

**Oklahoma Alliance on Aging
Strategy Committee Notes, November 28, 2005**

Location: Aging Services Division Conference Room in Shepherd Mall

Present: Helen Patrick, Vivian Smith, James Crowder, John Terneus and Albert Janco

In the absence of our Chairman, Tully McCoy, the meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. by James Crowder.

John Terneus mentioned he had talked to Theo Crawley, the Alliance president, and Lance Robertson, our V. P. for Senior Day at the Capitol, about what we should do to be helpful in planning the day and also what we should do in helping to carry out the day. This is a big day in the lives of many of our seniors. They look forward to it every year.

We were told that Brent VanMeter had been released from prison. He was the Deputy Director of the State Health Department in charge of nursing home inspections. He is now working at the City Rescue Mission, cooking and managing their kitchen.

It was mentioned that HR 3010 has been introduced in the National Congress. Its purpose is to reduce geriatric education and rural health education. I don't know why anyone would want to do this, since we need much more of both. It is probably some misguided person wanting to save money in the wrong places.

Someone mentioned that in a recent poll Congress had a 57% non-approval rating.

In our last Strategy Committee Notes we reviewed the priority issues of the Alliance on Aging for 2006. Today we will review the Legislative Priorities for Oklahoma AARP 2006. In their piece they mention that Oklahoma AARP has more than 403,000 Oklahomans age 50 and older in their membership.

Oklahoma AARP 2006 Legislative Priorities

Support legislation that will improve the staffing and quality of care in nursing homes.

Oppose legislation that will limit the rights of nursing home residents and their families.

Support funding and expanding access to home and community based long-term care services.

Support legislation that will stop the abusive practice of predatory lending/home repair fraud.

Increase consumer protections against pay day loans.

Support legislation that will protect victims of identity theft/fraud.

Support access to affordable utility rates and quality of service. Oppose legislation that would reduce needed state regulation and increase utility rates.

Support legislation to reduce prescription drug costs.

Support enabling grandparents who are caring for grandchildren to obtain the necessary financial, medical, educational and legal services for those children.

Oppose a proposed TABOR constitutional amendment.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m. The next meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, December 12, 2005, at the Aging Services Division Conference Room at Shepherd Mall. Please plan to be with us.