

AARP Blacksburg Chapter
Minutes
July 7, 2020
Meeting held by Zoom Video Conference

Attendees:

Don Creamer, Chuck Burress, Sally Anna Stapleton, Judith Jones, Ben Crawford, Jerry Niles, Doug Feuerbach, Terry Wildman, Isabel Berney, Carolyn Rude, Wendy Baldwin, Joy Herbert, Linda Correll, Thais Beams, Hugh VanLandingham, Lisa Moose

President Don Creamer opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.
Minutes of June 1, 2020 board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

- No new activity to report.

State and Chapter Awards:

- Andrus Award nominee is Jerry Niles for his successful and tireless work to “improve the quality of life for seniors in our community.” Carolyn Rude is completing first draft of the Andrus Award nomination this week. August 1, 2020 is the due date for submission.
- AARP State Chapter Advocacy Award nominee is our Chapter #2613 because of Ben Crawford's leadership supporting the “OneVirginia” campaign. Chuck Burress is completing first draft of the AARP State Chapter Advocacy Award nomination. August 1, 2020 is the due date for submission.
- Ben Crawford reports that the 2020 AARP Virginia Award Presentations will be held online.

New Program Plans by Zoom:

- Scheduled 2020 online presentations will take place in July (Janet Brennend & Casey Suthers), September (Dean Spader), October (Lesa Wynn) and December (Alex Smith).
- Janet Brennend & Casey Suthers will be guest speakers for our scheduled July event titled: “Navigating Resources for Community-Based Home Health and Home Care Programs.” This meeting will begin at 12 noon on July 21, 2020.
- November program is the Veteran's program.
- Mike Madigan is on stand-by as guest speaker to present research on “Falling” in 2021.

Annual Picnic Plans:

- Tentative date/time for Annual Picnic was August 4, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at Terry's farm.
- Based on AARP's directive, decision has been made to CANCEL Chapter Picnic for 2020.
- AARP Virginia has strict orders to NOT allow any type of in-person meeting per Brian Jacks.

Letter from Megan Hookey at AARP:

- AARP Directive: “...***please do not associate your AARP Chapter or AARP’s brand with any (in-person) meeting or activity until further notice.***”

AARP Chapter Logo:

- Don Creamer introduced official Chapter logo that is required by AARP. (AARP trademark is to be used for national designation only.)
- Mandy Hayes of RSVP, Tina King at Agency on Ageing, LLI and other organizations need to receive electronic version of the AARP Chapter logo for use when advertising partnership activities with our Chapter. (Don Creamer will follow-up with Sally Anna Stapleton and others to get contact information to distribute notifications of new Chapter Logo to partner organizations.)
- Don Creamer to follow-up on AARP Chapter Banner and AARP Chapter Brochure that will be modified in the future to include the authorized Chapter logo for forthcoming activities.

Community Challenge Grant – Blacksburg Benches:

- No new information regarding award decision.
- Wendy Baldwin is developing Challenge Grant opportunity to enhance Senior Access to Downtown Blacksburg.
- Proposing installation of 10 benches in downtown Blacksburg for Seniors.
- Cost estimate is \$11,000 for 10 benches.
- Decision making response to Community Challenge Grant application has been extended by one month.

“Cinco de Mayo Seniors Day” – Spring Celebration for Seniors:

- Wendy Baldwin and Joy Herbert are continuing to explore and develop the idea of organizing the “Spring Celebration for Seniors” event to be held at the Blacksburg Community Center to celebrate ageing in 2021.
- Event will have exhibitors, art displays, story-telling and demonstrations for seniors.
- The Month of May is “Older Americans Month”
- No fund-raising activities will be held during this event.
- Planned event date is May 5, 2021, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Blacksburg Community Center.
- Art will be provided by LLI classes for this event per Jerry Niles.
- Joy Herbert is exploring the opportunity to advertise this event at the Senior Olympic Games which are scheduled to be held in Christiansburg at the end of April 2021.
- Judith Jones suggested the “Wilderness Road Chorus” and other musicians to perform at this event.
- “PanJammers” steel drum orchestra are exploring possibility of a demo and performance at this event.

Community Challenge Grant – Veterans Initiative, Care Committee:

- No new information regarding award decision.

LLI Update:

- LLI is successfully transitioning to online courses and events for Fall 2020.
- Classroom assistants and instructors are currently training to host the online classes.
- LLI is offering pre-class experiences for members to prepare for upcoming classes.
- Two summer events have been successful, next summer event is scheduled for July 14, 2020.

Newsletter:

- Carolyn Rude reports that early September/October Newsletter is the next scheduled issue.
- Democracy theme is planned for the September/October edition. This edition will include a summary of suffrage and absentee ballot information will be included.
- Food pantry information will be included in this edition. Our Daily Bread pantry will be added to the food pantry section per Sally Anna Stapleton's request.

Leadership Development:

- Open positions include new Board Members, Secretary and Vice President of our AARP Chapter.
- An article in the September/October chapter newsletter will discuss the Leadership Development topic.
- Jerry Niles & team are brainstorming for leadership recruitment strategies.
- Jerry Niles has extended invitations for new visitors to attend our Fall Chapter Board Meetings to learn more about our Chapter and explore their interest in Chapter Board participation.
- Don Creamer will extend Chapter Board participation invitation to all current Chapter members via MailChimp communication.

Committee/Liaison Reports/Other:

- Don Creamer will initiate MailChimp communications to announce the July 21, 2020 Chapter Meeting, Cancellation of the 2020 Chapter Picnic, and extend an invitation to general membership to ask if any current members are interested in Chapter Board participation.
- Decision was made to skip August Board Meeting for 2020.
- Sally Anna Stapleton is exploring organizing a drive-by parade for local nursing home residents.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00.

Minutes prepared by Lisa Moose.