

Minutes
AARP Blacksburg Chapter
March 6, 2018

Present: Wendy Baldwin, Tamara Hodsden, Sally Anne Stapleton, Jim Montgomery, Joy Herbert, Thais Beams, June Schmidt, Isabel Berney, Terry Wildman, Don Creamer, Lisa Moose, Jerry Niles, Val Coluni, Jennie Reilly, Ben Crawford, Pat Ballard, Ryan Martin
Guest: Jeannanne Dixon-Bane

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

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

Officer Reports/Announcements:

Treasurer's Report: Discussion ensued regarding Pat Ballard's efforts to obtain a hard copy of the chapter's Articles of Incorporation which are needed for final authorization of the pending new online membership payment program. She will be receiving it very soon from the State Commission. The other problem is the documentation of our tax ID number which needs to be sent to the person who originated the process, which was 43 years ago. We are pursuing all avenues to resolve these issues.

Vice President Report: Jerry Niles gave us a synopsis of the AARP Officers Summit on March 1st, in Bedford led by Brian Jacks and attended by him and Wendy and the President of Virginia AARP, and officers of other chapters in our area. There were nine chapters represented. Many chapters have declining membership and one purpose of the meeting was to increase networking and sharing of best practices. There may be another such meeting in the fall, but definitely next spring. Additionally, Virginia State AARP will give us brochures and branded materials for use at the Health Fair and elsewhere. And, if we choose to display our chapter information at events with a cover charge, they will pay such charge.

Old and New Business:

Spring Social: Don Creamer stated a possible idea is being pursued by Judy Ridinger encompassing a BBQ with Bluegrass music with both AARP and LLI. Jennie Reilly suggested the Brewery at Sinkland Farms in Riner as a possible venue.

Fall Social: Don Creamer confirmed that tickets are on sale now online for the Nov. 1st event (5pm-7:30pm) at White Barrel Winery. This event is co-sponsored with AARP and LLI.

Senior Housing: Jerry and Wendy explained their correspondence to an individual who took exception to Pat Hyer's expression of her personal position at a recent Community meeting on the issue. The writer seemed to object to a possible conflation of Pat's personal views with organizations positions. He wrote to AARP and to LLI about this. Wendy Baldwin and Jerry Niles respectively answered his letters but the responses were returned by the post office as undeliverable. The problem arose as Pat fully

disclosed her affiliation with both AARP and LLI. After discussion, the Board approved the statement that AARP Blacksburg Chapter advocates for increased senior housing in the NRV in general with no specific endorsement of any one project in particular. Since AARP National and State support livable communities of which senior housing is a part, many ideas were put forth such as education marketing for the need for more affordable senior housing in the NRV, discussion with realtor associations, and developing a long-term strategy such as Ben has done with gerrymandering. Wendy noted that the Aging in Place team of Pat, Terry and Jerry can take this under advisement.

Arts Across the Generations: Ongoing

Online Membership System: Don Creamer informed all that "authorize.net" in partnership with Wells Fargo was selected by the Executive Committee due to its reasonable cost, security safeguards, and compatibility with our current financial systems. As soon as the required documents (note Pat Ballard's report above) are obtained the system will go quickly into use. It will start being used first for the Health Fair and then eventually for membership. Several hands will be needed for the initial manual input for membership information into the new system. Don added that there will be a charge to upgrade the website to handle this new program.

Reports:

Legislative report: Val Coluni distributed his report.

HealthFair: Jennie Reilly reported the committee has grown to six and that 70 businesses have registered thus far. as a result of the first email outreach. (there were 140 last time). She noted that approximately 400-500 attended in 2016 but we would like more to perhaps a maximum of 700. Sally Anna and Lisa will assist in marketing. Joy will include in the upcoming "About Town". Vendors have queried about selling their products. The Executive Committee decided not this time, but will establish a policy before the 2020 Health Fair.

AARP Virginia Liaison: Ben Crawford reported that he and Nola Elliot and Lorrain Bratton from Roanoke met with Morgan Griffith at his office in Christiansburg. Ben read the report that was sent to the AARP State office.

Ben also informed us of a kick off in Richmond to get gerrymandering on the ballot.

Community Service: Sally Anna Stapleton informed us that there will be a Food Drive at the April AARP meeting themed around Mother's Day and the needs of children. She will bring information to the March AARP meeting on what we all should bring as donations to our April meeting.

Sally Anna also informed us of a Care Giver's Conference this Thursday by the Agency on Aging at the NRCC in Dublin.

Hospitality: Thais Beams solidified December 4, 2018 at Warm Hearth for the AARP Christmas party and asked us to think about entertainment for the picnic at Terry Wildman's home on June 19, 2018.

TimeBank Partnership: Lisa Moose stated she is reaching out to an associate member for perhaps AARP Board consideration.

DBI Membership: Wendy Baldwin noted our needs for Steppin' Out in August adding we will need someone to head up this event. Also, let Wendy know what handouts we will want from AARP State.

Program: Don Creamer reminded us that our guest speaker for our next membership meeting is from the FBI. Don also asked that we consider getting a computer dedicated to AARP as he is having to pass his laptop around for others to use for AARP business. Wendy has requested related materials from AARP VA that can be distributed at the meeting.

Membership: Ryan Martin passed out a report. He noted Carolyn Rude suggested adding Blacksburg and Christiansburg Town Council members to our mailing. All present agreed. Jerry Niles initiated a discussion on how best to get new members involved quickly. Ryan asked that Pat Ballard send him an email as soon as they pay their dues so that they can receive a welcome letter.

Misc: Jack Leahy, Manager of the Blacksburg Recreation Center, is retiring soon. He will be invited to the next AARP Membership meeting so that we may all thank him for his support.

Minutes were prepared by Tamara Hodsdon and submitted for review on March 8, 2018