

Minutes  
AARP Blacksburg Chapter  
October 2, 2018

**Present:** Wendy Baldwin, Isabel Berney, Hugh VanLandingham, Don Creamer, Peter Magolda, Terry Wildman, Ben Crawford, Carolyn Rude, Val Coluni, Tamara Hodsden, Carolyn Rude

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

Minutes of the September 4 meeting were approved.

**Committee to select recipients of chapter donations:**

Pat Ballard will chair the committee to select non-profit organizations to receive chapter donations. Don Creamer and Peter Magolda will also serve. Recommendations would be presented at the November board meeting.

**Holiday Lunch:** Terry Wildman met with Lynn Epperly at Warm Hearth to discuss the menu and set up for Tuesday, Dec. 4 holiday luncheon. We will need to submit final headcount by Monday, Nov. 26. The November newsletter will include payment info; Don will send email blast. Charge \$20 (cost is \$19.33/per person). Use existing treasury balances to cover lunches for awardees and other guests. Board meeting will take place in the adjacent Woodlands room prior to the luncheon. Printing of the program will cost about \$80. Hugh and others will provide assistance in folding programs and setting on tables since Carolyn will be out of town that day. Will need several greeters. Don/Terry to work on better nametags.

**Newsletter:** Carolyn will finish the October newsletter tomorrow. Any additional announcements are needed today. Jeanne Anne Dixon-Bame will take over responsibility for folding, labeling, and delivering newsletters to post office beginning next year.

**Whitebarrel Winery Event:** The social and fundraising event will be Thursday, Nov. 1. Don will send email notice to AARP members; Pat will send note to LLI members. Need to make payment through Whitebarrel website.

**Aging in Place Taskforce:**

Pat reported that the Aging in Place Taskforce completed its final report of their home modifications grant project. They produced a summary publication with lessons learned and are now advocating for public policy changes that would increase the flexibility of funding streams to address these issues in rural areas. The team was also awarded another small grant to further develop the Aging in Place workbook. They will create several expert videos to introduce each section of the workbook. In addition they will be creating a train-the-trainer manual so that the entire project can have wide distribution and implementation by facilitators in many other communities.

**Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee is usually composed of board members completing their terms. Wendy, Lisa, and Ryan Martin are completing their terms in 2018. The sitting president is precluded from serving; Don Creamer has been appointed chair. He will recruit additional committee members as needed.

**Food Drive:** Sally Anna will collect food at the October program meeting for Micah's Backpack. In November, we will collect pet food for distribution to seniors – this collection is sponsored by Agency on Aging; pet food products will be distributed through Meals on Wheels.

**VTRA:** Wendy and Isabel will attend upcoming luncheon and represent the Blacksburg chapter.

**Timebank:** Do we need to send an AARP member to participate? Decided to find ways to connect the chapter to the TimeBank partnership without sending a representative to regular meetings. Don will send out a notice to AARP listserv inviting all AARP members to Nov. 6 TimeBank orientation hosted by LLI at Warm Hearth Village Center.

**AARP Virginia:** Safe Driving classes will be offered Oct. 18-19 in Pearisburg. 35 people signed “pledge to vote” at Health Fair. Ben is collecting names of election day volunteers to collect signatures for the OneVirginia2021 initiative. Carolyn passed around flyers on the Immigration panel co-hosted by League of Women Voters, NAACP, and LLI, 7:00 p.m., Thursday, October 4 at Town Council Chambers. She also shared a brochure on the constitutional amendments that will be on the Nov 6 ballot.

**Awards:**

Jennie Reilly was nominated and approved for the Chapter Service award. Coreen Mett was nominated and approved for the Community Spirit Award. Tamara will proceed to order awards for presentation at Holiday Luncheon.

**Chapter Summit Meeting:**

Don Creamer reported on recent meeting hosted by the AARP Virginia for chapters in SW Virginia; Jerry Niles also attended. The meeting revealed (once again) that the Blacksburg Chapter is substantially larger and more active than the others in our region. Some chapters are very small and struggling with basic organization viability issues; few use technology to support their operations. Brian Jacks urged the struggling chapters to do two things – to seek viable partnerships with other organizations and to offer good programs. The Blacksburg Chapter uses both of these strategies to support our viability.

**Future Visioning:**

Terry is particularly intrigued by visions for the future of transportation, which could provide driverless transportation for seniors, among other transformative changes. Don suggested that Terry look at potential transformations in health care that may come with technology.

**October meeting:**

A panel will feature a wide variety of public transportation options at the October meeting. Tomorrow Don and Lisa will be transitioning web payment system.

**Legislative report:**

Val Coluni reported on three issues: 1) school safety (arming teachers) – Lee County has proposed this and Attorney General has denied. Appears that there is no statewide groundswell for arming teachers, but there are certain districts that would like to move in this direction; 2) Gerrymandering; and 3) Uranium mining (3 organizations are challenging 1982 ban on uranium mining).

**Health and Wellness Fair:** Wendy reported that there were 133 exhibitors at 2019 Fair, and an estimated 433 visitors. Many volunteers from VCOM, AARP, and other organizations. The VCOM students were extremely helpful. Wendy needs to report to Virginia AARP about fair-related expenditures to support the \$900 grant we received from the state AARP. Wendy renegotiated a 75/25

split of exhibitor income with VCOM since their effort contributions are much less than in earlier years. Pat suggested that the check-in table be moved closer to the building entrance and volunteers at the table encouraged to just hand out the bag without having people trying to fill out the form. Entry line was longer and slower than should be...

No reports from Treasurer or Membership.

Minutes prepared by Pat Hyer and submitted for review on October 2, 2018