

AARP Blacksburg Chapter
Minutes
February 4, 2020
Blacksburg Community Center

Attendees: Wendy Baldwin, Chuck Burress, Doug Feuerbach, Leslie Pendleton, Isabel Berney, Pat Ballard, Joy Herbert, Sally Anna Stapleton, Linda Correll, Kai Duncan, Judith Jones, Ben Crawford, Pat Hyer

Vice President Leslie Pendleton opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.
Minutes of January 9, 2020 board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Pat Ballard distributed a copy of the proposed 2020 budget and 2019 actuals. The Board accepted the financial report and agreed to the proposed 2020 budget. Wells Fargo has notified Pat that there will be an increase in Merchant Fees charged to the Chapter for maintenance of the website and "swipe" fees. Pat will inform Don Creamer and Lisa Moose.

Announcements:

Pat Hyer reported on the Aging in Place workshop cohosted by LLI, AARP, and VTRA. The Feb 28/Mar 6 workshop is filled and has a waitlist. Participants are using the AARP payment site for purchase of their workbooks. Several Board members asked to purchase a workbook. Pat will provide information on how to order.

Leslie Pendleton suggested that we have a board/poster at the Health and Wellness Fair that shows the recipients of the charity donations distributed as a result of the 2018 exhibitor fees.

Program Committee:

Judith Jones reported that Lesa Wynn from ProjectMoveUp will be rescheduled for the October 20 meeting. February 18 will be Sterling Nesbitt On the Trail of the Origin of Dinosaurs. 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. The November meeting will be Alec Smith re brain stimulation research, neuroeconomics and decision making, and seniors.

Steppin' Out

Wendy Baldwin reminded the group that we received a small grant from AARP Virginia to help with expenses for last year's participation. There will be a new person handling the event for Downtown Blacksburg Inc. The group discussed whether to continue with this event and push for a change of exhibit location, consider participating in other events in the region, or consider other outreach strategies. Wilderness Road in Christiansburg and the Newport annual event might be possibilities for reaching groups who might become members of the chapter. Pat Ballard mentioned that we might need to talk about ourselves as AARP "Serving the NRV" to be more welcoming to non-Blacksburg communities, without changing our legal chapter name. A smaller group to discuss outreach strategies was recommended. Wendy, Judith, Ben, and Jeananne may serve on the committee. Wendy will report on her meeting with the new Steppin' Out Director either in March or April.

Ben Crawford made a motion to thank Laureen Blakemore for her efforts on Steppin' Out over several years. The motion was approved. Ben will draft a letter of appreciation.

Audit committee

The Audit committee will meet later this week.

Health and wellness fair

The planning committee was looking for Board advice on several questions:

- Should we charge non-profit organizations a nominal fee? In 2018 there were 122 exhibitors; 69 were non-profits. The Rec Center can only provide 60 tables for 2020; we may have to rent additional tables. Decided to charge the non-profit organizations the cost of the table/delivery if that proves necessary. Committee will pursue details.
- Should we allow exhibitors to sell products? After some discussion, a motion was made to allow exhibitors to sell products for the coming year and then reassess. The vote was 7 yes, and 4 against. An amendment to the motion was recommended by Judith Jones: the Health and Wellness Fair Committee has the authority to determine which exhibitors and/or products will be accepted for participation in the Fair consistent with the mission of the event. The amendment was approved.
- The Fair will replace the September general meeting, as it has in the past.
- VCOM will arrange screening stations, organize maroon shirted volunteers, but they will not pay for printing for 2020. The Board discussed the share of proceeds that go to VCOM, now 25%, and recognized that the participation of VCOM students in wellness checks and in set-up are valuable. Board members felt that any previous agreement that VCOM would use scholarship funds for students studying geriatric medicine was unnecessary and too restrictive at this point. Printing and table rental may be new costs, hence the concern about raising revenue from sponsors and non-profits.

A question was raised about which attendees of the Board meeting had voting privileges. Will need to reread the bylaws to clarify whether committee chairs and Joy Herbert are voting members.

Gerrymandering

Ben Crawford shared his letter to the editor of the *Roanoke Times* and discussed the wavering of Democratic members in support of the constitutional amendment approved at the last session. Ben will send his letter to the membership through MailChimp and urge AARP chapter members to write/contact their legislators ASAP.

Food drives

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

Sally Anna announced the March 27th event to honor Vietnam War Veterans at Belmont Christian Church hosted by RSVP and Good Samaritan Hospice.

History Committee

The committee has been disbanded, but Sally Anna has four boxes of material that need to be reviewed. Suggested that Don Creamer, Leslie, and Sally Anna work through the boxes and determine what should be scanned and archived, what can be destroyed/recycled, and what might be kept in the closet.

A Caregivers' Conference will be hosted by the NRV Agency on Aging on Friday, March 13, 8:00-2:00, New River Community College, Edwards Hall. Sally Anna will host an AARP table at the conference. She would like to have someone work with her on the table. Ben (a.m.) and Wendy (late a.m./p.m.) may be able to help. Helpers may have to register for the conference; Sally Anna will provide details.

Awards

Chuck Burress distributed a page describing the Leading Lights Award nomination process. Judith suggested that we consider nominating one of our members. Motion made and approved to nominate the member for the award. Judith and Pat H will draft the nomination and send to Chuck Burress.

Legislative

Doug distributed his legislative report. Congress has yet to pass major legislation concerning drug prices. Several states are moving forward with actions to address the crisis in the absence of federal-level leadership.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

Minutes prepared by Pat Hyer, February 4, 2020