

**AARP Blacksburg Chapter  
Minutes  
October 1, 2019  
Blacksburg Recreation Center**

Attendees: Jerry Niles, Don Creamer, Tamara Hodsden, Pat Hyer, Lisa Moose, Chuck Burress, Linda Correll, Hugh VanLandingham, Ben Crawford, Tamara Hodsden, Pat Ballard

Minutes for September 3, 2019 board meeting were approved.

Announcements:

The September newsletter was delayed because of shortage of funds in the bulk mail account. It was delivered immediately after a deposit to the account.

The October 15 food drive will be for "Wolf Pack." The delay in the newsletter delivery meant that very few supplies were collected at the September meeting; hence the repeat collection for this organization. The newsletter available online lists the types of meals/snacks desired for the children's weekend backpacks. At the November meeting, we'll collect supplies/food for seniors' homebound pets. There will be a seniors Walk-a-Thon on October 10 from 10-12:00 at Christiansburg Rec Center.

Treasurer's Report:

Pat Ballard distributed a summary of budget versus expenditures for 2019 as of the end of September. The online payment system costs \$30/month flat fee, plus a transaction fee. We need to consider financial tradeoff for small contributions/donations; we are also paying a monthly fee during months when we have no activity. LLI is charged proportionally when there are significant event transactions.

Chapter Awards:

Tamara Hodsden reported that she has not received any nominations to date. Jerry will make a chapter service nomination for this cycle. We will add a discussion at a future meeting about the eligibility for the Community Spirit award and whether the nominee needs to be a member.

Upgrading Sound System for Meetings:

Jerry reported that he used the new sound technology for the last chapter meeting which resulted in better sound, however that equipment belongs to LLI. A new system would cost about \$400-500; upgrading the old system would cost about \$100-150, but probably not result in as robust sound as a new speaker system. A motion was made to approve the purchase of a new sound system; the motion passed. We may solicit donations to help defray the cost. Decided to retain the new system for AARP use only (not donate to Blacksburg Recreation Center as we had the old podium and mike).

Name Tags:

Jerry will talk with Jim Wightman to discuss current name tag system to see if he wants to continue handling as is or if other methods might be possible, including culling non-members and alphabetizing remainder. Todd Solberg has been recruited to help with welcoming at chapter meetings.

Walk to End Alzheimer's:

The Center for Gerontology is looking for people to walk and/or donate in support of a fundraiser for Alzheimer's research/treatment.

Follow up of 2020 Census talk:

Do we want to set up a session(s) for seniors with entry of their census responses? Co-sponsor with Warm Hearth? Concern about computer issues at Warm Hearth location? Pat will mention to Ferne Moschella, CEO of Warm Hearth.

Whitebarrel Winery Social Event:

Don Creamer reported on the joint social/winetasting event for AARP, LLI, and VTRA scheduled for October 3, 5:30-8:30. The \$25 fee includes appetizers and a tasting or glass of wine. Don will be talking to VTRA this week to make announcements.

Board and Officer Nominations:

Don Creamer reported on efforts to recruit new board members and officers. Creamer will be nominated for President, Leslie Pendleton as Vice President, Pat Hyer and Pat Ballard as Secretary and Treasurer; Ruth Anne Niles will continue as Assistant Treasurer. Chuck Burress, Linda Correll, and Kai Duncan will join the board for 3-year terms. We need to announce the slate in October and invite other nominations, then vote in November. Ben Crawford moved approval of the slate as presented for membership. The motion was approved.

Aging in Place:

Don Creamer attended the recent AiP leadership meeting for Pat. The agenda included of action steps from their 2015 plan. They have done well on many of the objectives; others require governmental action that may be difficult to achieve. Completion of the Aging in Place workshop materials has occupied much of the effort over several years, but it is unclear whether organizations are actually planning to offer the workshops. Rollout is now the problem for the team. LLI will host a two-part workshop in the spring. Could the Community Foundation host a train-the-trainer session and invite relevant non-profit leaders? Don urged them to treat the AARP Chapter as a partner which might be able to assist with certain issues.

Legislative Role Transition:

Ben Crawford distributed information about an upcoming Giles County Safe Driving class, which provides a discount on your insurance. Larry Alexander and his wife have started a newsletter called *Home Sweet Home* about aging in place; can sign up to receive. Ben reported on candidates for local offices and General Assembly seats. AARP is encouraging creation of a "senior citizen's park." Should we consider for Blacksburg?

Holiday Luncheon:

Terry is working with chef at Warm Hearth on a menu for the December event.

Membership Reminders

Recommended that Don send out two mass email reminders in November encouraging folks to renew membership and sign up for holiday luncheon. Could also do a membership payment reminder in January...

Minutes prepared by Pat Hyer, October 6, 2019