

AARP Blacksburg Chapter Minutes

December 10, 2019

Warm Hearth Village Center

Attendees: Jerry Niles, Pat Hyer, Judith Jones, Pat Ballard, Sally Anna Stapleton, Leslie Pendleton, Isabel Berney, Chuck Burress, Jeanann Bame, Ben Crawford, Hugh VanLandingham, Linda Correll, Doug Feuerbach, Don Creamer, Lisa Moose, Terry Wildman, Carolyn Rude. Guest: Carol Downs, President, AARP Virginia

Minutes of the November 5, 2019 meeting were approved.

Announcement: Jerry recognized the fine service of board members Tamara Hodsdon and Jim Montgomery whose terms have ended. All expressed appreciation.

Treasurer's Report: Pat Ballard reported that bills and revenue are up to date. She has received the \$500 contribution from AARP Virginia for the AiP Academy. Ultimately, the funds for this project will be handled by Continuing and Professional Education.

Charitable Contribution Awardees: On behalf of the selection committee, Pat B reported on the selected recipients of \$3,300 in charity awards to be distributed at the Holiday Luncheon. Funds for these charitable gifts come from the bi-annual health fair.

- \$400 Town of Blacksburg Senior Center Endowment (fund managed by CFNRV)
- \$400 in support of programs at Town of Blacksburg Senior Center
- \$400 to Christiansburg Community Center, Senior Programs
- \$300 Micah's Soup for Seniors
- \$300 NRV Agency on Aging, Meals on Wheels
- \$300 Montgomery County Christmas Store for senior undergarments
- \$300 CFNRV, Aging in Place
- \$300 Warm Hearth Dementia Program
- \$300 SW Virginia Veteran's Cemetery wreath-laying program

AARP Virginia Presidential Visit to Blacksburg Chapter: Carol Downs, state president of AARP Virginia, was welcomed as a guest to the meeting and luncheon. She briefed the group on several AARP initiatives, such as Prepare to Care Workshops, Fraud/Scammers, and talked about the goal of attracting 1,000 new AARP volunteers. She also reported that AARP has targeted four regions in state for more AARP programming: Lynchburg, Virginia Beach, Prince Williams County, and Richmond. Targeted areas may change. Alexandria is an age-friendly community but not is not a targeted region.

Aging in Place (AiP) Academy: Pat Hyer announced the award of a \$2500 grant to the Lifelong Learning Institute and the VT Center for Gerontology from the Carilion Educational Foundation for a train-the-trainer academy. The project is intended to train 25 or more facilitators who

would conduct workshops in their communities using the Aging in Place materials developed by the AiP Leadership Team.

AARP Virginia Liaison: Ben Crawford announced that March will be Vietnam Veterans Commemoration Month. Chapters are encouraged to recognize in some way. There will be Veterans' Fair at Christiansburg Recreation Center on Saturday, March 28. The chapter has been asked to have a table. Ben will take care of. Sally Anna Stapleton volunteered to help. Board member Terry Wildman is a Vietnam Vet.

Gerrymandering: During the last term of General Assembly, a bi-partisan bill was passed that would amend the Virginia Constitution to establish an independent redistricting process. However, the recent election outcomes may undermine strong support from some legislators who would want to retain the power to draw district lines favorable to party in power. The bill must pass exactly as previously approved. AARP is partnering with the League of Women Voters and OneVirginia to lobby for re-affirmation of the bill. Ben encouraged all board members to reach out to legislators and hold them to their promise to eliminate gerrymandering in Virginia.

Programs: Judith Jones thanked committee members (Lisa Moose, Wendy Baldwin, Jerry Niles) for putting together great programs for 2020. January will be Lesa Wynn, Project MoveUp, on what to do with your stuff; February, Sterling Nesbitt re dinosaurs in Africa; March, Agency on Aging representatives will talk about how to access home health resources; April, Kirk Law on insects and culture; in May Dean Spader on share some solutions for climate change drawn from *Project Drawdown*.

Hospitality: Tuesday, June 16, 5:00-7:30 will be the Annual Picnic at the home of Sue Magliaro and Terry Wildman. We'll continue with some catered food and shared dishes. Pat Ballard will check on DJ.

Incoming President Comments: Don Creamer, incoming chapter president, invited the board to discuss chapter goals for the coming year. His list of proposed goals highlighted nurturing the projects and initiatives we already have underway.

Health Fair: Leslie Pendleton reported on planning efforts for the fall health fair, September 16, 2020, 10:00-4:00. Committee will start meeting in January, working consistently until the fair. Additional volunteers welcomed. Jerry urged the committee to use both a general call for volunteers and inviting specific individuals to contribute effort in accordance with their skills/interests.

Lisa Moose will now do mass emails to membership.

Minutes prepared by Pat Hyer, December 12, 2019