

**AARP Blacksburg Chapter**  
**Minutes**  
April 7, 2020  
Meeting held by Zoom Video Conference

Attendees: Don Creamer, Chuck Burress, Leslie Pendleton, Pat Ballard, Sally Anna Stapleton, Judith Jones, Ben Crawford, Pat Hyer, Jerry Niles, Doug Feuerbach, Linda Correll, Terry Wildman, Isabel Berney, Carolyn Rude, Hugh VanLandingham, Wendy Baldwin, Joy Herbert, Thais Beams

President Don Creamer opened the meeting at 10:10 a.m.  
Minutes of March 3, 2020 board meeting were approved.

**Treasurer Report:**

One new membership received. Refunds for LLI Pulaski trip were made by Ruth Anne Niles.

**Announcements:**

Request from Habitat for Humanity to announce availability of housing and need for volunteers will be sent to Carolyn Rude for inclusion in May newsletter if space available.

We have received thank you letters for contributions made to SW Virginia Veterans Cemetery and Warm Hearth fundraiser.

**Health and Wellness Fair:**

Leslie Pendleton proposed postponing the fair to Friday, November 6. The Veterans Fair was planned for the next day. Exhibitors would be asked to participate in both. After discussion, a motion was made by Ben Crawford to postpone the Health Fair to Fall 2021 and to refund any vendor who has already paid the exhibit fee. The motion was approved. Pat Ballard clarified that no vendor has actually paid as of now; refunds will not be needed.

**Awareness Grant Proposal:**

The grant proposal envisions engaging veterans in the NRV in a series of four events, including our November chapter meeting. The speaker for that meeting has already been booked. Judith offered to reschedule that talk if needed. Don included purchase of a camera in the budget to record our chapter members and veteran group members. Judith suggested that we have a "Veterans Connection" column in the newsletter and feature individual veterans, the projects they are engaged in and/or important resources. Judith will look for possible veteran contributors. Leslie will describe the grant project in May newsletter. Terry Wildman will contact Jim Dubinski for an article on veterans' services at VT for September or November newsletter. December wreath-laying at veterans cemetery could be announced or covered.

Brian Jacks congratulated Leslie on preparing the best Awareness grant proposal he has seen to date. Board members thanked her for her leadership and grant preparation.

**Monthly Programs and June Picnic:**

April speaker has been cancelled. Several members suggested that we simply cancel the remaining public meetings, given the difficulty of getting our members on Zoom and the pressure it would put on possible speaker. [Judith Jones subsequently canceled May speaker.] We will also cancel the June picnic to remain safe. The Board will meet by Zoom on May 5.

**Newsletter:**

Leslie will provide material for the Caring Corner and introduction to awareness grant for the Veterans' Connection column. The President's Column will be front page with the theme of "everything has changed" and how the chapter plans to deal with this. Don should include a note to ask members to let him know if they are not receiving mailchimp notes since that is how we are staying in touch for the foreseeable future. Doug Feuerbach will put together something re election changes. Sally Anna will prepare a column on proposed replacement for food drives.

Jerry urged Don to send out a mailchimp note to members once a month, forwarding suggestions for podcasts, inspiring books to read, TED talks, or good health information from LLI or other sources. Don could mention this in his column.

**Virtual News:**

No board member volunteered for this role. The chapter will not participate.

**Membership Report:**

Coreen Mett reported:

161 paid dues for 2020

45 members paid dues in 2019 but did not renew for 2020

32 members paid dues in 2018 but did not renew subsequently

31 Lifetime members and 18 Life members

1 honorary member

31 complementary memberships

319 total

**Food Drives:**

Sally Anna has contacted the main food drive groups to discuss their needs. All of them are in great need but not urging people to go to grocery stores. Easiest way for us to participate is to make a financial contribution. Sally Anna will feature [Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry](#) and [MCEAP](#) Food initiative and their addresses in newsletter. She will encourage members to make a financial donation.

**Gerrymandering:**

The constitutional amendment will be on the ballot in November. The House almost did not approve the bill, but it did pass. AARP national is looking to feature retired health professionals who have gone back to work to help with Coronavirus response; forward any names.

**Steppin' Out:**

Wendy reported on the meeting with the new coordinator. She shared our concerns about placement for 2019 event. We will address chapter involvement as 2020 event planning becomes more clear.

**Awards Committee:**

Chuck Burress reported that material on state awards should be received about May 1. Include this on May Board Committee meeting. We also need to think about chapter awards. These nominations are usually collected in the Fall. Pat Ballard may have a nomination for Spirit Award.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

Minutes prepared by Pat Hyer, April 7, 2020