

**Merrill Area Community Enrichment Center
Committee on Aging
February 21, 2013**

Committee Members Present: Eugene Simon, Chairperson. Art Lersch, Jack Ader, Diane Goetsch and Missy Holdorf. Absent: Peggy Jackelen and Chris Malm. Guest Present: Wendy Hilmershavsen from Lincoln County Health Dept. CHANGE Grant.

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairperson Simon.

Motion made by Ader, seconded by Lersch to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Program update;

Thanksgiving Day Dinner was a huge success. The dinner was held at St. Stephens Church. 40+ volunteers helped at the church. The center provided all the volunteers drivers with 18, 225 home delivered and 95+ at the church.

Sharing Christmas Spirit deliveries were made on December 21st. This year we provided food and gifts for 125 people in the Merrill area. Once again the businesses and individual donors helped support this project.

Christmas Cards were written throughout the year with support from a church in Hazlehurst, Wisconsin Public Service Employees and volunteers from the center. This year we proudly send out over 1,800 cards to veteran homes and hospitals in Wisconsin as well as a platoon in Japan. The center will accept donated cards throughout the year. Barnes and Noble out of Rib Mountain has been a huge contributor towards our project.

Caring Hearts Project has expanded into making tote bags for walkers and wheel chairs. We are currently sending them to Bell Tower Residence in Merrill and the Veterans Homes in Wisconsin. This project is funded by the Eagles Club grant. This month we are working on a special quilt for the Kato family, our volunteers feel so honored to provide such a service to the community.

Sweetheart Dinner and Photo Shoot went well with 48 attending. The Moore Family performed for the group.

Ageless Wisdom Update: The responses are coming in slowly, but we are already putting them into book form. We have extended the deadline date to the end of the month. We currently have a Facebook page and email address set up for responses. Looking at a fall publication.

AARP Tax Assistance volunteers will be at the center in February, March and April. The center will also be looking for volunteers to help in the future. AARP will provide all of the training in Wausau.

Accreditation Process is underway for the center. The Wisconsin Assoc. of Senior Centers provides an opportunity for centers of all sizes to become state accredited which is quite an honor. Kathy Olson and I will be working on the process. Participants and committee members will also be brought into the process at a later date.

Merrill Area United Way has just announced that they will help support the Mind Joggers program offered at the center with the amount of \$2,000.00. The funds will be used to assist those with financial needs to attend the class.

Eagles Club - Golden Eagle Award has been given to the center for the amount of \$1,000.00 for the Caring Hearts Project. Both Lorri Vandre and I attended the banquet in January to accept the funds.

The Annual WASC Training in Stevens Point will be held in April, offering all board members and volunteers from area centers an opportunity to “brainstorm” and learn more about “what works!”

Alzheimer’s Assoc. State Conference will be held in the Wisconsin Dells. Jane A. Deau, Director will be presenting two breakout sessions at the conference. The conference will be held May 5th - 7th.

Adjustment in MACEC hours: Throughout the month of January & February the center will be closed on Fridays. During the month of March the center will be open limited hours on Friday. In April the hours should resume 40 hours a week. Due to staffing hours and recent medical leave the center made the current adjustments.

No ADRC updates. Our guest did share a brief moment explaining the CHANGE grant. Deau will be meeting with the Health Dept. in regards to the study.

Motion made by Lersch, seconded by Ader to approve the vouchers as presented. Deau did share with the committee that \$2,705.93 was taken from NLA Activities Acct. and placed in the General Fund #10 to balance the 2011 budget for the MACEC. Motion carried.

Motion made by Goetsch, seconded by Holdorf to adjourn, motion carried.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2013 will be held at the Kind-Hearted Home Care at 101 N. Scott Street, Merrill.

Minutes submitted by Jane A. Deau, Director MACEC