Director's Report submitted by Karin Dynice-Swanfeldt April 2019

- Here we are the beginning of April and I am still on medical leave with a fractured femur to the new hip that was replaced. I am continuing to work from home keeping the department in order and everything is running smoothly. My staff has really stepped up and all bases are covered and quality in all we do continues!!!!. I return to Boston for retests and I am hoping for good news this will take place on May 14th.
- At this point the feasibility study is in slow motion due to many issues out of our control. It is on the an important item but at this time there are other issues town wild taking priority. The agency that was hired is ready to roll and so is my TEAM. we are looking at beginning after our Annual Town meeting and hopefully I will be released from medical leave. This has been very difficult for me but it is a process and our time WILL COME!!
- Our Annual Town Meeting is set for Monday 13th of May. I have been working on our 2020 budget since last December. You are looking at a cut ONLY because of the issues we had last year with lack of funding and money needing to be added. We had to cover UNEXPECTED expenses due to a MART contract which we have NEVER had. MART always paid 100% of my MART staffs funding and that was stopped mid- year last year which was very upsetting to our budget. With the assistance of the towns finance team this huge issue was worked out and the money to continue to operate with a balanced budget happened with a reserve fund transfer. SO this 2020 budget shows that money having been taken out. It is hoped we have everything in order with MART but this is the first year working with their contract. If for some reason we need money to be added I will be able to request a reserve fund transfer once again but from my calculations we should be fine unless there is some unforeseen issue out of my control.
- There have also been many changes to the operations of our Gift Account, Our store moneys, MOC and MART moneys. This is all bought about due to the federal government. Before I went out on medical in January I was working with the finance team to put accounts in place so all money coming into the COA was accounted for and turned into the correct authorities with the proper checks and records in place according to the federal government requirements. So we move forward with more change for our COA. Not a bad thing just another change.

- Once again Thank you Tiny's and Markoh's for taking such good care of us on our dining out evenings!!!
- All monthly bills paid on timeAll monthly reports written and submitted on time.
- Unable to attend monthly meetings.
- All of my responsibilities as the COA Director have been fulfilled.
- Our FREE AARP Tax program was once again a huge success. We are so lucky to be one of the only COA's to still be able to offer this free service to our 60+ers in our community. We have a wonderful relationship with the representives from AARP and I hope to continue this service in the following years to come.
- Once again I must share how proud I am to be a part of the work that the COA has been involved in for the past few month. We have been assisting Jake Driscoll, a young student from Ayer working towards getting his Eagle Scout!! I was so excited when he called me and shared his idea with me for his project! I introduced Jake on the front page of our April newsletter and he will be joining us at our Annual Spring Fling to be held Friday May 3 at the Ayer Fire Station. There are upcoming articles to be written through the town and cable so no one misses out on this project. His project is making sure folks homes are numbered correctly so in case of any emergence, contact can be made more quickly. Joining forces with the Police, Fire, DPW, we are helping Jake make his dream as an Eagle Scout come true. I am honored to be a part of this journey for the young man.
- There were two wonderful programs offer through the COA this month. Thank you Jean Wesinger for putting these together. The first one was a presentation of "The Five Wishes" which was very helpful for those wanting to get their life affairs in order. The second was with Mr. John Root, Song Birds of the Northeast. This was paid for though a Cultural Council Grant from the town. These were both very well received programs for our folks to learn and enjoy!!
- We were very short staffed the end of April with illnesses and vacations but once again the department kept going without an issue to the service or quality we always offer.
- Our upcoming Spring Fling with the Ayer Fire Department is ready to ROCK and ROLL. Over 80 people have sign up for an evening of good food, raffles, music and FUN!! Remember this is also a free event to our folks. I believe this is our 11th year bringing this event to the Town.
- Keep your eye on our month Newsletter, Action Unlimited and Cable TV as well as our Town Website for all of our coming events and activities. We are

beginning to plan our spring events and activities. We are looking at different, NEW activities for our afternoon programming. We try to offer whatever folks are looking for, sometimes we are successful and other time we are not. However we are willing to try anything people are interested in doing. So bring us your thoughts and ideas.....remember we are here for you!!

• So in closing my goal is to return to my office by May15th if all goes well in Boston on the 14th. I must get released by my surgeon before returning to outside activities and work. This has been a very difficult time for me being away from the office for so long..... I am so lucky to have the understanding staff and superiors which understand what this journey has been. please know not one beat has been missed in the operation of this department.