

**The Sheffield Council on Aging**  
**Minutes for March 9, 2009**  
By Dick Magenis

**Present:** John-Arthur, Barbara, Joan, Lovina, Mary Ellen, Dawn, Dick & six guests from Dewey Court.

**Introduction:** The February 10 minutes were reviewed & approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Anne)

1. John-Arthur explained to our guests how our three sourced budget (state grant, town budget & Friends' checking account), totaling resources of approx. \$52,000 works. He also explained the role of the SBETC in transporting seniors, and the Friends' effort in gaining tax-exempt status.
2. The Friends' checking account has a present balance of \$1,738, and we are on line with expenditures in the other 2 budgets. Kiwanis gave Friends \$500 recently. J-A suggested buying software that would improve our ability to track all aspects of the Senior Center in responding to the needs of our seniors.

**Committee Reports**

**Program & Activities** (Lovina)

1. Sammy Brown, pianist, will entertain on March's Third Thursday. "Glory Be Clowns" is scheduled for Friday, April 24, to celebrate the reopening of the Senior Center on Fridays for the spring & summer seasons.
2. It was suggested that bingo be our focus after lunch in May. Marilyn Wiley, of Elder Services, will discuss good nutrition beforehand while preparing the salad of the day. Perhaps next month's films will be comedies like "Topper."
3. April 16 is Gracious Living Day, with Berkshire School students volunteering to do service jobs in Sheffield at the fire department, Dewey Hall, town hall, etc. We will host them at a pizza party afterwards.
4. J-A reminded our guests of our programs, like Knitting Together, which meets at Christ Church twice a month, on 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 3 pm and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at 11 am. He encouraged a visit to the Rockwell Museum on April 14 (free) for their "Artists & Studios" program.
5. He explored options to enrich the lives of the Dewey Court residents, which has 22 apartments of 1 or 2 seniors, and low-income housing supported by the Berkshire County Housing Authority, managed by Sherry Steiner. Dave & Eleanor Van Deusen have tried to spark greater senior activities at Dewey Court, but interest has been minimal thus far.
6. J-A cited our many programs, with the blood pressure clinic on March 12 & the foot clinic on March 24.

**Outreach/Volunteers** (Joan)

1. We discussed the volunteer lunch, seeking to ensure that no one should be overlooked. It will be held at the Egremont CC. Who will speak?
2. The Seniors to Juniors Volunteer Readers program at Undermountain School is continuing, with several volunteers now involved.
3. Telephone Volunteers to remind seniors of our 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday luncheons and other activities would still be useful.

**Friends/New Building** (Carol): The process to gain 501(c) 3 tax-exempt status for the Friends of COA is finished. The Friends of the Sheffield Senior Center is recognized as of Feb. 19, 2009.

**Mission/Policies/Procedures** No report

**Director's Report:** (John-Arthur): Bill Bennett, our representation to SBETC, has died after years of faithful service. J-A will go to represent us at Tuesday's meeting at the Claire Teague Center. A call was made for a new representative.

**The next COA meeting will be on Monday, April 13, at 5 pm in Dewey Center.**