

St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging (OFA)
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2016

Meeting called to order: 10:00 AM by Patrick Rourk, V. Chair

Present: (*voting members*): Larry Denesha, Carlton Doane, Richard Gardner, Joyce Persons, Patrick Rourk, Linda Wilkinson

Present: (*non-voting members*): Andrea Montgomery, Christine Fobare, Gail Bisonette, Michael Boprey

Present: (*New Members/Pending BOL approval*)

Excused: Russ Backus, Frank Carter, Roger Bennett, Frank Carter, Bob Mead, Ada Santaferra

Absent: Ron Frank, Sylvia Despaw

Public Attending: Arlene Kerr, Marie J. Wood, Shirley Meek, Dorothy Adams, Henry Boyer, Reta Burns, John Burns, Shirley Belotte (NYS EPIC/Xerox State Healthcare)

Meeting Location: Clifton-Fine Community Center, Star Lake

◆**Introductions:** Meeting brought to order by P. Rourk. Opened with Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Reflection. Welcome and introductions.

◆**Guest Speaker** – A. Montgomery introduced speaker, Larry Denesha, SLC BOL Vice Chairman. Larry explained that he is the District 6 representative and that he gives a report to each of the towns and villages in this district.

- Newton Falls Railroad/rail line is reopening and should bring economic development back to the area.
- The IGA in Star Lake is closing and that is a big concern to residents.
- Question regarding what is being done to bring economic development to the county.
- BOL has formed a bipartisan committee of 6 and they are meeting with the County Planning Board to address this issue of economic development
- Senator Ritchie secured funds for an Agricultural Program at Cornell Cooperative Extension. This program will assist high school graduates with the needed skills going into the agricultural field.
- DMV is bringing in significant money
- BOL approved an Advocate Worker for the Elderly position for OFA
- Resolution in April promoting Organ Donors
- Board approved 4 temporary labor positions for the highway department
- Also approved SLC Risk manager position
- Discussion of financial exploitation of older adults, future of paper mill and J&L site
- Larry discussed the need for an infrastructure in the county to promote tourism

Shirley Belotte (*NYS EPIC/Xerox State Healthcare*) briefly discussed EPIC and distributed info.

◆**Public Comment** – No public comment.

◆**Approval/Minutes** – J. Persons moved to approve minutes, seconded by L. Denesha. All in favor.
Motion passed.

◆**Correspondence** (*L. Wilkinson*) –

Thank you card was sent to Diane Wilcox/Social Security for speaking at the last meeting.

◆**Old Business** – OFA Work Reports / no questions or comments

◆New Business –

County Council of Senior Citizens Report *(Sylvia Despaw)*

No report

StateWide Senior Action Council Report *(Linda Wilkinson)*

- Senior Citizen Grassroots Advocacy Day/May 10th in Albany, registration by contacting Linda by May 1st. Transportation provided.
- conference calls April 26th, May 24th, and June 21st.
- still have petitions out for Safe Staffing issues
- annual convention is September 27th to 29th
- next meeting is May 5th/guest speaker from the Potsdam Humane Society
- US Senate unanimously approved bill reauthorizing the Older Americans Act, now being sent to President Obama to sign

Veterans Services Report *(Mike Boprey)*

M. Boprey reviewed all the services provided in his office at outreach locations. Later in the meeting Mike mentioned the DAV van and the ongoing need for volunteer drivers.

Public Health Report *(Laurie Maki)*

No report.

County Legislator's Report *(Larry Denesha)*

Report included in presentation.

AARP Report *(Gail Bisonette)*

Next meeting will be April 19th at the Lobster House. Lunch can be ordered off the menu. Speaker will be Bryan Thompson. He will be speaking about Helen Thompson Hinsdale, the first suffragette in SLC.

Office for the Aging Report *(Andrea Montgomery)*

- explained large expansion of NY Connects program, now the hub for LTCSS, plan to have I&A hubs at nutrition sites throughout the county by the end of 2016
- description of new Community Center in Gouverneur and the possibility of an OFA nutrition site being located there in the future
- Mature Living, OFA Face Book page
- upcoming events
 - Volunteer Recognition Month Reception this Wednesday, April 13th, at the Human Services Building. Expressed how valuable our volunteers are and always looking for more.
 - TRIAD Health Fair at the Massena Community Center, May 3rd 10AM to 1PM
 - MayFest, May 7th at the Massena Community Center, Awards Dinner to follow with Senior Awards presentation. Andrea announced the winners. They will also be invited to attend Senior Day in Albany on May 10th
 - Hospice Caregiver Event, June 9th from 11AM to 3PM
 - Senior Picnic, July 8th, location TBD. County Council is accepting bids for a location

◆Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by C. Doane, seconded by L. Wilkinson, all in favor.

P. Rourk adjourned meeting at 11:30 AM..

◆Next Meeting – Monday, June 13th at 10 am at Morristown Fire Hall

(Minutes respectfully submitted by Christine Fobare)