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# BLACKSBURG NEWS

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January 2001

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Darrell Clowes

January 2001 - would you believe it. Virginia Tech just experienced one more football bowl victory, the country survived one more election (and may survive the elected one more time), Blacksburg just held its first First Night, and we are the fortunate ones to see one more century dawn. And the Blacksburg AARP Chapter begins another year. June Schmidt and last year's officers and committee chairs have passed the gavel to me and this year's officers and chairs; they were solid stewards of your interests last year and have presented us with a healthy and vigorous organization. We will do our best to pass it to the next custodians in equally good condition.

Each year the first board meeting revolves around organizational issues of "who" will do what within the organization and then upon the larger issue of what is the "what" we should do. The "who" is the easier matter. There are the stalwart few who regularly step forward and serve as the backbone of this or any other organization. They are in place and available. Then there is the need to bring forward a few of you to provide the new ideas and new blood to keep the enterprise alive. We invite, nay implore, you to come forward and offer to become involved with us. Even if we are unaware of your interest or talent in an area and do not directly approach you, please take the initiative and let me or any of the officers or chairs know of your interest. We invite you to join our "who."

"What" is a negotiated set of goals for the organization. Under the leadership of June Schmidt and Bill Kenney this chapter has been very active in producing major events for AARP-last year's Health Fair and Consumer University are examples. The emerging goals for this year appear more modest. The discussion that began at the January board meeting identified goals with

two foci: an internal focus on activities to enhance our own collegiality and identity and an external focus on assistance to the needy - especially the elderly needy - within our own community. Subsequent meetings and input will clarify or modify these foci and develop specific goals to address them.

Several ongoing activities support these foci. We will continue to solicit and collect food for the Food Pantry, will continue our involvement and collaboration with the Voluntary Action Center, and explore enhanced collaboration with agencies and organizations like the Free Clinic, New Directions and Habitat for Humanity. We invite your input of ideas and involvement in these efforts.

It appears another year is before us and as always it presents challenges and opportunities. We will react to what 2001 presents us and also try to shape this year modestly by pursuing goals of our own choosing. Through our workings with AARP and other groups we will hope to bring about a positive transition to 2002. We invite you to join with us.

## PROGRAM FOR THE JANUARY MEETING

The 2000 Program Committee, Harriet Cooper and Ken Martin, Chairs, along with committee members Ben Crawford, Don Elson, and Joe Maxwell, planned excellent programs for 2000 and for the January 2001 meeting.

**January 16, 2001** PROJECT UNDERGROUND presented by Carol Zokaites. She will discuss caving, bats, water quality and other "underground" issues.

Ruby Murley will conduct a Memorial Service at this meeting to remember those members who have left us this past year. She has the following names: Norma Faiszt, Ann Frame, Luke Frame, Sam Obenshain, Hazel Swink and Arthur Walrath. If you know others that should be honored at the Memorial Service, please call Ruby at 552-5039.

information on this year's election cycle, including materials on selected issues and a Candidate Database and Voter Registration Information.

## FRAUD WEB SITES

As a result of the Consumer University held last spring we were provided with a web site that gives a listing of questionable web sites that have been investigated for fraud. Bill Kallio writes that there is a web site with a searchable database where this information can be found:

start at [www.dhhs.gov/oig](http://www.dhhs.gov/oig)  
click on Electronic Reading Room  
click on Office of Investigations  
click on OIG Exclusions  
click on Online Searchable Database

Check out this web site if you suspect a web site may be fraudulent.

## FREE CLINIC OF NEW RIVER VALLEY

The Free Clinic of New River Valley needs and welcomes volunteers to join in meeting the needs of residents without health insurance in the New River Valley. A full range of volunteer opportunities are offered including office and clerical, marketing, and all health care professions. For more information, contact Amy Vaughan at 381-0820.

## 2001 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Officers

President	Darrel Clowes
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-Pres.	Ben Crawford
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-Pres.	Frank Lau
Secretary	Amy Elson
Treasurer	Ralph Cecchini
Assoc. Treasurer	Ray Murley
Past President	June Schmidt

### Board of Directors

#### Class of 2001

Lewis Barnett  
Dan Fleming  
Frances Parsons  
Vincent Talley

#### Class of 2002

Clara Jane Billig

Harriett Cooper

### Class of 2003

Charlotte Beamer  
Ray Murley  
Lula Roberts

### Registered Agent

James Moore

### Nominating Committee

#### Class of 2001

Dan Fleming  
Bill Keeney  
Ruby Murley

#### Class of 2002

Mary Ellen Moore  
June Schmidt

### Committee Chairs

Budget	Dale Oliver
Caring	Lula Roberts
Chaplain	(open)
Community Service	Louis Barnett
Chapter Awards	Bob Blanton
Health Care	Darrel Clowes
Hospitality	Clara Jane Billig and Cerrie Coil
Legislative	Dan Fleming
Membership	Ben Crawford
Newsletter	Don Elson
Nominating	Dale Oliver
Program	Harriett Cooper
Public Relations	June Schmidt
Telephone	Charlotte Beamer

### New Dimensions Liaison

Jim Moore

## **AARP AWARDS PRESENTED AT CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

The Blacksburg chapter of AARP on December 5 at the annual Christmas luncheon presented two awards, one for outstanding volunteer service to the community and the other for outstanding volunteer service to the local chapter.

The recipient of the Community Spirit Award was **Bob Blanton**, a native of Amelia, Virginia and a graduate of Virginia Tech. For several decades he was an Extension leader with 4-H and helped plan, develop and manage the Smyth Mountain Lake 4-H Educational Center.

Blanton has been active in the community for many years, serving as President of the Blacksburg Host Lions Club and as President of the Blacksburg Chapter of the AARP. He helped develop the Blacksburg Senior Center and, has been a leader in the New Dimensions. He has served as a volunteer at the Montgomery Regional Hospital and the Lyric Theater, and was a member of the Board of Deacons of the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church. He also has been active in the Bev.net program and served as State Training Specialist for AARP and served as the Blacksburg AARP Chapter Secretary in 2000.

The second award presented for outstanding service to the Blacksburg AARP Chapter was given to **Ray Murley**, a graduate of Iowa State University. Murley was an Extension Dairy Specialist at North Carolina State University before coming to Virginia Tech as a Professor in Dairy Science Extension and Dairy Nutrition.

Murley is a former President of the Blacksburg AARP Chapter, served on the Chapter Board and is currently Associate Treasurer. He also has been a leader in the New Dimensions and served on the Warm Hearth Retirement Village Board and the Senior Center Board. He has been active in his church, the Rotary Club, the Torch Club and the University Club.

### **2001 BLACKSBURG AARP CHAPTER DUES \$6.00**

Ben Crawford is our Membership Chair. If you know of anyone who should be a member, please encourage them to join. Bring them to the next

meeting. Dues can be paid at the meeting or sent to Ben. His address follows:

**Ben Crawford  
200 Cork Street  
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

## **BLOOD DRIVE A SUCCESS**

Our AARP Chapter, along with the New Dimensions and the Senior Center, sponsored a senior blood mobile on Wednesday, December 6 at the Blacksburg Senior Center. Thanks to Jim Moore's hard work, 38 pints of blood were collected. Old, tired blood is as good as young blood in an emergency. Seniors can give blood. Any senior who is reluctant about donating blood, should learn more about it. Your blood is needed too. Talk to Jim or call the local Red Cross.

## **FOOD PANTRY CONTRIBUTIONS**

Our Blacksburg AARP Chapter is supporting the Food Pantry by providing canned goods and staples. **Please bring several items with you to the January 16 meeting. Set them aside now so you will remember to bring them.** Over 230 families depend on your generosity each month.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

The Board of Directors, at its January 1998 meeting, adopted the following policy relative to Board and/or chapter meetings during inclement weather:

*AARP Board and/or chapter meetings will be canceled if Montgomery County Schools are closed due to inclement weather on days AARP Board and/or chapter meetings are scheduled."*

## **AARP WEBSITE**

AARP has its own website, called AARP Webplace, which features information about the Organization's activities and issues of interest to older persons. To access information on a host of topics please visit the site at <http://www.aarp.org>. Some of the information featured includes membership benefits, legislative issues, and health and wellness concerns. The AARP website also features

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