

Town of Upton
Council on Aging
Upton Center, September 10, 2012

The Upton Council on Aging's regular monthly meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. Those in attendance were: Judi Blanchard, Betty Consigli, Jen DeLuca, Jamie Gardner, Maria Griffin, Judith Katz, Katie Kelley, Priscilla Lukes, Bev Randazzo, and Grace Wadsworth., Holly Whalen.

Discussion of Board Members. The Chair of the Board theoretically replaces the Director of the Center in emergencies (choice to do this is with the Director). The job of the Chair is to make sure that the Center is moving in the right direction. The Vice Chair replaces the Chair when absent and to help with planning. The Secretary is responsible for the minutes of the meetings. All three offices are needed and form the Executive Board who will meet with the Director quarterly

There is a need for more membership on the COA Board. All present members are encouraged to invite people to consider membership. One does not have to be a senior to be on the Board.

Social Service Update. Holly gave an update on the services available to Upton residents. She and Jamie will be attending workshops on guidelines for health insurance, etc.

SMOC (Fuel Assistance). Income guidelines for fuel assistance are based on yearly income. 25% discount on electric bill are offered as well as a home heating assessment. No one in subsidized housing is eligible since they are already part of a government program. The Upton Fuel Fund offers heating assistance only.

SALVATION ARMY. Jamie has been named to head the Salvation Army Holiday project. Holly will also help as well as the Men's Club. The main focus will be the Kettle Campaign at the Price Chopper in Hopkinton on one or two Saturdays from about 9 a.m to 3 p.m. The number of Saturdays will depend on the number of volunteers. Jamie hopes to get high school students/scouts to do this but an adult must be present to collect the money and return it to Jamie. Dunkin Donuts and the coffee shop will also have kettles. This is a national effort so all the money collected does not go to Upton.

“OTHER NEEDS FUND”. In the past, gift cards to grocery stores were given out to needy residents. Last year 150 cards were given to Wal-Mart, Shaws and Price Chopper. This year there are no donations in this fund. If anyone asks about giving a gift to the Center, if they want it to go into this fund, it has to be clearly stated. The Woman's Club donated \$500 worth of gift cards to Walgreens and CVS.

FUND RAISING. Jamie, as Director, cannot fund raise. It is an ethical issue. The loss of the Friend's group is a loss of funding for the Center.

INSURANCE review; Jamie and Holly will be available to sit down with individuals to review insurance coverage from October 15 through December 7. Jamie is urging all seniors to review their medical coverage.

OFFICE COVERAGE: Tuesday, September 11 1-3 Beverly; September 18 1-3 Priscilla; October 9 1-3 Maria.

Men's Club Supper Coverage: September – Judith
October – Priscilla. The limit for attendance is 72 people.

Trip Coverage: Friendly, September 13 – Maria

Kimball's , September 24 – Betty

No bus ticket need be purchased by the volunteer. The person from the Council going on the trip is asked to stand behind each person getting on the bus, to help them buckle seatbelts and help at the restaurant as needed, as well as to be aware of the time limits on the trip.

FLU CLINIC. No date yet but all are encouraged to get the flu shot. If is free at the Center bring

If anyone is sick/not feeling well, the choice to make is to stay home. If not, the person may be sent home.

COMPUTER CLASSES are not being scheduled at the present time. Seniors complained that the students had no agenda and the experience was confusing. Jamie has talked with the teacher. If a curriculum is developed, the classes will be reinstated. Jen and Jamie are available to help with computer problems.

Jamie is working on a packet of information to give to new people who come to the Center .

The goal for this year is: NEW...Try it. Jamie is encouraging members to bring new ideas for the future. One idea is input on Living Wills and Trusts. Betty volunteered her husband. The staff has more new plans for the future with hopes of 2-3 programs a year.

Jamie met with Judith, Betty, Maria and Katie to hear what office each would be willing to consider for the new year. Jamie will make the decisions.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:06. The next meeting will be on Monday, October 15, 2012

Respectfully submitted.

Katie Kelley