

**Merrill Area Community Enrichment Center**  
**Committee on Aging**  
**March 21, 2013**  
**Held at Kindhearted Home Care**

Committee Members Present: Chairperson Eugene Simon, Art Lersch, Diane Goetsch, Chris Malm, Erin Zastrow and Sister Peggy Jackelen, Jack Ader and Missy Holdorf.

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 am following a tour of the Kindhearted Home Care facility.

Motion made by Malm, seconded by Lersch to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Program updates:

“Caring Hearts Project” Tote Bags. Volunteers from the center have been busy creating tote bags for walkers and wheelchairs. The bags have been donated to residents at Bell Tower Residence and also the veteran’s home at King.

“Spring Gather Dinner” and Music was successful with the Moore Children providing the music and 50 attending the noon meal.

AARP Tax Assistance; Volunteers from Wausau have been attending the center once a month to assist those from the Merrill Area with their taxes. An average of 60 each month have been assisted. Several new people were introduced to the center as well.

Educational Bingo with Wausau Manor; Staff from Wausau Manor will be here at the center to do an educational Bingo for our participants. This month program will be on Heart Health.

Mind Joggers; Mind Joggers is scheduled for this spring and a session again this fall. We would like to see at least 6 participating in each class to cover the costs. Scholarships are available with funding from Merrill Area United Way.

Writer’s Club; Deau will be offering a Writer’s Club for those who would like to write short stories. A meeting is scheduled in April with classes to begin in May.

Walking Club; Walkers will be leaving from City Hall and the Prairie River Walk. A schedule will be in place starting in June.

Older American Month; Several programs are scheduled for May to celebrate Older Americans Month. Rochelle Pennington will be presenting on May 10<sup>th</sup>, a Celebration of Life and Korean War Program on May 15<sup>th</sup>, and honoring our volunteers on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Ageless Wisdom; The materials are coming in really well. We are still looking for pictures, short stories and poems. We are hoping to have the book ready to go to print sometime in July. With a publication date of September 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a major fundraiser for the center. The deadline for materials is May 31<sup>st</sup>.

“Celebration of Life” Event is scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup>. Waid Funeral Home will be sponsoring the event with PRECOA funeral Planning. The event will offer two programs and a luncheon at no cost.

Newsletter Update; We are currently sending out 1,700 newsletters a month to local businesses. We currently distribute them to 65 local businesses.

ADRC - Erin reported on updates from her office with issues of concern for older and disabled adult’s protection.

Information shared as well on the Homeless Task Force, Memory Walk at Bell Tower on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Motion made by Malm, seconded by Simon to approve the vouchers as presented. Motion carried.

Motion made by Goestch, seconded by Jackelen to adjourn. Motion carried.

Next meeting will be scheduled for May 16, 2013. Deau will not be present on April 11, 2013.

Minutes submitted by Jane A. Deau, Director.