

**St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging (OFA)**  
**Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**  
**June 12th, 2017**

**Meeting called to order:** 10:00 AM by Patrick Rourk, Chairman  
**Present:** (*voting members*): Russ Backus, Roger Bennett, Joyce Persons, Frank Carter, Linda Wilkinson Patrick Rourk  
**Present:** (*non-voting members*): Larry Denesha, Andrea Montgomery, Jenna Decker, Michael Boprey  
**Present:** (*New Members/Pending BOL approval*)  
**Excused:** Robert Bennett, Gail Bisonette, Bob Mead, Sylvia Despaw, Carlton Doane, Christine Fobare, Richard Gardner, Joyce Persons,  
**Absent:** Ron Frank, Sylvia Despaw, Frank Carter  
**Public Attending:** N/A  
**Meeting Location:** Morristown Fire Hall, Morristown NY

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

◆**Guest Speaker** – Roy Porter from the Social Security Administration provided an overview of social security benefits to include information on planning for retirement, qualifying for Social Security benefits, Medicare eligibility, retirement benefits and provided several educational pamphlets to attendees.

◆**Public Comment** – N/A- No public in attendance

◆**Approval/Minutes** – motion to approve minutes by R. Bennett, seconded by R. Backus, all in favor. Motion passed.

◆**Correspondence** (*L. Wilkinson*) – no report

◆**Old Business** – No report.

◆**New Business**

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

Montgomery gave the report in S. Despaw's absence. Senior Picnic will be held July 14<sup>th</sup> from 9-3 at the Morristown Fire Hall. Entertainment TBA, free bingo in the am, free door prizes and entertainment. For additional information contact Sylvia Despaw at 315-384-3155. All County Council meetings will now be held at St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging Meal Sites. Meetings are held at 10:00 am at the following locations.

July – no meeting due to picnic

August – Morristown

Sept – Star Lake

October – DeKalb

November – Morristown

December – DeKalb

**StateWide Senior Action Council Report** *(Linda Wilkinson)*

Announced Telephone Teach-ins for June 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. Shared the NYS Elder Economic Security Index, healthcare and patients' rights helpline, reminder of Medicare open enrollment from October 15<sup>th</sup>-Dec 7<sup>th</sup>. The council continues to work on the New York State Medical and in Dying Act and addressing the home care worker shortage. Reminder to call your state and federal representatives regarding senior issues, provided copies of representatives. Reported their advocacy efforts to stop the Cuomo tax – no more clean bail out. Statewide convention is October 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> in Saratoga Springs. Seniorama is August 14<sup>th</sup> at the Bingo Palace from 10am to 3pm. Raffle tickets will be sold by StateWide. There will be no North Country Chapter meeting until September 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Veterans Services Report** *(Mike Boprey)*

Discussed Veterans improved pensions, aide and attendance, reminder regarding availability of VA Healthcare being offered. Offered to present to local groups who may want a presentation about VA benefits.

**Public Health Report** *(Jim Rich)* - No report.

**County Legislator's Report** *(Larry Denesha)*

Reported that St. Lawrence County is seeking a director of human resources after a recent resignation. Shared that a resolution to put 2 million a year into a fund balance was discussed to avoid borrowing money.

**AARP Report** *(Gail Bisonette)* –No report.

**Office for the Aging Report** *(Andrea Montgomery)*

- Andrea discussed issues facing seniors and the need for advocacy.
- OFA will see a loss in some of NY Connects funding
- 2018 budget will result in the loss of a position

Andrea updated the council on the resolution that was presented to the board of legislators. The Community Center in Gouverneur will soon serve as a Nutrition Site, replacing the Edwards Nutrition site. This change will allow the Office for the Aging to reduce or eliminate the Gouverneur waiting list. A 30 day notice will be given to the Landlord of the Edwards site and it is expected for this change to take place in September of 2017.

**◆Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn by R. Backus, seconded by R. Bennett, all in favor.

P. Rourk adjourned meeting at 11:30 AM.

**◆Next Meeting** – Monday, September 11th, 2017 at 10 am at the Gouverneur Community Center.

*(Minutes respectfully submitted by Jenna Decker)*