirginia 2021. They are seeking volunteers to work Nov. polls; you can sign up on their website. They are still working to get a constitutional question on the ballot. The latest figures for AARP membership in Virginia is 1,054,000. About 1.4 million people in Virginia are on Social Security (about 1 in 8). 41% of retirees rely primarily on social security for their income.

There is no board or program meeting in July and August.

Minutes prepared by Pat Hyer and submitted for review on June 5, 2018