

2013 08-26 Elderstudy Membership Committee Meeting

The membership Committee met on Wednesday, August 28 in Room 2 of the HQ Branch of the Central Rappahannock Regional Library. In attendance were Anne McGrath, Chuck Watkins, Eugenia Jones, Pat Parkinson, Dot Meyers, Peggy Gratz, Miriam Gerard, Suzanne Willis, Alan Zirke, and William Toomey.

Suzanne Willis called the meeting to order.

The committee endorsed Suzanne Willis as a chair for the coming year and her name will be recommended to the Board of Directors at their meeting on September 4, 2013.

New Business: A discussion was held on what the committee will do on the day of the ElderStudy Open House on Thursday, August 29 from 11 – 1. All of our committee will attend and “meet & greet” with all visitors for the Open House. The committee will hand out our brochures, application forms, schedules, and newsletters as needed to our visitors. Alan Zirke suggested we have members posted outside the building and inside near the steps, so all visitors will have guidance. Bill Toomey gave us background information on the event and on the Stafford campus. Our contacts with the University are Susan Knicks, Director of Scheduling & Events and Susan Lafayette, who manages events at the Stafford campus. Their emails and phone numbers were given to the chair.

Reports:

Membership Roster: Chuck Johnson keeps a list of the members electronically. The list of members with addresses is mailed to the members in the October newsletter. Barbara on the Board of Directors asked if they could get the new list – maybe on a monthly basis after the first and only schedule goes out. Suzanne was charged to ask if Chuck Johnson could send the updated rosters to the board, since he does that for me as membership chair.

New Member Packets: Sherrill Bartholomew was sick, so Suzanne spoke for her. From the period May 4 to August 6, Sherrill send out 20 new membership packets. The latest newsletter goes out in the packet for new members. She is now out of newsletters, so Sherrill makes sure that those new members are aware they can get the newsletter online. Suzanne suggested she could print out extra newsletters to go in the packet for the people that do not have email, as they would not be able to go online to see the newsletter,

Name Tags: Miriam Gerard said she had mailed out 13 new nametags and she has 12 more to send in now. A discussion ensued about the length of time it takes to get a permanent nametag. Due to high costs, ElderStudy batches them, but then sometimes that means people could wait quite a while before receiving them. Anne McGrath moved we review this situation. For good results, obtaining a permanent nametag quickly would be desirable.

Web Site/Email inquiries: Chuck Watkins mentioned he has answered 12 emails directed to the website on a variety of topics. Suzanne said she would update the membership committee assignments, so Chuck could then update the website.

Phone Inquiries: Pat Parkinson said she has sent flyers when needed and answered various questions on the phone inquiries she has had. Pat was asked how the “Game afternoon with the Parkinson’s” has been. Sounded fun.

Brochures: Anne McGrath stated that new brochures have been printed with some changes in wording. They have been put in the libraries at England Run, Wallace (Downtown) and Salem Church, at UMW’s Stafford Campus, YMCA and the Crossings. New brochures were then given to Pat Parkinson and to Eugenia Jones, for their needs. Anne said all older versions should be trashed.

Social Events: Eugenia Jones told us the date for the Winter Luncheon is Wednesday, December 11, 2013 and she has booked the Lake of the Woods Clubhouse. More details will be provided in the next newsletter,

Newsletters: Dottie Meyers mentioned the deadline for articles for the October newsletter is September 15, 2013. Thank you to Dottie for the excellent August newsletter, which required even more work due to its great size. Discussion then ensued with ideas on how to contain its cost. This particular issue cost far more than normal for a variety of reasons. Various ideas to contain cost were brought up but the committee chose one to bring up to the Board at its September 4 meeting. This committee would like ElderStudy to give its members the option to receive the newsletters electronically, which would be a savings in the printing cost. In past years, there have been around 20 persons who have no computer access or who live in a rural area that has only a slow connection. They would still need printed copies and would get them. If people prefer a printed copy, they can still receive it in that format. Otherwise, with training, such as a class taught by ElderStudy, we could have more members amenable or more comfortable with using our online website. Our educated guess right now is that 50 to 60% are fine with online rather than printed information.

Membership Committee meetings will be held on Wednesday, November 20 and in February 26, and May 7, 2014. We will continue to meet at HQ branch of CRRL for all the meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30.

Respectively submitted,

Suzanne Willis