

**IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM****DELEGATE JIM SHULER: "GENERAL ASSEMBLY OUTCOMES"**

or his assistant

April 16, 2002,

11:30 a.m.: Brown-bag lunch -- 12 noon: Program  
Blacksburg Senior Center**\*\*\*\*\* Bring a Friend \*\*\*\*\*****PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

R. B. "Ben" Crawford

It was during a weekend in April 1997, my wife Carol and I, like millions of other Americans, were watching some truly exciting golf. It was the world renown Masters on the challenging Augusta National Golf Course. Unless you just came in off the turnip truck, you will recall a young man by the name of Tiger Woods who set a record there. He beat the finest golfers in the world winning by 12 strokes--my normal score for two holes. A news article compared his feat to Babe Ruth's 54 home runs in 1929, an incredible 25 more home runs than the previous record. (Babe eventually hit 60 in one year, a record that stood more than half a century--73 homers last year by Barry Bonds)

Why was Tiger able to accomplish this? As do many others, he had great natural ability. But Tiger also practiced! practiced! and practiced! He worked constantly for years to make his best better. In the second round of the Masters, he shot a 66. The rest of the players that day, the best in the world, averaged only 72. Did Tiger congratulate himself, as everyone on TV and everyone speaking to him was doing, and go celebrate his round? No, he went immediately to the driving range and practiced some more.

When asked by the media why he was practicing after such an outstanding round, he replied: "I can always get better." The next day he did. He shot a 65 and the rest is history. He did this by hard work and by applying the 4-H Motto: "make the best better." He changed golf and golf hasn't been the same since.

By applying similar tactics of hard work and efforts to make the best better, AARP has just completed a monumental change, a sea change. AARP now has offices and staff in every state, and **every state bears responsibility for its own volunteer development** -- 53 offices including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Here in Virginia, our new offices in Richmond are close to the state capital. And a new **Virginia Volunteer Staffing plan** is in place to serve our Virginia AARP members. How to communicate with our volunteers, whether at the state or chapter level, is a challenge. Linking volunteer efforts with AARP strategy and the state plan is a challenge. My judgment is that it will take some time (and some changes) for us to figure out how to make the best use of our new state structure.

How best to communicate with our own Blacksburg Chapter members and how to provide optimum community service are challenges. That's why **June Schmidt** is chairing the Independent Living Gift Basket program. That's why **Paul Smeal** is chairing our involvement and sponsorship of the New River Valley Senior Olympic-Games. That's why **Jim Moore** is coordinating our community service fund-raising efforts. And that's why **Paul Smeal, Pat Palmer, and Don Elson** are spearheading a membership enrollment campaign.

Getting the "right" information to volunteers about legislation and advocacy is a challenge. That's one reason, thanks to **Frank Lau**, your Blacksburg Chapter Board is working to develop a "ListServ" for members. And that's why we are hosting a **Community Council meeting at the Blacksburg Senior Center Thursday, April 25, at 9:30 a.m.**

All these changes and challenges remind me of this short story: According to a radio report, a middle school in Oregon was faced with an unusual challenge. A number of girls were beginning to use lipstick and would put it on in the bathroom. That was fine, but after they put on their lipstick they would press their lips to the mirror leaving dozens of little lip prints. Finally the principal decided that something had to be done. She called all the girls to the bathroom and met them there with the maintenance man. She explained that all these lip prints were causing a major problem for the custodian who had to clean the mirrors every night. To demonstrate how difficult it was to clean the mirrors, she asked the maintenance guy to clean one of the mirrors. He took out a long-handled squeegee, dipped it into the toilet and then cleaned the mirror. Since then there have been no lip prints on the mirror.

But one thing is certain, a constant in life is **change**, and oh! how the world has changed during our lifetime. Take computers for example, with these quotes from the past:

- "I think there is a world market for maybe five (5) computers." Thomas Watson, Chairman of IBM, 1943
- "Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons." Popular Mechanics, forecasting the relentless march of science, 1949
- "There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home." Ken Olsen, President and founder Digital Equipment Corp., 1977
- "640 K ought to be enough for everybody." Bill Gates, 1981

Twenty-five years ago, I would have been writing this message on a yellow pad and then on a typewriter. When, complete, I would have mailed or personally delivered it to the editor. Today, I am working--data entry?--on a computer with self-correction and spell check, and will send electronically, instantly via email to our newsletter editor, **Don Elson**.

As I complete this month's message, I think: "what a wonderful age we live in and what wonderful people we have as AARP members!" We are up to the challenges and we are up to the changes. Let's make the best better! Hope to see you on the 16th.

***This I believe:***

A HUNDRED YEARS from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove. But the world may be different, because I was important in the life of another human being.

## **FUTURE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS**

The April meeting will be held at the Blacksburg Community Center on **April 16**. Be sure to make a special effort to attend and remember to bring a friend and your lunch. **We begin eating lunch at 11:30 a.m. with the program following at noon.**

April 16 -- **General Assembly Outcomes**,  
Delegate Jim Shuler,

May 21 – **Improving Memory**, Ann Glass

June 18 – **Annual Picnic**

## **BLACKSBURG SENIOR CENTER TOURS AND TRIPS**

### **Day in Mount Crawford, VA**

Start the day with a delicious buffet lunch at Ever's Family Restaurant. It's the home of the best macaroni and cheese. Afterwards you'll spend the afternoon visiting Shenandoah Heritage Family Market and the Dayton Farmer's Market. Shop for arts and crafts, cheeses, meats, wood working, Mennonite goods, clothing, bakery items, specialty foods, green house items, antiques and much more.

**When:** Thursday, April 18. Leave Center at 8:45 a.m. and return by 8 p.m.

**Cost:** \$6 residents/ \$12 non-residents - price includes transportation only.

### **On Golden Pond - Barter Theater - Abingdon, VA**

From this timeless play came the Academy Award winning screenplay starring Henry Fonda and Katherine Hepburn.

**When:** Wednesday, May 1. Depart Center at 9 a.m. Lunch at Stringers restaurant. Return to Center by 7:30 p.m.

**Cost** \$22 resident/ \$32 non-resident. Fee includes transportation and theater ticket.

For further information contact:

**Joy Herbert**, Senior Programs Supervisor  
Town of Blacksburg  
725 Patrick Henry Dr.  
Blacksburg VA 24060  
540/961-1134  
jherbert@blacksburg.gov

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

**Have you paid your 2002 dues?  
2002 BLACKSBURG AARP CHAPTER  
DUES**

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

**Please renew your membership.**

Pat Palmer is our Membership Chair. If you have friends who should be members, please bring them to the next meeting and encourage them to join. Dues can be paid at the meeting or sent to Pat. His address follows:

**Pat Palmer  
2003 Scott Drive  
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

Have I paid my dues for 2002? Check the mail label on your Newsletter. If "2002" appears on the label, you have paid.

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:

Alice Dewitt	Fay Hoy
James McCann	Edward Mundie
Beverly Printz	Nelle Trent
Lottie Trimm	

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

## LISTSERV 2613

Frank Lau

In the next few months, we are going to try an experiment, involving everyone in the Chapter. As you all know, postal expenses literally eat us alive! Postage accounts for almost one third of our annual budget. It is necessary to communicate in order to be an effective organization, but with many having access to on-line services, we should try using it to control cost.

I want to offer the service of e-mail and website to deliver the Chapter's Newsletter to as many as possible. If you don't care for the "look" of e-mail for reading, fine, I understand. But with some training for me, and a BEV website, I'll take care of that. But in the meantime, help me to build the AARP-2613 ListServ. Encouragement is needed. Please e-mail me your address! With it and others, I can feel like this will be a useful service. I am at [franklau@earthlink.net](mailto:franklau@earthlink.net). (And by the way, your address is concealed with this service, for only the organization name appears. It is up to you, if you wish to reveal your address. And if I'm reliable to do taxes, you should trust me to do the same here.

## TOURS AND TRIPS FOR SENIORS

Paul Smeal

These tours and trips are sponsored by the Montgomery County Parks and Recreation. Register early as many of the trips become full before the registration deadline date.

**Fenwick Mines Nature Hike.** Tuesday, April 23. A leisurely hike in the National Forest and explore Fenwick Mines, an area of historic and scientific interest. This site housed a mining boom in Craig County during the early 1900's and is now preserved as a wetlands area with scented gardens and trails. Fee: \$10, includes transportation and lunch. Leave 10:00 a.m. return 4:30 p.m., Gables Shopping Center. Deadline for registration is April 16.

**Mabry Mill.** Friday, May 10. Enjoy springtime in the Blue Ridge Mountains with a leisurely ride through Floyd County to take in the historic covered bridges. Lunch on you own at Mabry Mill Restaurant. A brief stop at the Bread Basket featuring homemade breads and desserts. Fee: \$5. Leave 9:00 a.m., return 3:30 p.m. Gables Shopping Center. Deadline for registration is May 3.

**Burlington, North Carolina.** Tuesday, May 21. Burlington Outlet Center. Meals enroute. Fee: \$8, transportation only. Leave 7:30 a.m. return 8:30 p.m. Gables Shopping Center. Deadline for registration is May 14.

**Buffalo Mountain Nature Hike.** Wednesday, May 29. David Richert, of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation will accompany us on a hike in the Buffalo Mountain Nature Preserve. Lunch on your own at the Blue Ridge Cafe. Fee: \$8. Leave 10:00 a.m., return 4:30 p.m. Gables Shopping Center. Deadline for registration is May 22.

**Virginia Museum of Natural History.** Friday, May 31. Tour the Virginia Museum of Natural History and join interpretative program on the Native Americans of Virginia. Lunch at Ryans Steakhouse. Fee: \$10 includes transportation, admission and craft fees. Leave 9:30 a.m., return 5:00 p.m. Gables shopping Center. Deadline for registration is May 24.

Contact Kemvia Adams-Bush, 382-6975, or e-mail: [Kemviaab@naxs.net](mailto:Kemviaab@naxs.net).

## **NEW RIVER VALLEY SENIOR OLYMPIC GAMES**

Paul Smeal

The Senior Olympic Games are open to all residents 50 years of age or older. Through a variety of athletic and social events, participants have the opportunity to display their athletic ability, exchange and share common ties and interests with other senior individuals. The emphasis is not so much competition as it is the fellowship and socialization characteristic of Senior Olympic Games. The events are held at various locations throughout the area and include, but not limited to softball, hit & throw, tennis, basketball, discus, shot put and frisbee, riflery, shuffleboard, cards (duplicate bridge, canasta, rook) golf, swimming, bowling, croquet, horseshoes, badminton, billiards and table tennis. The games are **Friday to Wednesday, April 26 to May 1, 2002**. For additional information contact Joy Herbert, Senior Programs Supervisor, 961-1134 or [jherbert@blacksburg.gov](mailto:jherbert@blacksburg.gov) or Paul Smeal, 552-4985 or [psmeal@vt.edu](mailto:psmeal@vt.edu)

There were 199 participants last year, and with your participation, the 24<sup>th</sup> year of the Senior Olympic Games can be bigger and better. They are lots of fun.

## **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 WEBSITES**

AARP has its own website, called AARP Web place, 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.

## **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 is offered including office and clerical, marketing, and all health care professions. For more information, contact Amy Vaughan at 381-0820.

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