

Minutes
AARP Blacksburg Chapter
June 6, 2017
Blacksburg Community Center

Present: Terry Wildman, Tamara Hodsden, Lisa Moose, Don Creamer, Ben Crawford, Wendy Baldwin, Thais Beams, Sally Anna Stapleton, Val Coluni, Pat Ballard, Peter Magolda, Carolyn Rude, Joy Herbert, Jennie Reilly, Jerry Niles

The meeting was called to order by President Terry Wildman at 10:05 a.m.

Approval of May Board Minutes: Minutes of the May 2, 2017 meeting were approved as corrected.

Agenda: Ben requested that we add the topic of gerrymandering as part of his report.

Officer Reports/Announcements:

Treasurer's report: Pat Ballard distributed a summary of budget versus actual expenditures through June 2, 2017. The LLI account has a balance of \$5,725.41; most funds in the account are from the WhiteBarrel Winery event and from the Road Scholar trip to Cuba. The board accepted the Treasurer's report.

No further officer reports.

Old and New Business:

Winery Fund Raiser: Don Creamer reported on plans for a social at WhiteBarrel Winery on Thursday, Oct. 26. The cost is \$25 for a tasting (or one glass of wine) and heavy hors d'oeuvre. We will split proceeds with the Winery. The event has been posted on the chapter webpage. Registration will be handled through WhiteBarrel website. The event will be listed in the LLI catalog.

Chapter Picnic, Thurs, June 15, 5:00-7:30 p.m. Tent has been reserved, along with 50 chairs and tables. Lemonade, tea, soft drinks, beer, pork BBQ from Due South will be provided. Terry is creating a cauldron of Brunswick Stew, based on a long-time family recipe. About 60 people are expected.

Reports:

AARP Virginia Liaison: AARP Virginia has been very active this month. Ben Crawford held a training session on gerrymandering at Blacksburg Community Center; 10 attended. Gerrymandering results in uncontested elections undermining basic democratic principles. The goal of One Virginia 2021, which is leading the effort for reform, is to adopt a constitutional amendment to establish an independent, impartial commission to draw political districts after the 2020 census. They are looking for people to distribute information at polls during the primary and fall election. Phone training may be available in advance of primaries. The public needs to put some heavy pressure on General Assembly members to

break the current deadlock. Wendy suggested that Ben prepare/share material on the topic at Steppin' Out event.

Ben also spent three days in D.C. where he and two AARP representatives visited the office of Morgan Griffith (met with him briefly and met with his staff member for a longer period), and Bob Goodlatte, to talk about three pieces of legislation re home care. Ben met with Joseph Yost last week. Yost shared that there are about 3,000 pieces of legislation every year; delegates cannot possibly read/understand all of these in the time allowed. Legislators develop a level of expertise in certain areas and become resources to other legislators looking for more understanding. Yost has been involved in mental health and hemp legislation and serves as a resource in these areas.

Awards: no report. Need a new chair; Shirley Petersen will be leaving the area at end of the year.

Caring Committee: No report. Need a new chair.

Community Service: Sally Anna Stapleton provided service at the MCEAP Food Bank on two occasions. September will be the date for the Blacksburg chapter food drive at a local Kroger.

Downtown Blacksburg Inc: Wendy Baldwin has been following DBI projects, but not able to attend some meetings for the time being; she will resume when she can. She is still looking for volunteers to staff the Steppin' Out booth, August 4-6. Wendy to request materials and give-aways from AARP Virginia.

Blacksburg Community Center: Joy is working on the town's fall catalog now; will distribute to 15,000 Blacksburg addresses. Program Committee needs to submit titles for fall open meetings.

Health Fair: Jennie Reilly reported that no one responded to newsletter request for volunteers for 2018 Health Fair. She has met with Jennifer of the Floyd Health Fair, which has a little different theme. Need to establish subcommittee chairs for various tasks. Jennie to provide a more detailed request for volunteers for September newsletter.

Hospitality: Nothing further.

Legislation: Val Coluni reminded the Board of upcoming primaries June 13. Critical issues facing the state and General Assembly are: budget, diversifying our economy, the education funding crisis in coalfield areas, mental health and opioid addiction, infrastructure, and gerrymandering. Val urges stronger action to press for changes. NC passed very stringent voter ID law; citizens successfully challenged it in court.

LLI Partnership: LLI will offer 25 courses and 17 events for Fall. Catalog to be mailed about August 22; registration begins September 6.

Membership: Don Creamer requested that Pat Ballard send him names and email contact information for new members when she gets the checks.

Newsletter: Carolyn Rude reported that the June issue was printed yesterday. No newsletter in July and August. She is collecting topics for September issue. Items are needed by September 1.

Community Foundation and GiveBigNRV 2017: No news of import.

Program: Kevin Foust has agreed to talk at the November meeting about international terrorism. Brian Jacks and Jim Dau will help promote and may attend. Possible topic for next year: research on effects of lighting on drivers (human factors research at VTTI). Terry suggested that Cecil McBride might help with a presentation on airline safety.

TimeBank: Val Coluni reported that the TimeBank is moving forward; four orientation sessions are scheduled for summer. Ellen Stewart will also present to LLI in November. They would like to increase membership among seniors. The oversight group is also encouraging social activities among volunteer members.

VTRA: Cecile McBride may serve as new liaison on behalf of the organization.

Website: Don reported that the updated website is complete and functioning.

Ben's closing reminder: Immediate goal of One Virginia 2021 to have someone at polls in November to distribute information about gerrymandering. You can sign up on their website. Please consider getting involved in this effort.

Minutes were prepared by Pat Hyer and submitted for review on June 7, 2017.