

St. Lawrence County
OFFICE FOR THE AGING

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**St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2007**

Meeting called to order at 9:35 am by Barb McB. Members present were: Diane Burns, Barbara Hance, Patricia Jones, Holly Capuro, Florence Patterson, Bea Woodward, Tedra Cobb, and Donald Smith. Also present were: Robert Miller, Barbara Trerise, Carlton Doane, Sylvia Despaw, Barbara McBurnie and Kathy Skelly. Excused were: Pat Kinne and Sister Donna Franklin. A quorum was established.

Election of Officers/Public Comment/Correspondence:

- Bea Woodard was elected as Temporary Chair for the purpose of electing a new slate of officers for 2007. Holly Capuro, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of officers: Chair Florence Patterson, Vice Chair Pat Jones and Corresponding Secretary Barbara Hance. Holly made motion to approve slate of officers, 2nd by Don Smith, all in favor.
- Florence made opening remarks as new Chair, and had everyone introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes:

- Diane moved to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2006 meeting. Seconded by Bea and Holly All in favor- motion carried.

Old Business:

Office for the Aging Report:

- Barb McB. reported on new trays for all Home Delivered Meal clients. The old trays were aluminum and could leak, the new trays are microwaveable with a plastic cover which is heat sealed. These new containers are more efficient and will allow a wider variety of food items such as soups for the Home Delivered Meal clients. These new trays will transport the same as the old trays, and are freezable like the other trays.
- It was also brought to the Advisory Council's attention that there are now vacancies on the Council. Barb McB. stated that people in the Star Lake, Clifton Fine, Pitcairn areas need to be represented. Suggestions were taken from the floor on who would be willing to serve. Barbara T., Tedra C., and Diane B. all had suggestions: perhaps someone from Community Services/Mental Health as mental illness is becoming more of an issue for older people. Barb McB. thanked everyone for suggestions and stated that all will be given consideration.

Senior Citizen Award Criteria:

- Barb McB. stated the information for Senior Citizen of The Year 2007, and Outstanding Contribution by a Senior Citizen 2007 will go out in the February and March issues of the Mature Living. Only nominations submitted on the official forms will be considered. Individuals need only to call the Office for the Aging to obtain nomination criteria and forms. Deadline for completed forms is Friday, March 23, 2007.
- Advisory Council members were asked to volunteer to be judges for the awards. Tedra C. and Diane B. were willing to help. Barb McB. will also check with other department heads within the County system to see who would be willing to assist. Several have been used in the past and have been very helpful.

New Business:

AARP Report:

- Carlton D., past President of St. Lawrence AARP Chapter #2831 filling in for Janet Kelly new Chapter President. The regular chapter meeting was held on December 19, 2006 at the Fun Park in Potsdam. The speaker was Barbara Heller who provided the group with singing of Christmas Carols.
- There were no regular meetings in January and February. However, they did have a cutting party so members can make bags for wheelchairs or walkers. The finished items are given to nursing homes throughout the county.
- Next regular chapter meeting is on March 20, 2007 and will be held at the C & C restaurant with Ed. Lavarnway, Director of the Frederic Remington Museum as speaker.
- April 17, 2007 meeting will be at the Grandview with Marjorie Pasco, from the Ogdensburg Rotary Club talking about Shelter Box USA.

State Office for the Aging (SOFA) Advisory Council Report:

- Barbara T., reported on the information she received after the meeting from that council's fall meeting. Barbara stated that SOFA Director, Neal Lane, was leaving and she for one, would miss his knowledge and professionalism. SOFA will be losing a true leader.
- Barbara wanted people to know that Medicare Part B Premiums are now based on income with most paying \$93.50/mo. 2007 Medicare deductible: for Part A is \$992.00 for each hospital stay; Part B is \$131.00.
- Other items discussed were treatment of the Elderly in Guardianship, Mental Health Challenges of the Elder Boom, (new term for baby boomer) and Long Term Care in Community Based settings. One of the main subjects was the Older Americans Act Reauthorization. While there is an increase in funding for Congregate and Home Delivered Meals and Title V this year, the President's budget for next year has everything rolling back to 2006 levels resulting in a decrease for everyone.

St. Lawrence County Council of Senior Citizens Report:

- Sylvia Despaw, new President of St. Lawrence County Council of Senior Citizens, reported on Mayfest 2007. The Mayfest will take place May 5, 2007 at the K of C in Massena. Committees are being set up with the menu of a turkey dinner with all trimmings; tickets will be available in March at a cost of \$12.00 each.
- For the July Senior Citizen picnic a committee has been formed to look at different sites, but no site has been chosen at this time.
- The St. Lawrence County Council of Senior Citizens will have a scheduled speaker at each meeting. The meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 10:00 am. Everyone is welcome.

StateWide Senior Action Report:

- StateWide's Senior Day in Albany will be on March 20, 2007. A bus from this area will be taking interested seniors. The bus ride is free, but any other expenses you must cover. The bus from Potsdam will be leaving at 5:30 a.m.
- May is Older Americans month. One or two seniors from each county have been honored at the Governor's mansion. It is held in early May. Barb McB. is unsure if it will continue to be held at the Governor's mansion.
- Mike Burgess is no longer the head of StateWide, he has accepted the position as Director of the State Office for the Aging, replacing Neal Lane. They will miss him, but Mike has promised to continue to help StateWide all he can.
- Next North Country Chapter meeting will be at the Canton United Methodist Church on March 16th.
- Seniorama will be August 16, 2007, in Hogansburg.

Assisted Living:

- Diane B. discussed the difference between assisted living and enriched housing. Enriched housing is to assist individuals in living independently but not requiring 24 hour care. Assisted living requires 24 hour staffing to help people who may be in need, but can still live fairly independently.

- Medicaid does not pay for Enriched Housing , but does cover assisted living. It has been proven much more economical to pay for assisted living vs nursing home care. In other areas of the State, Assistive Living is replacing Enriched Housing.

Announcements:

- Barbara H. and Bob M. would like to honor Margaret Cuthbert, who passed away this month. Barbara H. feels that Margaret should be honored for all the great things she has done to further the cause of senior citizens in St. Lawrence County. It was suggested that perhaps the May Fest could be dedicated in her honor. That will be brought up at the next County Council Meeting.
- Senior Citizen Day Celebration in Albany – in May with the next StateWide meeting being April 16th.
- Mayfest – May 5th at the K of C, in Massena.

Adjournment:

- Bea W. made the motion to adjourn, 2nd by Diane B. meeting adjourned at 10:35 am.
- Next meeting will be April 9th at 9:30 a.m.