

St. Lawrence County  
**OFFICE FOR THE AGING**

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**St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging  
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes  
September 10, 2007**

Meeting called to order at 9:35 am by Florence Patterson, Chair of the Advisory Council. Members present were: Florence Patterson, Diane Burns, Barbara Hance, Patricia Jones, Donald Smith, Tedra Cobb, and Holly Capuro. Also present were: Robert Miller, Sylvia Despaw, Pat Rourk, and Barbara McBurnie. Excused were: Bea Woodward, Pat Kinne, Ruth Ayen and Carlton Doane. Absent were: Sister Donna Franklin and Cheryl Madlin. A quorum was established.

A moment of silence in remembrance of September 11, 2001 took place.

**Public Comment/Correspondence:**

- No comments or correspondence.
- Copies of Office for the Aging Advisory Council by-laws and Advisory Council Orientation Primer from the NY State Office for the Aging were made available to all present.

**Approval of Minutes:**

- Diane B. moved that the minutes of the June 11, 2007 meeting be approved. Seconded by Holly C. All in favor – motion carried.

**Old Business:**

**Office for the Aging Report:**

- No questions or comments

**New Business:**

**StateWide Senior Action Report:**

- Bob M. reported next North Country Chapter meeting on 9/21/07 at Mullen's (formally the Clearview) in Gouverneur from 10:00 am – 2:30 pm. Lunch is \$6. Assemblywoman Scozzafava, Assemblyman Aubertine and Senator Wright have indicated that they or someone from their office will attend.
- Seniorama went well – about 600 attended; 52 vendor tables. There were some complaints about seating that will be addressed next year.
- NY StateWide annual convention October 9-11 in Albany. Bus will be going from St. Lawrence County (\$20 fee – North Country Chapter is paying most of the cost of the bus)

**AARP Report:**

- No report was received. Carlton D. in Morocco

**St. Lawrence County Council of Senior Citizens Report:**

- Sylvia D. distributed report presented at August meeting. Discussion on picnic – great help from Fire Dept and town; concern about large line-up for meal; good that it was inside due to thunder and lightening storm. Council has decided to return to same place next year.
- Next County Council meeting Oct. 11, 2007 at 10:00am at the American Legion in Potsdam

### **Veterans Report:**

- Pat R. explained new laws that just passed. For property tax exemption, each municipality (county, town, village) must pass exemption in order for their residents to receive it.
  - Veterans in Merchant Marine from 1941-1945: one time bonus if honorable discharge
  - Annuity to “Gold Star” Parents (lost child during war time service); income based; effective 4/1/08
  - Cold war veterans property tax exemption – served since 1946 up to 9/11/01; effective 4/1/08. Must renew annually; 1/3 less than regular exemption; if receive exemption as war time vet, cannot receive both.

### **October Needs Assessment and Public Hearing:**

- Barbara McB. gave report of ad hoc committee meeting for Bea W. Noted that SUNY Potsdam will be assisting in effort by holding focus group meetings. Distributed draft assessment tool; discussed; several changes recommended on format and additional questions. Advisory Council members requested to attend Sr. Club meetings to distribute as in the past. Barb McB. will contact members after confirming with each club president.
- Public Hearing is scheduled for October 11 at 10:00 am at the American Legion in Potsdam just prior to County Council of Senior Citizens’ meeting. Legal notices will be posted in County designated newspapers.

### **Announcements**

- September 25 - NY Connects: Choices for Long Term Care in St. Lawrence County “kick-off” meeting at McCarthy’s restaurant. Suggestion to invite press.
- October 3 – Caregiver Workshop at the new Senior center in Hogansburg; coordinated with St. Regis Mohawk and Franklin County Offices for the Aging; focused on the well-being of the caregiver themselves.
- Florence P. gave brief overview of the not-for-profit organization Pamoja International Cultural Exchange, Inc. (PICEI), as several had asked about it. Cultural organization; bridging generations – youth and older adults; \$5 coupon book for local store to support the not-for-profit organization.
- Barb McB. named two new potential members – Gloria Zehr from Gouverneur (recommended by legislator, Don Peck) and Ron Frank of Fine (worked with Barb on Star Lake Food Pantry); council members endorsed both.

### **Adjournment:**

- Diane B. made the motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tedra C. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.
- Next meeting will be November 5, 2007 at 9:30 am

Minutes approved November 5, 2007