

## Commission on Aging

### Minutes of the Meeting

January 22, 2018

Present: Chair Chris Robertson, Marion Freer, Dayna Sierakowski, Kathleen Brennan, Sheila Silverman, Mary Ann O'Grady, Mary Morrisroe, George Noyes, Advisor Karen Gaudian

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Robertson at 2:30pm.

Minutes from December meeting were approved. Kathy Brennan made motion to accept, George Noyes seconded.

Chris reported that invoice from Gold Card benefit book was \$2500.00 for book, \$96 for the actual 500 gold cards, and window clings \$200. Mary Ann O'Grady made motion to accept our payment of these fees from Leir monies, Mary Morrisroe seconded.

\$1574.77 for post cards for CHOICES was covered as well.

Karen updated us on MSP—State of CT House and Senate met and passed bill to extend MSP through June 30<sup>th</sup>. Governor vetoed, but overwhelming votes bypassed veto. Karen sent an email to John Frey to get latest update, but no response as of yet. People received letter in mid-November, and again in December, to talk about change in MSP programs. Letters are confusing to seniors and they didn't know what was happening. Emphasis was placed on keeping MSP issue in the news so that it's not forgotten as we get closer to the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.

George pointed out that news should be placed in RVNA newsletter to keep people up to date.

Susan Proctor, Ballard Green, mentioned she got December letter, but has not received a letter from state Dept of Social Service, since update and first of the year.

Chris brought up remaining balance from grant from Leir and suggested fire alarm donations to fire dept. Tony Phillips, Director of Social Services, suggested keeping money aside for programs we determine we want to use it for or if we're solicited for donations.

Chris announced that RVNA Health Fair this year is Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. As usual we will have a table there.

George mentioned that NoMoRobo online can stop unwanted solicitor calls.

George met with RHS teachers and principal to talk about STARS (Students and Teenagers Acquiring Relationships with Seniors) program. School is not allowed to send kids into people's homes. Idea was suggested that program go through Commission on Aging. Tony suggested polling other programs to see how they work in regards to liability, how program runs, etc. Several members spoke of positive influence of relationship between seniors and teenagers.

Elizabeth Azud, an insurance broker/agent, spoke of MSP (state program for income eligible seniors). During open enrollment, seniors found out that they would lose benefit come January. State

has to find \$54 million by July 1<sup>st</sup> to fund program until the end of the year. 3 in house and one in senate vetoed, so voices were heard. Special meetings are to be held at the state capital in Feb and March. She has 87 clients that will not get MSP program as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, if not continued. There are about 111,000 in the state that will be affected. She's looking for people to work with, to give testimonials to help at state meetings. Looking to meet once a week to keep momentum going.

If there are hearings, Karen mentioned wanting to possibly getting a van to bring people to give testimony to their situation with MSP.

If there are people on QMB and won't be eligible July 1<sup>st</sup>, some Medicare Advantage plans could have a deeming period that could cover person for 3-6 months after loss of MSP. There's a lot of pressure to keep program and it's important to keep momentum going.

Karen saved around \$134,000 for residents in town with the CHOICES program this year.

Meeting was adjourned 3:44pm.