

AARP Blacksburg Chapter
Minutes
March 5, 2019
Blacksburg Recreation Center

Attendees: Jerry Niles, Don Creamer, Terry Wildman, Sally Anna Stapleton, Lisa Moose, Joy Herbert, Isabel Berney, Doug Feuerbach, Leslie Pendleton, Pat Ballard, Hugh VanLandingham, Jeananne Dixon-Bame, Carolyn Rude, Ben Crawford, Tamara Hodsden, Sandra Griffith

Minutes for February 5, 2019 board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Pat Ballard distributed the report of the Financial Planning and Audit Committee. The Committee commended the treasurer for the accurate records, but recommended that we have a separate bank account for LLI. It is confusing to audit with AARP money mixed in with LLI money. Pat will check with the bank and see about setting up a new account.

Jerry Niles passed out a list of board members' contact information and asked for corrections. Leslie is working on a complete membership list.

Jerry asked if anyone would like to go with him to the regional AARP meeting in Bedford on March 18. He will drive.

Newsletter:

Carolyn Rude reported that Sandra Griffith is a big help with both writing and photography. Carolyn led a discussion concerning the questions she had as to the effectiveness and purpose of the newsletter. We agreed it was an excellent newsletter; that it was educational and entertaining, with interesting articles about members, and good photographs. Other thoughts were whether it should be mailed or sent electronically. Should people be given a choice or must they opt out? It was suggested that a survey be constructed to ask who reads it, what are the most interesting articles, what kinds of articles do members want to see? This can be part of the April meeting that Leslie is designing.

April program:

Leslie stressed that there is limited time so only a few issues can be addressed. She is focusing on what things in life are meaningful and important. She would like to hear "It's never too late" stories, what people have done after retirement that they were not able to do while working. A related topic is what things have we given ourselves permission to stop doing? The feedback will be discussed at the May board meeting.

Leslie passed out proposed slides for the April meeting. The plan is to get in small groups with a facilitator and recorder to seek answers to five questions and get ideas for programs and activities and LLI courses. She wants board members to volunteer to facilitate and others to record. She agreed that it would be possible to have training for facilitators one hour before the

April meeting. She asked board members to send a note to Leslie if comfortable being a facilitator.

The April newsletter will alert members of the unusual meeting format. There was a suggestion that this may need to be a special event that needs a different venue and about two hours' time. Warm Hearth is a possibility. Jerry, Leslie, Judith Jones will explore the matter.

Reports:

- AARP Virginia – Ben Crawford reported on the redistricting reform bill approved by the General Assembly. The same bill needs to be passed next year and then approved by the voters as a constitutional amendment. There is still work to be done. The resolution creates a commission of 8 legislators and 8 citizens, with a citizen as chair. The resolution excludes the governor from the process. The commission meetings would be open to the public with minutes available. The commission's proposed redistricting plan must be approved by the legislature with only an up/down vote.

Ben will attend the annual two-day meeting Richmond.

- Community service – Sally Anna Stapleton said that 22 bags of food were collected in February which amounts to \$280 worth of food. The May food drive will be focused on Mother's Day with donations of baby food, etc.

Sally Anna will be at Caregivers' conference hosted by the Agency on Aging on March 15.

- Health fair – Leslie will chair it. Jenny and others have agreed to help.
- Hospitality – Picnic is June 17 at Terry Wildman's home. April 24 is the barbeque and blue grass event. Dec. 10 is the holiday luncheon, 11:30 at Warm Hearth.
- Legislative – Val Coluni passed out his report on gerrymandering and new phone scams. Unfortunately, the legislature didn't act on I-81. There will just be another study. The legislature has been studying I-81 since 1984.
- Membership – Jerry said Coreen Mett has done an excellent job of organizing membership information. The tax-help station would be an ideal place for membership information. Pat Ballard said information was there. Lisa suggested that it would be nice to thank new and continuing members.
- Program – Judith Jones is working on programs. Michael Frelander is the speaker for the March 19 program.

- VT Retirees Association Liaison – May be interest in a joint social activity for members of VT Retirees Association and AARP chapter. Isabel Berney will send contact information for Colin Carrig to Terry Wildman who will follow up.

Minutes prepared by Isabel Berney, substituting for Pat Hyer and submitted March 5