

**AARP Blacksburg Chapter**  
**Minutes**  
January 9, 2020  
Blacksburg Community Center

Attendees: Don Creamer, Sandy Birch, Jerry Niles, Chuck Burress, Hugh VanLandingham, Terry Wildman, Doug Feuerbach, Kai Duncan, Leslie Pendleton, Isabel Berney; Chuck Nelson, guest

Minutes of December 10, 2019 board meeting were approved.

- President Don Creamer passed around a note from Tina King thanking AARP for our contribution to the Agency on Aging. It will be used for their meal delivery to seniors program.
- Don has just read the book, *Ethel Percy Andrus, One Woman who Changed America*. He recommends it and is willing to pass it on to anyone who would like to read it. Andrus was the founder of AARP.
- There is a crowded schedule for the January meeting. The company that operates the drone delivery service will set up a table. That company will be the October program. Sandy Birch will give the memorial service and Lesa Wynn will give the program on decluttering.
- Sandy went over the list of people who have died during the last year. She asked us to check for accuracy and to help fill in the stories. We agreed Sandy should be given access to the membership list. Don will do that.

Leslie was asked to keep all board members, including Sandy, apprised of those who need help from the caring committee.

- Don passed around the newsletter. It is the Jan-Feb issue, the first of the combined months issues.
- Chuck Nelson was introduced and spoke about the plans for a Veterans Resource Fair. Ben Crawford encouraged him in planning this and suggested Chuck solicit help from AARP. The fair is March 28, 8:00-noon at Christiansburg Rec Center. Chuck passed around a list of people/resources to contact. Other suggestions were made. He spoke about the VA Hospital's program for foster home care, for veterans who need constant supervision. For the Veterans Fair, Chuck wants help. The displays will have no vendors. He hopes AARP will set up an exhibit and possibly run the registration table. Chuck's biggest need now is publicity. Leslie will send him a list of all the churches and we suggested he enlist RSVP. Kai gave him the contact information. Don said Chuck could send an article for the March newsletter. That would be due the end of February. Leslie is willing to help and will ask the health fair committee if any can help.

A discussion followed about the need to target veterans in the community. It is an important demographic. 10% of Virginia veterans are at or below poverty level, about 1600 in the NRV. Later in the meeting we agreed to enfold that into the caring committee to help those in need, veterans as well as other groups such as LGBTQ.

- Don received a letter from Leading Lights asking AARP to contribute again. It was moved by Jerry and seconded by Leslie to contribute the same amount as last time. The motion passed. Don will alert Pat Ballard to send a check.
- Each year the president is required to report to Washington the volunteer hours of the chapter. Don will use last year's report as a base, He will get in touch with people to estimate their hours during the year. The report is due Jan. 31. Don must also update the chapter leaders. Jerry will send last year's data to Don.

### **Audit committee**

Jerry will chair the committee for the audit report and bring the report to the February board meeting for a vote of acceptance.

### **Chapter retreat**

Don and Leslie reported on the chapter retreat in Bedford. AARP is working on a new imaging of AARP as a wise friend and a fierce defender. Don's concern is how to get the information out to members, especially our own members. Terry said they should add trusted friend, especially for medical information. Leslie added the need to alert for scams. Jerry will contemplate how to use MailChimp for a series of notices of AARP information.

### **Health and wellness fair**

Leslie distributed the health and wellness committee report. There is frustration with VCOM for lack of administrative support, lots of frustration. There is an Issue with lack of tables, AARP may have to supply some. Leslie said there is a need to ask the entire board to help. Don will correspond with board members who are missing. She also needs some direction about allowing sales of items at the fair. The question of how to share income with VCOM is not resolved. Are they a partner or not? Blue shirt VCOM students are helpful. Don asked Leslie to arrange a meeting with a top VCOM administrator such as the president to resolve these issues. She will also contact RU or NRCC to see if their students could do the medical testing. VT Carilion Research Center is also a possible partner. Leslie is to come to the February board meeting with recommendations to resolve these issues.

### **Gerrymandering**

Ben Crawford sent out report. Don Feuerback is impressed with Ben's amazing report and work through the years.

### **Food drives**

Sally Anna Stapleton has 2 or 3 food drives planned. The February drive is in newsletter: staples for seniors. A MailChimp reminder will be sent.

### **Eliminate history committee**

Don has gathered items as a repository for history, others for current events and these are on the web. Sally Anna has no concerns about eliminating the history committee. Membership can focus on getting more veterans and African-Americans. We can partner with such groups if membership is not the primary objective.

### **Awards**

Chuck has agreed to chair the awards committee. Jerry will get information to Chuck.

**Legislative**

Doug missed the newsletter deadline, but nothing is going on because of impeachment. Drug prices are increasing. Doug will contact state AARP to see what can be done to get things moving.

**Leadership**

Jerry will contact the head of the vet school for the leadership committee.

**Meeting room**

We agreed to stay in our regular room rather than request the big room for our meetings.

**Web emails**

Don will eliminate the link to board members to prevent web crawlers from grabbing them and using them for scams.

**Steppin' Out**

Postponed until next month.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

Minutes prepared by Isabel Berney for Pat Hyer, January 9, 2020