



# BLACKSBURG NEWS

Volume 20, Issue 4

Chapter # 2613

April 2003

**It is 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 are living in very stressful times. I was reading an article on stress just the other day, and one way listed to help relieve stress is to participate in activities with your friends. To that note, our AARP chapter is looking forward to a busy couple of months, and we have many activities for you to choose from. This month our regular meeting will be held at Custom Catering instead of the Senior Center. AARP Virginia is presenting an Issues Forum from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and buying lunch for everyone. The national office has mailed 10,000 notices to members in the New River Valley and surrounding area. They expect at least 300 people to attend, some of whom will be meeting us for the first time. Please plan to attend and help us greet these newcomers and encourage them to join our chapter. They will be able to see how much fun we can have together. **You do need to call in your reservation to 1- 877- 926 - 8300; otherwise you might not get lunch!** This is going to be a great opportunity to hear about Federal Government programs, proposed Medicare reform and issues that affect all of us. Bring your questions with you, as there will be chances to have these experts answer your specific concerns. I have heard that one or more of the presenters are 'Washington Insiders'. We will have drawings for some

door prizes, just to add to the fun: dinner for two at local restaurants. See you there!

The Senior Olympic Games are due to start May 1. You need to register by April 18, 2003, so be sure and call Paul Smeal (552-4085) about this. I looked through the options and found several that I could participate in myself; whether I would be any good didn't seem to matter; it would be a lot of fun trying. I chose Discus, Mini Golf, Running and Shot Put, some of which I had not done since high school and college. Then I realized that I will still be in England for most of them (I leave for two weeks April 21). I guess I could play Pickle ball after I return; it sounds like fun.

Saturday, May 10, 2003, 10:00-3:00 p.m. at the Senior Center, we will be co-hosts of 'Planning for the End of Life Seminar.' This program will give us ideas as to how we can reduce stress and trauma for our families when we die. Lunch will be provided. Several of our chapter members have been working on this for some time and have an excellent program set up. The program will include well-known local speakers: a doctor, lawyer, funeral home director and minister, as well as one of our chapter members who will relate his recent experiences with the loss of his spouse. See you soon. All the best, *Brian*

## 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**  
**P. O. Box 10652**  
**Blacksburg, VA 24062-0652**

If you have changed your address, be sure to notify Ray or Joyce; 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 Membership List as published in the May Newsletter (blue paper), please notify Ray or Don Elson.

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CELEBRATION HELD

Saturday, April 5, the Volunteer Recognition Celebration was held at the Blacksburg Community Center. Fourteen outstanding

volunteers nominated by non-profit organizations across the New River Valley were recognized.

Our AARP Chapter, the Voluntary Action Center of the New River Valley, the YMCA at Virginia Tech, and the Red Cross, sponsored the Celebration. Additional support was provided by Montgomery Regional Hospital, Carilion Hospital, Krogers, the Blacksburg Community Center, and the Montgomery County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program.

A highlight of the Celebration was recognition of an outstanding volunteer with the Jim and Lenna Moore Citizenship and Community Service Award. The recipient of the award was James "Dan" Level. Dan has a record as a remarkable volunteer and has held offices at local, district, and state levels in organizations such as AARP, American Legion, Red Cross, Chamber of Commerce, and Town Council. He is currently a member of the AARP state committee for volunteer community organization and community presence.

The main feature of the Celebration program was recognition of the volunteers and their work. Each received a pin and a souvenir program detailing contributions the individual had made to the community. In addition, the Sweet Adelines provided musical entertainment. All who attended the Celebration enjoyed both the program and the refreshments provided. Members of our chapter who helped with the Celebration were June Schmidt, Frances Martin, Ken Martin, Mary Ellen Moore, Clara Jane Billig, and Ray Murley.

## APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**AARP VIRGINIA WILL PRESENT "ISSUES FOR ADVOCATES":** A forum on federal and state legislative issues and advocacy efforts affecting persons age 50+.

*Tuesday, April 15, 2003*

*10:00-2:00 P.M.*

*Custom Catering, 902 Patrick Henry Drive*

(This will be our regular monthly meeting.)

Come to the meeting and have a complimentary lunch and yes there really is such a thing as a free lunch.

\*Learn about new developments with Medicare reform and the debate over prescription drugs

\*Get the latest information on what is really happening with Social Security and the changes being proposed in Washington.

\*Find out how your AARP state organization represented you in Richmond and what gains and new challenges resulted from the work of the General Assembly.

\*Find out how you can get involved and make your voice heard.

**IMPORTANT: you must register. Call the AARP toll free registration line at 1-877-926-8300. CALL TODAY.**

## **FUTURE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS**

**May 20:** Legislative Report, Del. Jim Shuler

**June 17:** Annual Picnic

## **IMPORTANT SEMINAR**

Jim Moore

Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 10, 2003 and plan to attend a day long – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – seminar on **Preparing for the End: What to do now to reduce the stress and trauma for your family when you die.** There is no cost and lunch will be served. For more information and to register call Lula Roberts at 552-7655.

Topics covered include:

- Testimony from a recent case
- Preparing for the last rites, funeral, memorial service, etc.
- What the medical team and other care givers need to know
- Facing the legal dimensions of death.

Our AARP Chapter would like to support this program by recruiting at least 15 of our members to attend. Please register by calling Lula.

## **NEWS FROM THE 2003 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Dan Fleming, Legislative Chair

### **Virginia AARP Position on the Repeal of the Estate Tax**

One of the most significant bills passed by the 2003 General Assembly was the repeal of the inheritance (estate) tax. Supporters of the bill claim it is a way to protect family businesses and farms. Opponents argue that it will benefit the wealthy and further reduce scarce state revenues.

Governor Warner vetoed the repeal of the tax and the vote to overturn his veto took place on April 2. By the time this newsletter arrives we will know the outcome of that vote by the General Assembly.

Virginia AARP supported the veto by the Governor because essential programs of health and long-term services are already under funded as a result of our current budget crisis. To further make substantial cuts would make a bad situation worse. In addition, this is a "piece meal" approach that deviates from the policy of the General Assembly not to make substantial tax changes this year in light of an expected major tax reform package to be brought before the General Assembly in 2004. At that time it is hoped that the entire tax structure will be examined in a comprehensive manner.

## **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."

## TAX-AIDE FOR SENIORS

Frank Lau

Our Tax-Aide group will be back again to help our members, as well as others in the Blacksburg community. Our times will be Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. In order to give everyone appropriate time, we ask that you make appointments through Joy Herbert at the Center (961-1149). You should collect, NOW, all your deduction papers. When 1099's come in, add them to the pile, as with any mortgage 1096's. And don't forget Social Security statements. We prepare your Tax returns by computer, but do not do electronic returns.

## NEW RIVER VALLEY SENIOR OLYMPIC GAMES

May 1 to 7, 2003

The Senior Olympic Games is open to all residents 50 years of age or older. Through a multitude of athletic and social events, participants have the opportunity to display their athletic ability, exchange and share common ties and interests with other seniors. The emphasis is not so much competition as it is the fellowship and socialization characteristics of Senior Olympic Games. The Games include the following events: badminton, basketball, billiards, bowling, cards, croquet, discus, Frisbee, golf, horseshoes, mini-golf, pickleball, riflery, run shot put, shuffleboard, softball, swimming, three on three basketball, table-tennis, tennis, and walk.

**Registration:** All participants must be properly registered by April 18, 2003. A registration form must be filled out, a standard release form must be signed, and all registration fees must be paid. Fees vary with the particular events. There will be no refunds after registration.

For more information contact:

Paul Smeal, 552-4085; [psmeal@vt.edu](mailto:psmeal@vt.edu). or

Joy Herbert, 961-1134; [jherbert@blacksburg.gov](mailto:jherbert@blacksburg.gov)

## MOVIN THRU VIRGINIA

Paul Smeal

The purpose or goal of the Blacksburg Senior's Walking/Exercise Club is to enjoy walking and exercising by walking or exercising through the ninety-eight (98) counties of Virginia.

You must register and pay a one-time fee of \$10 to pay for a shirt and supplies. There will be on-going registration for the program. It is not too late for registering for the **Movin Thru Virginia** at the Community Center. It is an on going program. Registering this week means those registered will be in the first order for shirts. We were waiting until next week to order the shirts. There has been excellent registration, think we are approaching 50 persons.

There are a large number of walkers, and this program encourages them to keep a record of their walking. There is no competition, no prizes for who walks the most, etc. It is their program. Just hope it to be a fun activity for all, and as we wear the shirts more persons may want to participate.

## "MR. AARP" CELEBRATES 85<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

Frank W. Huppert of Danville celebrated his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 9. Frank has been a very active and longtime worker for AARP at the local, state and national levels. He received a Commendation from Virgil Goode and the U. S. House of Representatives. President Bush sent him a birthday greeting. In a note to our chapter, Frank said he was just elected as president of his local chapter. This is only the fourth time he has served as president of that chapter.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING

April 1, 2003

Present: Donald Elson, Dale Oliver, Harriett Cooper, Cerrie Coil, Carl McDaniels, Charlotte Beamer, Paul Smeal, June Schmidt, Lula Roberts, Shirley Strother, Bob Blanton, Ray Murley, Jim Moore, Darrel Clowes, Dan Fleming, Brian R. Allen, Clara Jane Billig, Joyce A. Martin, Phyllis Talley

The AARP Board meeting, April 1, 2003 was called to order by president, Brian Allen.  
The Agenda was approved as presented  
Minutes of March 4, 2003 were approved as presented.

Financial Report, AARP, 4-1-03: Ray Murley

Balance: 3-4-03	\$1040.26
Income: Membership dues	\$610.00
Donations, Senior	
Olympics	82.00
Misc.	<u>4.00</u>
	\$696.00
Expenses: News Letter	169 .20
Balance:	\$1567.06

The Board approved the Treasurer's Report presented by Ray Murley.

### COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTS:

Membership Committee: Ray Murley reported 171 members as of April 1.

Joyce Martin noted that Frank Lau has updated the attractive membership brochure. Brochures will be available at the registration table for the "Issues for Advocates" forum, April 15 at Custom Catering. National AARP members in the NRV need to be reached and encouraged to join and support the local AARP Chapter. It was moved and seconded that Ray Murley pay the bill to be presented for the production of copies of the AARP Blacksburg Chapter #2613 membership brochure. The motion passed favorably.

Legislative Committee: Dan Fleming, encouraged awareness of actions to be taken in the General Assembly session now convened in Richmond as they consider overturning vetoes recently signed by the Governor.

Hospitality Committee: Assistance with registration and refreshments will be provided for the April 5, NRV Volunteer Recognition Celebration. Four greeters will be provided for the "Issues for Advocates" forum, April 15 at Custom Catering. Tuesday, June 17, picnic at Nellie's Cave Park. Clara Jane has reserved the picnic area. Don Elson was asked to consider having the Classic Cars on-hand.

December 2, Christmas Luncheon at the Red Lion Inn has been scheduled and confirmed.

Other:

Appointment and role of chaplain was discussed. AARP is a national non-sectarian organization made up of people of all faiths and denominations, however, meditations, inspirational readings, prayers (impromptu or prepared) are appreciated and unifying when they are all-inclusive without reflecting the persuasion of one religion or denomination.

The NRV Volunteer Recognition Celebration, April 5, 2003, Blacksburg, Community Center, will honor all the nominees and recipient of the 2002 Jim & Lenna Moore Community Service and Citizenship Award. The celebration from 10:00 - 11:30 is sponsored by four (4) planning organizations: AARP, American Red Cross, Voluntary Action Center and YMCA (VT). June Schmitt, AARP, reported on the program and encouraged all AARP members to attend and support this special recognition event endorsed by participating non-profit organizations.

Approaches to responding to the May 8, AARP National Day of Service were discussed. Reports may be given to Ben Crawford.

*Planning for the End*, a seminar sponsored by AARP, NARFE, and Blacksburg Senior Center is planned for Saturday, May 10, 2003 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. (lunch provided), at the Blacksburg Senior Center. Jim Moore distributed invitations, emphasized the importance of planning, and encouraged participation. To register: call Lulu Roberts, 552-7655 or email Jim Moore, [mem@vt.edu](mailto:mem@vt.edu)

A certificate received by Frank Huppert and forwarded to AARP will be reported in the newsletter. Frank is a former AARP president.

10:40 a.m. meeting adjourned.  
Phyllis Talley, secretary

Next AARP Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 5, 2003, 9:30 a.m. at the Blacksburg Senior Center.

## **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

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **AARP National Day of Service 2003 -- Thursday, May 8**

AARP's Day of Service is a day set aside for AARP members to celebrate and renew AARP's commitment to community service. Be sure to record any volunteer work you do on that day. It may be something that you do on a regular basis or you may want to do some special volunteer work on that day. Ben Crawford will be asking what you did so he can report all of our volunteer activities to the Virginia AARP.

### **Blacksburg Parks and Recreation Department**

**All registrations began March 20**

Check the Good Times News for additional trips this spring.

#### Mount Airy, North Carolina

Travel to the hometown of Andy Griffith. Visit "Mayberry" sites and other interesting sites around Mt. Airy. Wednesday, April 16. Leave Center at 8:15 a.m. Lunch at noon. Guided tours and shopping with quick dinner snack on way home.

Cost: \$15R/25NR. Fee includes transportation, all tours, and guide. Return by 7:00 p.m.

## **FOR YOUR HEALTH**

### Blood Sugar and Blood Pressure Screenings

May 12 and June 2, 10:00 a.m.

Senior Community Room Hallway

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

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Officers

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

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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  
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Dale Oliver  
Darrel Clowes  
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Cerrie Coil  
Dan Fleming  
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Virginia Tech Retires Association

Jim Moore