

COA Minutes of Board Meeting, September 13, 2023

Meeting called to order at 10:20 A.M.

All members present - Polly Ryan, Shirley Todd, Susan Honneus, Ann Irvine, Bonnie Phillips, and Mary Potter

(There were no official board meetings in June, July, or August).

UPDATES FROM POLLY, COORDINATOR:

There is a lot to report on funding: The COA newsletter has been funded for one more year.

- Polly applied for and received a MCOA grant for \$23,000. The money will fund the expansion of the driver pool service funded by the Hilltown CDC. This program is for residents 60 years old and up who need rides for appointments. We need to expand the driver pool and advertise the program. There was an informational meeting of the HCDC on September 11. Polly has concerns about how the money would be allocated and feels that marketing strategies need to be discussed. Joan Griswold is the coordinator for the program; Hunt Chase arranges the transportation. Plainfield has two volunteers who are already giving elderly residents rides - Dennis Carr and Eric Burcroff.

- We received a NCOA vaccine initiative grant which will fund a flu vaccine clinic on October 11th at the Public Safety Complex. Senior 60 years and older will receive a \$25 gift certificate to several area businesses if they pre-register. Any money left over from the \$10,000 grant will come to us if we get 100 people to sign up.

- Peg Whalen secured a \$300,000 EOE grant for the consortium for Enhancing Digital Literacy for Older Adults. It will provide internet service for households that have none, give out laptops or tablets and training to use them and offer ongoing technical support through various means. Currently, Chesterfield has older laptops available for loan.

- Polly has been trained to post content on the Consortium and Town websites and has applied for the position of Web Content Manager for COA. The selectboard in Chesterfield will handle the hiring.

- Bonnie and Mary still need to do the LBGTQ+ training.

- HVES (Highland Valley Elder Services) need a volunteer from our Board to attend their Board meetings.

PROGRAMING:

- Todd Rather, an attorney specializing in Elder Law with Bacon/Wilson Associates, will give a presentation after our October luncheon. Polly will advertise it in the Post as a "free presentation for everyone".

- On October 20, we will sponsor a road trip to Mt. Greylock and eat lunch at Bascom Lodge, courtesy of COA. Inform Polly by Oct. 18th if you would like to go. A bus will be available for 12 people, leaving from behind the Town Hall at 10 A.M. and returning at 3 P.M. Those driving themselves should arrive there by noon for lunch.

- "Gen Silent", a documentary about the prejudices the LGBTQ+ community faces from the medical community, will be shown October 21, 2 P.M. at the Anna T. Dunphy School in Williamsburg.

- COA Consortium Memory Conference, September 28, 10-3 in Chesterfield.

-Memory Support Group, September 26, 9:30 A.M. at Plainfield Village Church with guest nurse from the Northampton Health Department.

- Dancing with Polly, September 27, 10A.M. at Town Hall.

- Tim Van Egmond, Folksinger, Storyteller, Artist, Educator, is writing a grant to perform for us after our March 2024 luncheon.

LUNCH ASSIGNMENTS:

October:

Polly: pot roast with carrots, onions, etc.; Shirley: green beans with mushrooms; Mary: peas; Bonnie: rolls; Sue: dessert

November:

Thanksgiving Dinner. Polly will ask Phil Alessio to cook the turkey. On November 11, we will sponsor a spaghetti luncheon for our veterans.

December:

Christmas Dinner. Polly will cook the roast beef.