

**St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging (OFA)
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2015**

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

Present: (*voting members*): Russ Backus, Roger Bennett, Richard Gardner, Bob Mead, Joyce Persons, Patrick Rourk, Linda Wilkinson

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

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

Excused: Michael Boprey, Ada Santaferra, Frank Carter, Sylvia Despaw, Carlton Doane, Steve Putman,

Absent: Ron Frank

Public Attending: Arlene Kerr, Marie J. Wood, Shirley Meek, Myrtle Regan, Lauri Maki

Meeting Location: 2nd Floor Conference Room, Human Services Bldg., Canton

◆**Introductions:** Meeting brought to order by P. Rourk. Opened with Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence. All introduced themselves.

◆**Speaker** – There was no speaker today due to the need to review by-laws and discuss nominations for the election in February.

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

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

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

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

◆**New Business** –

- A. Montgomery read and reviewed the By-Laws.
- P. Rourk suggested that By-Laws be continued for another year. R. Bennett made the motion to continue By-Laws another year. L. Wilkinson seconded the motion. All in favor. So moved.
- P. Rourk stated that R. Bennett is now the Chair of the nominating committee since B. Mead resigned from the Committee.
- L. Wilkinson and J. Persons were appointed to the Nominating Committee for a period of 2 years
- P. Rourk would like to be nominated for position of Chair. He is at the end of his term as V. Chair
- R. Bennett would like to be nominated for position of Vice Chair

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

A. Montgomery gave report in Sylvia's absence. County council will be meeting on Thursday, November 12th at the Norwood American Legion. Elections for next year are on the agenda. Tickets are ready for the December Christmas Fundraiser and will be distributed at the meeting. Roast beef lunch will be served.

StateWide Senior Action Council Report (*Linda Wilkinson*)

Many members attended the September BOL meeting and L. Wilkinson spoke at it. Linda and 2 other members attended the NYSOFA Forum in Plattsburgh regarding the possible joining of the offices of OFA and Office for the Disabled. All three spoke at the Forum and expressed that they were not in favor of this plan. There will be a

telephone conference regarding this on Nov. 17th and Dec. 17th from 10-11:15 AM. Updates and input will be given. The StateWide Convention was held on Oct. 13-15. Fifteen from the North Country area attended. The StateWide bill tracker can be viewed on StateWide's website. Linda had petitions for 4 bills. 2016 Convention will be September 27-29. Dues are due in January and the 2016 calendars are now available.

Veterans Services Report *(Mike Boprey)*

P. Rourk gave the report in M. Boprey's absence. Reported on new dental health insurance available for veterans. Call Veterans hospital in Syracuse for info. (315) 425-4400. Congress has made available a "Choice Card". If no appointments are available at your VA Clinic they will get you into another health care provider. Reminder that Wednesday is Veterans Day and encouraged everyone to go to an observance in honor of our Veterans.

Public Health Report *(Laurie Maki)*

Reported that there have already been some flu cases in the state. Asked that individuals be encouraged to get their flu shot. There are 3 types of flu vaccines this year. Discussed rabies problem and being careful of strange acting animals. Also explained had to deal with a bat in your home and its disposal.

County Legislator's Report *(Steve Putman)*

No report.

AARP Report *(Gail Bisonette)*

The Care Act was passed. HHAs are being trained now to do some things that only nurses were certified to do in the past. The Advocacy Act regarding electric bills has not been settled yet. We need to get seniors active with these things. Seniors should call legislators and thank them for the Care Act.

Office for the Aging Report *(Andrea Montgomery)*

- 2016 budget passed quickly with significant cuts. There is still a large deficit and all department heads have been asked to look for areas to cut.
- BIP is expected to go live in April of 2016
- OFA 2016 budget hasn't changed but we need participant numbers to increase at the nutrition sites. The Edwards site is in jeopardy. Seniors must go to the sites or they are in danger of losing them. Requests for HDMs is increasing. Nutrition Manager is still out on extended medical leave. Randy has been taking over her duties. Trying to make nutrition sites a focal point. We are changing the signs at sites to reflect the poverty guidelines and asking that those who can afford it, increase the amount that they donate.
- R. Andre reported that we need alternate sources of labor. He has reached out to local universities to increase volunteers. We now have a list of 35 volunteers to assist with nutrition and HIICAP. The third volunteer meeting is tonight.
- Four Year AIP beginning this year and is due December 4th.
- will be a meeting for the Advisory Council to review AIP on December 3rd for any who can attend. R. Gardner asked that AIP be emailed before the meeting for review.
- reminder that BOL meetings at the beginning of the month are open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend
- Holiday Basket Contest for HDM clients
- HEAP opens November 16th
- Health promotions – Walk With Ease and possibly Tai Chi in the future
- asked for suggestions for 2016 speakers / Renewal House /Kevin Wells/Community Services

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

P. Rourk adjourned meeting at 11:20 AM..

◆**Next Meeting** – Monday, February 8, 10 am location TBA

(Minutes respectfully submitted by Christine Fobare)