# **St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging (OFA)**

# **Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

# **April 14, 2025**

**Meeting called to order:** 10:02 AM by Linda Wilkinson

**Present:** *(voting members)* Roger Bennett, Larry Denesha, Linda Wilkinson, Russ Backus, Barb McBurnie, Laura McGrath, Matt Manierre, Gail Teele

**Present:** *(non-voting members):* Chiara Delosh, Jacob Kormanyos, Erin Streiff

**Absent:** Gary Berk, Mary Jones, Michael Boprey, Joan Howlett, Andrea Montgomery, Kathy Skelly

**Public Attending:** None

**Meeting Location:** HSC

**♦Introductions** –Meeting brought to order by L. Wilkinson. Opened with Pledge of Allegiance.

**♦Moment of Reflection** – Larry Denesha, Legislature

**♦Guest Speaker** – None

**♦Public Comment** – None.

♦**Approval/Minutes** – motion to approve minutes by R. Backus, seconded by L. McGrath. Motion passed.

♦**Correspondence** – None

**♦Old Business**– None.

**♦New Business** – None.

**County Legislator’s Report** – *(Larry Denesha)* Had the VP of Marketing and Fuels attend the Finance Committee in March to discuss the fuel prices. It centered around Stewarts in Philadelphia where gas is $3.19, and Gouverneur where gas is $3.49. Also gas prices in Canton and Potsdam are $3.49. The reason for pricing is competition. Also, transportation, minimum wage, and labor law play apart in this. Empire Mines identify a large deposit of slate graphite which is used in computer chips, batteries, etc. 90% of the world’s graphite comes from China. Search Committee to identify a new EMS Director.

**Public Health Report** – *(Erin Streiff)* Haven’t seen a case of the measles in St. Lawrence County. If you were born before 1953 your probably have an immunity to it. Some individuals that have been infected with measles their immune system memory is erased. You could have a titer blood test done to tell if you are immune from the measles or not. Small Grant Extreme Weather Event will be held on June 25. There is a nursing student from CPH that will be going to Adult Centers to educate individuals on the signs of stroke and to call 911.

**County Council of Senior Citizens Report** – *(Laura McGrath)* They hold their meetings the second Thursday of each month. There are 13 clubs that attend. Had 26 people come to the April meeting. The Senior Picnic will be held on August 14 in Gouverneur. Trying to get Trooper Mark Shelenburger to come to a meeting speak about scams.

**StateWide Senior Action Council Report** – *(Barb McBurnie)* Concerns with Federal and State level funding. You are able to contact the Social Security Office to get signed up. Statewide moved their office in February. There is a new NYS Ombudsman Program for individuals with disabilities and their families. Statewide meetings are the first Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be held at the Lobster House at 11:00 am.

**Veterans Services Report** – *(Mike Boprey)* None.

**Members Updates** – Russ Backus- Will be sending a couple of Therapist to NY Alliance Present Pre-Conference Day. Have funding to open a tool diagnose program.

**Office for the Aging Report** – *(Andrea Montgomery)*

* March for Meals- March 5th- the Director of the NY State Office for the Aging, Greg Olsen, and Becky Preve, Executive Director of the Association on Aging NY, came up to help deliver meals and serve congregate diners at the Brasher Falls Nutrition Center. March for Meals is an annual event to help spread awareness of the importance of nutrition programs for older adults.
* Medicare Mondays- Office for the Aging is offering Medicare Monday presentations for the next few months to help answer Medicare questions. These presentations are open to the general public and we highly encourage individuals to attend- prior to the incredibly hectic time of Open Enrollment in October. Presentations are held in the Human Services Building in Canton, 2nd floor conference room. The dates and times for upcoming presentations are: 5/12 at 10 am, and 6/2 at 2 pm.
* Caregiver Support Group- 2nd Tuesday of the month- new members welcomed anytime- meetings are held in the Human Services Building in Canton- 2nd floor conference room.
* Caregiver Support Group Survey- We are looking to expand our caregiver support group to other areas and have a survey available in April’s Mature Living newsletter. Please help us distribute the survey so we can see where there might be interest.
* Empowered Caregiver Series with Alzheimer’s Association- We just finished a wonderful series with the Alzheimer’s Association focused on Caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer’s or Dementia. It was very well received and we hope to plan another round in the coming months.
* “Let’s Do Lunch” Event- Special luncheon being hosted by the Office for the Aging for caregivers and their care receiver to come have a meal in a supportive environment. Date: Thursday, April 10th. The event was very well received and 18 Caregivers and Care receivers were in attendance. Everyone appreciated the opportunity to socialize and make new friends.
* Volunteer Meal Driver Recruitment- We are in need of home delivered meal drivers. They are reimbursed $.70 per mile. If you know someone interested, please have them call the office.
* Bingocize class starting May 5th in Potsdam. Please see the flyer for more information.
* Older Americans Month in May- The 2025 Senior Citizen of the Year is Linda Wilkinson from Potsdam. Linda will be invited to attend Older New Yorkers Day in Albany on May 27th. Congratulations to Linda!

**♦Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn by R. Backus, seconded by B. McBurnie, all in favor. L. Wilkinson adjourned meeting.

**♦Next Meeting** – Monday, June 9, 2025 at 10AM

*(Electronic Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Chiara Delosh)*