

Merrill Area Community Enrichment Center
Committee on Aging - December 19, 2013

Committee Members Present: Eugene Simon, Chairperson. Art Lersch, Peggy Jackelen and Diane Goestch. Absent; Chris Malm, Missy Holdorf and Jack Ader.

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 am. Motion made by Lersch, seconded by Jackelen to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Program updates:

Kate's Kids - A special event as held on Nov. 14th for the students. A Leader Dog Puppy Raiser and a coach demonstrated different techniques on raising a puppy for the blind. The program was wonderful for both the students and volunteers that attended.

Kate's Kids - A special surprise party is being planned in December for the students to all receive a "Build a Bear". This was all due to a donation from an individual for "Sharing Christmas Spirit".

Thanksgiving Day Dinner once again was a huge success with a total of 340 meals being served at the church and home delivered. 18+ drivers also donated their time to help deliver the meals.

Sharing Christmas Spirit - the center is on schedule for December 23rd delivery date. We are anticipating 125-140 individuals receiving food and gifts. A number of donations are coming into the center. This year we were blessed with a large donation that will make the purchasing much easier! It is estimated that the cost of this project runs between \$4,500 - \$5,000 per year. All through donations.

Ageless Publication - The material is in and we are set to start putting it all together. Rochelle Pennington, a published author is willing to help Deau with the editing of the book for publication. The committee approved that Deau will work from home when it is feasible for her to. Hoping to complete 2-3 chapters a month with the publication out mid-March. A monthly update will be given to the committee.

AARP Tax Assistance - The Wausau AARP Group will be coming to the Merrill Area Community Enrichment Center on February 20th. March 13th and April 3rd. Five sets of volunteers will be at the center working from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

Appointments can be made by call Marathon County 211. WE are currently searching for volunteers from the Merrill Area.

MACEC sign - Deau is working to replace the sign in front of Merrill City Hall. The previous sign was done in 2000. The new sign will reflect the new name, phone number and a number of services that are offered at the center. Funding for this project is the Bierman Family Foundation.

Shuttle Bus - Deau visited Rhinelander and took time with the Director of Transportation who assisted her with the "in's and out's" of purchasing a shuttle bus. They have several on fleet and directed me to the StarCraft Bus, Atlas Bus Sales. Everything that was needed to meet all safety issues was addressed. After much discussion a motion was made by Lersch, seconded by Goetsch to give Deau the go ahead to order the Shuttle Bus for the MACEC. Motion carried. This shuttle bus was purchased with funds from the Bierman Family Foundation.

Kitchen update - Deau will be meeting with City Admin. Dave Johnson to go over the appliances that will be needed for the kitchen next to the MACEC. To comply with all certification an industrial stove, oven and refrigerator will be purchased. A budget not to exceed \$13,000.00 was given for the kitchen. Deau will get estimates from local appliance stores as well as CTL. Deau has already met with Lincoln County Health Safety person who is working with the center closely to make sure that all standards are met. A meal will be served to the public on Thursdays at noon with a social time and educational programs to follow. All funds for this project were donated by the Bierman Family Foundation.

2014 - 2015 budget update - The budget process for 2015 will begin in January. Deau will keep the committee informed on the meeting dates and times.

No representation from the ADRC.

Diane Goetsch had to leave the meeting. All vouchers will be held over till next month for approval.

No public comment. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 am
Minutes submitted by Jane A. Deau, Director MACEC

