

AARP Blacksburg Chapter
Minutes
March 3, 2020
Blacksburg Community Center

Attendees: Don Creamer, Chuck Burress, Doug Feuerbach, Leslie Pendleton, Pat Ballard, Sally Anna Stapleton, Kai Duncan, Judith Jones, Ben Crawford, Pat Hyer, Jerry Niles, Hugh VanLandingham

President Don Creamer opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.
Minutes of February 4, 2020 board meeting were approved.

Announcements:

Don Creamer would like to make new members feel welcome and plans to address this in his President's column for the upcoming newsletter. He encourages members to contact guests after the meeting and invite them to coffee or conversation. Don drafted a welcome letter to be distributed at each meeting, with the member brochure, to guests and potential new members. Jerry Niles suggested that all members receive such a letter to be able to recruit friends to a meeting. Judith suggested that we invite guests to stay for a few minutes after the meeting to explore their interest. Todd Solberg can hand the letter/brochure to guests as they check in and create a nametag.

157 people paid membership dues for 2020; we have nearly twice that many people on our distribution list. Jerry asked what the comparison is to number of annual payments in 2019. Our distribution list includes lifetime memberships and complimentary subscriptions to the newsletter. Jerry said that Coreen Mett produced the list of about 30 non-payees in a recent year; he chose not to send a reminder to some of them who had contributed to the chapter and had personal difficulties. Don will follow up with non-payees.

Ben reported that AARP Virginia used to send a letter (at our request) to new national members in the region letting them know about the existence of the local chapter. Don may pursue this possibility when he meets with Brian Jacks.

Audit committee

Jerry reported on the recently conducted audit. The Treasurer uses the Quicken software program to maintain financial records, giving us a transparent and complete record of transactions. Every transaction receipt is kept in a notebook. Jerry and Kai Duncan conducted the audit with very helpful explanations from Pat. They report full confidence in the accuracy and completeness of the chapter's financial records. LLI money is tracked separately and transaction fees are charged accordingly. A motion was made and approved to accept the audit report. The Audit Committee report is appended to these minutes. The Financial Planning and Audit Committee and the rest of the Board expressed their great appreciation for the Treasurer's expertise and diligence in managing the chapter's finances and records.

Gerrymandering

Ben Crawford reported on recent activity on the constitutional amendment (SJ18), approved by the Senate, providing an independent process for redistricting. The bill then went to the House and consideration was delayed. Last night the bill was approved by the House Privileges and Election Committee. Next the bill will go to the House for a full vote, just before the General Assembly adjourns

in a week. Ben has published several newspaper editorials on gerrymandering and the importance of the constitutional amendment. Don thanked Ben for his persistent and effective work on this topic.

Other news: New River Senior Games are coming up in April 26-May 1. They will be hosted by the town of Wytheville this year.

Chapter meeting location/room configuration: The last two general meetings have been too crowded in the Community Room. Although the larger room in front of the building does not have water/kitchen facility, it does offer much more space. If we use the Community room, we should go back to the format of three long rows of tables. Don will pursue moving our general meetings to the larger room.

Coronavirus: Doug Feuerbach distributed a recent AARP article and urged the chapter to help members prepare. Don suggested that we send a link to the article in a mailchimp note to members. The latest AARP guidance may also be printed and shared at the upcoming meeting.

AiP Leadership Team Priorities: Pat Hyer reviewed a list of possible projects/priorities that the AiP Leadership Team might select from in setting new goals. Several people offered suggestions, including concerns identified by participants at the recent AiP workshop.

AARP Virtual News Project: AARP is looking for someone in the Blacksburg Chapter who might be a contact for the project. Virtual News is a Virginia-wide committee that collects and distributes information electronically. The topic was postponed until a later date since full information not available yet.

Five Pillars of Brain Health Training: A training session has been set up for those willing to conduct sessions on Brain Health. Leslie Pendleton and Don Creamer will attend. (Wendy Baldwin did a similar program several years ago.)

AARP Chapter Awareness and Community Challenge grants:

Don and Leslie will explore whether these small grant programs might be useful to us, especially for the health fair.

Treasurer Announcements:

Pat Ballard announced that the DJ for the annual picnic has retired; we will need someone else if we want music. Also Warm Hearth requested a larger donation from us this year to support their fundraising through the Cheeseburger event. Pat responded that we had budgeted \$500 and we will stay at that contribution level.

Health and Wellness Fair

Two sponsor registrants have been received so far. Leslie wants to rely more on electronic advertising and do less printing if possible. We need to change the information on the website concerning fee for non-profits (\$10 for table fee if needed).

Program Committee:

March 17 will be Navigating Resources for Home Health Care. April 21 will be Bugs and Us. May 19 will be Dean Spader on personal solutions for climate change. October, Lesa Wynn on decluttering. The November meeting will be Alec Smith re brain stimulation research, neuroeconomics and decision

making, and seniors. February 2021 will be Mike Madigan on research on falling. Decided to leave January date open for things may arise.

Food drives

Sally Anna Stapleton has 3 food drives planned for 2020. The February drive was for staples for seniors. May will be Mother's Food Drive. The focus of fall food drives will be Fido's food drive for dogs and cats in October and Supplies for Seniors (home items) in November. (Skip September because of health fair.)

Legislative

Doug distributed information about the current Supreme Court case involving challenges to the Affordable Care Act.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

Minutes prepared by Pat Hyer, March 3, 2020

To: Board Members AARP Chapters No. 2613

From: Financial Planning and Audit Committee

Subject: Audit for 2019 Financial Records

Date: February 15, 2020

The financial records maintained by the Treasurer of the Blacksburg Chapter AARP were reviewed by the members of the Chapter's Financial Planning and Audit Committee.

The treasurer, Pat Ballard, uses Quicken Computer Software to maintain the financial records of the chapter. This software package facilitates the maintenance of a clearly documented set of financial records that provides a transparent record of transactions and financial reports. The Committee was able to review each specific transaction, deposits and disbursements. Each deposit and disbursement is carefully documented, organized and preserved for the committee's review. It is clear that the records have been carefully and accurately maintained. The Audit Committee was composed of two new members for 2019. The treasurer made herself available to provide detailed explanation of her system. Based on the thorough review of all documents, we conclude that the financial records have been correctly maintained

The committee commends the treasurer for the professional manner by which she oversees the day-to-day financial matters of the Chapter. Her extensive knowledge of fiscal management of the funds and programmatic intentions of the organization are invaluable. In addition, the adaptations, suggestions and extra effort she has made to accommodate the new payment system adopted by the chapter and the added responsibilities brought on by the management of funds from the partnership activities with LLI at VT is remarkable. The additional Worksheet that she maintains to track the LLI funds provides a very clear record for the Chapter and LLI of the status and use of these funds.

Kai Duncan, Member

Jerry Niles, Chair

Cc: Don Creamer, President

Pat Ballard

Ruth Anne Niles

Pat Hyer