



BLACKSBURG NEWS

Volume 20, Issue 7

Chapter # 2613

September 2003

Doug Martin

Guest Speaker at the September 16 membership meeting

11:30 a.m. – Bag lunch and fellowship

**12 noon – Be prepared for a hilarious but informative
presentation by Doug**

Bring your friends and encourage them to join our Chapter

It is PAST time to pay your 2003 dues.

BLACKSBURG AARP CHAPTER DUES

\$6.00 individual or \$10.00 for husband and wife

Please renew your membership.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brian R. Allen

WE'RE BACK together for a great fall season of gatherings and programs with our friends at AARP. I do hope everybody had a wonderful summer. We went to visit family in Connecticut in July, and took a week at the beach, which we do every year, at the beginning of August. My wife's parents came from Oklahoma to stay with us. We were very lucky with the weather. I am sorry that I missed the June picnic, I was out of town, but I understand all, despite the wet weather, had a good time.

We had a very good board meeting last Tuesday. Everyone was very enthusiastic about our upcoming programs and events

and obviously enjoyed being back together again. We have a great program for you this next Tuesday. Doug Martin will be our guest speaker! This is the meeting we missed in February, due to bad weather. Most people know Doug, Personnel Director at Tech, but if you have not heard him speak you are in for a real treat. He is hilarious! Anyone that belongs to the Tech Retiree Association can attest to that. Doug will be talking about the history of Strouble's Mill and Tinker's Creek, and I understand there were some moonshiners around in those days. **Be sure to invite a friend or two and be prepared to laugh. They say that laughter is the best medicine, and I believe them!**



Our meeting in October will help to prepare us for the upcoming elections in November. We will probably have a candidate or two to speak. We heard some very interesting data from Dan Fleming at our last board meeting about the proposals for much needed tax reform in Virginia, so this may be a chance to learn more directly from the candidates.

There will be another 55 Drive Alive course being offered in November, so if you missed the opportunity last time to save some money on your auto insurance, be sure to sign up. It's a lot of fun and very helpful!

On Thursday, September 25, 2003 some of our members will be leaving early morning to go to Richmond for the **Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging** sponsored by AARP. There is room in the mini-van for two or three more members, if you wish to go. There will be workshops, such as Will My Money Last?, Safety-Net Programs for an Aging Society, Cost and Quality of Health Care Options, What About Nursing Homes?, Prescription Drugs, and Home Care: A Solution for Independence. There will also be a public forum with speakers such as Secretary of Health and Human Services, Jane Woods and Commissioner of Department for the Aging, Jay DeBoer. Then at 2 p.m. our Governor, Mark Warner, will speak for an hour on issues of aging. The cost is \$45.00 to get in and reservations have to be made in advance so please contact me at 1-800-866-0996 as soon as you can for more details.

We congratulate our editor, Don Elson for receiving an honorable mention in the state AARP contest for the best newsletter. We came second in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Great job Don! Thanks from everyone.

We also need to thank Cerrie Coil and Charlotte Beamer for coming to the Presidents' rescue when AARP Richmond called at the last minute asking for volunteers to staff a table at the Dublin Fair. They did not hesitate to drive over on that Thursday night and spend two or three hours helping out. Thank you both so much for your help.

Our membership is now up to near 250, and growing. Thanks go to all of you, and especially Joyce Martin, our enthusiastic membership chairperson!

I had the chance to order AARP publications from Richmond, and they will be available at our meetings. They are free, and cover topics on Caregiving, Consumer Protection, Financial Planning, Grief and Loss, Health and Wellness, Medicare, etc. Be sure to pick up whatever you want. I have 50 copies of each brochure and would be happy to stop carrying all the boxes around in my trunk.

See you Tuesday. All the best, *Brian*

PS. Please don't forget our fund raising for the Senior Center. We have so far collected \$188.00 and a wheelchair. Please help if you are able. Our Treasurer Ray Murley will be at the next meeting. Thanks!

Editor's Note

I am going to repeat the request made last Spring for donations for the Senior Center.

Some of you have generously contributed monies, but we have a long way to go. Below is a reprint of the Board's request.

At an earlier board meeting your directors voted unanimously to help the Senior Center obtain some much needed items

for the facility, as a charitable project for our members as well as a thank you for allowing us to meet at the center and use the facilities at no charge; we also have our board meetings there. **We are asking your help in raising enough money to cover most items on their list.** They need some sets of dumbbell weights (\$135), resistance bands (\$75 a box), 10 exercise mats (\$50 each), and 2 convertible cane stools (\$25 each).

Donations can be made payable to the Town of Blacksburg and earmarked for the Senior Center. These donations are fully tax deductible if paid this way! Please mail or give your checks to Ray Murley, our Treasurer. His address is 1624 Hawthorne Ridge, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

Please do what you can to help in this worthwhile project. Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

If you have friends who should be members, please bring them to the monthly meeting and encourage them to join. ***Dues for 2003 can be paid at the meeting or sent to Ray Murley.*** (Make checks payable to Blacksburg AARP.)

**Ray Murley
1624 Hawthorne Ridge
Blacksburg, VA 24062-0652**

If you have changed your address, be sure to notify Joyce Martin or Don Elson; also, if you have an e-mail address please give it to one of them.

Have I paid my dues? Check the mail label on your Newsletter. If "2003" appears on the label, you have paid for the

current year. When you pay your 2003 dues, the label will read "2003." There has been a question as to the meaning of the "N" at the end of the year on some of your mail labels. "N" denotes that you are a new member.

Those of you who are 90 years old and older do not pay dues. Your label should read "Life Member." The current membership list has the following members that are 90 years of age or older:

Fay Hoy	James McCann
Esther McKenna	Beverly Printz
Nelle Trent	

If you know of corrections to this list, please tell Ray, Joyce, or Don Elson so that our membership records are correct.

AARP MEMBERSHIP LIST UPDATES

If there are corrections to the 2003 Membership List (included in the May Newsletter on green paper), please notify Joyce Martin or Don Elson.

TAX REFORM STUDY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Dan Fleming, Legislative Chair

It appears that tax reform will be an important and controversial topic before the 2004 General Assembly including proposed changes of particular interest to older Virginians. Seeking input into the legislative decision-making from the local level, a committee composed of Ben Crawford, Gerald Darby, Carl McDaniels, Jim Moore, June Schmidt and Dan Fleming, chair, worked throughout the

summer making a comprehensive study of tax reform alternatives.

The committee agreed with previous state studies that found the current tax code to be antiquated placing an inequitable tax burden on lower income families. It also concluded that essential core services in Virginia lack sufficient funding and additional tax revenue is needed. The committee strongly recommends that the General Assembly take action in 2004 to reform the tax code and not delay until the election year of 2005.

The committee will make several specific recommendations on what reforms should be made covering topics ranging from car tax relief to age exemptions. These recommendations will be made available to the entire chapter membership for comment at a later date.

FUTURE MEETINGS

September 16: Doug Martin -"The Secrets of Sinking Creek and Stroubles Creek (with emphasis on Sinking)". Dr. Martin is a native of Newport, VA. He and his wife have two children, and he still coaches baseball for 6-9 year old kids - has been doing this more than 30 years. Doug is an Air Force veteran, Ruritan member, and completed his undergraduate, masters and doctorate degrees at Virginia Tech. His hobbies: local history, jogging, flowers, and "bad" puns. Doug is a member of the Newport-Mt Olivet United Methodist Church and has been employed by Virginia Tech over 33 years.

The membership meetings are held at the Blacksburg Community Center on the third Tuesday of each month except December, July and August. Be sure to make a special effort to attend and remember to

bring a friend and your lunch. **We begin eating our bag lunch at 11:30 a.m. (coffee and tea available) with the program following at noon.**

October 21: Legislation

November 18: Open

December 2: Holiday Luncheon, 12 noon
Red Lion Inn, \$10 per person.
Details later.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of MONTGOMERY COUNTY TO SPONSOR FORUMS

Carl McDaniels

Thursday, September 25, 2003 at the Blacksburg Branch Library, 7-9 p.m. for Candidates for the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors.

Monday, September 29, 2003 at the Montgomery County Government Center-Christiansburg 7-9 p.m. for Candidates for the Virginia General Assembly from Montgomery County.

Tuesday, September 30, 2003 at the Montgomery County Government Center-Christiansburg 7-9 p.m. for all Candidates for Constitutional Office in Montgomery County.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

Present: June Schmidt, Joyce Martin, Bob Blanton, Jim Moore, R.B."Ben" Crawford, Paul Smeal, Charlotte Beamer, W. Ray Murley, Cerrie Coil, Clara Jane Billig, Donald E. Elson, Dale Oliver, Dan Fleming, Carl McDaniels, Brian R. Allen, Darrel Clouse, Harriet Cooper, and Lula Roberts.

The agenda for the meeting and the May minutes were approved.

Treasurer Ray Murley reported a balance on June 3, 2003 of \$2,142.98 and a balance on September 2, 2003 of \$ 1,942.23. Income was \$124.00 and expenses were \$374.73.

Jim Moore who had been given the responsibility of opening a file with AARP records located in the Senior Center stated that the file had been opened with the help of the custodian. Keys to the file were given to President Brian Allen, Joyce Martin and the Center custodian. Jim further stated that the Chapter By-Laws and Standing Rules were located and that a previously appointed committee had met to revise the two documents. Jim also asked each of the 17-committee chairs to submit appendices as an attachment to the Standing Rules. Copies of the above documents will be given to the board members at the September meeting.

Committee Reports:

Nominating: Committee members as listed on the agenda are to elect a chair and present a slate of officers for the 2004 year to the board at their October 7, 2003 meeting.

Membership: Joyce Martin reported 249 members. She encouraged the board members to start reminding friends, neighbors, et al to join AARP again in 2004 and pay their dues.

Program: Ben Crawford reported that Doug Martin will give a humorous talk at our September meeting. The Christmas luncheon will be held at the Red Lion Inn December 2, 2003. Cost is \$10.00 per person. Harriet Cooper was asked to schedule the Blacksburg Band as the program.

Caring: The following will be sent a card: Al and Virle Payne, Lewis Barnett, Dick Schmidt, and Mac McCann.

Legislative: Dan Fleming presented a paper titled "Summary Update on Tax Study". The committee has met three times and is planning a future meeting to iron out tax issues to be recommended to the Virginia AARP Legislative Committee. Questions include: Is the present tax system fair? The very poor are hit hard. Virginia needs more dollars to meet their budget. Mention was made about the article in the Roanoke Times, August 17 by Senator John Chichester titled "Virginia Future". A motion was made by Darrel Clouse and seconded by Carl McDaniels to approve in general the committee's tax study report and pass on a final copy to the Virginia AARP Legislative Committee to help shape their agenda. The motion was approved.

Hospitality: The Senior Center annual picnic will be held September 12 at Nellie's Cave Park (reservations were due on Friday, September 5).

Awards: Bob Blanton announced that the Chapter Newsletter received an Honorable Mention and recognized the newsletter editor, Don Elson, for his good work. The chapter also submitted a Andrus Award to honor Ben Crawford. A Chapter awards application was also submitted.

Financial Planning and Audit: Dale Oliver has a plan to audit the Treasurer's books.

Newsletter: Don Elson asked all committee chairs and others to get materials to him by Saturday and reminded everyone that a membership form is included in the Newsletter.

Other Business and Announcements:

Fund Raising: The president's message will include an update.

Conference: The Virginia Conference on Aging will be held September 25 and 26 at the Kroger Center, Holiday Inn at Midlothian.

55 Drive Alive: The next session will be held at the Senior Center November 20 and 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Harold Walts is the instructor. The cost is \$10.00. Participants must attend both sessions. The Blacksburg Ruritan Club is giving the Blacksburg AARP Chapter \$100.00 to support this activity.

A motion was made and approved the Blacksburg AARP will support and co-sponsor with the League of Women Voters a program on "Air Quality" November 14, 2003. The place to be announce later.

The End of Life Planning Committee is making plans for a future meeting. Darrel Clowes will represent our Chapter.

Cerrie Coil and Charlotte Beamer were thanked for manning a "Get out the Vote" booth at the Dublin fair.

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Respectively submitted,

Bob Blanton, acting secretary

BLACKSBURG AARP CHAPTER #2613
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL OR NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Membership in the Blacksburg AARP Chapter requires membership in National AARP.
If you are already a member, please pass this form on to a friend that should be a member.

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ - _____ - _____ E-Mail: _____

- Membership: _____ Renewal
 _____ New Member(s)
 _____ Single membership dues \$6.00
 _____ Joint Husband and Wife dues \$10.00

Complete, attach check, and bring to the next Membership Meeting or mail to:

Ray Murley
1624 Hawthorne Ridge
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Cut -----

Brian R. Allen, President
AARP Chapter #2613
P. O. Box 10652
Blacksburg, VA 24060

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Officers

President	Brian Allen
1 st Vice-Pres.	Joyce Martin
2 nd Vice-Pres.	Jim Owen
Secretary	Phyllis Talley
Treasurer	Ray Murley
Assoc. Treasurer	Jim Moore
Past President	Ben Crawford

Board of Directors

Class of 2003

Charlotte Beamer
Ray Murley
Lula Roberts

Class of 2004

Dan Fleming
Paul Smeal
Shirley Strother

Class of 2005

Carl McDaniels
June Schmidt
Joyce Martin

Nominating Committee

Class of 2003

Darrel Clowes
Lula Roberts
Vincent Talley

Class of 2004

Ben Crawford
Harriet Cooper

Newsletter Editor

Donald Elson

Committee Chairs

Caring
Chaplain
Chapter Awards
Community Service
Financial Planning
Health Care
Hospitality

Legislative
Membership
Newsletter
Nominating
Program
Public Relations
Telephone
Ways & Means

Lula Roberts
Ken Dawson
Bob Blanton
Louis Barnett
Dale Oliver
Darrel Clowes
Clara Jane Billig and
Cerie Coil
Dan Fleming
Joyce Martin
Don Elson
(open)
Ben Crawford
June Schmidt
Charlotte Beamer
Jim Moore

Virginia Tech Retires Association

Dan Fleming