



BLACKSBURG NEWS

Volume 20, Issue 5

Chapter # 2613

May 2003

TIME CHANGE FOR MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

9:30 a.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 20

Delegate **Jim Shuler** will give us a review of what happened in the recent session of the General Assembly and issues facing the 2004 General Assembly.

Time will be allowed for questions from the audience.

Coffee and cookies will be served (no bag lunch).

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

What a wonderful time of year this is. I love spring best of all I think, with the dogwoods, redbuds, azaleas and now rhododendrons coming into bloom. It sure makes a person feel good, especially when the grass has been freshly cut. Luckily I don't have allergies and can enjoy these things without suffering.

We have changed our meeting time, as you can see, to 9:30 a.m. next Tuesday, May 20, 2003. Jim Shuler, our state representative, is going to be here at that time, and we will wrap up by 11.00 a.m. to allow time for some of our members to attend the Tech retirees

luncheon at Custom Catering. Please be sure to bring your legislative questions or issues with you on Tuesday. This is an excellent opportunity to air your grievances, offer suggestions, or get answers from Jim. **We really need a large turnout for this meeting, to show Jim our lobby strength as well as our keen interest in how he votes for us in Richmond.**

Next month is our annual picnic, in lieu of meeting at the Senior Center. Mark that on your calendar and start thinking about a dish to bring to share with your fellow members.

You will notice from the minutes of the last board meeting that 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 a wheelchair (\$1,200), some sets of dumbbell weights (\$135), resistance bands (\$75 a box), 10 exercise mats (\$50 each), and 2 convertible cane stools (\$25 each). I haven't totaled these up but you can see what we are trying to achieve.

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! See you Tuesday.

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

1624 Hawthorne Ridge

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 in this Newsletter (green paper), please notify Ray or Don Elson.

LEGISLATIVE TAX REFORM STUDY

Dan Fleming, Legislative Chair

It is very probable that there will be a major effort in the January 2004 General Assembly to reform the archaic tax structure of Virginia. Studies already made over the past couple of years have recommended substantive changes that would impact all Virginians including seniors. One debate already underway is whether such tax reform should be revenue neutral or produce more tax revenues. The tax breaks for seniors are in the reform mix as well as possible changes in personal exemptions, "sin" taxes, corporation taxes, the sales tax, the income tax, the estate tax, the car tax, and possibly a tax on services.

The AARP Virginia Advocacy Team will be heavily involved in taking positions on possible changes in the tax code and are interested in hearing the views of AARP members at the grass roots level. The legislative committee chaired by Dan Fleming plans to begin a study of the current tax structure and prepare recommendations to bring back to the chapter for their review and input. Participating in the study will require several meetings over the summer and perhaps into the fall. If you are interested in serving on the tax reform study group, please

contact Dan Fleming, telephone number, 951-1525, or e-mail address, dbfleming@vt.edu and contact him as well if you want further information.

FUTURE MEETINGS

June 17, noon: Picnic at Nellie's Cave Park, Blacksburg. Bring a covered dish to share.

July and August: NO MEETINGS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING -- May 6, 2003

Present: Jim Owen, Ray Murley, Jim Moore, Cerrie Coil, Lula Roberts, Charlotte Beamer, Joyce A. Martin, Dale Oliver, Carl McDaniels, Dan Fleming, June Schmidt, Brian R. Allen, Clara Jane Billig, R.B. "Ben" Crawford, Phyllis Talley

The May 6, 2003 Board Meeting was called to order by president, Brian Allen at 9:30 a.m. The Agenda was approved. Minutes of the April 1st Board meeting were approved.

Financial Report: Ray Murley

Balance, April 1	\$1563.06
Income: Dues	130.00
Expenses:	\$454.89
Balance, May 6,	\$1238.17

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Ben Crawford: The AARP Voter Issues Bus is available for community special events between May 26 - Nov. 4. Report to Ben Crawford those possibilities of high-profile spots where the bus might be an asset to the festivities, e.g., Steppin' Out.

AARP Andrus Award For Community Service, 2003 Nomination Form has been received, nominations are due June 30. Bob Blanton welcomes recommendations.

The News Messenger was commended by Carl McDaniels for the excellent coverage of the April 15th AARP 'Issues for Advocates' Conference. It was moved and seconded that that a letter of appreciation be sent to the paper recognizing their excellent coverage of current issues related to seniors. The motion passed.

Paul Smeal is to be commended for his organizational skills pertaining to the Senior Olympics.

Phyllis Talley has sent letters of appreciation to local businesses that contributed gift certificates for the Issues for Advocates Conference.

AARP Certificate of Appreciation: "This certificate is awarded to Blacksburg Chapter #2613 of AARP in recognition of your steadfast support to the AARP Foundation and their mission to enhance the quality of life for all as we age." Signed by Kathleen M. Birch, Chief Development Officer, March 26, 2003.

COMMITTEE & COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTS

Membership: Joyce Martin noted an increase in membership to 222. Membership in the Chapter was promoted by distributing brochures at the "Issues Forum".

Program: It was moved and seconded that the regular program meeting scheduled for 11:30, May 20 be scheduled for 9:30 a.m., do not bring lunch. The motion passed. Del. Jim Shuler is now scheduled for Tuesday, May 20 at 9:30 a.m. to avoid conflict with the VT Retirees Association Annual Luncheon scheduled the same day. A letter noting the conflict and suggesting that future scheduling by the Retirees Association consider the AARP regular schedule in order to avoid conflicts. Both groups have a core membership of members active in both organizations. They need to be able to participate fully in each organization.

Legislative: Dan Fleming commented on the current Tax Reform bills before the General Assembly. Dan suggested a grass-roots AARP committee from Chapter #2613 be formed to research and make recommendations on the broad subject of tax reform (which hasn't been changed since 1926) and how seniors are affected. An article regarding formation of such a committee, and encouraging participation, will appear in the Chapter Newsletter.

Financial planning: Ray Murley reported that the Annual Financial Report for National AARP has been submitted. He is revising the record keeping system to better account for miscellaneous donations in addition to money received for membership dues.

Volunteer Recognition Celebration: June Schmitt submitted a report indicating \$598.12 of income-over-expense will be encumbered for 2004. Eighty people attended the April 5, 2003 celebration.

End of Life Seminar: Jim Moore reported 150 reservations for the May 10, 2003 discussion. Lunch will be provided. Planned in conjunction with NARFE, AARP, and Blacksburg Senior Center. A motion by Jim Moore, seconded by June Schmitt, that AARP contribute up to \$150 toward expenses, was passed.

Misc.

Motion was passed to cash the CD. Amendment to the motion passed, that up to \$150 of the CD be used toward expenses for the End of Life Seminar.

Motion was passed that high priority be given to contributions to the Senior Center for needed equipment. Joyce Martin, Dan Fleming, Dale Oliver will work on recommendations for community service contributions, and, contributions for the Senior Center.

June Picnic, June 17, 2003 at Nellie's Cave Park.

10:45 a.m. Meeting Adjourned

Phyllis Talley, 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

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BLACKSBURG, VA
PERMIT No. 32

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
Cerrie Coil
Dan Fleming
Joyce Martin
Don Elson
(open)
Ben Crawford
June Schmidt
Charlotte Beamer
Jim Moore

Virginia Tech Retires Association

Dan Fleming