

Minutes
AARP Blacksburg Chapter
April 3, 2018

Present: Wendy Baldwin, Tamara Hodsden, Jim Montgomery, Thais Beams, June Schmidt, Terry Wildman, Don Creamer, Jerry Niles, Jennie Reilly, Ben Crawford, Pat Ballard, Pat Hyer, Carolyn Rude, Peter Magolda, Hugh VanLandingham, Val Coluni

The meeting was called to order by President Wendy Baldwin at 10:05 a.m.

Approval of March Minutes: Minutes of the March 6, 2018 meeting were approved.

Officer Reports/Announcements:

Treasurer's Report: Pat Ballard is working with authorize.net to address compatibility issues between current recordkeeping and new online payment system. The Leading Lights event (social and dinner) will be April 7. As a donor, AARP chapter has received two invitations. Wendy will attend as AARP representative; additional ticket available.

Old and New Business:

Spring Social: Bluegrass and BBQ event hosted jointly by AARP and LLI will be April 25 at the German Club, 5:30-8:30. Tickets are available on the AARP website; also will be sold at April 7 Ballads event. Evite was sent to LLI members. Jerry reported a problem with the payment link in the evite; he will investigate with Leah Coffman.

Senior Housing: Pat, Jerry, and Wendy will set up meetings with Jeannie Stosser concerning the Middle School property proposal, which may include senior housing. Anne McClung with the Town of Blacksburg will facilitate that meeting, and possibly others. The recent Aging in Place workshop hosted by LLI was well attended. The Aging in Place team developed an excellent workbook; Pat Hyer has a few copies which can be purchased at \$10.

Arts Across the Generation: Peter Magolda reported on efforts to spread the word about the project. He has followed up on many leads. Submissions are due April 15, followed by several weeks to review. The notice in the Roanoke Times generated some queries.

Health Fair: The Health Fair Committee is inviting some new vendors, such as alternative health care providers. However, only one or two positive responses so far, in part because participation in the fair would result in lost appointments and income. Save-the-date cards were distributed at Great Decisions; Jennie is looking for other venues to distribute cards. Jennie will distribute the full listing of exhibitors and is asking board members to look it over to see if we have additional suggestions.

Online Payment System: Don Creamer reported that nothing promised during the briefing by the Wells Fargo team has actually come to pass. There have been many challenges and unforeseen difficulties in

implementing the system we chose. We may shift to a different hosting service, weebly.com, once the health fair is over since the current hosting system does not sync with authorize.net. Don and Lisa have developed a temporary work-around to cope with the misalignment. Pat Ballard reminded everyone that use of the online payment system generates fees, so event prices should take these fees into account. There will also be implementation challenges to merge new data collected through the online system with our existing membership records.

Reports:

Awards: Tamara Hodsden reported that nominations for Andrus Award will be accepted May 1-June 30. She distributed guidelines for the award, which was given to Don Creamer in 2016. We can submit a nomination in writing or online; however the online form may have character limits. Don suggested that either Jerry Niles or Pat Hyer be nominated for their work with LLI. Jerry declined. Board members agreed to nominate Pat Hyer. Jerry Niles, Carolyn Rude, and Don Creamer will develop a nomination.

AARP Liaison Report: Ben Crawford attended a two-day educational program in Charlottesville concerning the AARP State Plan. The program was designed to strengthen volunteer efforts and better connect chapters to state and federal AARP priorities. Ben distributed a summary of AARP Virginia 2018 legislative priorities, including expanding Medicaid. He also distributed a list of topics from AARP national; volunteer speakers are available to address these topics without cost.

Community Service: Wendy reported in Sally Anna's absence. The membership is strongly urged to bring in supplies for moms to support their children. Bring a bag of items with your name on it and the number of items to the April meeting. Wendy has offered a \$20 prize for the person who brings the most items.

Legislative Report: Val Coluni's current report is posted online. The General Assembly is deadlocked over the budget. The House approved Medicaid expansion and acceptance of federal funds; the Senate remains adamantly opposed. A special session has been called for April 11 with hopes of reaching agreement. A public record is now created when legislators vote for a bill in committee; results will be more transparent than previously. There has been more give and take in the House of Delegates since the balance of Republicans to Democrats shifted in the last election. Val also reported on issues related to Dodd-Frank bill and negative effects on small rural banks.

LLI Partnership: Pat reported that LLI had 462 members in Spring term 2018. The Program Committee is busy developing the Fall 2018 program. LLI and AARP Blacksburg are co-hosting a third wine tasting and social at Whitebarrel Winery. Don has already confirmed November 1 event.

Newsletter: The April newsletter is ready. Judith Jones has been handling the labeling/post office work to get our newsletters out. Carolyn asked us to share our appreciation for her help. Sandra Griffith is now working with Carolyn on the newsletter; her help is also much appreciated.

Hospitality: Thais Beams is looking for entertainment for the summer picnic at Terry Wildman's home on June 19. Terry and/or Pat Ballard will locate a live band or contact the DJ who provided music last time.

Community Foundation: The 5th Annual GiveBigNRV event is April 18; board members are urged to donate online to their favorite non-profits. Also consider a donation to the Community Foundation's Fund for the NRV, which supports a number of initiatives of interest to AARP. The Community Foundation is hosting a kick-off reception for the Fund for the NRV at the Alexander Black House, April 17 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.; all are invited. Food will be provided by PK's and wine and beer by Vintage Cellar.

Program: Two faculty members from the VT College of Business will speak at the May meeting concerning use of mobile devices to assist in exercise routines. Jim Dau, state director for AARP Virginia, will be attending our May meeting. This is a good opportunity to address priorities, if we want to do so.

The October meeting will feature a panel led by a Blacksburg Transit representative and others concerning transportation services available. Plans for a November speaker are underway. Will also be looking to recognize Vietnam Vets, possibly at the November meeting.

TimeBank: Another TimeBank orientation will be scheduled as part of the LLI Fall term. Don will be doing a scotch tasting for TimeBank members on April 26. The Repair Café they hosted was a big hit.

Minutes prepared by Pat Hyer and submitted for review on April 4, 2018