**ORANGE TEAM – January 12, 2022 - zoom meeting minutes**

**MISSION OF AGING TOGETHER** – *AGING TOGETHER THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS CONNECTS PEOPLE TO COMMUNITIES AND TO RESOURCES TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE AS WE AGE.*

**VISION** – AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES THAT ACTIVELY ENGAGE, VALUE AND SUPPORT OLDER ADULTS

**Team role/charter:** Forum for local organizations/individuals to focus on support for older residents and to address needs/solutions that go beyond what any one organization can do on its own

January re-cap (9 attended): Liesa Dodson (Harbor At Renaissance); Denise Caswell (Trinity Senior Village); Bernice Washington (DSS); Carolyn Rourke & Vicky Fleming (LOWlinc); Pam Prill (Senior Center); Stephen Lzaguirre (AGO); Ellen & Ginny (AT)

Discussion with Ellen Phipps, AT Director:

Aging Together will be conducting **Community Conversations** (CC) this year, as per the BOD. The goal is that teams in each county will identify groups who are stakeholders i.e. LOWlinc; Triad; Young at Heart. AT will host CC at their meetings and see where gaps & services lack. AT may host an open community meeting. Lake of the Woods offered to host a similar event as last time.

\*Transportation is expanding since last CC. Just hired a Driver Recruiter at 30 hours and an Outreach person, working with the Regional Transportation Collaborative & AT.

In addition, the BOD would like to plan small **EXPO** events in 2 – 3 counties (on different days in Sept. / Oct.). This would include agency booth space and possible speakers (TBD). Suggested locations include: Town of Orange Public Works (Parking not great); Airport or Booster Park; Lake of the Woods community center. Note: Triad is tentatively hosting a Thrive Above 55 conference at the Lake Church on May 10 and again in the fall. Possibility of working together and/or hosting an Expo and/or CC at same time??? Ginny has reached out to AARP for shred trucks at each location. May be hard to draw vendors unless only Orange, however marketing people are thirsty to participate in community events.

Lastly, AT is hoping to offer **5 Over 50 Watch Parties** in each county. Event will still be live on Facebook on May 19 from 4 - 6pm, however family & friends of honorees can gather if they wish; to watch it on a big screen. This will be free & AT will offer some refreshments. Each venue would be fairly small with masking & social distancing. Note: Deadline to nominate someone for 5 Over 50 is extended to Friday, January 14 and Sponsorship Opportunities are now available.

Ellen mentioned she is working on a grant to purchase robotic pets and dolls for therapeutic interventions. Denice uses some at Trinity and the seniors love them!

Member & Aging Together Updates:

* LOWlinc BOD decided to reduce fees, offered free membership for SNAP eligible clients and $100/year based on income & assets for others. They offered warming centers at volunteer homes for those without power. January activities are postponed.
* Orange Triad received $10K in donations last year for the Guardian Alert button. They are working on another Thrive Above 55 conference at lake of the woods Church on May 10. Sheriffs Office has moved into new building. Call Ron if team is interested in a tour. Next SALT committee meeting is Jan. 20 @ 10:30/Airport.
* Top priority for new Attorney General is Older Adults, so Stephen is hopeful that programs will continue. He reminded us to report Medicare Fraud & scams to AGO @ 804-371-0779 or 800-371-0824 or email at: MFCU-mail@oag.state.va.us
* Senior Center is closed until January 18, but Pamela is in touch with everyone and providing food supplement if needed. She called SO when seniors lost power
* Trinity Senior Village remains Covid free and is admitting new Assisted Living residents with screening, etc.
* AT has a webinar on the 6 Pillars of Brain Health on January 20 @ 2:30. *\* Register for AT webinars at:* [*https://www.agingtogether.org/upcoming-programs.html*](https://www.agingtogether.org/upcoming-programs.html)

NEXT Orange team zoom meeting is **Wednesday, February 9 @ 9:30am**