

The Sheffield Council on Aging
Minutes for February 10, 2009
By Dick Magenis

Present: John-Arthur, Barbara, Joan, Natalie, Mary Ellen, Rose Marie, Dawn, Anne & Dick

Introduction: The January minutes were reviewed & approved.

Treasurer's Report: (Anne)

1. J-A has the Sheffield COA budget with 33% remaining; we're right on line. The transportation cost of \$10,800 has yet to be sent.
2. The state formula grant is also on line. The state government cut in January from \$7 per senior to \$6.50 per senior. Their 2nd payment will be adjusted accordingly. This was anticipated by J-A and we're OK. We may be using some of our town money to support the newsletter, but we'll be fine.
3. J-A met with Joe Kellogg; Joe saw no ability to increase staffing funding/hours this year, despite our request to have a full-time director, etc. Could we pay for J-A's conference from our funds? Possibly, with \$749 remaining in programs. As a town, Joe sees a 10% reduction in state funding, but he remains optimistic overall. School operations rose 1-2%, with faculty negotiations due in April.
4. \$1,490.26 are in the Friends checkbook. Dick will sign the signature card for the account this week.

Committee Reports

Program & Activities (Lovina)

1. J-A suggested with agreement by all. 3rd Thursday, Feb 19, with Gretta's lasagna & Twiggs Myers speaking. \$6 per head, with children under 10 free.
2. The Out to Lunch Bunch will be going out on the 26th.
3. The Reading to Youngsters program, with Karen Blodgett, encourages seniors to sign up here & J-A will send the names to her. One reads for 45 minutes to grades pre-K thru 4th. Karen will advise re specific materials.
4. The Glory Be clowns would like to perform in April (no Thursdays) and we could move 3rd Thursday to Friday, as we're reopening the Center on Fridays in April. School vacation is the week of April 20th; we're shooting for the April 24 to exploit the children's vacation.
5. Lovina is getting in contact with Sammy Brown (Irish songs), perhaps for March.
6. The Big Band trip tickets may not be available for the Warner Theater in Torrington per Dawn. How can we get grants for trips? The Great Barrington COA has used them to advantage. J-A indicated that we might be able to coordinate summer trips with them. Anne will investigate further. The Hildene trip to Manchester would be interesting, requiring an all-day trip via bus.
7. On April 14 we could do a Tuesday trip to Norman Rockwell for 1:30 pm gallery talk, with lunch earlier? (J-A) Can't use a Massini bus, but could carpool. A trip to Hyde Park in July sounds interesting.

Outreach/Volunteers (Joan) No report.

1. J-A feels that the office is becoming more busy; frequent calls show more people know we're here.
2. We've no one coming in for tax help as yet, with few requests. One can call Great Barrington for help, if in need. The office continues to track our contact with seniors to improve the relationship.

Friends/New Building (Carol)

1. Pauline is less involved; she has done so much! Tom Tighe is monitoring their finances.
2. Rose Marie mentioned the Kiwanis scholarship drawing for \$50 per ticket for a new truck.

Mission/Policies/Procedures No report

Director's Report: (John-Arthur)

1. The Health Fair is on TV at CTSB, channel 16.
2. Our next COA meeting will be held at Dewey Court, with a reception at 4:30 & meeting at 5 pm, to raise our consciousness. Sherry Steiner manages there. We can carpool from here, leaving at 4:15 pm. Barbara & Rose Marie will work on cookies & punch/tea.
3. Dawn suggested our meetings be held on Mondays at 5pm. Agreed.

The next COA meeting will be on Monday, March 9 at 5 pm, with a reception at Dewey Court, at 4:30, carpooling from Dewey Hall at 4:15.