

LEXINGTON FRIENDS of the COUNCIL on AGING ANNUAL REPORT

June 18, 2020

We live in interesting times. Our organization has weathered these times well so far. We are operating on the philosophy that we adhere to the policies set by Lexington Council on Aging and support and further the spirit and programs put forth by Human Services. We raise money as needed through donations and fundraising projects suggested by Human Services and those created by us. We seek tools to excite and educate, amuse and entertain our seniors. We benefit from increasing visibility and activities.

It is a joy to be connected to this organization: it is gratifying and fulfilling and tedious and boring. We struggle with an older body of members and all that entails. We compete with LEF, Friends of the Library and other funds in this wealthy town. We are currently harnessed by safe-at-home orders and fears of the corona virus.

There are two parts to this past year, pre Covid-19 and post Covid 19. Prior to March 2020 OWLL was growing and expanding, becoming more and more successful. Bright Ideas supported and published 2 issues of Lexington *LifeTimes* with increased advertising, just about breaking even for the first time. People were using the audio devices donated to Cary Library. A beautiful Sensory Garden was

designed by Lexington Field and Garden Club, funded and built by Town carpenters who assisted in the installation of the raised beds along with LFGC. The LGFC has offered to maintain these beds for the enjoyment of us all. And we were granted money for Help Around Town to allow Reem Yared assistance in helping seniors with access to the internet.

After March we are functioning differently. Zoom allows us to communicate as a group, thank goodness. OWLL has managed to offer some courses this summer; the next issue of *LifeTimes* will come out very soon, sacrificing advertising monies. Human Services is working very hard to present exercise programs free online, as well as other offerings, partly subsidized by FCOA. The Fix-It Shop, which we support through a shrinking donation from the Furnstahl family, has nothing to fix right now. The WindowPane Shop is not selling their wares. But we continue to help feed people, encourage exercise through the many programs offered, give rides on LexPress, educate through OWLL courses and those special offerings devised by Human Services, think and plan for when we are unfettered in our access to each other.

New subcommittees were set up but not nurtured to fulfillment yet. These include a Recruitment Committee, a Fund-Raising Committee, and a Publicity Committee. These developments I leave to you for the coming year.

As for the future, I see a definite need for new people on our board. I am pleased that during my presidency 2 men chose to volunteer for our board. Hopefully through the efforts of

the Recruitment Committee we will suss out a continuing stream of wonderful candidates.

Better documentation is needed. Perhaps separating the tasks Jane has handled these last years and have a Recording Secretary and a Clerk to handle the files would be an idea to think on.

A Board Book with a picture of FCOA for presentation to new members. This would include:

- Articles of Incorporation
- Current By-laws
- Current Year Budget
- Current Treasurer's Report
- List of board members and their roles
- Info on COA and our relationship
- Key contacts and resources
- List of programs we partly or mostly subsidize

We must be constantly looking for creative and better ways to serve the seniors of Lexington. I know you will all continue to do your best! Thank you all for your energy, cooperation and ideas of the last three years which made me look good. I take great pleasure in welcoming our new President, Peter Holland.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Kennedy
President, 2017-2020
FCOA

