

## Mar 2, 2016 LGA Monthly Meeting Minutes (Approved)

The meeting began at 9:30 AM. The Vice President, Mazine Lowe, called the meeting to order and led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. She then called for a moment of silence. In attendance were Pres Bill Heflin, Bill Lindenmuth, Clarence Drumgoole, Jeff Dowhan, Wally Sayko, Al Potter, Tony Moran, Don Carson, Executive Director Moira Underwood, John Cataldo and Jack Saunders. One member of the press, Jenny Gray, was in attendance from the Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald.

The twenty persons in the audience introduced themselves.

Mazine introduced the two speakers, Caroline Farmer, Deputy Director, Victims and Citizens Section, Office of the North Carolina Attorney General, and Randy Davis, Community Outreach Coordinator, Health Care Fraud & Elder Abuse, Office of the Virginia Commonwealth Attorney General. Ms. Farmer spoke first addressing a number of financial scams and outlined ways to avoid having accounts accessed including putting locks on credit for both account holders and to protect minor's credit. She suggested that individuals check their credit often to detect if others try to use it or succeed. She provided a handout that listed nearly a hundred scams which are attempted by phone, email and letter. The largest problem with individual security is the selection of passwords and protecting them. She cited the most common passwords in the country which included such easy items as 1,2,3,4,5,6 and password. Responding to questions, she indicated that scam phone solicitations for donations pulse upward after natural disasters.

Randy Davis then provided an overview of the steps being taken to reduce the incidence of crimes involving fraud in Medicare and Medicaid programs which typically focuses on taking advantage of the poor and aged. Healthcare providers are sometimes detected abusing the system as well as individual claimants. One example used cited a major pharmaceutical company promoting the use of one of its products to treat a condition for which it had no effect, but were successful in building sales greatly. He also went into detail regarding elder abuse and neglect by care providers, both in the home and outside. He gave a number of tips regarding caregivers including suggestions for getting help, reporting abuse and providing down time for full time caregivers.

Mazine thanked the speakers and the audience gave them a round of applause.

Moira provided a detailed account of continuing action to get answers and updates from Verizon and AT&T. Bill Heflin gave a short update on the actions that have been taken since the February meeting related to water level and the attempts to have follow up meetings with Dominion.

Mazine asked for a motion to accept the February Secretary report prepared by Don Carson which was approved.

Don Carson reported on the upcoming 5 County Forum on March 17 at the Lions' Den. He briefly addressed the agenda items. He reminded attendees of the Primary election to be held March 12 and pointed out the tax issue for Northampton voters.

Jack Saunders addressed the upcoming LGA sponsored discount for smoke and carbon monoxide detectors at Ace Lake Gaston and Lawrenceville. He also noted that the Community Shred is scheduled for April 30 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the R-W VFD lower parking lot.

Tony Moran encourage membership and taking advantage of sponsor/new member discounts. He also encouraged the public to take part in committee meetings in which they have an interest.

There were comments that downloading Adobe updates might have viruses and that computer users needed to be familiar with someone to help them if their devices become infected. Another member recommended that the Computer Club be invited as a speaker.

The meeting was adjourned just before 11 AM.

Reported by the temporary Secretary, Jack D. Saunders, Director Northampton County (1 of 2)