

St. Lawrence County
OFFICE FOR THE AGING

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**St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
June 08, 2009**

Meeting called to order at 9:40 am by Bob Mead, Chair. Members present were: Carlton Doane, Bob Mead, Roger Bennett, Elaine Porter, Pat Rourk, and Ruth Ayen. Also present were: Robert Miller, Barbara Hance, Gail Bisonette, Barbara McBurnie, and Kathy Skelly. Excused: Sylvia Despaw, Gloria Zehr, Florence Patterson, Diane Burns, and Tedra Cobb. Absent: Sr. Donna Franklin, Ron Frank. A quorum was established.

Introductions and Welcome:

- There were no introductions today as no new people were in attendance.

Guest Speaker:

- A Psychiatrist on Geriatric Mental Health was to have been the guest speaker but was unable to attend.

Public Comment/Correspondence:

- Barb McBurnie announced that Diane Burns had submitted her letter of resignation due to her upcoming retirement. Bob Mead moved, Pat R. 2nd to accept her resignation. All in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

- Pat Rourk moved to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2009 meeting. Seconded by Roger Bennett. All in favor- motion carried.

Old Business:

Office for the Aging Report:

- Office for the Aging had no written report this month. The office is minus three key people. Peggy, who is on the front desk, has been out and we are not quite sure when she will be back. Joyce Petty went into the hospital last week; she is now home hopefully back to work by next week. Also Joan Caryl is out until the end of the month.
- The State made Stimulus money available to us, which has to be used for Home Delivered Meals. The office is using some of the money to hire extra help. We are usually able to hire two people for 8-10 weeks but this year we will keep them on for about 6 months.
- We have also been moving people around because of a loss of funding that paid for office space at the 1-Stop. Sheryl has had to come back into this office taking Diana's space with Diana moving to the open cubicle in the back of the office. New York Connects is still fully funded so Nancy will be staying where she is for the time being. We are looking to partner with Department of Social Services to cover dual eligible (have Medicare & Medicaid) clients. This would cut down on our work load.
- HEAP is closed for the year. Furnace replacement is however still open for a short time.
- Stacey's Older Worker Program had an evaluation which was very favorable.
- Building Security starts the week of June 15th. Everyone not working in the building will have to go through security before entering the building. There will be two security guards on duty and a metal detector to go through before you are allowed in the building. We also will have extra panic buttons installed through out the office. These panic buttons will go directly to the security guards. They will in

turn check out each issue as it arises. All employees will for the time being go through the side doors. Pat Rourk has been assigned as head of security in the building.

- Barb had pictures of Floyd Powell who was awarded Outstanding Contribution for St. Lawrence County and also won the award for the NY State. It was a very rewarding day and we felt very honored to have had someone from our County win the State recognition.

New Business:

StateWide Senior Action Report:

- Bob Miller also attended Senior Citizen Day in Albany. He also felt it was a great honor for the North Country to have an award winner. Next year it was suggested that politicians from the North Country attend the Senior Day in Albany and Mike Burgess (Director NY State Office for the Aging (SOFA) inquired about having a North Country musician be part of the program. Barb has suggested perhaps Donald Woodcock, who is an award winning musician, might be willing to attend the Albany Senior Day next year.
- The North Country Chapter of StateWide's next meeting will take place in Massena on June 19th with a Roast Pork dinner being offered. Bob has asked Lynn Connors from Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Division to be the guest speaker. The Seniorama will be held on Monday, August 17th in Hogansburg.

St. Lawrence County Council of Senior Citizens Report:

- Sylvia Despaw was unable to attend - no report issued.

Veteran's Services Report:

- Pat Rourk gave a report on the GI Bill data as of 06/02/2009. He stressed how there was no reason for any Veteran not to go to college. Pat gave a full breakdown of what it means financially to Veterans. Also, as of 04/06/09, all tuition at any "State" institution is paid in full. This means that the tuition for a state school would be refunded to the veteran if they already have paid their tuition using the GI Bill. This benefit is available for 10 semesters. The GI Bill is now good for 15 years and becomes effective on August 1, 2009. More information is attached.
- Senator Kirsten Gillibrand is trying to spread the word about hiring Veterans. On its website, WXXA-TV Albany, NY (6/1,Hauser) reported on a little known new law. For every new veteran a business owner hires, they will receive a \$6 thousand dollar tax credit. It's all part of stimulus bill. The tax break is good until 2010.

AARP Report:

- On May 19, 2009 AARP awarded two \$200.00 scholarships to graduating seniors from St. Lawrence County. The winners were Jeanne Lavack from Gouverneur High School. Jeanne will be attending Albany School of Pharmacy and Nicholas Jerome from Parishville-Hopkinton High School who will attend SUNY Canton for Early Childhood.
- The next meeting for AARP will be at Dar's Restaurant and the program will be "Save The River".
- Seniorama will be August 17, 2009 starting at 9 a.m.
- AARP will be having a trip this year to Alex Bay to a winery and a boat and dinner cruise. Non members will be welcome. The cost is \$65.00 - a coach bus will be used.

Announcements:

- The John A. Karlberg Memorial Picnic will take place July 10, 2009 at 9:30a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Dominic W. Zappia Community Center in Norfolk. All Senior citizens are welcome. Sponsored by St. Lawrence County Council of Senior Citizens and St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging Nutrition Program.

Adjournment:

- Motion by Pat Rourk, 2nd by Elaine Porter - meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.
- Next meeting will be September 14, 2009.