



Region P - Senior Tar Heel Legislature

Minutes

Monday, July 10, 2023

11:00 a.m.

STHL Members in Attendance:

Woody Brinson (Duplin County)
Connie Brinson (Duplin County)
Elliott Ashburn (Greene County)
Matthew Brinkley (Jones County)
Walter LaRoque (Lenoir County)
Martha Bryan (Wayne County)

STHL Members in Attendance by Zoom:

Amy Lock (Carteret County)
Victor Heinrich (Carteret County)
Gerald Brandon (Onslow County)
Ann Holton (Pamlico County)

STHL Members in Attendance by Zoom:

January Brown, Deputy Aging Director
Kim Baker, Lead Aging Programs Consultant

1. **Call to Order-** *Walter LaRoque, Chairman*, called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.
2. **Adopt Agenda -** *Walter LaRoque, Chairman*
3. **Approval of Minutes-** *Walter LaRoque, Chairman*. Martha Bryan made a motion to accept the April 10, 2023, minutes. Elliot Ashburn made a second motion. The motion to approve the April 10, 2023, minutes approved by all attending RAAC members.
4. **New Delegates and Alternates**
 - Woody Brinson stated that we need to work on getting representatives for all nine counties. Group reviewed regional STHL open positions:
 - Craven County- Alternate
 - Jones County – Alternate
 - Pamlico County- Alternate
 - Onslow County- Onslow County has submitted an application for Laurretta Farris for the position of STHL Alternate. Woody requested her email address so that he may contact her to discuss the new member orientation. There is a new member orientation this week on Thursday that he would like her to attend if

possible. Walter LaRoque and Woody stated that they would like Ms. Farrior application voted on by the RAAC before the October general meeting so she will be able to attend. The STHL general meeting will be meeting before the RAAC meeting in October. A special meeting will need to be scheduled to approve her application. January stated that she would talk with Heather about Ms. Farrior's application.

5. Lavick Williams reappointment- Woody Brinson discussed that at the April RAAC meeting, RAAC members approved Lavick Williams the Craven County STHL Delegate position. Woody stated that after reviewing the information on his application it was incomplete. He did not answer the first two questions. Woody will collaborate with him to complete the application to send to DAAS. He used to be active member but due to an illness in 2022 he was not as active as he once was.

6. STHL 30th Anniversary Discussion

- Walter LaRoque stated that the STHL received a bill for 145 attendees at the anniversary event.
- Martha Bryan stated that it was a nice event and better than the 25th Anniversary event.
- Woody stated there was good support from Walter LaRoque, Gerald Brandon, Elliott Ashburn, Victor Heinrich, Amy Lock, Connie Brinson, and me. We had good representation from our region at the event.
- Amy Lock stated that it was a good event and raised great awareness with our legislators. She stated that we have made progress rebuilding our network with our legislators.
- Walter LaRoque stated that we appreciated all the work Amy Lock did with securing sponsors.

7. STHL General Session Discussion

- Woody Brinson stated at the October 2022 STHL meeting there was a resolution passed requesting financial assistance for our delegates and alternates from the counties and the AAAs. The resolution taken to the Executive Committee meeting, but two members did not like the resolution. Therefore, it was not sent to the counties or AAAs. It was supposed to go out by February so that funding could put into their budgets to assist with STHL attendees' reimbursement for when they attend meetings. Woody will get a copy of the resolutions to give to STHL members. Members can then take the resolution to their counties to inquire about meeting expense reimbursement.

- Martha Bryan and Mathew Brinkley expressed that they would like to receive reimbursement by their counties. Mathew Brinkley stated that he has talked with other members who sit on county boards, and they receive travel reimbursed. Both members would be interested in receiving the resolution so they can present them to their counties to inquire about reimbursement in the future.
- Woody Brinson stated that Duplin County and Greene County are reimbursing their delegates to attend the state meetings. Woody discussed, in the past David Rosado had found \$10,000 in the budget to assist with reimbursement for STHL state meetings. It was on hold by the Executive Committee at the Council of Governments because Matt Livingston was going out. He had talked with Jay Bender who stated that it was up to the new Executive Director to decide whether to pursue it or not. When Katie came on, he had discussions with her regarding the funding, but she killed it. Most counties have money to help with travel. It is a shame that volunteers do not get treated like county employees. Woody Brinson stated that Duplin County reimburse one STHL member for mileage and hotel.
- Woody Brinson stated that last October they discovered that half of the counties help statewide. The friend of STHL will reimburse two of three meetings each year up to \$125 for individuals that apply for reimbursement. Walter LaRoque stated that it is for one individual. If the Delegate attends, they will receive the reimbursement but if the alternate attends in place of the delegate, then they would receive the reimbursement.
- Walter LaRoque stated that the next general session meeting will be in October. They are looking at October 2nd and third or October 3rd and fourth. Woody Brinson stated that it looks like it will be in Raleigh.
- Members discussed wanting to have the meeting at the same location at which they are staying. Members stated that traffic in Raleigh is difficult and that it was nice to have a room at the same location as the meeting. Members also have difficulty with transportation back and forth to separate locations. Members stated that in the past right after the meeting they could book rooms for the next meeting, and this was good for planning purposes. The group discussed locations in Raleigh for future meetings (i.e., Durham Sheraton, Raleigh Hilton, etc.) Members discussed the June meeting, and they stated that breakfast was not necessary. The hotel provided breakfast and members felt that it was not a good utilization of funding.

- Woody Brinson stated that the Executive Committee would also like the meeting at the same location, but it will cost significantly more. The Executive Committee will be meeting next week to discuss funding and locations. Woody Brinson stated that in the future the Shriners Club in Raleigh would not be an ideal location because they do not have breakout rooms available. In the future the Executive Committee wants STHL committees to begin to meet again during the general session. For the committees to meet there would need to be separate areas for them to discuss items.
- Victor Heinrich expressed that he was disappointed after the anniversary event. He stated that we had great momentum, but we lost it after the event. He stated that there was no general press release. Allison and Amy Lock worked together for a press release for Carteret County but there was no general press release for everybody to send out. He feels that we missed a great opportunity. We also need to remind all members to stay in contact with their Senators and Representatives. He has been in contact with his representatives since the meeting and it has gone well. Mr. Heinrich also stated that members have not heard from the Executive Board since the June meeting. Woody Brinson stated that Allison did prepare a press release, but it was not sent out.
- Woody Brinson discussed with the group the STHL need for the state to work in a timely manner. The process for signing off on items and communication from the state is not timely. He discussed receiving a \$30,000 appropriation from the General Assembly that does not go through DAAS. The Executive Committee would be able to make decisions in a much timelier manner than it has been in the past.
- Victor Heinrich discussed the STHL bylaws. He asked if we would be having a Finance Committee and Finance Committee Chair. Woody Brinson stated that Norma has brought up the Executive Committee that we need to reactivate the Finance Committee and if STHL gets funds from the state. There would be accountability and transparency on a regular basis to the General Assemble for how we spend the funds.
- Woody Brinson and Walter LaRoque discussed funding in the past. Woody Brinson stated that he will take back the items discussed to the Executive Committee when they meet next week.
- Marth Bryan would like name tags with magnetic like the AAA used to provide with the new logos. The clip-on name tags do not work. She would appreciate a new one before the October meeting.
- Walter LaRoque stated that the Executive Committee is talking about changing everything to the new logo including the little pins.



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- Woody Brinson stated that there has been discussion about using the profits from the anniversary event to work on new pens and name tags. He stated that they have discussed getting uniformed name tags for all one hundred counties. Woody Brinson does not think this will be in place before the October meeting.
 - Walter LaRoque stated that they are currently working on the pins, and they should be available for the October meeting.
- 8. Adjourn-** The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.