

## 2014 -05-07 Membership Committee Minutes

The ElderStudy Membership Committee met on May 7 at 1:30 pm in Rm. 2 of the Central Rappahannock Regional Library on Caroline Street.

**Present:** Alan Zirkle, Anne McGrath, Carolyn Sulima, Chuck Watkins, Donna Lewis, Dot Meyers, Eugenia Jones, Miriam Gerard, Pat Parkinson, Peggy Gratz, Rose Marie Schlemm, Sara Fartro, Sherrill Bartholomew, and Suzanne Willis.

Greetings to Carolyn and Jack Sulima who are new members of the Membership Committee and are already committed to help with the Art of Aging Expo.

A new membership chair was elected. Pat Parkinson has volunteered to be the new Chair. Anne McGrath voted that we accept her as Chair. All voted yes. Thank you, Pat.

### **Reports:**

Suzanne Willis reported that the membership budget was sent to the treasurer, John Thompson by May 1, 2014. The budget was different from last year in two cases. We added 100 dollars to postage because the committee is going to recommend to the Board that ballots be sent first class to the membership. Second, the website will cost nothing next year due to the fact that ElderStudy paid for a two year contract this year.

Anne McGrath, primarily, and Suzanne Willis worked on the document sent by John Thompson, Administrative chair announcing the "Call for Changes" to ElderStudy's *Policies and Procedures* which were also due on May 1.

Eugenia Jones, who is in charge of special events, reported on the End of the Year Potluck Luncheon preparations. Eugenia reminded the committee that she will need help in setting up for the luncheon on May 14 at 1:00. Eugenia did a recheck so the members knew what they were to bring to the potluck – such as paper plates, drinks, etc. The potluck will be held on May 15 starting at 11:30 in the First Christian Church on Washington Ave. Rose Marie, who takes the reservations, said that 68 members signed up. Rose Marie stated that after 10 years she would like to give up her task of handling reservations for all our social events. The committee thanks Rose Marie for all her efforts through the years.

Peggy Gratz disclosed the list of members she has sent sympathy and get-well cards since our last meeting.

Sherrill Bartholomew stated that the new member packets would need to be updated for the coming year. Alan Zirkle said he would be updating materials for the packet. The "buddy system" for new members worked so well that Sherrill wondered if we wanted to continue the system for the coming year. The consensus was yes.

Miriam Gerard said that our new method of putting the nametags on the bulletin board in our classroom for members to pick up has worked well. ElderStudy has saved money and much of Miriam's time by not having to mail the nametags to individuals.

As for phone inquiries, John Parkinson will continue with the assignment for the next year. They had a variety of inquiries through the year and all were answered.

Ann McGrath reported that she would print more rack cards for the new year. Since ElderStudy is going to be staffing a booth at the Art of Aging Expo, Anne suggested that we make the rack cards for that event on light paper rather than card stock to save expenses.

The membership alerts emailed by Alan Zirkle were highly praised by the committee. Alan's communications for ElderStudy can't be complemented enough for their assistance to the whole membership.

Dottie Meyers reminded members that the next newsletter would be in August, although the articles need to be turned in to her by July 15. Dottie also suggested that we print 25 extra copies for our August 2014 newsletter.

### **Old Business:**

Suzanne recommended that the catering contract with the University for our General Meeting needed to be checked or added to, since we ran out of food at this past meeting.

Due to the interest in Facebook and other means of electronic communication, an ElderStudy Electronic sub-committee has been set up, as you know from Alan's email. This EE committee will meet right after the membership meeting in this room. If interested, please stay for this meeting. Anne McGrath will chair this meeting.

**New Business:**

Stephanie Sloan from AARP has asked ElderStudy to speak at their meeting on Tuesday, August 5, 2014, which starts at 9:30. Suzanne plans to ask Mary Ann Stanza if she would be interested in speaking for ElderStudy.

Another event ElderStudy will be attending is *The Art of Aging Expo - Life Begins at 50*. The event's purpose is to show the many opportunities for healthy aging and living in the Fredericksburg area and will be held on June 11, 2014 from 10 - 2. Peggy Gratz, Donna Lewis, and Alan Zirkle will cover the first two hours and Carolyn & Jack Sulima and Suzanne Willis will cover the second two hours. Registration forms will be available. Alan Zirkle will work up a PowerPoint presentation on ElderStudy for the event.

In the discussion on sending out newsletters, sign-up sheets, etc. via email rather than print, Anne McGrath moved that she would write up a policy proposal for the Administrative Committee where members can "opt out" of getting a printed newsletter.

Anne McGrath's will recommend to the Board that ballots be sent out by first class mail.

As all business was finished, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Willis