

AARP Blacksburg Chapter

Minutes

May 4, 2021

Meeting held by Zoom Conference

Attendees:

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

Meeting attendees enjoyed a few minutes of chit-chat beginning around 9:56 am.

President Leslie Pendleton called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

Minutes from the April meeting were approved with one minor correction needed.

Treasurer's Report: Pat Ballard reported that the chapter has \$8,082 on hand, and that \$539.88 in LLI funds remain in the Chapter/LLI account. Jerry Niles reported that \$8,000 had recently been transferred from the Chapter/LLI joint account to Continuing Education where LLI funds can now be used in a more flexible way. Please refer to the March meeting minutes for a more extended discussion of the LLI/Chapter funds relationship.

By-Laws Revision Report: Linda Correll presented a draft report of Chapter By-Laws as recently revised by her committee. Leslie Pendleton opened discussion of the report by commenting on Article II dealing with the Chapter's purposes and asking whether board members thought that the Chapter was actually doing a good job accomplishing stated purposes. During the discussion, it was noted that each year the chapter compiles a list of achievements to be presented at the holiday luncheon. While the list is always impressive, and places the Chapter among the most productive in the State, the consensus among board members was that it was useful to have purpose statements that show lofty but reasonable aspirations.

The discussion moved on to note some minor changes/corrections that will be handled when the final version is produced. The plan now is to announce a member vote on the By-Laws at the May member meeting and then hold the required vote at the June member meeting.

Finally, Linda reported that work on Chapter Standing Rules is continuing and can be finalized once Chapter committee chairs confirm their purposes and procedures.

LLI and Chapter Relationship. Board members returned to a discussion ongoing from previous meetings concerning how LLI and the Chapter have coordinated their often compatible and mutually supporting activities. Jerry Niles provided a bit more of the history of how LLI at Virginia Tech functions and manages to operate within a very lean administrative structure, mostly relying on volunteer support. The discussion continued for some time, noting some of

the types of events and activities where LLI/Chapter coordination has proved to be helpful. The discussion ended with no further action needed.

Books for Vets: Tom Hohenshil provided another brief written report showing that books continue to be donated at a brisk pace with some 1700 books now on hand, up 850 over the previous month. Tom noted that the Rotary Club has been added to an already impressive list of local organizations already involved. Tom reported that the Giles AARP Chapter, along with the Roanoke Chapter have also reported interest in the project. Ben Crawford read a portion of a Giles Chapter communication explicitly stating their intention to join the book project. Tom noted that the Giles Chapter could perhaps handle donations to the VA hospital in Beckley given their proximity. Ben reported that he and Leslie will attend the Giles Chapter meeting on Friday, May 7.

Tom further discussed closing book collection for this year effective May 31, when it is expected that around 2,000 books will have been collected but not yet distributed due to COVID library restrictions at both hospitals. Leslie suggested that she and Tom meet to further discuss book collection strategy.

Chapter Newsletter: Carolyn Rude reported that she is finishing up the current newsletter.

Chapter Website: Don Creamer shared his concern that the website needs an upgrade to make it more transparent and easier to access information that users currently may have difficulty finding. Don shared some of the changes that have already been made.

Tom Hohenshil asked whether the Chapter membership could be shown on the website. This question stimulated a longer discussion on how and under what conditions member's identification can be made accessible to the public. No clear policy was determined at this point.

Chapter Programs: It was reported that chapter programs for the remainder of the 2021 are set with the exception of October. Scheduled programs can be viewed on the website.

Health and Wellness Week: Leslie Pendleton noted that a formal proposal for this September event will be presented at the June meeting.

Awards: Chuck Burress reported that the Chapter will produce nominations for State awards in June, and deal with local awards in September.

First Friday Hike: Leslie Pendleton reported the beginning of a new project titled the "The First Friday Hunger Hike." On May 7, participants are invited to join her at the entrance to the Huckleberry Trail (next to the Blacksburg library) for a short hike beginning at 9am. The schedule for May through August hikes will appear in the May/June Newsletter. Hikers will bring non-perishable food or a monetary donation to a different food bank each month.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58. Submitted by Terry Wildman, Secretary