

AARP Blacksburg Chapter

Minutes

April 6, 2021

Meeting held by Zoom Conference

Attendees:

Don Creamer, Leslie Pendleton, Linda Correll, Todd Solberg, Chuck Burress, Pat Ballard, Kai Duncan, Judith Jones, Tom Hohenshil, Ben Crawford, Jerry Niles, Doug Feuerbach, Terry Wildman, Carolyn Rude

President Leslie Pendleton called the meeting to order at 10:11am.
Minutes of March 2, 2021 Board meeting were approved.

Reports:

Treasurer: Pat Ballard reported that life in the treasurer's world has been quiet lately. The chapter currently has \$8,200 in its checking account.

Continuing with financial matters Leslie Pendleton asked Jerry Niles to provide some background on the decision to hold LLI funds in the AARP account. Jerry reported that initially LLI and the Chapter agreed to jointly hold funds in the Chapter account emanating from social events jointly sponsored by both entities. Jerry also explained that certain LLI funds could be handled with more flexibility in the AARP account compared to State rules governing funds held in Continuing and Professional Education. Over a short amount of time several travel events sponsored by LLI grew the amount held in the Chapter account. Finally, Jerry reported that LLI is currently able to handle its funds in CPE in a better way, making it less likely that LLI would hold funds in the AARP account in the future. Jerry also predicted that LLI would soon be able to work down most of the funds held in the Chapter account.

It was noted also that the funds arrangement between the Chapter and LLI was approved by AARP at the State and National level. Also, Chapter treasurer Pat Ballard has been clear in her reporting how the funds jointly held are appropriately documented.

Linda Correll, who is currently re-working the Chapter bylaws, clarified that relationships between LLI and the Chapter will be clearly stated in terms of operational guidelines.

Liaison Activities: Ben Crawford reviewed National AARP priorities for 2021 which include Social Security, Medicare, Nursing homes and programs for veterans. Ben reported there are approximately 720,000 veterans in Virginia and 67% are over 50 years of age.

Books for Vets: Tom Hohenshil provided a short, written report showing that 850 books have already been collected, but with libraries in the Salem and Beckley veteran hospitals currently

closed the books will be held and distributed when the libraries are once again open. Tom also reported that Duke Hospital in Durham NC is interested in the project. Finally, Tom's report showed that outreach to various community organizations, as well as other regional AARP chapters, will likely expand significantly the breadth of the book project in terms of awareness and access to increased number of donated books.

Newsletter: Carolyn Rude reported that the newsletter will feature a new column on hiking. Carolyn also mentioned that Sandy Birch will now share the collection of her past devotionals at Chapter meetings so they can be published.

Chapter Picnic: The traditional June chapter picnic has been moved to September and will take place on either September 16 or 17. The location will be at the property of Terry Wildman and Sue Magliaro, where it has been held for the past several years. More details will be forthcoming.

Lifelong Learning Institute: Jerry Niles reported that a recent survey of LLI members showed very good satisfaction with Zoom offerings during this year of the pandemic. Jerry noted that planning for Fall 2021 is well underway with a start time of 20 September. Classes, with the exception of the LLI Sampler and Great Decisions (which will continue on Zoom), will be in-person with a class limit of 20. Jerry also reported that better options for accepting donations on behalf of LLI are being developed and will be handled through the VT Foundation.

Chapter website: Don Creamer reported that he and Lisa Moose are continuing to improve the Chapter website with the goal of making the site more transparent in terms of ease of use. More on this to come later.

Chapter programs: Judith Jones reported that programs are set except for October and November of 2021. Judith asked for recommendations for those dates and numerous ideas were discussed. There is little doubt that we will have very good programs set for those dates. Judith also commented on feedback she has received on prior speakers and a brief discussion ensued regarding what guidelines, if any, should be given to speakers. Noted also was the different challenges for speakers on the Zoom platform compared to in person presentations.

Membership: Leslie Pendleton started a discussion on membership by asking whether we currently have membership goals, or do we even need to set goals. Todd Solberg asked whether LLI should have an explicit goal of promoting the Chapter in terms of membership, and whether the Chapter should have a recruiting budget. The Virginia Tech Retirees Association was also mentioned as a point of connection with respect to recruiting members for the Chapter. Membership recruiting has actually been a point of concern for a number of years, with little consensus as to best practice.

Chapter bylaws: Linda Correll reported that revision of chapter bylaws is continuing to be pursued, and we should expect that changes will be incremental and fairly minimal. Expect to hear more as the process on the bylaws and operational guidelines continues.

Health and Wellness: Leslie Pendleton reported that she and her team are currently working to get price quotes for publishing the Health and Wellness Care Guide that will substitute this year for our traditional live Health and Wellness Fair. Expect more details on this in May.

Coffee Talks: Leslie briefly provided feedback on the morning coffee talks she began as Chapter President. Participation during each session has been modest but likely contributing to participants having an opportunity for a richer discussion compared to events with large numbers of participants.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm
Submitted by Terry Wildman, Secretary