

Minutes
AARP Blacksburg Chapter
February 7, 2017
Blacksburg Community Center

Present: Terry Wildman, Don Creamer, Jim Montgomery, Peter Magolda, Ben Crawford, Violet Drake, Carolyn Rude, Wendy Baldwin, Pat Ballard, Jerry Niles, Cal Coluni, Thais Beams, Tamara Hodsden, Ryan Martin, Pat Hyer, June Schmidt

The meeting was called to order by President Wildman at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of January Board Minutes: Minutes of the January 3, 2017 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was accepted. Pat Ballard explained the request from Leading Lights for a donation from our chapter. She moved that we donate \$250 again this year. Creamer seconded. The motion was passed.

Announcements:

Terry Wildman explained that the second annual AARP Volunteer College is to be held March 15-16 in Charlottesville. Registration deadline is February 19. Both Terry Wildman and Don Creamer received invitations to register and attend. A brief discussion followed as to whether registration is limited to only those invited by the state office. Terry promised to look into this if anyone other than Don or Terry is interested in attending.

Wildman informed members of a mailing from Natalie Snyder detailing the agenda of AARP Virginia and suggesting ways that chapters might join with them.

Wendy Baldwin spoke of the annual Steppin' Out event on Friday and Saturday, August 4 – 5 and suggested that Blacksburg AARP be represented once again. A motion was made by Wendy to file the application with the requisite \$50 fee. The motion was seconded by Peter Magolda and approved by the board. Wendy will coordinate staffing for the event.

Wildman informed the board of the revised Governance Plan. The updated document will be available on the chapter website following approval of the 2017 budget.

Wildman invited discussion about the proposed planning retreat on Friday afternoon, Feb. 10. The event will be held at 1750 Kraft Drive (in the Corporate Research Center). Wendy Baldwin suggested that the President invite written suggestions in advance of topics to be discussed during the meeting.

Reports:

AARP Virginia Liaison: Ben Crawford reported on One Virginia2021, the organization working to make redistricting in Virginia less partisan. The League of Women Voters, the Lyric, and LLI are hosting a showing of the related film *GerryRigged* on Monday, Feb. 20, at 3 p.m. at the Lyric Theater. AARP members are urged to attend and/or inform themselves about this important issue. Ryan Martin noted that, to date, proposals to move responsibility for redistricting to an independent commission have not fared well in the General Assembly. Republicans blocked discussion of a related bill at a meeting yesterday.

A meeting has been set up at 1:30 Feb. 21 at Senator Kaine's office in Roanoke. Senator Warren's staff will also attend. Ben Crawford hopes to set up a meeting with Morgan Griffith in the near future. Members were invited to participate in the Tele-Town Halls hosted by AARP national leaders. These are scheduled for Thurs, February 9 at 2:00, and Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. Toll free number is 877- 209-3531.

The driver safety program will be held on Apr 17-18, 9:30-1:00 at Christiansburg Recreation Center (\$12 for AARP members).

Awards: Wildman asked if the Chapter wished to nominate anyone for the Leading Lights Award; nominations are due by Feb. 21. Ryan Martin will send the information link to Terry. Possible nominations are Pat Hyer and/or Jerry Niles for work with LLI and Nola Elliott, who was also nominated for Governor's Award for Volunteer of the Year.

Caring: Violet Drake reminded members of Tony Distler's death in December.

DBI Membership: Wendy urged continued membership with DBI; dues need to be paid. She represents AARP interests for us at various DBI-related meetings.

Finance: June Schmidt reported on the recent audit of 2016 Chapter Financial Records. The committee's report was submitted for the record. The committee commended the Treasurer, Pat Ballard, on the completeness of chapter financial records. The Committee recommended that there be a second person available to sign checks; Ballard responded that this has already been taken care of. Ruth Ann Niles has been appointed to assist the Treasurer with receiving and logging checks and handling the checkbook.

2017 Budget: The draft 2017 budget was distributed. John Hillison spearheads development of the annual chapter budget on behalf of the committee. June noted that almost all dues revenue goes to printing and mailing chapter newsletters. A motion to accept the proposed 2017 budget was made by Wendy Baldwin and seconded by Don Creamer. The motion was approved.

Health Fair: Wendy Baldwin reported that the team is finishing the "Health Fair binder"; she will store the binder for the next team.

Hospitality: no report

Legislative: Val Calhouni has posted the February legislative report. The report includes comments about the state economic development activities, where inadequate oversight resulted in an investigation, failed/misspent funds, and job terminations.

The Town of Blacksburg has discussed occasional rental of homes and condos for Air B&B-type purposes; no agreement has been reached to date. A private contractor will oversee requests for home owners to rent out their property.

The big issue at the state level is the budget. There is not enough revenue to fulfill a pledge for state employee and teacher raises. Ryan Martin reported that all-AARP supported legislation was killed early in the session. They will continue to support bills to address predatory lending and other issues in the future. Ryan encourages members to join the AARP sponsored Tele-Town Hall meetings as a way to give a voice to issues that AARP should pursue.

Newsletter: The February issue is completed. Judith and Roy Jones are now going to handle labeling and mailing of newsletters. New board members will be featured in the next two issues; new members please submit your brief bios. Carolyn usually starts putting together the newsletter around the first of the month; she needs material toward end of the prior month to meet this schedule. Ryan suggestion that the April VT Big Event be featured since members may wish for house or yard assistance.

Lifelong Learning Institute: Pat Hyer reported that there are 400+ members for spring term 2017. AARP members have been invited to attend the TimeBank presentation on February 17, 10:30-12:00 at Warm Hearth. The League of Women Voters and LLI are also hosting a forum on Gerrymandering on March 2, 7:30 p.m. at the Town Council Chambers. Jerry Niles invited AARP members to attend the opening of an art exhibit by LLI members at the P. Buckley Moss Gallery. The opening is scheduled for Feb. 23, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Community Foundation of the NRV: The NRV Livability in Action: 2017 Regional Exchange event will be held on Thursday, March 2, from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Event Center in Christiansburg. Pat Hyer will send the registration link to all Board members. This is a very important and interesting event that helps participants track and engage in the many initiatives happening in the NRV, including the Aging in Place initiative.

Membership: Ryan Martin reported that about 100 people have not renewed their membership for 2017. Last year Don Creamer mailed a letter to each; this was helpful in cleaning up the list. Ryan will work with Terry Wildman to prepare and send a similar letter in early March.

TimeBank: Val Calhouni will compare the AARP membership list with the list of TimeBank registrants. He would like to contact them to see what their experience has been with

TimeBank. TimeBank leaders are developing a strategic plan for the organization. Val helped recruit a VT faculty member to evaluate their work and possibly conduct a workshop for board members. Although there are now 30-40 registered TimeBank members, there has been nearly 0 activity; need to stimulate interest in actually using and exchanging services. Val recommends that the AARP chapter president/designee meet once or twice a year with the TimeBank leadership to review how it is going and how we can strengthen the relationship and effectiveness of the project.

Program: Don Creamer reported that programs have been identified for all but two of our public meetings in the coming year. Bud Jeffries will do a presentation on railroading in Blacksburg on Feb 21st; Anne Campbell will talk about progress on the proposed Sojourn Center (residential hospice) in March. A conversation with participants in the local Dialogue on Race is a possibility. Wendy Baldwin suggested that Creamer contact Andy Morikawa since Don has not gotten a response to his previous inquiry..

VTRA: no report

Website: Peter Magolda will co-edit the Chapter website with Don Creamer. They will be moving material to a new editor over the next month or so. Once done, they will ask for critique and suggestions of the new site.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes were prepared by Pat Hyer and submitted February 8, 2017.