

Blacksburg AARP Chapter  
MINUTES  
September 2, 2014

President Bloom called meeting to order at 9:55am

Present: John Hillison, Terry Wildman, Tom Alston, Nola Elliott, Cecil McBride, Margaret Kates, Alison Galway, Leslye Bloom, June Schmidt, Ben Crawford, Pat Ballard, Joy Herbert

Agenda was presented and approved.

Minutes from Board meeting on June 3, 2014 were presented and approved.

President's report: Leslye Bloom expressed her concern that a number of officer and committee chair positions are presently unfilled for the coming year. Key officer and board positions that need to be filled include: Vice President, Secretary, and three board members comprising the "class of 2017." The nominating committee, Don Creamer, John Hillison, and Cecil McBride, will come up with proposed slate of officers and board members. Don will convene the committee. Committee chair positions that need to be filled include Health Care (big shoes to fill following John Hillison!), Newsletter Editor, and Public Relations. These are appointed positions.

Vice-President's report: Terry Wildman. Nothing to report at this time.

Treasurer's report: Financial Statement for May 22-September 1, 2014 was reviewed and approved.

Secretary's report: No report. Terry Wildman will serve as temporary secretary until a permanent replacement for Virgil Cook can be made (if needed—we would all like to see him back following surgery).

Old business: Nola Elliott gave a brief report on the spring picnic, noting that everything went well and as a result of the auction over \$600 was added to the Chapter's balance sheet.

New business: Leslye Bloom reported briefly on WW2K, noting that a "candidates visits" meeting would occur following adjournment.

Don Creamer summarized and led a discussion of a "Report to the Board" from the ad hoc Special Events Committee. Two proposed initiatives were discussed in particular: One, that the Chapter work with AARP Virginia, our local area League on Aging led by Tina King, the Virginia Tech Center for Gerontology led by Karen Roberto, and possibly Virginia Tech more broadly, to design and sponsor a large-scale conference to be held in each of the off years of the current Health and

Wellness Fair, and Two, to create a short term advisory council to the Blacksburg AARP chapter to advise on possible alternative futures for our service and educational efforts to the communities in the region. Both of these initiatives would occur during 2015, with beginning steps to start immediately. Don Creamer will head up efforts on the conference idea, and Terry Wildman will lead the effort to establish a short-term advisory council.

The Board approved the report, agreeing that the two key initiatives should go forward.

Liaison Reports: Joy Herbert reported that the publication "About Town" would be out shortly. She then hastened from the room taking most of the tomatoes that Cecil McBride had generously offered to the group from his garden.

Ben Crawford provided a brief report on AARP including a handout describing priorities for 2014 including the Financial Security Campaign, Medicaid Expansion, Community Outreach, and Elections 2014. He also brought some "freebies" including pins and sticker pads from AARP.

Margaret Kates had no report from VTRA.

Committee Reports: Doris Abraham sent reminder to the group about the upcoming deadline for chapter award nominations.

Sally Anna Stapleton (community service) was not able to attend but sent a request for two additional volunteers to assist with the food drive to be held on Sunday, September 14 at Blacksburg's two Kroger stores. It appears that her operation will be fully staffed. No other report from Sally.

Caring: Margaret Kates sent another note to Virgil Cook and asks that members keep her informed of others who may need an encouraging word from the Chapter.

Driver safety. Cecil noted that courses would be held on October 9-10 in Giles County, October 12-14 in Christiansburg, and perhaps an additional one to be announced for Blacksburg in November.

Finance: June Schmidt had no report.

Hospitality: Nola Elliott reminded us of the Holiday Lunch on December 9 at Warm Hearth, beginning at 11:30am.

Health Fair: John Hillison provided a complete report of preparations for the Health Fair to be held on September 17, 11:30am to 4pm, at VCOM. In all, about 100 vendors will be providing services and information including 70 commercial vendors. Volunteers will meet the day before (16<sup>th</sup>) at 9am to set up for the event. The Fair committee will meet at 1:00pm that day.

John also shared a Memorandum of Understanding between the Chapter and VCOM, the purpose of which was to outline a partnership aimed at the promotion of health for senior citizens through research, education and the Fair, which occurs every other year. The Memorandum was established in May of 2010 and is still in force.

History committee: no report

Legislative committee: Alison Galway suggested a review of the listed responsibilities of the Legislative Committee would be in order and said she would report back with questions and any proposed changes.

Membership committee: Tom Alston provided a short written report showing an individual count for 2014 of 207 members representing 127 households.

Newsletter: Jennifer Spoon needs copy for next newsletter by Friday, September 5.

Program committee: Ben Crawford reported on programs through December. The September program will be the health fair. October has typically been a time to invite political candidates from both parties to discuss viewpoints in advance of November elections. This does not appear feasible this year so Ben is looking at a couple of alternatives and will report back. The November meeting will feature the Funeral Alliance and key decisions facing families both before and after death of a family member. December, of course, features the holiday lunch.

Website committee: Don Creamer reported on billing for our hosting service, currently \$9.95/month. Don encouraged members to check current announcements on the home page, and to send him any upcoming announcements that should appear on the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.