

## **AARP Blacksburg Chapter Minutes**

January 5, 2021

Meeting held by Zoom Conference

### **Attendees:**

Leslie Pendleton, Lisa Moose, Terry Wildman, Tom Hohenshil, Jerry Niles, Kai Duncan, Don Creamer, Todd Solberg, Carolyn Rude, Judith Jones, Ben Crawford, Joy Herbert, Linda Correll

President Leslie Pendleton called the meeting to order at 10:00am; Don Creamer, former president, expressed satisfaction that the mantle of leadership was no longer on his shoulders. Minutes of December 1, 2020 board meeting were approved.

### **Recap on December 15 Chapter Celebration**

- Board members expressed satisfaction with the December event, noting that the music was great, the speaker (Joyce Williams) did a good job, and all aspects of the program went as planned.
- Members discussed sending formal “thank you” letters to all outside presenters; President Leslie Pendleton agreed to send the letters.

### **Recap on First Responders Proclamation**

- The proclamation, approved in December by the board, was published in the *News Messenger* on December 19.
- The board again expressed appreciation to Chuck Burress for preparing the proclamation and getting it published.
- The board discussed ways the proclamation could be best viewed by the general membership. Rather than use limited newsletter space it was decided to use our website and also send the document to members via Mailchimp.

### **Operation Paperback Partnership Project**

- The chapter’s participation in *Operation Paperback* was discussed. In our region Operation Paperback is a joint effort by Warm Hearth Village, AARP Blacksburg and RSVP of Montgomery County and the City of Radford.
- Complete information about *Operation Paperback*, a national operation to get paperbacks in the hands of military personnel, can be found online using your favorite search engine. In a nutshell, this is a nonprofit organization begun in 1999 that has sent almost 3 million donated books to American troops, veterans and military families all over the world.
- It was determined that members can donate books (paperback only) at a drop-box location in the lobby of the Blacksburg Community Center. Board member Tom Hohenshil will serve as our coordinator/shipper.

### **Warm Hearth Village Outreach Project**

- Members of the Board received a brief report on this holiday outreach to residents at Warm Hearth Village. On December 19, several board members stuffed 500 envelopes with a beautiful card and a homemade puzzle, which was then distributed by Warm Hearth to their residents. This mailing also included a \$50 raffle ticket. Special thanks to Leslie Pendleton and Lisa Moose for organizing this effort.
- In September and again in December, AARP Blacksburg members participated in holiday car parades for residents at Warm Hearth Village, Showalter and Kroontje Centers, and English Meadows.

### **Current Membership Data**

- Don Creamer reported that the Chapter added 10 new memberships in 2020. Total membership for 2020 was 180.

### **Review of 2020 Deceased Members**

- Each January AARP Blacksburg conducts a special remembrance of current or prior members who passed during the previous year. It was noted that our Chaplain, Sandy Birch, has an up-to-date list of those who passed during 2020.

### **End-of-year reporting**

- Each year the State and National AARP expects chapters to submit a report noting any changes in leadership, volunteer hours across several categories and some other details.
- Don and Leslie reported that data for the report was being collected and would be submitted on time by the end of January.

### **Newsletter report**

- Carolyn Rude reported that the January/February newsletter was in progress and that more than enough material was available for this edition.

### **Program Plans for 2020**

- Judith Jones provided a report on Chapter programs through April of this year. They are as follows:
  - January 19 – Andrew Cohill and Lynn Huber will present on *Wide Open Blacksburg*, fiber optic network.
  - February 16 – Mike Madigan will present on his research on falling and other human factors associated with aging.
  - March 16 – Alec Smith will present on Transcranial Brain Stimulation and implications for seniors.
  - April 20 – Mark Blanks will present on drone testing research and safety features.
- Plans beyond April have not yet been formulated. Several suggestions were made for potential programs. Due to continuing Covid-19 concerns no decision regarding the annual June picnic has been made.

### **Status of Celebrating Aging Event**

- During prior board meetings consideration has been given to holding an event titled “Celebrating Aging – Cinco de Mayo Seniors Day – Spring Celebration for Seniors.” Because of Covid-19 concerns nothing has been definitely scheduled as of the current board meeting.
- Following more discussion today, the board voted to cancel the event.

### **Status of the Health Fair event**

- In the past this event has been held in the Fall on even numbered years. Because of Covid-19 the event was cancelled for 2020.
- Regarding whether some type of health fair might be held in 2021, the board tabled further discussion until the February meeting.

### **LLI update**

- Jerry Niles reported that LLI programs for Spring 2021 are ready to go. The catalogue for programs will be available on January 11. Pat Hyer will conduct a program preview via Zoom from 2-3:15 pm on January 21. Registration will open on January 25. Classes will begin during the week of February 10.

### **AARP Virginia liaison activities**

- Ben Crawford reported on the Chapter receiving the State Advocacy Award.
- Ben also reported on progress for setting up the new panel which will conduct the State redistricting effort. Further details on this process was just reported in the January 5 Roanoke Times Virginia section. The panel will hold its first meeting on February 1, 2021.

### **Assisted living liaison**

- Leslie reported that Hugh VanLandingham, a Warm Hearth Village resident, will serve as Assisted Living Liaison. Given his connections at Warm Hearth Village, he can assist in ways that AARP Blacksburg can connect with area assisted living residents.

### **Committee assignments**

Leslie requested that committee chairs and liaisons examine an existing document outlining committee roles and activities. The purpose would be to identify any needed changes.

### **Other notes**

- Don Creamer reported that Brian Jacks at the State AARP office is requesting member chapters in the state to contribute to the overall State plan going forward. Don will host the January 13 SWVA Volunteer Meeting with Brian via zoom.
- Todd Solberg suggested that our monthly member meetings conducted by Zoom, hosted by the Chapter president, also include a co-host to assist with management of the zoom process. Lisa Moose will serve as co-host

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48am  
Submitted by Terry Wildman, Chapter Secretary