

**AARP Blacksburg Chapter
Minutes
November 5, 2019
Blacksburg Recreation Center**

Attendees: Jerry Niles, Don Creamer, Tamara Hodsdon, Pat Hyer, Lisa Moose, Chuck Burress, Hugh VanLandingham, Sally Anna Stapleton, Ben Crawford, Terry Wildman, Judith Jones, Joy Herbert, Doug Feuerbach, Jeananne Bame, Kai Duncan

Minutes for October 1, 2019 board meeting were approved.

Announcements:

AARP Virginia President Carol Downs will join us for the Holiday Luncheon, Dec. 10. Ben Crawford will be the liaison and clarify details of installation ceremony with her.

Jerry Niles talked to the Blacksburg Recreation Center facility director and learned that they have purchased some new speakers. He will check out this possibility before proceeding with any purchase from AARP funds.

The Montgomery County Health Department provided 25 “Deterra drug deactivation” bags for distribution to AARP members. These provide a safe and easy mechanism for disposing of unneeded medications.

Treasurer’s Report:

Jerry Niles reported on chapter finances on behalf of Pat Ballard. We will allocate \$3,000 to charities at the Holiday luncheon. LLI funds account for about \$7,000 of the total (separate report distributed). The balance of AARP-related funds in savings account (net of charitable contributions and LLI funds) is \$5,119. Several raised questions about how they would know if they have already paid their 2020 dues. A listing will be available at the holiday luncheon so people can check if they are not sure. Don will follow up with Coreen Mett to answer these questions.

Chapter Awards:

Tamara Hodsdon reported on the nomination of Carolyn Rude for the Chapter Service Award in recognition of her exceptional work on the chapter newsletter. Carolyn was also nominated for the Community Spirit Award, which recognizes an individual’s impact on the community. Carolyn’s contributions to the League of Women Voters and LLI have had an impact on both organizations in achieving their community goals. Motions were made and approved to recognize Carolyn for both awards. Ben suggested that she might prefer one combined plaque, and he urged Jerry to make a special presentation at the Holiday Luncheon to recognize how unusual it is for an individual to be selected for both awards in the same year.

The board supported creation of a small committee to be more systematic in our nominations over time. We might submit a nomination to AARP Virginia for a chapter award after we complete the Aging in Place workshop in spring term.

Legislative Report:

Doug Feuerbach presented a brief legislative report focused on efforts to control prescription drug costs. There is broad bi-partisan consensus about the problem, but solutions are complex and development and passage of legislation are very challenging in a hyper-partisan political environment.

Chapter Highlights:

The group reviewed the 2018 chapter highlights in order to update for 2019. The final summary will be included in the Holiday Luncheon program.

Charitable Contributions:

Judith Jones, Sally Anna Stapleton, and Ben Crawford volunteered to serve on the committee with Pat Ballard to select organizations for donations.

Gerrymandering:

Ben Crawford reported on the status of the constitutional amendment to create a transparent and fair process for redistricting following the next census. A petition in support of the legislation was passed around. The newly elected General Assembly will need to pass the bill a second time in 2020.

Program Committee:

Judith Jones announced that programs for January through May 2020 have now been planned.

- Jan 21, Kathy Parrot, In-Home Tips to make your home more accessible and suitable for aging in place
- Feb 18, Sterling Nesbitt, Dinosaur Early Evolution
- Mar 17, NRV Agency on Aging, Navigating Resources for Community Based Home Health and Home Care Programs
- Apr 21, Curt Laub, Bugs and Us: Insects and Our Culture
- May 19, Dean Spader, Project Drawdown, 80 Viable Solutions to Climate Change

November Food Drive

Pet food will be collected at the November meeting to be distributed through the NRV Agency on Aging Meals on Wheels program. Bags of dog food, cat food, etc., are very welcome. Don will send out a mail chimp reminder about November 15; note to be prepared by Sally Anna Stapleton. Sally Anna would like to have more impact on seniors next year with our food drives; she is considering several strategies.

Aging in Place Train the Trainer Academy

Pat Hyer reported on a small grant opportunity offered by VT and Carilion Educational Foundation to support conferences/programming related to Carilion health needs assessment survey results. Pat drafted a proposal from LLI and the Center for Gerontology on behalf of the Aging in Place Leadership Team. Funding from additional sources will be needed to support the estimated \$5,000 cost; the maximum grant is \$2500. LLI will commit \$300. A motion was made and approved to provide \$300 from AARP funds.

Holiday Luncheon:

Terry Wildman has confirmed the menu for December 10 luncheon with chef at Warm Hearth. Cost will be \$20. Board meeting will precede the luncheon at 10:00 in Woodland Studio; luncheon begins at 11:30.

Membership Reminders

Recommended that Don Creamer send out two mass email reminders in November encouraging folks to renew membership and sign up for holiday luncheon. Could also do a membership payment reminder in January.

Minutes prepared by Pat Hyer, November 6, 2019