

AARP Blacksburg Chapter 2613  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
January 3, 2017

Attending: Wendy Baldwin, Thais Beams, Ben Crawford, Joy Herbert, Tamara Hodsdon, Pat Hyer, Peter Magolda, Jim Montgomery, Lisa Moose, Carolyn Rude, June Schmidt, Sally Anna Stapleton, Terry Wildman

**Approval of December Board Minutes:** Minutes of the November meeting were approved with a correction from Ben Crawford noted.

**Reports and Announcements:** There were no officer reports or announcements.

**Old and New Business:**

**Public Programs for 2017:** Lisa Moose reported on plans to date for public meetings. Speakers for spring dates, except April, have been confirmed. Jim Montgomery suggested a speaker from Agency on Aging on elder abuse issues. Pat Hyer suggested a Cuba travelogue (confirm after trip). Terry Wildman and Sue Magliaro are willing to host the annual picnic at their home again, if desired.

**Financial Audit:** June Schmidt reported on progress on the audit and the development of the budget. Both will be presented at the February meeting.

**Major Event for 2017:**

Terry suggested that we hold a more extended conversation, possibly a partial-day retreat in February, to discuss and shape ideas for a major event or project for 2017. There would be some benefit to allowing more time to talk through ideas, the purpose of such event, and potential outcomes. Several members asked for a better understanding of possible projects in order to understand whether a retreat-type conversation would be helpful. Two "early-stage" ideas were then shared.

Wendy Baldwin briefly described her idea which emerged from her experience with the steel drumming camp she attended in Morgantown, WV, the hometown of the Trinidadian native who launched the steel drumming movement in the U.S. Wendy has been thinking about how to honor this person, who is now 90 but still very vital and engaged in sharing his love of steel drumming with youth. It could be an award of some kind and/or a broader event/initiative celebrating arts in aging. Lots of potential connections seem possible if we were to focus on the arts-in-aging theme, including the Buckley Gallery which hosted an exhibition of works by LLI participants or the Moss Arts Center.

Lisa Moose introduced her idea about a possible focus on cybersecurity. Her professional organization, ISC<sup>2</sup>, developed a partnership with the creator of the cartoon Garfield. They developed classroom kits to be introduced to elementary schools to teach children how to be

safe online. Lisa has purchased a kit and would like to introduce the program in 3rd grade classrooms locally. The kit includes a teacher's guide, stickies for covering up computer cameras, a cartoon re "Stranger Danger," and other materials. Lisa suggested that unsafe online practices of children affect elders and this is a reason why AARP might be involved. AARP might, for example, raise money to buy the kits for third grade teachers. Terry commented that AARP members have good access to school personnel through their past work, which might help us assess whether teachers would actually welcome and utilize such materials. This could be a service project. The single kit was purchased for \$78; a cheaper price might be negotiated for a larger order. Wendy commented that this project aimed at school children may be a more natural fit for other service organizations.

Pat Hyer suggested that we consider working on a project or initiative that relates to expanding senior housing in the NRV or a project emerging from the Aging in Place initiative. For example, could we host a work session with key people in town to find out how to influence town/county planning for more senior housing. Wendy and Pat were asked to explore this idea a bit further for later consideration.

Peter Magolda suggested that we might use a public meeting to test out the interest in a few of these ideas. One suggestion was to ask Tim Lawrence from Blue Ridge Home Improvement to talk about home remodeling for aging in place at a public meeting during 2017.

**Board retreat:** The board tentatively agreed to meet on Friday, Feb 10, from 1:00-5:00, for a longer discussion of these ideas and other possibilities that could be presented. The smaller conference room at the Warm Hearth Village Center or the conference room next to the Wikiteria at the Corporate Research Center (need to eat lunch there to qualify for free usage) were suggested as possible venues. Terry will ask Don Creamer to reserve an appropriate location and see if a happy hour might follow afterward.

## **Committee Reports**

Sandra Birch will do her annual memorials to those who died in the past year. Please share names of anyone to be included as soon as possible.

**Blacksburg Community Center:** Joy Herbert would be happy to include information about AARP Chapter program topics in the About Town booklet if the program committee can submit information by relevant deadlines.

**AARP Virginia Liaison:** Ben Crawford stated that the latest news was covered in the December minutes.

**Newsletter:** Carolyn Rude is finishing the January newsletter today. Because of major trips, she must have material for February newsletter by **January 15**.

Angela Little will no longer be able to pick up the newsletter from the printer and label newsletters for mailing. Tamara volunteered to assist with this task. Carolyn suggested that another person be recruited as well; this might be a good, limited-scope volunteer assignment to introduce a newer member to AARP. Tom Alston currently sends the mailing labels to the Copy Center.

Carolyn requested background statements for the four new board members (Hodsden, Montgomery, Magolda, and Smith) for upcoming newsletters. She will send examples and suggested questions to answer.

**Community Service:** Sally Anna Stapleton recommended that we stop collecting canned goods at public meetings for the coming year; we have had a very low yield in recent meetings. She will find other ways to promote food bank collections.

**LLI:** Pat Hyer reported that LLI registration begins Jan. 9. She passed around a new catalog to look at.

**TimeBank:** Ellen Stewart will give a presentation on the TimeBank at Warm Hearth on Feb. 17, 10:30-12:00. This presentation is open to LLI members, Warm Hearth residents, and guests.

**GiveBigNRV:** Pat Hyer followed up on the approved motion from December to provide a small-scale sponsorship for the GiveBigNRV event in April. She recommends \$250, given that the chapter just made a donation to the Community Foundation in December. Ben moved and Pat seconded a motion to provide a sponsorship of \$250 for the April GiveBigNRV event. Pat Hyer will follow up with Pat Ballard to transfer the funds to the CFNRV.

**Community Foundation Liaison:** Terry was asked to include a liaison report from the Community Foundation to future agendas. Pat Hyer will make a report on activities and issues related to the Livability Initiative and the Foundation as appropriate. Wendy Baldwin will attend the Aging in Place task force meetings; she can report out in this category as well.

Terry commented that we may need to recruit someone to handle some membership committee responsibilities. Ryan Martin has agreed to serve in the state advocacy role and is currently attending training.

The meeting was adjourned 11:45.

Minutes were prepared by Pat Hyer and submitted January 3, 2017.