



*Serving the greater New River Valley, Virginia*

## January 17 Chapter Meeting

### A Shared Vision for the NRV's Future: The NRV Livability Initiative

The NRV Livability Initiative was a 3-year planning process that engaged thousands of NRV residents and dozens of organizations and businesses in developing a shared vision for our region's future. Upon completion of the plan in 2014, the NRV Regional Commission and the Community Foundation of the New River Valley (CFNRV) created a partnership to help advance the goals of the plan and encourage collaboration in areas like aging in place, housing, health, economic development, and much more.

Dr. Jessica Wirgau, Executive Director of the CFNRV, will provide an overview of the Livability plan, highlight projects that

have emerged from the plan since 2014, and outline how the CFNRV is investing time and money into this important work.



### AARP Positions on the Affordable Care Act and Healthcare Reform

The AARP Chief Executive Officer has sent an extensive position paper on health care, including Medicare, prescription drugs, private insurance, and Medicaid, to all members of Congress, AARP staff, and AARP volunteer leaders. You can read it here:

<http://www.blacksburgaarp.org/aarpacoposition2017.pdf>

## President's Message *Terry Wildman*

### *Off and Running!*

Well, Happy New Year! Since I'm writing this on the first day of 2017, I'm really pleased to get to share this greeting in a timely way and to wish for you a great start to the new year. On behalf of the Chapter leadership I also thank you for your continuing support of, and participation in, our Blacksburg AARP Chapter.

As you can see from this first newsletter of 2017, the Chapter is well organized to maintain itself, grow, and serve the communities we represent throughout the New River Valley. Our officers, board members, and committee chairs have pooled a range of diverse talents to make this one of Virginia's most active and successful chapters, and to also do this work in such a collaborative and congenial way.

Further, in recent years the Chapter has cultivated a range of key partnerships in our geographical area that expand our options and enable the Chapter to do things we simply could not do alone, such as the 2016 Health and Wellness Fair and the Dr. Bill Thomas presentation co-sponsored with the Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech. We are also fortunate to have an extremely close working relationship with AARP Virginia in Richmond.

In addition to the education and service work our members carry out in our local communities, we have folks in our chapter who serve in liaison roles to track and help us stay connected with Federal and State legislation and policies that relate to AARP priorities at all levels. Clearly the years ahead will be ones to watch closely.

Now I want to say just a quick word about your role—those of you who are members but not currently serving in some official role with the Chapter. We

## Upcoming Events

January 9: Registration for spring LLI courses opens

February 1: Tax-Aide program begins (p. 7)

**Volunteer needed** to prepare the monthly newsletter for mailing (affixing labels, taking to the post office). See more details on p. 7.

### Dues are Due!

If you haven't yet paid your dues for 2017, please use the form on the back of this newsletter.

If you have paid, consider an additional contribution to the local chapter for its projects and expenses. Thanks!



### Blacksburg Chapter #2613

Chapter meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center, Patrick Henry Drive at 11:30 am. There are no meetings in July or August. Board meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center at 10:00 a.m.

### Weather Policy

The Blacksburg chapter follows the weather policy of Montgomery County schools. If schools are closed, the chapter will not meet. If the school opening is delayed, the chapter will meet.

## How to Protect Yourself from Scams Online, on the Phone, or Anywhere

by Sandy Hagman

The Internet and its associated schemes present a danger to the unsuspecting and often trusting senior community. According to Accenture, baby boomers embrace new technologies 20 times faster than millennials, including social sites, podcasts, and blogs. With this exposure, seniors become more vulnerable to online predators. In addition, seniors compose about 15% of the population; however, 30% of all cases of fraud are committed against them.

To better protect yourself from fraud and identity theft, you should be very cautious in sharing the following information:

- Address, phone number, email address
- Age, Social Security or Medicare number
- Passwords, bank account numbers, insurance policy numbers

### Phone Scams

Phone scams are numerous, including calls soliciting money for charities, offering free trips or other prizes, and making “no risk” offers. Some things to consider when you are contacted by phone:

- When contacted by an unknown person, end the call before listening to their sales talk and do not purchase anything from unsolicited callers.
- Do check out unfamiliar companies with your Better Business Bureau or the National Fraud center ([www.fraud.org/](http://www.fraud.org/)). Pay for services only after they are delivered.
- Take your time making a decision. Legitimate companies won't pressure you to make a snap decision. If a caller tells you the payment is for taxes, he or she is violating federal law.
- Do not return one-ring phone calls. Often these calls masquerade as local calls but connect you to an international location where you are charged hefty connection fees.
- If you are a Facebook user, “like” your local law enforcement agencies. They often post information about fraud in your community.
- Enroll in the national do not call registry (<https://www.donotcall.gov/>).
- Disconnect from any call that makes you uncomfortable.

### Email Scams

Bogus emails that send warnings about an account or ask you to update your personal settings are what are referred to as *phishing* scams. The sender is either trying to trick you into providing confidential information or to download malicious software that looks for personal data, including passwords, on

your computer. Use the following tips to avoid being trapped in a phishing scam or leaving personal information online.

- Avoid clicking on email, text message, or pop-up window links from unverifiable sources.
- Do not enter personal information on an unsecured website. When using any online payment services such as your bank, check that the web address begins with <https://>. The “s” at the end of “https” stands for “secure.”
- Type website URLs directly into the address bar; do not follow links.
- When using a public computer at a library or a hotel business center, avoid entering any personal information. Always logout of any website where you entered a password and close the browser.

### Use Strong Passwords

One of the best precautions against identity theft to use strong unique passwords of at least 12–14 characters on every online account and your computer and devices such as your smartphone and tablets. If you find that passwords are hard to remember, there are several excellent password management apps that you can purchase which makes using unique passwords easier.

Stay safe online and on the phone by being careful what you share. Be skeptical about any request for information. Verify the validity of an email, letter, or phone call. Safeguard your personal information and monitor your accounts for any suspicious activity.



*Sandy Hagman has been a technical writer and trainer for over 25 years. She has served as an in-house trainer for AmLaw 100 law firms and worked for outside vendors who provide training, software, and support to the legal community. As part of her work, she has developed online training on security basics for seniors.*

### AARP resources on cyber security

At <http://www.aarp.org/home-family/personal-technology/>, you can find useful information on protecting your digital information. Here are some of the articles you can find there. Scroll down the page to find the articles.

- Create Hack-Proof Passwords to Avoid Cyberattacks
- Cyberproof your Phone
- Protecting Your Online Data After You're Gone
- How to Beat the Tech Support Scam

## President's Message, continued

love seeing you at the public meetings, but anything beyond that is also welcome and invited, such as bringing visitors to meetings, helping us identify new potential members, suggesting programs you would like see us include, and getting actively involved in one or more of our committees. Let us know how we can get you more involved!

To close, this will be my second year serving in the role of Chapter president, having served first in 2015. I will do my best once again to facilitate the efforts of all the folks who work on behalf of the Chapter. And I am happy to report that for 2018 and beyond we have some exceptional folks ready to take on this role.

I hope to see you all at our monthly meetings, and when our June picnic rolls around again, my wife Sue and I would love to host everyone at our place as we did last year.



Terry Wildman and Sue Magliari at the June 2016 chapter picnic

## Blacksburg Chapter wins State AARP Education Award

At its awards banquet in Richmond on December 1, AARP Virginia presented the Blacksburg Chapter with its Education Award. The purpose of the Chapter Awards is to recognize the education, advocacy, and service work of chapters that contribute to achieving AARP's mission by highlighting outcomes and impact on their communities regardless of Chapter size or demographic. These awards give Chapters the opportunity to showcase their work for countless hours of service devoted to enhancing the experience of aging and AARP's mission.

The award recognized multiple education initiatives by the Blacksburg Chapter, including the community-wide conference, *LivingWell@50+*, in September 2015; the Bill Thomas lecture on Elderhood in April 2016; monthly meetings; newsletter, website, and Facebook; and many examples of community engagement.

See photos on p. 5

## Don Creamer Wins Andrus Award

AARP's commitment to volunteer service can be traced to its founder, Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, whose motto "to serve, not to be served" has shaped our community service efforts at the national, state, and local levels. Each year, AARP honors the legacy of Dr. Andrus with the AARP Virginia Andrus Award for Community Service.

The annual Andrus Award for Community Service is AARP's most prestigious and visible volunteer award. It recognizes individuals who are sharing their experience, talent, and skills to enrich their communities in ways that are consistent with AARP's mission, vision, and commitment to volunteer service, and that inspire others to volunteer. Only one Virginia volunteer can receive the Award.

As president of the Blacksburg Chapter of the AARP twice (2012, 2016) and as a board member of the chapter for more than a decade, Don G. Creamer has been a visionary leader who has helped to transform the opportunities for people who are 50+ in the New River Valley. He is a member of the program committee of the Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech (LLI), launched in 2015. He started and co-chaired the committee that planned and implemented a conference, "Living Well @ 50+," a day-long event of seminars, displays, and presentations for more than 200 people that launched the LLI. He also was the lead organizer for the spring 2016 presentation by Dr. Bill Thomas, "Disrupting Aging," which also attracted more than 200 participants.

These events have changed the conversation about aging in the New River Valley and given people many opportunities to learn, teach, socialize, and develop new skills. Don is currently exploring ways to contribute AARP volunteer effort to a "Time Bank" initiative for donating and receiving needed services in this region. He puts good ideas into action.

Don G. Creamer developed his leadership skills by serving for 45 years in six colleges/universities as a Director, Dean, and Professor. He served as President of the American College Personnel Association-International, the primary professional association for student affairs practitioners and educators. He also served as President of the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education, which developed the standards by which institutional practice and graduate education in student affairs would be evaluated. In 2005, Creamer retired from Virginia Tech as professor emeritus of higher education.

He has been an active member of the AARP Blacksburg Chapter since his retirement from Virginia Tech. As a chapter member and officer, he has moved the chapter forward to increase the chapter's level of community service and has increased the visibility of AARP in Southwest Virginia and beyond.

He has envisioned an activist and well-linked organization that has real impact on the community and the lives of seniors. And he has led us in managing our work and communication with technology and tools, including the development of a comprehensive website and experimentation with social media.



# Scenes from the December Luncheon

Photos by Peter Magolda

Jerry Niles received the chapter Service Award for his work in founding the Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech. In presenting the award, Pat Hyer, a co-recipient of last year's award, noted, "I am convinced that Jerry was tapped by Virginia Tech to launch the Lifelong Learning Institute because he has two precious talents—he listens well (especially when his hearing aid batteries are fresh) and he gets things done by engaging others. He was the right person for this job and the early success of LLI is a testament to his efforts. The fact that he is willing to pass out parking passes in the parking lot, fiddle endlessly with projectors and computers, and visit every single class to make sure everything is going well is simply a reflection of who he is and how much he cares that the experience is as good as it can be for everyone."

Jerry is also a volunteer with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of the New River Valley.



Todd Solberg



Sandy Birch, Chaplain, offers one of her graceful meditations as the luncheon begins.



Sally Anna Stapleton, Community Service chair, received the chapter's Spirit Award. In presenting the award, Pat Ballard, recipient of last year's award, said, "No one exemplifies the spirit of volunteering more than she does. You may see her collecting food in front of Kroger, manning booths at events, working with RSVP and serving on boards."



Mirt Corte



Violet Drake, Caring Committee Chair, and Margaret Kates



Wendy Baldwin, Jennie Reilly, and Angela Little receive special recognition for organizing the expanded and highly successful Health and Wellness Fair of 2016.





Thais Beams, luncheon coordinator, visits with Shirley Strother.



Jim Dau (r), AARP Virginia State Director, congratulates Don Creamer on his Andrus Award in Richmond, December 2016.



L-R: Don Creamer, Terry Wildman, Wendy Baldwin, Carol Crawford, and Ben Crawford attended the awards banquet in Richmond at which Don (Andrus Award) and the chapter (Education Award) were honored with awards (see awards descriptions on p. 3).



At the December 14 luncheon, the Blacksburg AARP chapter presented checks to eight NRV agencies that serve seniors. The chapter gets this money from meeting raffles, member donations, and proceeds from the Health Fair. Receiving the awards on behalf of their organizations, L-R:

- Joy Herbert, Blacksburg Community Center;
- Tammy Caldwell, Christiansburg Community Center—Wellness Fair;
- Pastor John Wertz, Soup for Seniors (St. Michael Lutheran Church);
- Jessica Wirgau, Community Foundation of the NRV—Aging in Place and Blacksburg Senior Center Endowment Fund;
- Chris Blankenship, NRV Agency on Aging—Medical Transport;
- Mandy Hayes, RSVP—Supplies for Seniors;
- Pam Teaster, VT Center for Gerontology.

# Chapter Activities and Leadership 2016, 2017

## Chapter Achievements 2016

by Don Creamer, 2016 president

### Awards

Don Creamer won the coveted **Andrus Award**—one given in Virginia each year

Won 2016 State AARP **Chapter Education Award**

### Initiatives and Projects

Co-hosted **Dr. Bill Thomas presentation** with the Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech, April 23, attended by 250+; conducted a round-table discussion with local organization leaders.

2016 **Health and Wellness Fair**: recruited and formed a new committee, 130 exhibitors, 450+ attended (thanks to Wendy Baldwin, Jennie Reilly, and Angela Little)

**Tax-Aide program**: served 400+ clients (thanks to Pat Ballard) Collected 2,460 lbs. of food for Blacksburg and Christiansburg food pantries at the September 13 **annual food drive** (thanks to Sally Anna Stapleton)

Tracked **Virginia and National Legislative initiatives** of interest to AARP objectives (thanks to Val Coluni and Alison Galway)

Co-hosted **social/fundraising event** at White Barrel Winery

### Organizational Activities

15 active chapter **committees**

Conducted 8 **public meetings** featuring a variety of programs plus June picnic, celebrating the chapter's 40th anniversary, and December Holiday Luncheon

Provided **hospitality** at public events (thanks to Thais Beams)

Published 9 Chapter **newsletters** (thanks to Carolyn Rude)

Maintained **website** with up-to-date information about the Chapter and Chapter activities (thanks to Don Creamer)

Initiated the use of **MailChimp** for email communications

Initiated a chapter **Facebook** account

Continued **Senior Chronicles** (see [www.blacksburgaarp.org](http://www.blacksburgaarp.org))

### Community Engagement

Continued and developed robust **partnerships**: AARP Virginia, VCOM, NRV Agency on Aging, Lifelong Learning Institute at VT, Warm Hearth Village Retirement Community, Center for Gerontology at VT, VT Retirees Association, YMCA at Virginia Tech, Community Foundation of the NRV, Blacksburg TimeBank, Downtown Blacksburg Inc.

Participated in **state AARP Advocacy, Legislative, and Volunteer meetings**

Participated in **Supplies for Seniors Walk-A-Thon** and in **Summer Solstice 5K race**

Served as **sponsor for Warm Hearth Foundation fundraiser**—Cheeseburger in Parrot-dise event

Exhibited at **Hokie Wellness Health & Benefits Fair** and at Blacksburg **Steppin' Out** festival

## Chapter Officers 2017

President • Terry Wildman, [wiley@vt.edu](mailto:wiley@vt.edu)

Vice President • Wendy Baldwin, [wendybburg@gmail.com](mailto:wendybburg@gmail.com)

Secretary • Pat Hyer, [hyerp@vt.edu](mailto:hyerp@vt.edu)

Treasurer • Pat Ballard, [pballard@vt.edu](mailto:pballard@vt.edu)

### Board of Directors

• 2017—Pat Hyer, Jerry Niles, Shirley Peterson

• 2018—Wendy Baldwin, Ryan Martin, Ray Van Dyke

• 2019—Tamara Hodsdon, Peter Magolda, Jim Montgomery, Wanda Smith

### 2017 Committee Chairs

AARP of Virginia Liaison—Ben Crawford

AARP Tax Preparation—Pat Ballard

Virginia Tech Retirees Liaison—June Schmidt

Town of Blacksburg/Community Center Liaison—Joy Herbert

Awards—Shirley Peterson

Caring—Violet Drake

Chaplain—Sandy Birch

Community Service—Sally Anna Stapleton

Financial Planning and Audit—June Schmidt

Health Fair—Jennie Reilly, Angela Little, Wendy Baldwin

History—Sally Anna Stapleton

Hospitality—Thais Beams

Legislative—Ryan Martin

LLI Partnership: Pat Hyer, Don Creamer

Membership—Ryan Martin, Tom Alston, Jim Wightman

Newsletter—Carolyn Rude

Program—Terry Wildman

TimeBank Liaison—Val Coluni

Website—Don Creamer

## Membership Report 2016

Category	Individuals	Households
AARP 2016 Members	111	69
AARP 2017 Members	110	67
LifeTime Members	34	22
Life Members	17	15
Comp Members	22	22
Honorary Members	2	1
Total Membership	296	196

2017 members are 2016 members who have renewed.

Life members are 90 or older.





**1. Town of Blacksburg Council and Airbnb.** Our Council is now dealing with an organization (AIRBNB) in an emerging industry. They rent out rooms/lodging to guests with people who are registered with them (home owners/property owners) on a short-term basis. They collect a fee for connecting customers with the providers.

Customers do not pay a room tax fee for this service like those who stay at traditional hotels in our community. Airbnb also does not pay room/lodging taxes for their paid referrals. In a couple of recent cases residential neighborhoods have become almost like tourist zones.

Our Council has developed a number of rules/regulations to minimize any adverse consequences to our neighborhoods. They will be voting on these proposals soon. Other Virginia communities are also discussing similar actions to protect their communities. Some feel that our state legislators should be dealing with this situation so there is uniformity across the state. Please communicate your thoughts to our representatives both in the town and at the state.

**2. Tax scammers.** It's tax time again and our Internal Revenue Scammers ("IRS") are with us again. So far over \$300 million has been turned over to them. If you receive a contact from anyone claiming to be from the IRS, contact the IRS directly at 800-829-1040, or contact your local police department. The IRS Agency does not initiate phone calls demanding immediate payment of back taxes.

**3. Age discrimination?** Is it a "Senior Myth?" Would you believe the 55 and over age population in the U.S. is actually the only age group with a rising labor force participation? Also, 60% of workers 65 and older have full time positions! Is this a good example of "LIFE REIMAGINED?"

### **Volunteers Needed: Prepare the Newsletter for Mailing**

Could you spare a few hours during the first week of each month (except for July, August, and December) to prepare printed newsletters for mailing?

The task requires picking up the newsletters at KopyKorner in Christiansburg, affixing mailing labels and tabs, completing an online postal service form, and taking the newsletters to the Blacksburg post office.

This would be a great job for a couple of people to do together. You can affix labels and tabs at home.

If you'd like to know more, please contact Angela Little, [anglitt33@gmail.com](mailto:anglitt33@gmail.com).

## **The AARP Tax-Aide program**

The 2017 tax-aid program begins February 1 and ends April 15. The location is the Christiansburg Recreation Center (Senior Activity Room). If you need help with your taxes, please call to schedule an appointment: 382-2349.

Counselors will be available for preparing taxes according to this schedule:

1:00 – 4:00 pm, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday

9:00 am – noon, Saturday

If you are interested in volunteering with this program, please contact Pat Ballard: [pballard@vt.edu](mailto:pballard@vt.edu) • 382-1189

## **Great Decisions Program Begins Feb. 8**

The Montgomery County League of Women Voters and the Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech invite the public to participate in **Great Decisions**, an annual eight-week nonpartisan community discussion on international affairs. This award-winning program, using materials prepared by the Foreign Policy Association, is in its 63<sup>rd</sup> year and is presented in many locations nationwide.

Great Decisions begins Wednesday, February 8, 2017, from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm and will continue for eight consecutive Wednesdays. Sessions will be held at the German Club Manor on Southgate Drive in Blacksburg.

Discussion topics for the 2017 program include: The Future of Europe; Trade and Politics; Conflict in the South China Sea; Saudi Arabia in Transition; US Foreign Policy and Petroleum; Latin America's Political Pendulum; Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan; and Nuclear Security.

Great Decisions helps you make sense of these complex topics and rapidly changing events. Read a short essay from a briefing book and view a video prepared by the Foreign Policy Association, then join a discussion with community members facilitated by a local expert, usually a faculty member.

Great Decisions is one of 20 courses offered by the Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) in Spring 2017. Course participants will be required to become LLI members (\$35), but there is no course fee for Great Decisions, in recognition of the partnership with the League of Women Voters. The Great Decisions briefing book may be purchased for \$25 from Volume II bookstore. A copy will be on reserve in the Blacksburg library for in-library use. A Kindle version is available from Amazon.

Register for Great Decisions and all other LLI programs at the LLI website: [www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning](http://www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning). If you need registration assistance, please email or call Leah Coffman, LLI Registrar, 540-231-4364 (direct line) or 540-231-5182.



Blacksburg Chapter #2613  
 Terry Wildman, President  
 P.O. Box 10082  
 Blacksburg, VA 24062

**Nonprofit  
 Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Blacksburg, VA  
 Permit No. 32**

**AARP Member Application for 2017**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual (*Calendar Year*) Dues: **\$15.00** (*includes spouse or partner*)

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ 90+ years old (free) \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider an additional donation to support our AARP chapter and its projects. \$10\_\_\_\_ \$25\_\_\_\_ \$50\_\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_\_ Other \$\_\_\_\_

Donations to the Blacksburg Chapter help us carry out our mission and community service activities while keeping member dues as low as possible. However, donations to the chapter are not tax deductible.

Please make your check payable to "Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613."  
 Mail the check and this form to: .

Tom Alston - P.O. Box 10082 • Blacksburg, VA 24062





*Serving the greater New River Valley, Virginia*

**February 21 Chapter Meeting**

**Railroading in the New River Valley**

**B**ud Jeffries, official historian for the 611 Steam Excursion Program at the Virginia Museum of Transportation in Roanoke and owner of the Ingles Farm in Radford, will share his extensive knowledge of railroading in the New River Valley at the February 21 meeting of the chapter.

The coming of the railroads 1850s provided a boost to the development of southwestern Virginia and the New River Valley. Jeffries will highlight that development and the influence of railroads on the region. A rail line eventually came to Blacksburg and had a major impact on the community and the college in Blacksburg by connecting it to the outside world. While the influence of the rail connection to Blacksburg decreased in time, it nonetheless was instrumental in the building of the region and the university to their current form. History was made when the railroads came to Blacksburg and added interesting folklore to the area as well.



Mr. Jeffries is a graduate of Virginia Tech, a retired army Colonel, an author of books on railroading in the New River Valley, and a cattle rancher in Radford.

**President's Message** *Terry Wildman*

**Uncertain times—*anxiety*—helpful resolutions?**

**B**y the time you read this newsletter, we will be well into 2017, or at least far enough for most folks to have some inkling as to the status of their latest New Year's resolutions. If you woke up on the first day of the year enamored by some new diet scheme, then I hope that's going well for you. Or, if your boss hasn't given you a raise in five years, your resolution may finally be to ask for one. But if this hasn't happened by the time you read this, chances are you've already chickened out.

OK, I know, these are not the kinds of things that interest our crowd. Chances are we may have some more fundamental things in mind. For example, I decided just before 2017 started that I needed a phone even "more smart" than the "very smart" phone I already had, realizing at the same time my ability to effectively operate either is severely compromised. But I do have intentions, having purchased (not kidding) extensive 200-page books promising to unlock the secrets of these shiny little instruments. And I promise to get to the latest one as soon as I get through the three spy novels cued up on my Kindle. There: a resolution of sorts.

To be honest though, none of the above concerns me very much. My real problem is that I know too much, or perhaps more accurately said, I hear too much. That's right, I keep my ear to the ground, or at least that might be the operative expression back in the day. The modern version of this is cable news and the fact that in my truck I can touch any of four buttons and instantly connect with the major competitors ranging from liberal to conservative, and, believe me, each employs a lot of talkers. These for the most part are pretty excitable folks, and during 2016 you can pretty much guess what the conversations were about, except when interrupted on air

**Upcoming Events**

- February 20: "GerryRIGGED," a documentary at the Lyric (p. 5)
- March 2: The New River Valley Livability in Action: Regional Exchange (p. 3)
- March 2: Gerrymandering in Virginia: How to Fix it (p. 5)

*Thanks to Judith and Roy Jones, who have volunteered to prepare our newsletter for mailing.*

**Time to Renew Your Membership!**

Your 2017 membership dues are now due.

Our membership is for the calendar year. If "2017" appears on your mailing label, you have already paid. If "2016" is on your label, please send in your dues for 2017. You may use the form on the last page of this newsletter to renew your membership.



**Blacksburg Chapter #2613**

Chapter meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center, Patrick Henry Drive at 11:30 am. There are no meetings in July or August. Board meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center at 10:00 am.

**Weather Policy**

The Blacksburg chapter follows the weather policy of Montgomery County schools. If schools are closed, the chapter will not meet. If the school opening is delayed, the chapter will meet.

Most of us have heard of cremation and of burial to honor the death of our loved ones or friends, but there are other ways to handle a body that you might be new and unique to you. Why should you consider one of the methods? Because our environment is becoming a concern to all of us.

Each year enough metal to build the Golden Gate Bridge is buried. Caskets can be made of many different materials including bronze, copper and steel. Even on wooden caskets (some made of endangered species of wood) have handles made of metal or metal clasps. Enough wood is buried to build 1800 single family homes.

Formaldehyde, used in embalming, is highly toxic, causing eye and lung irritation. Yet, enough formaldehyde is used annually to fill 8 Olympic sized swimming pools. And once buried, this can go into our soil and aquifers which are drinking sources for many.

Cremation requires heat of 1800 degrees Fahrenheit for 2–3 hours. While cremation is becoming more and more popular (approximately 50% in 2015), the amount of fossil fuel needed to complete a cremation is about the same as driving a car 4,800 miles.

Thirteen states also allow what is called cool cremation or alkaline hydrolysis. This process, which has been used for years by universities and teaching facilities, including the Mayo Clinic, requires 92 gallons of water mixed with 4 gallons of lye. The chemicals render themselves inert and can be recycled after being put down a drain. There are “remains” should the family want something to bury or scatter. Unfortunately, Virginia does not have any funeral homes offering this service. Hopefully, one will come soon.

So what other options exist? Green burials and cemeteries are becoming more and more popular. A green burial can take place in a regular cemetery, a “green cemetery,” or on private land. In Blacksburg, you can bury one body legally on your property. However, this must be disclosed on your deed when you sell your property, and state law mandates that the buyer allow the family to “visit” their loved one in perpetuity. If you have acreage, this might not be a concern, but it might lower the value of your home within the city limits.

There are a few green cemeteries in Virginia, and the number is growing. Among other places, there are green cemeteries near Harrisonburg, Lexington, and Williamsburg. The closest green burial cemetery is at Boones Mill, just outside of Roanoke. In a green cemetery, you are not allowed to embalm, and caskets must be totally decomposable—no metal or plastic. Some people choose to wrap the loved one’s body in a favorite old quilt or simple pine casket or even a sturdy cardboard box. A British company that produces

“ecopods” is looking for a North American manufacturer (<http://www.ecopod.co.uk/>). A grave marker might or might not be allowed. One cemetery allows fieldstone that can be engraved.

Other “green” ideas include using a biodegradable urn that contains a single tree seed. When planted, the tree seed is nourished by and absorbs the nutrients of the ashes. These run about \$250. (See <http://www.ecopod.co.uk/arka-acorn-urn/>). A Capsula Mundi is a container shaped like an egg into which a body is placed in a fetal position. A tree is planted on top which the person can choose prior to death (<http://www.capsulamundi.it/en/>). EcoEternity Forest, near Williamsburg, offers a memorial forest for the burial of ashes.

Enjoy the ocean? Your ashes can be mixed with others and concrete and you can become a reef off the coast of Florida or Maine that will be home to corals and fish. There are many other choices.



Lastly, one can donate their body to science. The State Anatomical Division coordinates body donation for educational institutions. (See <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/medical-examiner/vsap/>) Arrangements must be made prior to death. There are many restrictions, so one must always have a “Plan B” should the body be rejected for donation.

The website at <http://deathforbeginners.com/greenburialva.html> includes names of green burial sites and funeral service providers in Virginia and nearby.

For more information contact the Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Virginia Blue Ridge at [fcavbr@gmail.com](mailto:fcavbr@gmail.com).

*Sandy Schlaudecker is the president of the local Funeral Consumers Alliance.*

*Isabel Berney is an active member and the volunteer administrator of the Funeral Consumers Alliance.*



## President's Message *continued*

with an actual emergency.

Now, I'll admit that the year left me in a frazzled state of mind. This was disturbing enough that I'm now taking some baby steps to enter a different reflective space. As a retired person I have some free time, so occasionally I browse through Barnes & Noble—no particular reason, although perhaps unknowingly looking for sources of inspiration. So, on one of these occasions I picked up an impressive looking book of quotes (the title suggested it would change your life), and on another trip picked up a book titled "Good Poems," selected and edited by Garrison Keillor. These are stacked handily for a quick look at night before bedtime, and I will have to admit that I quite often do take advantage of this.

For example, a short quote attributed to Gertrude Stein captured one very real danger of my cable news addiction: *Everyone gets so much information all day long that they lose their common sense.* Now, I'll just leave it to readers to fill in here what they consider to be the most egregious potential losses of common sense amongst our population today (*fake news* anyone?) given the variety of persistent information sources, including social media.

For me—another resolution.... I'm resolving to put some distance between me and my "talking head" friends on XM radio. Instead, I'll be spending more time on Willy's Roadhouse, Outlaw Country, Classic Vinyl, and Deep Tracks, a move my wife strongly endorses. Recently, on a several-hour trip, I enjoyed a fairly deep immersion into bar stool philosophy, lost love, lonely walls, honkytonk nights, heartbreak, and bartender therapy. Arriving happy and relaxed, I figured this is a resolution I can live with.

Perhaps on a slightly more serious note, given these (objectively, I think) disturbing times, it seems useful to not lose track of who we are. Maintaining an identity that is pretty well anchored (metaphor intended) may be the lifeline we need when the temptation strikes to go and play in the information muck that passes for news entertainment these days. Who wants to end the day angry, anxious, and fearful of some threat that is not even that well defined? Of course, this condition is perfect for the demagogues who will sell any story to create some explanation to soothe discomfort.

I'll conclude with a short poem selected by Garrison Keillor for his collection. I found this a few days ago simply by opening a random page in Keillor's 433-page collection. It's by Joyce Sutphin, and titled "Girl on a Tractor."

I knew the names of all the cows before  
I knew my alphabet, but no matter the  
subject, I had mastery of it, and when  
it came time to help in the fields, I  
learned to drive a tractor at just the right  
speed, so that two men, walking  
on either side of the moving wagon  
could each lift a bale, walk towards  
the steadily moving platform and  
simultaneously hoist the hay onto  
the rack, walk to the next bale, lift,  
turn, and find me there, exactly where  
I should be, my hand on the throttle,  
carefully measuring out the pace.

Terry Wildman,  
Tallahassee,  
Florida,  
around 1974

## Meet new (and former) board member, Jim Montgomery

Jim Montgomery, a familiar face around the table at Board Meetings, returned this year for another term. During the time when away, he has been serving on the advisory council of the Agency on Aging. When not attending AARP activities, you will find Jim at his law office in Blacksburg engaged in the practice of elder law, estates, and probate of estates.

Jim, when at leisure, spends his time reading and keeping up with his grandchildren and his great grandchildren. Unless you have time on your hands, do not offer to exchange family stories or pictures with him.

Welcome back, Jim, and thanks for serving.



---

## Livability Initiative—Regional Exchange March 2

The Livability in Action Regional Exchange will provide an opportunity for groups and small businesses to come together, network, share, and learn about new and exciting work underway across the region that supports the goals and priorities of the Livability Initiative and to identify potential partnerships and collaborations.

The Event Centre, 1655 Roanoke St, Christiansburg  
2:30–5:30 pm

See [nrvlivability.org/get-involved/events](http://nrvlivability.org/get-involved/events) for the agenda and registration information.

---

What fun to find this! This was my own life, of course. I have been the girl as well as the men lifting the bales, and I know the tractor, the wagon, the field, and everything about it.

With this foundation, the *talking heads* don't have a chance.





## Remembrance of friends who died in 2016

I'm not what you call a "deep thinker"...spending time pondering life's meanings and directions. Much of what I believe can often be summed up in the short sentences or phrases printed on inexpensive plaques that I can hang on my wall. For example, regarding friendships, let me share some favorite sayings.

"Friends are life's greatest gift."

"Friends are gifts wrapped in ribbons of thoughtfulness and trimmed with laughter and love."

"Friends and wine—the older the better."

"The greatest gift you ever own is not found in the shops or under your Christmas tree. It is found in the hearts of your family and your true friends."

"A friend is one of the nicest things you can have, and one of the best things you can be."

Today we remember and celebrate six of our departed members who were our friends...six wonderful gifts that we enjoyed and kept for as long as we could.

**Ann McDaniels**, who had moved to Bridgewater, VA with Carl, her husband of 64 years, passed away on January 5. She taught music in Virginia public schools and was an accomplished seamstress and quilter. In 1969, the family moved to Blacksburg where she resided for 43 years and was an active member of the Virginia Tech Faculty Women's Club, a member of the Blacksburg United Methodist Church, and a multiple Paul Harris Fellow from the Blacksburg Rotary Club. Ann was 86.



**Betty Foy** passed away on March 30. She graduated from the Knox General Hospital School of Nursing in 1952 and went on to work in various nursing positions in Tennessee, Missouri, California, Maryland and Virginia. In addition to serving her patients well, Betty also served her family, community and church selflessly...and especially shared the gift of hospitality. She and husband Chester, married 62 years, hosted hundreds of people in their home over the years, for meals and overnight from the Blacksburg and Virginia Tech communities and others from abroad. Betty was 84.

**T. Marshall Hahn Jr.**, 11<sup>th</sup> President of Virginia Tech from 1962 to 1974, oversaw the transition of Tech from an all-male military college to a nationally renowned university. Mar-

shall passed away on May 19, after a decade-long battle with Parkinson's disease. After his tenure at Virginia Tech, Marshall and his wife Peggy, moved to Portland, Oregon, and later Atlanta, Georgia, where he served as President and CEO of Georgia Pacific Corporation, parlaying a degree in physics to selling toilet paper to the world. After his retirement, Marshall and Peggy moved back to their home at Hickory Hill Farm where they continued to raise cattle, sheep, goats, and eye-brows. Marshall was 89.

**JoAnn Underwood**, president of the Blacksburg AARP chapter in 2008, passed away quietly surrounded by family and friends at Warm Hearth Village on November 13. She was a loving sister, mother and grandmother, as well as an artist, feminist, nurse, health educator, loyal friend, community builder—and a rabble-rouser. She was known as the "Dr. Ruth of Virginia Tech" when she worked there in the 80s and 90s because she talked freely about healthy sexuality. In addition, JoAnn served as the progressive leader for gay/lesbian acceptance and in 2014 received the Virginia Tech Ally of the Year award, now renamed the JoAnn Underwood Ally Award in her honor, for her work with the LGBT community. JoAnn was 87.

**Wayne Patty** passed away on December 8. He enjoyed his 40 years in the Mathematics Department at Virginia Tech, having served 25 of those years as department chair. He also served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. Wayne was a devoted member of the Fairlawn Presbyterian Church in Radford and is survived by his wife Diane and their three children. He was 84.

**Paul (Tony) Distler**, Alumni Distinguished Professor Emeritus who devoted most of his adult years to creating and building the Arts at Virginia Tech and in the New River Valley, passed away on December 28. Hired at Virginia Tech to inaugurate a theatre program in 1967, Tony also took over the music program 3 years later and developed a communications program as well. In 1979, he became the Director of the new School of the Arts. Tony created the Marching Virginians in 1973, now a 330-member marching band, and was the PA announcer for the band for 40 years. Tony's commitment and work also extended to Warm Hearth Village and Planned Parenthood. He was 79.

We give thanks today for these wonderful friends...truly life's greatest gifts.

**1. VEDP (Virginia Economic Development Partnership):** a state agency that failed us—a deal gone bad! VEDP approved a grant of \$1.4 million (unsecured) to Lindenburg Industry to convert a furniture factory into a catalytic converter plant. The plant was to employ over 300 people and provide other financial stimulus to our state. THE PLANT NEVER OPENED. And there are now no former Lindenburg assets to repay the loan other than an empty building and foreclosure monies now in control of a Virginia Court. Two or three parties including the State are attempting to obtain the money from the court for their expenses and past services to Lindenburg.

**How did this happen?** VEDP never validated if Lindenburg was a qualified company to receive the grant and did not practice due diligence in approving the grant. In addition, Lindenburg performed a number of acts to mislead investors which were not discovered until late in the cycle. Unfortunately, VEDP was set-up years ago as a quasi-independent agency allowing them to avoid the normal control over State agencies. The primary parties who approved the grant are no longer employed by VEDP.

**What is being done to avoid future mishaps like this?** Both the Governor and the General Assembly are proposing various measures to control the operational acts of VEDP both internally and externally. And efforts are also being made to recover the monies now being held by the Virginia Court. The outlook for the money being returned is unknown.

**A lesson painfully learned!** Both the Governor and General Assembly members must insure in the future these semi-independent agencies have much better controls both internally and externally and be closely managed through effective oversight with strict accountability measurements in place. AND FOR US? We must more effectively communicate to our representatives that transparency in government is not a public relations slogan but one of the criteria we will use in measuring their performance.

**2. Long term care-nursing homes.** Previously patients in federally funded homes were required to sign arbitration agreements to settle their disputes with the owners. Under new rules soon to be released, they will be allowed to use the courts thereby giving more transparency to their family and the general public about the conditions in these homes.

**3. State AARP 2017 Legislative Priorities.** A first draft has been released and RETIREMENT SECURITY seems to be at the top of the list as it was in 2016. Many Virginians have no convenient way to save for retirement via payroll deductions through their employer. Some of the other priorities are state assistance for family caregivers and an expanded program for those in-patient care homes who are not able to speak for themselves.

## Gerrymandering in Virginia

Virginia is the 5th worst gerrymandered state in the union, based on lack of compactness and contiguity of its districts, both congressional and state. Gerrymandering is the process by which political district lines are drawn by the very politicians who stand to benefit by them. In Virginia, state legislators redraw district lines after every 10-year census (the next one is in 2020).

Two upcoming programs provide information and suggest solutions.

**Lyric Theatre, Monday, February 20, 3:00 pm** (President's Day)  
**GerryRIGGED: Turning Democracy On Its Head**

This one-hour documentary shows how technology has made gerrymandering such an exact science that, in most cases, incumbents cannot lose and challengers cannot win. In this documentary, we see how non-partisan reform efforts now underway in Virginia and elsewhere can change this dangerous trend and return political power to the voters. Produced by Richmond Public Television (WCVE) and OneVirginia 2021.

**Blacksburg Municipal Building, Thursday, March 2, 7:30–9 pm**  
**Gerrymandering in Virginia: How We Can Fix It**

**Bob Gibson**, journalist and immediate past director of the Sorensen Institute for Political Action at the University of Virginia, and the Honorable **Shannon Valentine**, former member of the House of Delegates, will speak on how the redistricting process works in Virginia and what we need to do to fix it so that districts reflect the population rather than being artificial constructs to ensure a legislator's re-election. The program is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County and the Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech.

This discussion is timely because the next census is not far away, and a nonpartisan redistricting procedure requires a constitutional amendment.

Both the film and the discussion are free and open to the public.

## Chapter Officers 2017

President • Terry Wildman, wiley@vt.edu

Vice President • Wendy Baldwin, wendybburg@gmail.com

Secretary • Pat Hyer, hyerp@vt.edu

Treasurer • Pat Ballard, pballard@vt.edu

## Board of Directors

• 2017—Pat Hyer, Jerry Niles, Shirley Peterson

• 2018—Wendy Baldwin, Ryan Martin, Ray Van Dyke

• 2019—Tamara Hodsdon, Peter Magolda, Jim Montgomery, Wanda Smith



Blacksburg Chapter #2613  
 Don Creamer, President  
 P.O. Box 10082  
 Blacksburg, VA 24062

**Nonprofit  
 Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Blacksburg, VA  
 Permit No. 32**

**AARP Member Application for 2017**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual (*Calendar Year*) Dues: **\$15.00** (*includes spouse or partner*)

New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ 90+ years old (free) \_\_\_

Please consider an additional donation to support our AARP chapter and its projects. \$10\_\_\_ \$25\_\_\_ \$50\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_ Other \$\_\_\_

Donations to the Blacksburg Chapter help us carry out our mission and community service activities while keeping member dues as low as possible. However, donations to the chapter are not tax deductible.

Please make your check payable to "Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613."  
 Mail the check and this form to: .

Tom Alston - P.O. Box 10082 • Blacksburg, VA 24062





*Serving the greater New River Valley, Virginia*

## March 21 Chapter Meeting

### Update on Blacksburg's Sojourn Center

Sojourn Center is a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to state-of-the-art compassionate care for terminally ill people and their families in the New River Valley. Sojourn Center will build a hospice house in the New River Valley to serve hospice patients who temporarily need more intensive care, or who can no longer be cared for at home, as well as hospice patients who need short-term respite care so their family can take a break from care giving.

Sojourn Center's hospice house will provide a lovely, peaceful, and comfortable setting for both the patient and loved ones at the bedside. In addition, the house will become a training site for students of medicine and nursing to learn appropriate care for dying people in a setting where death is considered an expected and normal part of life—an event to be honored, without the stigma of a “failure” by modern medicine. Sojourn Center will improve the culture of end-of-life care in the New River Valley.

Dr. Tina Smusz, Hospice and Palliative Care physician and Vice President of the Sojourn Center Board, and Anne Campbell, President of the Sojourn Center Board, will speak to AARP about Sojourn Center's plans for the future.



Anne Judkins Campbell exhibits on Sojourn Center at the 2016 AARP Health Fair

## President's Column by Terry Wildman

### Truth, Harbingers, and Confusion

#### Truth

These days, who knows it?

Is it what I think, or feel, or decide to make into a case? Perhaps not your case, yet, but one giving me that silly smile of sudden knowing.

My case is this—  
Spring arrived early 2017—  
precisely on February 18,  
just as daylight faded.  
The announcement came  
on a gentle breeze, carrying  
the perfectly discernable  
sleigh bell trilling song of  
the Peepers.

Bring on the silly smile!  
Happy time, a toast is in order!  
Spring is here! So soon...  
Forget Phil from Pennsylvania,  
the real authorities have spoken.  
These little frogs, hidden  
in their low lying wet places,  
under leaves and debris,  
partially frozen, then released  
in warm air. Searching for mates,  
they must be unaware  
their urgent message finds  
other willing ears who now know  
the truth

#### Harbingers

Of course, we know that Peepers are not the only harbingers of spring. We do tend to triangulate a bit with our data you know. There are the crocuses, pushing their purple buds into view, the irrepressible daffodils, greening stems everywhere, and the robins. You probably have your own particular signs, and not

## Upcoming Events

- April 8: The Big Event (p. 4)
- April 17, 18: AARP Safe Driving Class, Christiansburg
- April 22: Outdoor Living Expo (p. 4)
- April 26: GiveBigNRV 2017 (p. 4)

## Driver Safety Class

April 17, 18: 9:30 am–1 pm (both days), Christiansburg Recreation Center  
\$12 AARP members, \$14 non-members  
Eligibility: age 50+  
Register in person at the Christiansburg Recreation Center; deadline April 10  
The course teaches proven driving techniques to help keep you and your loved ones safe on the road. Completing the course may make you eligible for a discount on your auto insurance.



## Blacksburg Chapter #2613

Chapter meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center, Patrick Henry Drive at 11:30 am. There are no meetings in July or August. Board meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center at 10:00 am.

## Weather Policy

The Blacksburg chapter follows the weather policy of Montgomery County schools. If schools are closed, the chapter will not meet. If the school opening is delayed, the chapter will meet.

## Meet New AARP Board Members

Welcome, Tamara and Peter!

**Tamara Hodsden** grew up in California but spent her career with General Motors in Michigan and Indiana, where she was an executive on the Corporate Labor Relations Staff and Human Resource Staff as well as Regional Personnel Director for several plant personnel activities in GM plants across the country. She was the first female executive to manage the Corporate Labor Relations Arbitration activity.

Her husband, Davis (deceased in 2015), was a Hokie, so they visited the New River Valley every year and purchased land in Newport in the late 1980s. They developed their farm and home and retired to this area in 1999.

Davis and Tamara established Flotilla 83 of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary on Claytor Lake in 2003, helping to build it to its current 50+ members. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is a volunteer, civilian, non-military arm of the U.S. Coast Guard. It serves the public through boating safety classes, vessel safety exams, and safety patrols on the water. The boat patrols work in partnership with a radio operator on land to rescue boaters in trouble and to monitor events. Davis and Tamara taught and trained the initial and subsequent members on the water and in the classroom and patrolled on the weekends from May through October for 10 years. Tamara was the first female in this region to attain the level of Coxswain on the water and “Operational Auxiliarist” (AUXOP) in the classroom. (The AUXOP has sometimes been called the “PhD of the Auxiliary.” It requires seven courses from three categories: core courses, leadership courses, and electives.)



Tamara Hodsden on her Harley

Tamara likes to swim, bicycle, and ride her Harley, and she has begun playing duplicate bridge. She has also assumed a variety of volunteer

responsibilities. She coordinates the Great Decisions community discussion group on foreign policy for the Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) and the League of Women Voters (LWV), co-chairs the volunteer committee and serves on the steering committee for LLI, is active in LWV, and volunteers at the Lyric Theatre.

With her considerable skills in organizing and working with people, generosity with her time, commitment to the groups with which she works, and good sense of humor, AARP is lucky that Tamara has agreed to serve on its board. Thanks, Tamara.

**Peter Magolda** and his spouse Marcia Baxter Magolda moved to the New River Valley in October 2015, after spending 30 years in Oxford, Ohio. Prior to their retirements, both Peter and Marcia were faculty members in Miami University’s College of Education. They taught in an academic program that prepares graduate students to work in higher education administration. Peter’s most recent research undertaking was an ethnographic study of campus custodians, which culminated in the publication of a book entitled: *The Lives of Campus Custodians: Insights into Corporatization and Civic Disengagement in the Academy*. In retirement, Peter remains intellectually curious (and concerned) about the changing nature of higher education.

Peter and Marcia have been frequent visitors to Southwest Virginia for the past two decades. Peter’s brother and his family are long time residents of Roanoke, and Marcia has collaborated with Virginia Tech colleagues since 1990. Being closer to family and friends coupled with a fascination with the beauty of the region made their decision to relocate an easy one.

Peter is an amateur photographer and has spent considerable time in retirement exploring and photographing the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Shenandoah Valley, and small rural Virginia towns. His passion for music has made him a “regular” at the Virginia Tech’s Moss Arts Center and a frequent visitor to Floyd. He is also an avid collector of music—especially vinyl records. A highlight of his retirement has been participating in Virginia Tech’s Lifelong Learning Institute—enrolling in a seminar about the South’s influence on music and another about Bob Dylan.

Peter learned about the Blacksburg AARP chapter from Don Creamer, who invited him to attend a meeting. The members’ commitment to community service, neighborhood partnerships, lifelong learning, and livability issues for seniors inspired Peter to join the organization. He looks forward to his continued involvement in AARP and opportunities to learn and serve.

Peter has photographed AARP activities since joining, including the Bill Thomas event, June picnic, holiday luncheon, and even board meetings. His photographs have enriched the pages of this newsletter and provide a visual history of the organization. See his AARP pictures here: <http://adlogam.smugmug.com/Organizations/AARP/n-49pk5B>. You can also see Peter’s photos at [www.blacksburgaarp.org](http://www.blacksburgaarp.org). (Choose “galleries.”)

You may discover a photo of yourself or a friend.

Thanks, Peter.



Peter Magolda



(President's Column *continued*)

just for spring's arrival. Harbingers, real and imagined, signal all kinds of things.

But first, let me tidy up my case just a bit. In our garden log, with recorded entries almost every day—especially during the growing season—we don't miss much. With regard to the Peepers, here are some recorded data on first appearances:

- 2017 – February 18
- 2016 – March 8
- 2015 – March 13
- 2014 – March 28



*Just a quick note about data*

*collection.* Near days end

we spend some quality time

around our property with the labs, ending up on the patio to discuss the day while the pups consume dog treats probably costing more than the wine we're sipping. This is where garden log entries are made, and on that magic day when the Peepers make their announcement—always a great surprise—we are perfectly poised to record it.

Now you may have noticed the trend line in our Peeper data on Spring's arrival. Honestly, until writing this and looking back through the garden log I did not see this, but maybe now you can guess where my thoughts are going. Perhaps the Peepers are joining a long list of other signals (harbingers) telling us something important. How about weather extremes, fires and droughts, plant and animal migration changes, coupled with disappearing ice where stability should be the norm?

Or if weather or climate related harbingers don't get your attention, how about signals in the past that we now know portended unfortunate wars, economic meltdowns, challenges to democracy, civil unrest and even worse? Harbingers are important, and essentially defined as a foreshadowing of events, good or bad, that will happen soon—a relative term to be sure. If you like warm weather and everything that goes with it, then all the various harbingers of spring are usually very welcomed. But what if these signals are somewhat out of whack, as in appearing when they perhaps shouldn't or in such force as to be troubling? Do I now need to rethink my excitement about the Peepers early arrival?

### Confusion

The event that we may later refer to as a *harbinger* is usually not much contested. This is because the event was directly experienced and plain to see. *I really did hear the peepers on February 18!* The problem lies in the space between the signs we see of a warmer earth and the possible later realization that what was predicted did actually happen, such as mass human displacement from coastal areas. Connecting the two with a causal link, such as human production of greenhouse gasses, is often problematic, and even in the case of almost certain scientific evidence the most logical "fix" may be inconvenient for some. This is where confusion comes to play, as in the attempts of some to actually

create uncertainty about how things are connected. In the most bizarre of cases, some may even argue that the event (harbinger) that just happened really didn't happen at all. For example, if there was an actual attempt to diminish the free press in a democracy, a troubling harbinger for sure as we've seen in the past, the obvious first move might be to otherwise explain the event—to not only create as much confusion as possible, but to claim the troubling event as, well, fake reporting or something like that.

In the world of AARP concerns there is nothing fake about the various signals (harbingers) that something is coming down the road with regard to Medicare, and that *something* may be damaging health-wise and economically for existing and future seniors. Because this is a very complicated matter, apparently deceptively so for some of our leaders, proposed changes can easily lead to confusion, and confusion—like a smoke screen—is sometimes helpful in getting things accomplished even in the face of mass opposition. Thankfully, AARP is providing tools to help us sort through this confusion, as in articles supplied in the recent *AARP Bulletin*.

So, how did we get here from a little poem about frogs? Well, the truth they told me about an early spring in 2017 may, in the bigger scheme of things, be telling me about a scarier truth that some may not want me to know and appreciate. And if that is the case I may need to be tracking more than just what frogs are telling me, and why.

---

### Renew Membership

If you enjoy receiving this newsletter and other communications from the Blacksburg AARP chapter and appreciate the chapter's programs and activities, please pay your local dues by the end of March. The mailing list thereafter will include only paid members. Use the form on the last page. If you are unsure whether you wrote that check for \$15, check the line below your name on your mailing label. If you see "2017," you are all paid up. Thanks!

---

### Appalachia CARES Project Center for Gerontology

*Are you Caring for a Family Member with Alzheimer's Disease or Dementia?*

Virginia Tech's Center for Gerontology needs your help to understand why family caregivers do or do not use community services when caring for relatives with Alzheimer's disease or dementia.

#### *How can you help?*

If you are:

- Caring for a family member with Alzheimer's disease or dementia
- Living in the New River Valley area

We invite you to participate in **one 45-minute telephone interview and seven 10-minute telephone interviews.**

- You will receive a Walmart Gift card for **up to \$50** for your participation.
- Please **contact us at 540-231-9250** for more information.



## Happenings in the New River Valley

### April 8

Request a job at this website: <https://registration.vtbigevent.org/jobrequest>



**T**he Big Event at Virginia Tech is a student-run community service effort. Every spring, thousands of students, faculty, and staff come together to complete nearly one thousand community service projects throughout Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and the New River Valley.

**Projects are completed regardless of need or socioeconomic status; instead, it is The Big Event's goal to simply say, "Thank you."** Seeded in our university's motto of *Ut Prosim* (That I may serve) students and community members come together for a truly unparalleled experience. The Big Event: "One Big Day. One Big Thanks."

Sample projects include painting, mulching, raking leaves, and trimming bushes. The recipient must supply paint and painting supplies. No power tools are allowed. Projects must be in the New River Valley. The volunteers will supply up to four hours of labor.

**GiveBigNRV** is an initiative of the Community Foundation of the New River Valley. On Give Big day, April 26, 2017, it hopes to raise \$250,000 for local charities. But you don't have to wait until April 26. You can support your favorite charity now and help that charity win an additional grant from the Community Foundation by pre-scheduling your gift. Simply find the charity you want to support, click *donate*, fill in your payment information, and enter 4.26.17 as the "Charge Date" at the bottom of the page. This ensures that your gift will count toward the April 26 giving day total for that organization.



You can browse participating NRV nonprofits by going to this site: <https://cfnrv.givebig.org/c/NRV/p/organizations>. Click on the link associated with the organization to which you want to donate. There you will find details on the services provided and on administration of the program.

AARP is a sponsor of GiveBigNRV and has supported several of the participating organizations with its annual charitable donations.

GiveBigNRV offers an opportunity for you to make the community a better place by giving to nonprofit organizations of your choice.

### April 22

Bisset Park, Radford

10 am–4 pm

Information: <http://nrvlivability.org/1699>



**T**he Virginia's Outdoor Lovers Expo is the only one of its kind in Southwest Virginia and raises awareness of the diverse outdoor recreation opportunities that are abundant across the region. Local businesses, clubs, outdoor organizations, and others will be on hand to share information about these wonderful outdoor opportunities. This event serves as a platform for businesses, organizations, and communities to connect, network and build relationships that will increase economic development in Southwest Virginia. This event is made possible by the Friends of Southwest Virginia organization and is an Appalachian Spring community and economic development initiative.

This is the first time the event is held in the New River Valley. Each of the two previous expos had over 1,000 visitors and nearly 100 vendors. The Expo is FREE with live music, craft beer and wine, raffle tickets, giveaways, and more. The event will be held April 22, 2017 in Radford's Bisset Park on the bank of the New River from 10 am–4 pm.

More information: <http://nrvlivability.org/1699>

### Volunteers needed

#### Busy August 4 or 5?

**Steppin' Out** will again bring a record crowd to downtown Blacksburg. Food, Music, Crafts, and lots of people! AARP will have a booth—a great opportunity for us to share important information about Social Security, Medicare, Livability, Aging in Place, Safe Driving, and other AARP issues. We need people who can be at the booth in two-hour blocks of time between 10 am and 8 pm on the days of the Fair. There will be AARP giveaways and maybe even a raffle. It is a great way to see old friends and attract new AARP-Blacksburg members.

There will be an informational meeting ahead of time so you know just what to do and say to make this a fun and important event for our chapter. Remember, Steppin' Out brings the largest crowds to Blacksburg (short of football games) and it is a fun time for everyone. If you can give us two hours, just email Wendy Baldwin [wendybburg@gmail.com](mailto:wendybburg@gmail.com).



AARP at Steppin' Out 2016

## Legislative Report by Val Coluni

**1. House Bill 1677.** “...all legislation to be considered by the committee of purview and to receive a recorded vote...” Once again a way to achieve transparency in government has been “side-tracked” by the General Assembly as it never passed the procedures of our Legislature! Several community organizations will continue to work on this most important effort until our Assembly recognizes all this is attempting to do is to make sure we comply with effective democracy.

**2. Tenure/Budgets/Legislators.** Like Virginia, a number of states (Wisconsin being one) have severe budget problems. All expenses/subjects are on the table for review including the practice of granting tenure to professors. Steep tuition increases along with student debt is making this quite an emotional subject. Some decision makers have brought significant proposals up for discussion: eliminate tenure, reduce the number of tenured professors, offer buyouts to tenured professors, do not offer tenure to new hires, etc. Our academic communities should play an important and active role with our legislators to participate in such discussions and decisions to insure outcomes which minimize severe consequences on our educational institutions. Such decisions could affect the awarding of grants and research, faculty recruitment, and the university’s mission. (According to the American Association of University Professors, nearly 70% of faculty nationwide are not tenured or tenure-track, and more than 50% are part-time.)

**3. The General Assembly Leadership—House.** Maybe, maybe, maybe a new era awaits us with House Speaker Bill Howell announcing his retirement. Too many times in the past we have had the lack of cooperation and effective give and take between the House and the Senate to solve our most pressing State problems. The vindictiveness of the past behaviors of *both* parties can only interfere with putting-in-place effective legislation to solve these major issues. We know this can be done and we hope the ASSEMBLY will make it happen. Please do so!!

**4. Airbnb** (the practice of renting a room/house in a private residence in a residential neighborhood). Blacksburg Town Council has approved a number of regulations and requirements to protect the integrity of our neighborhoods, one which is registering such accommodations with the Town with a penalty of \$1,000 for failure to do so.

### The AARP Tax-Aide program

The 2017 tax-aid program continues through April 15 at the Christiansburg Recreation Center (Senior Activity Room). If you need help with your taxes, please call to schedule an appointment: 382-2349.

Counselors are available for preparing taxes at these times:

1:00 – 4:00 pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
9:00 am – noon, Saturday



L-R: Ben Crawford, Bob Blancato, Nola Elliott, Congressman Morgan Griffith, Peter Goldin, Ryan Martin.

Blacksburg AARP Chapter members had a private meeting with our 9th district congressman, Morgan Griffith, in February. The meeting, scheduled for 30 minutes, lasted nearly an hour. The purpose was primarily to advocate for and explain AARP’s position on the continuation of Medicare. National AARP Board member Bob Blancato and Associate State AARP VA Director Peter Goldin participated along with chapter members. Ben reports the meeting was open, substantive, and productive.

### Tax Relief for Seniors—and some others

**Y**ou may be eligible for partial to full exemption of real estate tax and manufactured homes tax. If you own your home, live in it, and have household income that does not exceed \$51,000 a year (excluding \$10,000 of a relative who lives in the home) and financial net worth, excluding the home and one acre of land, that does not exceed \$150,000, you may be eligible for significant savings in taxes. The full explanation and forms are found at [www.montgomerycountyva.gov/content/15987/16005/16508/default.aspx](http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/content/15987/16005/16508/default.aspx).

This exemption is also available to those who are disabled or disabled veterans or surviving spouses of disabled vets. While many of the requirements are the same for all categories, there are some differences for veterans.

If you qualify, you could save 40%–100% in real estate taxes. If you have filed for this exemption in the past, you must file a renewal each year before March 1. But, if this is the first time you have filed for this tax relief, you can do it any time during the year. So, if you think you might qualify—or know someone who would qualify—please check out the link and maybe save some money!

### Chapter Officers 2017

President • Terry Wildman, wiley@vt.edu  
Vice President • Wendy Baldwin, wendybburg@gmail.com  
Secretary • Pat Hyer, hyerp@vt.edu  
Treasurer • Pat Ballard, pballard@vt.edu

### Board of Directors


- 2017—Pat Hyer, Jerry Niles, Shirley Peterson
- 2018—Wendy Baldwin, Ryan Martin, Ray Van Dyke
- 2019—Tamara Hodsden, Peter Magolda, Jim Montgomery, Wanda Smith

Website: [www.blacksburgaarp.org](http://www.blacksburgaarp.org) Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AARPBlacksburg/>



Blacksburg Chapter #2613  
 Terry Wildman, President  
 P.O. Box 10082  
 Blacksburg, VA 24062

**Nonprofit  
 Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Blacksburg, VA  
 Permit No. 32**

**Blacksburg Chapter  Member Application for 2017**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual (Calendar Year) Dues: **\$15.00** (includes spouse or partner)

New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ 90+ years old (free) \_\_\_

Please consider an additional donation to support our AARP chapter and its projects. \$10\_\_\_ \$25\_\_\_ \$50\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_ Other \$\_\_\_

Donations to the Blacksburg Chapter help us carry out our mission and community service activities while keeping member dues as low as possible. However, donations to the chapter are not tax deductible.

Please make your check payable to "Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613."  
 Mail the check and this form to: .

Ryan Martin • P.O. Box 10082 • Blacksburg, VA 24062





*Serving the greater New River Valley, Virginia*

## April 18 Chapter Meeting

### Growing up White and Learning about Compound Interest



Lisa Garcia is the chair of the Limited Presence Issue Group for Dialogue On Race—a grassroots effort to end racial injustice against African Americans in Montgomery County, VA. Her presentation will explore racial injustice from the perspective of a white woman born in the South and now living in a college town. This is a story that begins with express education about the advantages of being a “WASP” through years of “white fragility” and efforts to “be a good person” to a place of hyper-local service.

Through her story, Lisa will engage audience members and expand the learning around how to share the African American story so that it can really be heard and accessible.



Todd Solberg displays his winning raffle tickets at the March meeting. He donated his winnings to Sojourn House.



## President’s Column by Terry Wildman

### The Pledge

Each month, the AARP Blacksburg Chapter public meeting begins with members and guests standing, hand over heart, reciting the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Now, except for my recent few years with the Blacksburg Chapter, I don’t remember engaging in this practice, especially on any regular basis, since grade school. But I do remember reciting the pledge, with my classmates, at the beginning of each school day, in the town of Chase City Virginia from 1950 to 1957. Those elementary classrooms were to me quite comforting, with predictable routines, classic “Norman Rockwell-like” physical environment, and strong teachers with names like Allen, Norwood, Lipscomb, Williams, Kibler, and Hall. In these classrooms the pledge was kind of like an anchor—a good solid way to begin each day. And, it was also required.

I suppose reciting the Pledge at that age was part of our collective identity formation, although I don’t remember at what point, if any, where the concepts contained in the pledge were explained so that we could more fully process what we were reciting. Perhaps the main effect was to reinforce a general patriotic feeling among us young folks. Certainly any deep discussion of the complicated meanings of “*liberty and justice for all*” during that time in our history would probably have taxed our teachers even had us youngsters the developmental capacity to participate.

The Pledge, composed in its present form of just 31 words, has evolved over time but in whatever form the first two words—I *pledge*—does involve a fairly specific promise or oath that can reasonably be interpreted as a morally binding statement of intent. As part of an actual pledge then, the remaining words (e.g., *indivisible*, or *liberty and justice for all*) take on a level of importance that arguably goes beyond the simple affirmation

*please turn to page 2*

## Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, April 18: Tax returns due
- Saturday, April 22: Rotary Club Blood Screening (p. 3)
- Thursday, June 15: AARP picnic, 5–8 pm
- Tuesday, December 5, AARP Holiday luncheon

### Volunteers needed: Steppin’ Out

**Steppin’ Out** provides a great opportunity for AARP to share information about Social Security, Medicare, Livability, Aging in Place, and Safe Driving.

If you can help staff our booth for 2 hours on August 4 or 5 between 10 am and 8 pm, email Wendy Baldwin [wendybburg@gmail.com](mailto:wendybburg@gmail.com). It is a great way to see old friends and attract new AARP-Blacksburg members. There will be an informational meeting ahead of time so you know just what to do and say to make this a fun and important event for our chapter.



### Blacksburg Chapter #2613

Chapter meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center, Patrick Henry Drive at 11:30 am. There are no meetings in July or August. Board meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center at 10:00 am.

### Weather Policy

The Blacksburg chapter follows the weather policy of Montgomery County schools. If schools are closed, the chapter will not meet. If the school opening is delayed, the chapter will meet.

of patriotism and a show of pride and respect for country. What does the pledge mean when currently recited in the United States Congress, at the beginning of Senate and House sessions? Or in schools? Or by adults in various other organizations, such as local AARP chapters?

But first, the history of the Pledge is kind of interesting. Colonel George Balch, a civil war veteran, first wrote the following version in 1887, aimed at educating school children, especially those of immigrants, about loyalty to the United States:

*We give our heads and our hearts to God and our country; one country, one language, one flag!*

Five years later in 1892, Francis Bellamy, Baptist minister and Christian socialist, revised Balch's pledge to this version:

*I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*

Bellamy's idea, in part, was that our nation following the Civil War needed an additional push toward unity. This statement of the pledge was first published in the September 8 edition of the children's magazine, *The Youth's Companion*, as part of the 1892 Columbian Exposition (Chicago World Fair) celebrating the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas. Two major changes followed. In 1923 during the National Flag Conference the phrase "Flag of the United States" was added, and a year later "of America" was added. On June 22, 1942 Congress formally recognized the pledge for the first time, and finally during the Eisenhower Administration the phrase "under God" was added, which some writers attribute in part to strong anti-communist sentiment at that time. This last revision, forming our current Pledge, was signed into law on Flag Day, June 14, 1954. This was during my elementary school years, but I

have no memory of this change or any discussion of it.

Certainly this latest change would have been well received in my community at that time as prayers and religious activities in all kinds of public situations were as common as cigarette smoke. However, over the years, court cases arose over the this latest change, even going to the Supreme Court, which avoided a direct ruling because of a legal technicality. Today, public school students are not *compelled* to recite the pledge based on whatever objection they may have, but the wording remains the same.

I conclude with some thoughts about why I started thinking about the actual words in the Pledge. Part of it is because I was saying the words without thinking about the words. Let's take the "indivisible" concept for example. In today's America, the notion of indivisibility almost seems like a quaint idea we once enjoyed. This is relatively easy to think about in surface terms because we are inundated daily with news reports about how divided we are as a nation. Nowhere is this more evident than in politics where even those who would stand up in the Senate or House and Pledge to support a nation *undivided* will admit that we are hopelessly divided even as many of them seem to be working hard to keep it so. Ordinary citizens can play this game, too!

While looking into this I discovered some writing by Danielle Allen, Harvard University political theorist, Director of the Edmund J. Safra Center for Ethics, and contributing columnist for the *Washington Post*. Her December 23, 2016 *Post* article "How to Defend America the Indivisible" begins with the case that in our recent presidential campaign America had to face the disturbing reality that institutions we usually rely on for vetting arguments and evidence, such as newspapers, political parties, and universities, seemed to have reached the limits of their influence in the face of the 24/7 avalanche of televised and social media sources. We not only consume this stuff, but also personalize it, and in Allen's words "we are dangerously close to treating one another as aliens."

Reaching back to the Roman intellectual Cicero and his book *On Duties*, Allen draws on Cicero's advice that all of us must recognize the roles we play and the particular responsibilities attuned to each. University educators, for example, have a foundational commitment to truth, as do news organizations, which must accurately record events, including where there is deception and duplicity. For citizens the duty is to defend "liberty and justice for all" where the basic commitment is to human moral equality, as stated in the Declaration of Independence (*We hold these truths to be self evident...*). Allen goes on to work through a number of issues that currently divide us but have and will remain elusive in terms of solutions unless there is a commitment to—and insistence that, among our institutions and our leaders—we tell the truth: the truth about the good of public education, basic human rights, due process, access to housing, biases toward potential immigrants, the environment, and the like.

So, we recite the Pledge so easily. Who knew it needed defending.



Dr. Tina Smusz talks about Hospice Care at the March meeting



## Legislative Report *by Val Coluni*

**1. General Assembly 2017.** Will resume on April 5 to discuss Bills/Resolutions vetoed or amended by the Governor. Approximately 28 bills plus a number of regulations are to be reviewed. Potential outcomes: accept Governor's decisions or set aside his actions with the necessary votes of the Assembly membership.

**2. Our Representatives' Actions.** Senator John Edwards sponsored or co-sponsored 25 bills plus a number of regulations. Nine were approved. Two of special significance: a. An energy bill to reduce the cost of electricity; b. The establishment of a joint Health Commission to evaluate/improve the delivery of health services to our citizens.

Delegate Joseph Yost sponsored or co-sponsored 13 bills plus a number of regulations. Seven were approved. Two of special significance: a. Required mental health training for college student counselors/advisors who are directly involved with students in order to improve their skills in identifying mental/emotional student problems; b. Regulations providing a more acceptable environment for a special group of voters who were utilizing absentee ballots.

**3. Legislation: Legalizing Medical Marijuana.** Good medical practice plus a job creator for SW Virginia plus another source of state tax revenue. Medical marijuana is now accepted as treatment of certain medical conditions (cancer, glaucoma and 10 others) and is legal now in 28 states. In some of these states, "Cultivation Centers" (Green Houses) have been established as private businesses. In one state/town, the center became the largest private employer in the area. Already some of our legislators appear to support legalization. Others oppose. Is the opposition mostly philosophical one? A good idea?

**4. State Budget.** Good news. A \$1.2 billion shortfall was closed without raising taxes! This will provide pay increases for large groups of our dedicated public employees along with funding other pressing needs within the Commonwealth.

---

### Rotary Club Blood Screening April 22 \$40

The Rotary Club offers a blood screening at LewisGale Hospital-Montgomery Lobby on April 22 from 6:30 to 10 am.

To register, go online at [www.rotary7570.org/blood](http://www.rotary7570.org/blood) or call 540-951-8988.

Fast for 12 hours before your test.

## AARP in Cairo: A Traveler's Tale

In early February, Don and I returned from two amazing weeks in Egypt, where we visited pyramids, temples, and tombs, and sailed up the Nile. We felt safe. We were too engaged in the experience to think about danger. In addition, the people were welcoming and friendly—and security is so tight.

In the airport, one is screened twice (scans, body pats, luggage x-rays): once upon entering the airport and again before entering the gate area. I have never had my backpack emptied for scrutiny in an airport, but in Cairo the gate agent took everything out, arranged it in a single layer in a basket, and put it through the x-ray machine three times. Then three men came to handle the object that worried them: *my red plastic AARP whistle/keychain!* I was tempted to blow it to demonstrate its function, but I'm glad I didn't. They let me keep it and sent me to my gate.

*Carolyn Rude*



At the March meeting, Alison Wilson shows the 2017 version of "Facts" produced by the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County. The booklet includes a directory with contact information of elected and appointed officials at the national, state, county, and town levels. It also includes information on voter registration and voting. Free copies are available at public libraries and government offices, or request one:



LWVMC, PO Box 10133, Blacksburg, VA 24062-0133

## Chapter Officers 2017

President • Terry Wildman, [wiley@vt.edu](mailto:wiley@vt.edu)

Vice President • Wendy Baldwin, [wendybburg@gmail.com](mailto:wendybburg@gmail.com)

Secretary • Pat Hyer, [hyerp@vt.edu](mailto:hyerp@vt.edu)

Treasurer • Pat Ballard, [pballard@vt.edu](mailto:pballard@vt.edu)

## Board of Directors

• 2017—Pat Hyer, Jerry Niles, Shirley Peterson

• 2018—Wendy Baldwin, Ryan Martin, Ray Van Dyke

• 2019—Tamara Hodsdon, Peter Magolda, Jim Montgomery, Wanda Smith


Website: [www.blacksburgaarp.org](http://www.blacksburgaarp.org) Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AARPBlacksburg/>





Blacksburg Chapter #2613  
 Terry Wildman, President  
 P.O. Box 10082  
 Blacksburg, VA 24062

**Nonprofit  
 Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Blacksburg, VA  
 Permit No. 32**

**Blacksburg Chapter  Member Application for 2017**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual (Calendar Year) Dues: **\$15.00** (includes spouse or partner)

New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ 90+ years old (free) \_\_\_

Please consider an additional donation to support our AARP chapter and its projects. \$10\_\_\_ \$25\_\_\_ \$50\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_ Other \$\_\_\_

Donations to the Blacksburg Chapter help us carry out our mission and community service activities while keeping member dues as low as possible. However, donations to the chapter are not tax deductible.

Please make your check payable to "Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613."  
 Mail the check and this form to: .

Ryan Martin • P.O. Box 10082 • Blacksburg, VA 24062



*Serving the greater New River Valley, Virginia*

## May 16 Chapter Meeting

### Brain Health

The May meeting will feature a presentation on brain health. This is an AARP presentation that Wendy Baldwin will deliver. The presentation includes a very accessible summary of what we know about the importance of brain health and practical steps you can take to support brain health. With improving life expectancy most of us are going to face the challenge of changes in cognitive functioning. This is an engaging overview of the risks to brain health as well as specific, concrete steps you can take to support brain health.



*free hot dogs and hamburgers*

### AARP night: Salem Red Sox June 6

Join AARP leaders and members Tuesday, June 6, at Lewis Gale Field when the Salem Red Sox face the Lynchburg Hillcats. AARP will be highlighting the important topic of maintaining brain health as we age.

AARP members and their families who attend the game are invited to stop by the pavilion any time after the gates open at 6:05 pm for free hot dogs and hamburgers while supplies last! The first pitch is at 7:05 pm and there will be many fun activities taking place throughout the evening.

AARP Volunteers and staff will be greeting guests at the door and directing members to the 3rd base pavilion for the picnic dinner and resource sharing. AARP will be there all night with printed materials to share and we will provide branded giveaways to members (even after the food is all gone).

Tickets to enter the ballpark gates to participate in this event must be purchased either at the box office on game night or in advance online at: [www.salemsox.com](http://www.salemsox.com).

## President's Message by Terry Wildman

### A Recipe for Skeptics

When I first started thinking about writing this piece for the May newsletter, the first idea I had was to somehow address the one thing that seems to have a large chunk of the population all riled up these days. It has been hard to miss the spectacle of people all over the country (and world, for that matter) marching and protesting the impression, if not fact, that mechanisms we've had in place to understand and protect the environment are now being slowly and deliberately disassembled in favor of a—well—different mindset.

Part of the problem is those pesky scientists who are and have been collecting all manner of data showing that we've got a little greenhouse thing going on here that is warming us (our little planet, that is) at an increasing and not entirely natural rate. This notion of a "rate of global warming" is, of course, a little tricky to understand given our commonsense notion of what "warming" typically means, or even cooling for that manner. Small temperature changes (i.e., one, two or even three degrees) are hardly detectable in our day-to-day experiences, and would certainly not be the cause of much discussion, except perhaps in those cases involving small changes at or near the freezing point if we're driving on a wet early spring night, or hoping for a good peach crop.

But, let's for the moment give these climate scientists a break and concede that the earth as a whole is getting warmer—after all we do have pretty reliable tools for measuring such things, and let's further concede that the change is in the range typically reported. So what's the big deal? The change of a few degrees is still small in absolute terms, right? But wait, we do know something about small changes as when a power outage occurs and things in our freezers start to get a bit sloppy as soon as a certain temperature point is breached. Typically the mess is pretty small and we move on as soon as power

## Upcoming Events

- "Firehouse primaries" for local elections: Republican May 20, Democratic June 10 (p. 5)
- June 6, AARP night at the Salem Red Sox (p. 1)
- June 13, statewide primary election (p. 5)
- June 15, AARP-Blacksburg picnic, 5-8 pm (p. 4)

### Volunteers needed: Health Fair 2018

Looking for a purpose? Looking for fun activities? Want to serve the senior community and learn lots of fascinating information?

Look no further! We would love to have you join us on the Health Fair Committee. Yes, it's not until September 2018, but do you remember the great successful event we had last September? It takes a lot of planning, but "Many hands make light work." To have another informative event, we'll need many hands.

Give Jennie Reilly a call or email and we'll collect your ideas and match your interests to the variety of tasks. [jenmik@vt.edu](mailto:jenmik@vt.edu); 540-382-0645 (H); 230-5565 (C).



### Blacksburg Chapter #2613

Chapter meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center, Patrick Henry Drive at 11:30 am. There are no meetings in July or August. Board meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center at 10:00 am.

## Iris: The Flower that Celebrates Spring and sometimes autumn

by Don Rude

Thou art the Iris, fair among the fairest,  
Who, armed with golden rod  
And winged with the celestial azure, bearest  
The message of some God.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The words of Longfellow express the delight that I have long taken in the beautiful flowers that are now beginning to bloom in my Blacksburg garden. As a retiree moving to Southwest Virginia, I came intending to fill much of my new free time with gardening, and I was delighted to learn that the area is particularly suited for the cultivation of irises of all varieties.

I first came to be fascinated with these charming plants as a small boy, taken to visit a relative's spring garden. The unusual shape of the flowers, each of which has three upright petals (standards) and three downward curving ones (falls), caught my attention. I remember being fascinated with their velvety sheen and with the beards that projected upward from each of the falls. Much later on, my Mother obtained rhizomes for me, and I grew them all through my junior high school years. When Carolyn and I purchased our first home, a friend who was redoing a garden gave us many rhizomes all identified by name, and my early fondness for the plant was reborn as an obsession (*hobby* would be too weak a word). They are wonderful in so many ways and ideally suited for cultivation here in Southwest Virginia. Please let me tell you why.

First, unlike many other spring flowers, iris have an extended growing season because there are many categories of plants that bloom at different times in the spring.



Don Rude admiring his beauties



"Delta Lady," blooming in October

Bulbous Dutch iris and bearded iris produced from rhizomes bloom before beardless iris, which are also grown from rhizomes. Bearded iris are classified by height and include miniature dwarf iris 3 to 6 inches; standard dwarf irises 6 to 16 inches; median irises 17 to 27 inches; and tall bearded iris (anything over 27 inches). All have similar flowers.

Size determines the order of bloom, which is triggered by soil temperature with a bloom season that sees miniature dwarf irises blooming with daffodils in late February or early March and tall bearded iris blooming up until Memorial Day. The beardless varieties, including Siberian, Japanese, and spuria irises, bloom after bearded irises. Reputable iris dealers will tell you whether a variety of iris blooms early in the season or late, so with careful planning one can have iris in bloom for at least two and a half months, March to May.

What is even better is the fact that hybridizers have worked to develop varieties of iris that repeat bloom in the summer and autumn. These reblooming varieties are wonderful to behold when they surprise a visitor in late October, sometimes even peeping through the first snowfall.

All types of iris come in rich variety of colors ranging from pure white irises to such deep purple that the flowers look black. They provide a rich color palette—blue, pink, yellow, white, purple, maroon, near black—that brightens the spring garden.

The plants are easy to care for. They should be planted in a shallow hole with the top of the rhizome exposed to the air. Most garden fertilizers satisfy their needs, and they grow quickly. The rhizomes should be divided every three to five years. If a clump becomes too big, the nutrition in the soil will be inadequate. When you divide the rhizomes, you can share them, and your friends can enjoy the beauty of these wonderful flowers in their own yards. A good time to divide iris (or to ask your iris-growing friends if they are dividing and sharing their rhizomes) is July.

### Volunteers needed: Steppin' Out

**Steppin' Out** provides a great opportunity for AARP to share information about Social Security, Medicare, Livability, Aging in Place, and Safe Driving.

If you can help staff our booth for 2 hours on August 4 or 5 between 10 am and 8 pm, email Wendy Baldwin [wendybburg@gmail.com](mailto:wendybburg@gmail.com). It is a great way to see old friends and attract new AARP-Blacksburg members. There will be an informational meeting ahead of time so you know just what to do and say to make this a fun and important event for our chapter.



## President's Message *continued*

returns. Nice that the problem is reversible in this way! Earth warming? Well, scientists are not so optimistic about reversibility.

Now, what happens when unimaginably large amounts of ice, located at the two poles of the earth likewise start to melt, and there is no way to empty the bucket? Bodies of water around the earth will rise, of course, maybe not equally in all places, and maybe not at an exactly predictable rate, but people in coastal areas and on low lying islands—try the Marshall Islands—already have a good sense of this that perhaps residents of Kansas or Indiana don't yet see. Of course, the Midwest and other regions have their own challenges with wild swings in weather, excessive heat, drought, floods, and tornados that are also potentially connected with a warmer earth, and likely to worsen—potentially that is. Potentially also is the shifting of ideal crop climates northward. Good for the top tier states and Canada perhaps.

For some, especially skeptics, it's bad enough that a little warming can cause such mischief, but a bridge way too far to concede, as virtually all climate scientists have reported, that our modern coal and gas fueled ways of life are causing the warming, leaving us holding the bag (a potentially very expensive one) in terms of working out how to get off this slippery climate slope. World leaders have been looking at this and have already decided it is time to pony up and clean up before it's too late. In the US we've seen some pretty good success with air quality regulations in the past, but will we see continued progress? Folks wearing masks in Beijing and Delhi are likely asking this question, and Los Angeles still shows up on lists you wouldn't want to be a part of.

Here is where this gets a little tricky. I, like most anyone writing or talking about this topic, have a point of view. It turns out that a person or two—actually more to be honest—who are pretty close to me (i.e., sharing the same gene pool) have quite different points of view on this subject. It doesn't take much to learn that even subtle hints that the "other" is "out to lunch" or "backward" when they don't agree with your point of view, is not going to end well. Doesn't work any better when you're less than subtle either!

In looking for a better way forward, I found it interesting to draw a bit from Michael Shermer, who writes a monthly editorial for *Scientific American* and is the publisher of *Skeptical Magazine*. Being a self-described skeptic, he makes the point that the difference between "believing" something and "knowing" something is more than just a subtle distinction. Actual tools, he says, are needed to separate truth and falsity, to detect pure baloney, and to move beyond magic or supernatural thinking. Currently, the only reliable tool we have is science, and given that, it's helpful to know a bit about how it works, and also critical to invite skeptics of whatever stripe (e.g., science or climate deniers, vaccine holdouts, GM food critics) to participate in the game.

It turns out that scientists and climate skeptics pretty much begin at the same point, by setting out the null or negative case (i.e., there is no ongoing change in earth temperature at all beyond normal historic variations). Many skeptics or deniers at this point may simply rest their case, displaying no method to discern truth at all. Scientists, on the other hand, using a variety of methodologies inherent in various relevant disciplines (e.g., environmental

science, geology, geophysics, meteorology, ecology) then proceed to collect data over a period of time, thousands of investigations, and compare what they find with the null case. If, for example, one thousand properly vetted investigations just on the temperature question alone are completed and 980 of them find temperature increases well beyond what would be expected under normal conditions, then the hypothesis of no change has to be rejected. A few investigations, just by chance alone, might be unable to reject the null, but certainly would not hold sway against the 95 or 99 percent of remaining investigations.

Put another way, when science or climate deniers—quite often our own politicians—try to support their arguments by dragging out scientists who may agree with them, and those scientists are in the vast minority of such investigators, then it may be time for a change of mind or at least give one's constituents the courtesy of going back and carefully looking at what the 98 percent of scientists who don't agree with your own beliefs have found.

Also, instead of hiding possible inconvenient data from the public, encourage them to join you in a joint look at "what's what." Discover the truth together! Neither side of inquiries like this will win all the time. And, especially, don't constrain critical government agencies, like the Environmental Protection Agency, or the Food and Drug Administration, from making their decades of research available to all!

Let me conclude with an interesting set of points that Shermer made in a blog post about a month ago, titled "Science Makes America Great." Basically he says that governing itself should be viewed as a methodology, like science, and not so much ideologically driven. Shermer points out that when some of our forefathers imagined a governing system, it was from their perspective as practicing scientists themselves—for example, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison. In this system each state had the freedom to conduct its own experiments, and at the Federal level we've seen numerous experiments in war (e.g., WWII, Vietnam, Iraq), social policy (e.g., the New Deal, the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> constitutional amendments, Social Security), and we're now going to be participating (maybe) in a worldwide experiment aimed at managing global warming. All of these experiments were debated—some still are—and for most we kind of know how the experiments worked out. The 18<sup>th</sup> amendment, for example—democracy works best when everyone can vote—yes!

Just this month the magazine *Mother Jones* included an article that exemplifies the way some states are experimenting with energy issues. Iowa, where the wind does blow, is delving into wind energy in a big way with major investments that for one of its key utilities will soon be delivering almost 90 percent of its customers' energy from renewables. Other states in the "wind zone" are following suit. Then, Wyoming, with its coal friendly legislators, is taking the opposite approach by taxing wind energy and creating barriers for utilities that may want to add renewables to their portfolio. At some point we will know how all this turns out.

Science is a slow, patient, deliberate, persistent self-checking process. Let's hope that the fruits of this process, and some of its deliberate dispassionate nature can be useful in governing as well, staving off potential disasters.



## June picnic: Thursday, June 15

Scenes from the 2016 picnic photos by Peter Magolda

We will gather at the farm home of Terry Wildman and Sue Magliaro for a picnic and live music. The chapter will provide chicken BBQ. Please bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share. If you want a beverage other than lemonade or tea, please bring that, too.

**Date / time** Thursday, June 15, 5:00–7:30 pm

**Location** 3335 Elk Creek Drive, Christiansburg; phone: 540.320.5599 or 540.382.5577

**Food** chicken BBQ. Bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share + your beverage.

**Sign up** Go to [tinyurl.com/aarp-picnic17](http://tinyurl.com/aarp-picnic17) to tell us how many people will come, which food you will bring, and whether you need a ride.

**Directions** From exit 114 on I-81 south, turn south on Route 8 toward Floyd.

Go 2.7 miles south on Rt. 8. Turn right on Childress Road (Rt. 693). Aly's restaurant is located on your left at the intersection. Drive 3.3 miles on Childress Road.

Turn left onto Elk Creek Drive, the entrance to Childress Estates. *Look for colorful balloons here.* Follow Elk Creek Drive to the cul de sac, about a third of a mile. Turn right on the first gravel driveway at the cul de sac (more balloons!) and at this point you will see the parking area.

**From Radford**, the best route is south on Tyler Road (passing the Radford hospital), which dead ends at Childress Road. Turn left on Childress Road, go uphill about a quarter mile and turn right onto Elk Creek Drive.



Musicians





## Legislative Report *by Val Coluni*

**1. Free Speech: Legislator (Candidate for VA Governor) vs Voters.** “Rally to end illegal immigration.” Two local restaurants cancelled the legislators’ previously approved and scheduled rally at their businesses as a result of phone calls and emails from local voters and one organization who threatened to boycott their business if the rally took place as previously scheduled. The locals felt the legislator was using divisive rhetoric to stroke controversy (“We will hunt down illegal immigrants”; showing mug shots of three illegal immigrants who were charged—not convicted—in the death of a Lynchburg teenager). Eventually the rally was held at the county court house. Were the voters guilty of denying “free speech”?

**2. Gerrymandering—Which Helped the Birth of a Powerful Political Caucus.** Both political parties have used the tactic of drawing boundaries of voting districts to their political advantage—to protect their incumbents and/or gain partisan advantage. A recent article in the *Washington Post* shows how this tactic significantly weakens our democracy. After the 2010 elections this party through gerrymandering was able to redraw districts to contribute to the election of a most conservative legislator and also aided others from the same party. Some of these individuals are now part of the Freedom Caucus, which is now playing a major role in current federal legislative efforts in Washington! Currently, there are major lawsuits in the Federal Courts to revise the boundaries of these voting districts and citizen efforts to remove the decision making from the politicians.

**3. Felon Voting Rights.** Recently Governor McAuliffe issued an executive order to restore voting rights for numerous eligible felons all at the same time. This was a deviation from past practice. Some in the Virginia Assembly protested to the Virginia Courts and the Court ruled that this was unconstitutional and the order was voided. The Court ruled that the restoration of rights must be done on a “case-by-case” basis. Our General Assembly remains somewhat divided on how we should proceed on this subject even to the point of raising the issue “should voting rights be restored at all?”

In our past petty larceny could cause you to lose the right to vote. Later on a U.S. amendment prohibited race from being used to prohibit voting rights. The issue is still a controversial one today: should convicted felons get their voting rights back? Today 1 out of 5 African Americans in Virginia are disenfranchised from their voting rights. Our Governor will soon inform us how he plans to proceed on this issue. Some feel that on this issue we are clinging to past traditions. Do you have any advice for the Governor? Contact your representative ASAP!

## Republican and Democratic Parties to Hold “Firehouse Primaries”

The statewide Primary Election on June 13 is for statewide office holders, including Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Both parties have multiple candidates for these offices. The primaries will determine who is on the ballot in November.

Local primary elections for Montgomery County Supervisors are held separately, as “firehouse primaries” or “unassembled caucuses.” Unassembled caucuses are structured like primaries or elections: you show up, cast a ballot, then leave. Both parties will hold their primaries at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

Voters will select nominees for District Supervisors to be voted on in the November 7 General Election. Districts A, C, and D have primaries. Multiple candidates are running for the Republican nomination for District C and for the Democratic nomination for District A. You can participate only in the caucus for the district in which you reside. You must be a registered voter. Bring a valid ID and voter registration card.

### Republican Primary, May 20, 10 am–2 pm

District C Candidates: Zach Milton, Steve Fijalkowski, and Carl East  
You are in District C if you vote at Meadowbrook Library, Christiansburg Church of Christ, Hall’s United Methodist Church, or Falling Branch Elementary School.

More information: [www.montvagop.org/board-supervisor-candidates-2017/](http://www.montvagop.org/board-supervisor-candidates-2017/)

### Democratic Primary, June 10, 8 am–3 pm

Absentee voting: Montgomery County Democratic Committee meeting May 18, 7-8:30 pm, Montgomery County Health Department, 210 Pepper Street, Christiansburg

District A Candidates: Annette Perkins and Sara Bohn

You are in District A if you vote at Slusser Chapel Church of God on Mt. Tabor Road, Blacksburg Branch Public Library, or Margaret Beeks Elementary School.

More information: [mcdemocrats.org/2017/04/23/its-caucus-season/](http://mcdemocrats.org/2017/04/23/its-caucus-season/)

### Importance of the Firehouse Primaries for Supervisors

The Supervisors make a lot of decisions regarding taxes, schools, and land use in Montgomery County. They adopt and enforce policies for police, sanitation, and health. They affect our daily living in many ways.

The primaries, more than the General Election in November, will determine who serves on the Board of Supervisors.

---

## Chapter Officers 2017

President • Terry Wildman, [wiley@vt.edu](mailto:wiley@vt.edu)  
Vice President • Wendy Baldwin, [wendybburg@gmail.com](mailto:wendybburg@gmail.com)  
Secretary • Pat Hyer, [hyerp@vt.edu](mailto:hyerp@vt.edu)  
Treasurer • Pat Ballard, [pballard@vt.edu](mailto:pballard@vt.edu)

## Board of Directors

- 2017—Pat Hyer, Jerry Niles, Shirley Peterson
- 2018—Wendy Baldwin, Ryan Martin, Lisa Moose
- 2019—Tamara Hodsdon, Peter Magolda, Jim Montgomery, Wanda Smith

Website: [www.blacksburgaarp.org](http://www.blacksburgaarp.org) Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AARPBlacksburg/>






Blacksburg Chapter #2613  
 Terry Wildman, President  
 P.O. Box 10082  
 Blacksburg, VA 24062

**Nonprofit  
 Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Blacksburg, VA  
 Permit No. 32**

*Check the date on your mailing label to see whether you are paid up for 2017.*

*Note that local dues are separate from the dues you pay to the national organization.*

**Blacksburg Chapter  Member Application for 2017**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual (Calendar Year) Dues: **\$15.00** (includes spouse or partner)

New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ 90+ years old (free) \_\_\_

Please consider an additional donation to support our AARP chapter and its projects. \$10\_\_\_ \$25\_\_\_ \$50\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_ Other \$\_\_\_

Donations to the Blacksburg Chapter help us carry out our mission and community service activities while keeping member dues as low as possible. However, donations to the chapter are not tax deductible.

Please make your check payable to "Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613."  
 Mail the check and this form to: .

Ryan Martin • P.O. Box 10082 • Blacksburg, VA 24062



*Serving the greater New River Valley, Virginia*

**June 15: Picnic 5–7:30 pm**

We will gather at the farm home of Terry Wildman and Sue Magliaro for a picnic and live music. The chapter will provide chicken BBQ—and Brunswick Stew! Please bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share. If you want a beverage other than lemonade or tea, please bring that, too.

**Date / time** Thursday, June 15, 5:00–7:30 pm

**Location** 3335 Elk Creek Drive, Christiansburg; phone: 540.320.5599 or 540.382.5577

**Food** chicken BBQ, Brunswick Stew. Bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share + your beverage.

**Sign up** Go to [tinyurl.com/aarp-picnic17](http://tinyurl.com/aarp-picnic17) to tell us how many people will come, which food you will bring, and whether you need a ride.

**Ride sharing** Request a ride online or call Pat Hyer at 540.951.4968 if you need a ride or will provide a ride for someone.

**Directions** From exit 114 on I-81 south, turn south on Route 8 toward Floyd.

Go 2.7 miles south on Rt. 8. Turn right on Childress Road (Rt. 693). Aly's restaurant is located on your left at the intersection.

Drive 3.3 miles on Childress Road.

Turn left onto Elk Creek Drive, the entrance to Childress Estates. *Look for colorful balloons here.* Follow Elk Creek Drive to the cul de sac, about a third of a mile.

Turn right on the first gravel driveway at the cul de sac (more balloons!) and at this point you will see the parking area.

**From Radford**, the best route is south on Tyler Road (passing the Radford hospital), which dead ends at Childress Road. Turn left on Childress Road, go uphill about a quarter mile and turn right onto Elk Creek Drive.

**President's Column** by Terry Wildman

**Stew Making and State Pride**

**O**K, everyone who likes a good stew raise your hand! I'm guessing that when people everywhere are asked to respond most hands will be in the air. Composed of one's favorite vegetables and/or meats, cooked for a reasonably long time, seasoned well according to taste or cultural dictates, and rendered in a relatively thick concoction, stews might be considered the ultimate comfort food.

Stews could also be considered a type of survival food. Take whatever ingredients that might be at hand, cook together in one pot, and hope for the best. This strategy can sometimes lead to a discovery that eventually, with a little tinkering, becomes a source of cultural pride. According to historical records, in 1828 Dr. Creed Haskins (Virginia House of Delegates member from 1839 to 1841) led a group of friends on a winter hunting expedition along the banks of the Nottaway River. While hunting, Haskins' slave and camp cook, Jimmy Matthews, managed to round up some squirrels, and with some onions and stale bread produced a thick soup that the exhausted hunters at first viewed skeptically but quickly came to appreciate for its taste and rich consistency. This concoction, no doubt with some later refinement by Jimmy Matthews, became known as the first Brunswick Stew.

The history of Brunswick Stew between this happy accident in 1828 and more modern times is not something I have rigorously pursued, nor intend to, but on February 22, 1988, the Virginia General Assembly proclaimed Brunswick County Virginia as the originator of the now famous and culturally important stew. Perhaps the legislators were spurred to action by competing claims from the town of Brunswick in the state of Georgia, where is displayed a 25-gallon cast iron pot proclaimed to be the cooking vessel for the original stew made on St. Simon Island.

**Upcoming Events**

June 13: Primary Elections; vote for nominees for Governor and Lt. Governor (p. 2)

Aug. 4, 5: Steppin' Out

Sept. 6: Registration for fall LLI classes begins (p. 2)

Oct. 26 4:30–7: Wine Tasting and Social, Whitebarrel Winery

**Be a Face of AARP–Blacksburg at Steppin' Out, Aug. 4, 5**

You can be a part of Steppin' Out—the biggest street fair in Blacksburg that draws tens of thousands of visitors to downtown. AARP will have a table where we can provide information about the benefits of membership and share a vision of AARP that reaches so many.

What can you do? We need members to sit at our table, chat with folks, provide information, answer questions, and maybe even recruit new members. All of the information and materials will be provided at the table for you. We have volunteers for some some timeslots but many remain....do you prefer mornings? Afternoons? Or the "late shift" that runs until 8 pm? Please email Wendy Baldwin if you are ready to be a "face of AARP Blacksburg" at Steppin' Out and she'll get you on the schedule. [wendybburg@gmail.com](mailto:wendybburg@gmail.com) or call her cell 646-352-3936 if you prefer.

**AARP**  
**Blacksburg Chapter #2613**

Chapter meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center, Patrick Henry Drive at 11:30 am. There are no meetings in July or August. Board meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center at 10:00 am.

## LLI Courses and Events Fall 2017

The Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) at Virginia Tech will mail its catalog of fall 2017 courses and events in late August. Registration opens September 6. If you have been a member of LLI, you will automatically receive a catalog. If you were not a member and would like to get on the mailing list, please complete the form at [www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning/](http://www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning/)

Most courses will begin the week of October 2 and end the week of November 6, but some start earlier or end later. Courses last 3–6 weeks. The catalog will include descriptions of the courses and instructors, but here is a list to help with your planning now.

In addition to these courses, LLI will offer 17 one-time events in the fall of 2017, beginning in September.

### Monday courses

Getting Your Ducks in a Row: Document Your End-of-Life Choices and make Things Easier for Your Survivors, 10–11:30 am  
Self-Portrait Picasso Style, 11 am–12:30 pm  
100 Photographs that Changed the World, 1–2:30 pm  
The Supreme Court: Presidents, Justices, and Cases, 3–4:30 pm  
Wine Appreciation, 3–4:30 pm

### Tuesday courses

Dogs—Our Companions, Our Friends, Our Soulmates, 9–10:30 am  
Saudi Arabia Past and Present, 11 am–12:30 pm  
Relief Printmaking, 1–4 pm  
Hybrid, Plug-in Hybrid, and Battery Electric Cars, 1:30–3 pm  
Great Writers and Their Lovers, 1:30–3 pm

### Wednesday courses

VT CLASS Sampler, 9–10:15 am  
Tracing Your Family Genealogy, 9–10:30 am  
Scenes from the History of Virginia Tech, 10:45 am–12:00 pm  
Intermediate Memoir and Essay Writing, 11 am–12:30 pm  
iPad for Beginners, 1–2:30 pm  
Introduction to Japanese Flower Arranging, 1–2:30 pm  
War and Foreign Affairs in the Constitution, 1–2:30 pm  
Novels of Marilynne Robinson, 3–4:30 pm  
Behind the Scenes of Montgomery County Government, 3–4:30 pm

### Thursday courses

Global Change: Social, Policy, and Practical Issues, 9–10:30 am  
Embracing Life Fully with Mindfulness, 9–10:30 am  
Learn About Sustainable/Organic/Natural Growing, 1–2:30 pm  
Women Living Well at 50+, 1–2:30 pm  
US Immigration and Refugee Policy and Issues, 3–4:30 pm

### Friday course

Water Color—Ideas and Imagination, 9 am–12 pm

## Legislative Report *by Val Coluni*

**1. State Elections** Given the political turmoil at the state and national levels, voters have increased responsibility to be informed about nominees and to participate in elections.

A. Primaries, June 13, for Governor, Lt. Governor, and General Assembly. The General Assembly nominations are uncontested in the New River Valley and Roanoke areas except in District 8 (Salem, Roanoke County), where two candidates (Steve McBride and Bryan Keele) are hoping for the Democratic nomination.

#### Governor—candidates

Democratic: Ralph Northam and Tom Perriello

Republican: Ed Gillespie, Corey Stewart, and Frank Wagner

#### Lt. Governor—candidates

Democratic: Justin Fairfax, Susan Platt, and Gene Rossi

Republican: Glenn Davis, Bryce Reeves, and Jill Vogel

B. Some critical state goals

- Pass a realistic budget (we have already used \$600 million from our “rainy day fund” to support recent budget decisions)
- Diversify our economy by developing a workforce for 21<sup>st</sup> Century technical jobs; develop an educational curriculum to support workforce training
- Revise current state funding formulas for school districts in coal field communities where there are inadequate budgets to meet essential educational needs
- Address the opioid epidemic and mental health services
- Build and repair highways, bridges, and other infrastructure; debate raising the gasoline tax to provide funds
- Address the problem of gerrymandering

This is a very partial list!

C. Your challenge: How to identify/vote for those politicians regardless of party affiliation who present the most practical and realistic solutions and who have the temperaments to work collectively and effectively with others who may have a different point of view. The only way you can prepare is to *read, listen, attend meetings, initiate discussions with others, and act!*

The League of Women Voters maintains a website at [vote411.org](http://vote411.org) that includes statements by the candidates about their positions on various issues and about their experience.

**2. Voter ID Laws** These laws have been an issue in several states including Virginia where several court decisions have been made and may be under appeal soon. In a recent North Carolina case, a Federal Appeals Court struck down the NC Law with the finding that it targeted minorities with “surgical precision” in a way that restricted their voting rights. The state appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn this decision, but their appeal was not accepted.



The Virginia legislators again sprang into action in 2002 with another resolution reaffirming Virginia as the birthplace of Brunswick Stew and further establishing the fourth Wednesday in January as Brunswick Stew Day at the statehouse. On that day accomplished stew masters come to Richmond to produce the “proclamation stew recipe” which is capable of serving around 600 people. Another legislative mention of Brunswick Stew appeared just this past February in House Resolution No. 427, celebrating the life of Anne Davis Kellum and citing, among her many achievements, her service as the first female stew master of the award winning Proclamation Brunswick Stew Crew.

Now, people who write about the indigenous foods of different parts of the country are naturally drawn to the legend of Brunswick stew, and articles will appear in major publications such as the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times*. I had to smile when recently finding one such account that appeared in the *New York Times* on October 24, 1983 by Ann Pringle Harris, in which she wrote about how southerners, when the topic of Brunswick stew would come up, would launch into “lyrical” accounts of open fires, black iron pots, and messes of squirrel, rabbit and other critters that might be at hand like possum or ground hog. Then, at the top of the article, she went on to write “Never mind that hardly anyone now alive has ever taken part in such a ritual—that it’s just a legend”. Well, let’s just take a closer look at this.

I was raised in Mecklenburg County on a tobacco farm, next door to Brunswick County, and experienced every year of my life—into the seventh decade now—this “quaint ritual” of Brunswick stew making and the culture surrounding it. At least once a year and sometimes more, we would pull from storage a large cast iron pot, used also for rendering lard at hog killing time, gather a pile of seasoned oak wood, start a fire, and into the pot would go a series of ingredients listed below. The occasion would most often be a family reunion; when relatives far and wide got wind of a “stew happening,” they would make travel plans right away. Often, this would take place in the fall after tobacco processing was completed and corn, tomatoes, and butter beans from the summer were plentiful—home grown chickens, too.

Speaking of stew masters, my mother was the main architect of the stew and would sometimes speak of the gentleman who taught her the recipe and process. For her wild game was not part of the recipe, but that said, folks in my part of the country did hunt rabbits and squirrels and did enjoy wild game in various ways including stew. Possum and ground hog would be consumed, too, but for my family that was a bridge

way too far. For the most part, during my lifetime at least, chicken and beef were the main meat ingredients. Pork would enter the picture too, especially further south.

As for the cultural aspects, Brunswick Stew would be cooked at special church events across the south, and for small towns in the region Brunswick stew was a popular fundraiser. On many of those occasions large batches of the stew would be sold even before it was made. Virginians, especially those from the eastern regions, love this stew, just as Kentuckians love their own version, called Burgoo—a story for another time.

Now, for the good part. I have recently acquired my own large cast iron stew pot, which I have been threatening to do for some time, and will be cooking, over open fire, this Brunswick stew as part of our menu for the June 15 picnic. Due South is doing some catering for us and will be delivering their good barbecue, and as it happens Brunswick Stew is a perfect complement. For example, go to any of the many great barbecue joints in North Carolina and you will also likely find a version of Brunswick stew on the menu.

Since I have not been directly involved in stew making for the past several years, we did a trial run with the family recipe just as this piece was being written. Thanks to Don Creamer, Peter and Marcia Magolda, and Jerry and Ruth Anne Niles, who provided support, the effort was very successful—especially considering the amount we consumed—and we’re ready to go for another run on the 15<sup>th</sup>. The recipe is as follows—hope to see you at the picnic!

### Ingredients

15 lbs chicken	5 lbs potatoes
8 lbs chuck roast	2 gallons corn
6 lbs onions	1 ham hock
2 gallons butter beans (aka baby limas)	salt and pepper to taste
2 gallons tomatoes	



Meat can be cooked, cooled, fat and bone removed the night before. Cooking time is then only about 2.5 hours in the pot. Peel potatoes, cut into chunks, place in water and cook until just tender. Peel onions, slice or cut into chunks, and cover with water. Place onions and water in pot, start fire, add ham hock. When onions get hot, add meat, cook for a bit, adding other ingredients in order. Corn is added last and fire can be removed.

This recipe requires lots of tasting, arguing about seasoning, stirring instructions for the uninitiated, and for most a fair amount of beer drinking. Terry’s mother, the family stew boss, was, however, a teetotaler.

Terry Wildman stirs up a big batch of Brunswick Stew

Photo by Peter Magolda

## What to do this summer

### Summer Concerts on Henderson Lawn 6:00–7:30 pm

**Fridays** June 2–July 28, free

Blacksburg has terrific live music concerts on Henderson Lawn (corner of Main Street and College Avenue) each Friday evening during the summer thanks to the VT School of Performing Arts. The concerts are free and attract a diverse audience of all ages who sit on the lawn and enjoy the summer, friends, food, and music. See the schedule of bands at [www.performingarts.vt.edu/summer-arts-festival](http://www.performingarts.vt.edu/summer-arts-festival)

### Live Theatre, free (but make reservations)

Studio Theatre, Squires Student Center, Virginia Tech

Reservations: [www.performingarts.vt.edu/summer-arts-festival](http://www.performingarts.vt.edu/summer-arts-festival)

Jun 17, 18, 19 *Elephant and Piggie's WE ARE IN A PLAY!*

2 and 4 pm each date

performed by the Roanoke Children's Theatre

Aug 10, 11 *Oh, Kay* (George and Ira Gershwin) 7:30 pm

### Special Events: Blacksburg

see [www.performingarts.vt.edu/summer-arts-festival](http://www.performingarts.vt.edu/summer-arts-festival) for details

**Summer Solstice Festival** Saturday, June 17 1–11 pm

**Independence Day Celebration** Monday, July 4

**Art at the Market** Saturday, July 15 9 am–2 pm

**Steppin' Out Street Festival** Friday, Saturday August 4, 5

**Market Square Jam** Wednesdays through Sept. 27, 8–10:00 pm

**Active Adult Programs** (trips, events)

<http://www.blacksburg.gov/departments/departments-l-z/parks-and-recreation/active-adults>

### Special Events: Christiansburg

see [va-christiansburg2.civicplus.com/index.aspx?NID=595](http://va-christiansburg2.civicplus.com/index.aspx?NID=595)

**Independence Day Celebration** Monday, July 4

**Montgomery Museum Heritage Day** Saturday, August 26

**Senior Trips** (Barter Theater, Wohlfahrt Theater, baseball, more):  
[va-christiansburg2.civicplus.com/index.aspx?NID=797](http://va-christiansburg2.civicplus.com/index.aspx?NID=797)

**Kiwanis Wilderness Trail Festival** Saturday, Sept 16 9 am– 4 pm

Crafters, live bands, food trucks, antique & classic cars, craft demonstrations, open jam, community stage, children's area

In downtown Christiansburg

## HD Broadcasts: Opera, Arts, Classic Movies

The **Regal Cinema in Christiansburg** will show HD broadcasts of operas and art & architecture this summer.

All events are at 7 pm. The AARP admission price is \$12.50.

### Metropolitan Opera (Wednesdays, 7 pm, \$12.50)

Jun 21 *The Pearl Fishers*

Jun 28 *Macbeth*

Jul 12 *Nabucco*

Jul 19 *Carmen*

### Arts and Entertainment; Classic Movies

Jun 10 *2017 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition*  
12:55 pm \$15

Jun 11, 14 *Some Like it Hot* 2 pm, 7 pm \$12.50

Jul 20 *Angels in America Part 1* 7 pm \$24

Jul 27 *Angels in America Part 2* 7 pm \$24

Jul 30, Aug 2 *Fast Times at Ridgmont High* 2 pm, 7 pm \$12.50

Aug 13, 16 *Bonnie and Clyde* 2 pm, 7 pm \$12.50

## Movies: The Lyric Theatre, Blacksburg [thelyric.com](http://thelyric.com)

**Classic Movies** Saturdays and Wednesdays, 3 pm, free

Jun 10, 14 *Endless Summer*

Jul 8, 12 *Cool Hand Luke*

Aug 12, 16 *Cabaret*

Jul 15 *Dirty Dancing* 7 pm, regular admission charges followed by Dirty Dancing street dance fest 8:45 pm

### June Film Schedule

(check [www.thelyric.com/calendar/](http://www.thelyric.com/calendar/) for times)

Jun 4–8 *Gifted*

Jun 9–15 *Lost City of Z*

Jun 16–22 *Their Finest*

Jun 23–29 *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*

Jun 30–Jul 6 *A Quiet Passion*

Monday matinees with open captioning: 10 am



Terry Wildman and Don Creamer cook a batch of Brunswick Stew, practicing for the AARP picnic on June 15.

## New River Valley Garden Tour 2017

Saturday July 8, 2017 9:00 am–5:00 pm

[mfrlfriends.org/gardentour.html](http://mfrlfriends.org/gardentour.html)

See seven wonderful summer gardens

The Annual New River Valley Garden Tour showcases innovative, specialty and simply beautiful private gardens in the New River Valley each July. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library with the cooperation of the New River Valley Master Gardeners' Association. Tickets are available at public libraries in Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd, Radford, Salem, and Shawsville.

## Moss Arts Center Performances

[www.artscenter.vt.edu/](http://www.artscenter.vt.edu/)

June 8 *Dori Freeman* 7:30 pm

June 11 *Floyd Radio Show* 2:00 pm

June 11 *Mountain Music Legends* 7:30 pm

July 9 *Charlottesville Opera, Rigoletto* 3:00 pm

## Chamber Music Series (free; 7:30 pm)

see "experiences" in the menu at [www.artscenter.vt.edu/](http://www.artscenter.vt.edu/)

June 15 *In the Time of War* (Sergei Prokofiev, John Ireland)

June 20 *Hidden Gems Unveiled* (Joaquin Turina, Richard Strauss, Robert Schumann)

June 22 *A Celebration of Robert Schumann*

June 27 *From Classical to Folklore* (Mozart, Partos, Mendelssohn)

June 29 *Sounds of Strings* (Boccherini, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky)

## Exhibitions

**Perspective Gallery**, 2nd Floor, Squires Student Center, Virginia Tech, Tuesday–Saturday 12–9 pm; Sunday 1–5 pm

Jun 2–Aug 12 *Travelers and Other Nurds*  
(paintings by Michael Farrar)

**Armory Art Gallery**, Draper Road, Blacksburg  
Monday–Friday 10 am–4 pm (closed Saturday and Sunday)

Jun 2–Jul 7 *Widely Gathered: Printmaking Collected*

Aug 4–Sept 2 *Showcase of the Work of Dongsoo Choi*

## Moss Arts Center

Jun 8–Sept 1 *From These Woods*

Handmade works by artists throughout the Appalachian region

## Join the NRV TimeBank to Give and Receive

Rather than exchanging money, the New River Valley TimeBank provides a way for our residents to help each other by trading skills and services and receiving time credits for their efforts. For every hour of time you spend helping someone, you receive one credit, which you can then "spend" when you could use some help with something!

Perhaps you purchased a used bicycle because the Huckleberry Trail is great this time of year but it needs some repairs, or perhaps you have bad knees and can't paint the floor trim that desperately needs a makeover. Post a request on the webpage and someone handy is sure to answer. The possibilities for requests and offers are endless. You can share your knowledge or request to learn any sort of skill—sewing, computers, cooking, woodworking, copy editing, anything!

If you have any questions or are interested in joining us and making the NRV a closer knit, more interactive community, visit our webpage: [nrv.timebanks.org](http://nrv.timebanks.org), email us at [nrvtimebank@gmail.com](mailto:nrvtimebank@gmail.com), or call at (540) 443-1613.

Contributed by Ellen Stewart

## Save the Date: Social at Whitebarrel Winery

Thursday, October 26, 4:30–7 pm

Join the AARP Blacksburg Chapter and Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech in their Second Annual Social on 26 October from 4:30–7 pm.

This event is an opportunity for these two organizations to celebrate their partnership and their mutual successes within the past year. Funds raised will be used to benefit both organizations. One ticket entitles the purchaser to a glass of wine or standard wine tasting and heavy appetizers. Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased online at <http://whitebarrel.com/product/aarp-blacksburg-chapter-life-long-learning-fundraiser/>.

Bring your friends and join the fun!

## Chapter Officers 2017

President • Terry Wildman, [wiley@vt.edu](mailto:wiley@vt.edu)

Vice President • Wendy Baldwin, [wendybburg@gmail.com](mailto:wendybburg@gmail.com)

Secretary • Pat Hyer, [hyerp@vt.edu](mailto:hyerp@vt.edu)

Treasurer • Pat Ballard, [pballard@vt.edu](mailto:pballard@vt.edu)

## Board of Directors

• 2017—Pat Hyer, Jerry Niles, Shirley Peterson

• 2018—Wendy Baldwin, Ryan Martin, Lisa Moose

• 2019—Tamara Hodsdon, Peter Magolda, Jim Montgomery, Wanda Smith

Website: [www.blacksburgaarp.org](http://www.blacksburgaarp.org) Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AARPBBlacksburg/>






Blacksburg Chapter #2613  
 Terry Wildman, President  
 P.O. Box 10082  
 Blacksburg, VA 24062

**Nonprofit  
 Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Blacksburg, VA  
 Permit No. 32**

*Check the date on your mailing label to see whether you are paid up for 2017.*

*Note that local dues are separate from the dues you pay to the national organization.*



## Member Application for 2017

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual (Calendar Year) Dues: **\$15.00** (includes spouse or partner)

New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ 90+ years old (free) \_\_\_

Please consider an additional donation to support our AARP chapter and its projects. \$10\_\_\_ \$25\_\_\_ \$50\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_ Other \$\_\_\_

Donations to the Blacksburg Chapter help us carry out our mission and community service activities while keeping member dues as low as possible. However, donations to the chapter are not tax deductible.

Please make your check payable to "Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613."  
 Mail the check and this form to:

Ryan Martin • P.O. Box 10082 • Blacksburg, VA 24062



*Serving the Greater New River Valley, Virginia*

**September 19 Chapter Meeting**  
**Perspectives on Cuba**

In January 2017, 21 members of the Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech traveled to Cuba on a Road Scholar charter tour, visiting sites including Havana, the resort town of Cienfuegos, Trinidad, and the Bay of Pigs. Several travelers will share what they learned about Cuban history, geography, modern life, music and dance, healthcare, Cuba–U.S. relations, and more.

The travelers’ experience was timely—between the loosening of travel restrictions by Barack Obama’s administration and the re-tightening by Donald Trump’s.

Enjoy vicariously the wonderful people, food, and places of this vibrant and changing culture. Hear how the people regard the United States and what they would like the relationship of our countries to be. Hear what Cuba might contribute to diabetes treatment and about their achievements in literacy.

Presenters include Pat Hyer, Linda Plaut, and June Mullins.



**President’s Column** by Terry Wildman

**The Learning Season**

True to the title a new *learning season* has just begun in our region and across the country. Towns like Blacksburg and Radford are once again transformed with the return of thousands of college students, and of course hundreds of familiar yellow buses are back to roaming their assigned routes from homes to schools. All this and the hint of fall weather does contribute to a certain level of excitement.

The other exciting thing to happen recently is the arrival of the Fall Catalog of our very own Lifelong Learning Institute. Personally, I’m going to be on my computer the morning of September 6 to make sure that my own late-in-life quest to become a watercolor artist can benefit from the expert instruction made available through LLI. Like many of you who are plotting your own engagement with LLI, it’s nice to be embarking on a *learning season* of our own.

Now, maybe it’s just part of my affliction as an academic who focused on the science of learning for most of my career that leads me to think that learning something new—especially something that is more in the personal rather than occupational domain—might be fun to look at in a bit more detail. The idea is that the story of our own learning has got to be more than “well, I took this course and really enjoyed it.”

So, I’ll get the ball rolling with some personal examples and maybe some of you could add your own experience with a learning episode that was, or currently is, important to you. What I have in mind is sharing a bit of the *experience* of learning—not an academic analysis. And, we still have on our Chapter website the “Senior Chronicles” section where our webmaster, Don Creamer, would be happy to publish *your* story.

I will suggest a couple of dimensions of learning that have impressed me across some very different *learning seasons*—that is, extended episodes that involve learning something complex. Three such learning seasons for me include *flying, golf, and watercolor painting*. In fact,

**Upcoming Events**

- September 6: Registration for fall LLI courses opens
- September 27: LLI-LWV panel: “Who Gets to Vote?” (p. 5)
- October 1, Fall AARP Food Drive
- October 26, Wine Tasting and Social at Whitebarrel Winery (AARP-LLI event)

**Fall Food Drive October 1: Volunteers Needed**

From 11 am to 3 pm on Sunday, October 1, AARP will hold its fall food drive at Kroger on South Main.

Sally Anna Stapleton, the coordinator, needs 2 volunteers for each hour. Please contact her at [sanna418@gmail.com](mailto:sanna418@gmail.com) to volunteer your time.

Donations will be distributed to the Interfaith Food Pantry and MCEAP Food Program.

**Other Volunteer Opportunities**

- Tax Aide (p. 3)
- Health and Wellness Fair (p. 4)



**Blacksburg Chapter #2613**

Chapter meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center, Patrick Henry Drive at 11:30 am. There are no meetings in July or August. Board meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center at 10:00 am.

*This issue of the newsletter was compiled and edited by Carolyn Rude and Sandra Griffith.*

## Meet Board Member Wanda Smith

**W**anda Smith considers herself lucky to have lived a professional life that filled her with a great sense of fulfillment and meaning. In 2016, she retired from Virginia Tech as an emeritus professor of management and director of the Business Leadership Center in the Pamplin College of Business. For 32 years, she tried to walk into her classroom with a heart of gratitude for the privilege of being a part of her students' transformation. She feels proud to have been recognized for her non-academic, professional work in industry, consulting, entrepreneurship, and the military. It was an awesome ride. Now Wanda continues the ride into modified retirement as a consultant and volunteer.



Wanda Smith; photo by John McCormick

Wanda has lived a life of service, especially to children and elders. Her passion is laying the foundation for not-for-profits who depend entirely on volunteer support. No job is too small or too boring if it helps make a community a great place to live.

While the rewards of a career are great, the greatest rewards of her life are her husband, children, and grandchildren. Few things are better than giggling, skipping, and dancing with children or those who still think they are children. Remembering precious moments like these fill her with awe and peace.

Wanda brings professional knowledge about managing a volunteer organization to her role as a board member of AARP, but she also brings her heart. Thanks for serving, Wanda.

## Health & Wellness Fair

### Volunteer Committees Forming

It's almost here! It's time to get organized! OK, so the Health Fair is not until September 2018, but it is time to put together a team of talented, energetic, creative people, and that is why we want *you*.

Wendy Baldwin and Jennie Reilly are excited about working with you to plan another successful event that has tremendous benefits for New River Valley residents. We invite you to join one of the following committees, or let us know your ideas of how you would like to be involved. Call or e-mail us by September 30. We will plan our first meeting for October 2017.

- Refreshments (coordinate healthy snacks for participants and volunteers)
- Exhibitor Recruitment (small team to invite Gold, Silver, Bronze and Non-profit vendors)

## AARP at Steppin' Out 2017

Fourteen chapter members set up and staffed an AARP booth at Steppin' Out: Don Creamer, Terry Wildman and Sue Magliaro, Sue, Carol and Ben Crawford, Susan and Bill Baker, Jennie and Mike Reilly, Isabel Burney, Tamara Hodson, Sally Anna Stapleton, Wendy Baldwin, and Bill Drammond.

Thousands came by taking free AARP literature and give-away items all supplied by AARP, plus candy. In support of the redistricting issue spearheaded by OneVirginia2021, we collected 80 names on sign-up sheets.

Friday afternoon there was a terrific unannounced, unseen thunderstorm with strong wind and hard rain. Thankfully it was brief. Mike and Jennie Reilly saved the day for us. As Jennie said, *"Too bad we didn't have video of us trying to hold onto the tent while throwing stuff in boxes, scooping lollipops from the street, and trying to put on raincoats. Hilarious..."*

AARP VA has paid the not insignificant registration cost in previous years and provides us free excellent helpful resource material to give booth visitors.

Sally Anna Stapleton and her granddaughter at the AARP Steppin' Out booth 2017



- Marketing (publicize the Fair: AARP newsletter, Sr. News, local papers etc)
- Volunteers (greeters, VCOM students, set-up)
- Parking (coordinate exhibitor and participant parking; assist with signage)
- Programs & Fliers (work with VCOM to create and print programs for visitors)
- Activities (coordinate food demos, speakers, exercises)

We look forward to working with you. It's fun, it's educational, and it keeps us young!

Wendy Baldwin  
(646) 352-3936

[wendybburg@gmail.com](mailto:wendybburg@gmail.com)

Jennie Reilly

(540) 230-5565

[jenmik@vt.edu](mailto:jenmik@vt.edu)



(President's Column *continued*)

I'm currently engaged in direct instruction in two of these, golf and watercolor. With all three, two questions could start a much longer discussion and possibly analysis.

First question: What is the importance of instruction versus just "learning it on your own?"

Second question: Time? How much time does it take to develop at least a beginning level of competency across different pursuits?

So, with regard to the first question, it is obviously possible to play golf and paint with no formal instruction at all. It may be a stretch to call yourself a painter or a golfer with no guidance, but participating can be fun and no one gets hurt. However, most folks reach a plateau is quickly and beyond that need some formal help. In my case I have played golf for about 50 years, reached a fairly unimpressive plateau in the first five years, and have been in slight to moderate regression since. Hence, my current desire to figure out what I should have learned from the beginning! As to flying, instruction is a necessity and a legal one at that, but once licensed the learning curve has only just begun. More on this and watercolor in a moment.

The second question dealing with time can be surprising. Here are some numbers. My flight log book shows that in 1968 I learned to fly, that is, solo an airplane, with a total of five hours and thirty minutes of instruction. This is what one might call the absolute bottom level of competency. Skip ahead to 1974. At this point with about 200 total hours flying time I was in graduate school in Tallahassee and beginning to experiment with aerobatics, which fortunately I decided to pursue with a qualified instructor, Mr. Warren White. Mr. White, owner of the local general aviation facility, had just acquired a fully aerobatic airplane, a Decathlon, and he agreed to rent this exciting plane to me if I took a 10-hour aerobatics course from him, which I did. These 10 hours of instruction enabled me to then safely perform loops, barrel rolls, snap rolls, Cuban eights, inverted flight, hammer heads and various combinations of these and other maneuvers that involve significant g-forces and disorientation for the uninitiated. Just ask some of my passengers, including my own doctoral advisor! He got his revenge teaching me statistics.

Ok, to put this in some perspective, I am this week into my 13th hour of golf instructions and thus far we've put most of this time into swinging a 7-iron. I currently have about 14 other clubs in my bag! However, I am making progress, but who would think that it's likely to take me two or three times as much instruction to barely master one golf club as it did to make an airplane do some very interesting and seemingly dangerous things. Not to mention that I've been attempting, on my own, to play this game for 5 decades!

Finally, don't even get me started about the intricacies of watercolor painting. When I sign up next week I'll be into my fourth LLI course, will have spent dozens of hours working on this, and still have little clue as to when I'll feel confident with the medium. Happy accidents do happen on the golf course and on watercolor paper, but with good instruction perhaps they will occur a more predictably. With flying, there are no happy accidents.

Bottom line for me at this point. Good instruction in pursuits of interest is a real gift. Figuring out things for yourself is often overrated. Gaining new skills, even or perhaps especially later in life, is very rewarding. Let's go do some learning!

## Tax-Aide Program Serves Hundreds

The AARP Tax-Aide Program and its 28 volunteers provide tax counseling to many local clients. In 2017, the program served:

- 1175—total clients
- 981—federal and state returns prepared  
(all efiled except for 3 paper returns)
- 14—amended returns
- 210—question-and-answer clients

The clients were diverse:

- 63.2 was the average age (range was 17 to 104 years of age)
- 53% were single
- 39% filed joint returns
- 2% were married filing separately
- 5% were Head of Household

Thanks to Pat Ballard, the program coordinator, and Dianne Rencsok, coordinator of volunteer training, and all the volunteers for this service.

## Volunteers Invited to Join the Tax-Aide Program

Volunteers are always needed for the Tax-Aide program. They may serve in one of two roles, and training is provided. If you (or someone you know) would like to learn more about this program, please contact Pat Ballard, [pb Ballard@vt.edu](mailto:pb Ballard@vt.edu), or 382-1189.

**Tax Counselor:** Prepares tax returns using internet-based TaxSlayer software provided by the IRS and AARP. A team of approximately 20 counselors study together for certification, an open-book test prepared by the IRS and AARP. Study materials become available in early November, and classes are held on Saturdays in early December and January. In addition, individual mentorships are available with experienced counselors who can assist with both software and tax law.

The Tax-Aide program limits the scope of the program so that complex tax returns are referred to qualified tax professionals. Every tax return is prepared by at least two counselors, one completing the initial return and another performing a "quality review." Additional counselors may consult on special issues.

Counselors work at least one shift (4 hours) per week; at least 8 counselors are available at every shift. The tax season opens February 1 and ends April 15, for a total of 10 weeks. All sessions are held in the Senior Room of the Christiansburg Rec Center.

**Greeter (Client Facilitator):** These volunteers welcome clients to check in. Greeters inspect photo IDs and match information with an appointment list provided by the Christiansburg Rec Center. The clients are given an interview sheet to complete while they wait their turn for a tax counselor. Greeters assist with the work flow, keeping track of that waiting queue and helping to match the complexity of that tax return and the experience of tax counselors. Greeters are asked to work at least one shift (4 hours) per week, starting February 1 and ending April 15. Greeters must pass an open-book ethics test prepared by the IRS and AARP.

More information: [http://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/Info-2006/volunteer\\_aarp\\_tax\\_aide.html](http://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/Info-2006/volunteer_aarp_tax_aide.html)

# Faces at the June 2017 picnic

Photos by Peter Magolda. To see more, visit [adlogam.smugmug.com/Organizations/AARP/n-49pk5B](http://adlogam.smugmug.com/Organizations/AARP/n-49pk5B)



Sandy Birch and Alison Galway



Isabel Berney



Pat Hyer, Joan Hirt, and Elizabeth Creamer



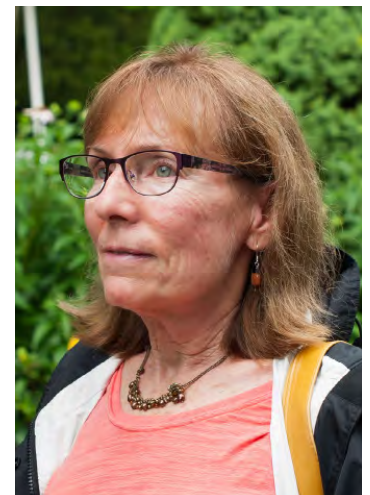
Carol and Ben Crawford



Susan Baker



Mike Reilly



Jennie Reilly



## Legislative Report *by Val Coluni*

**1. The 2017 Virginia State Elections.** We will vote for many state officials in November (Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, and members of the State General Assembly). Political experts believe the process is weakened when many voters stay at home. They also believe that Virginia is the only state with a competitive race for Governor this year. (Gillespie vs. Northam). The issues are many, complicated, and emotional. We must have a large voter turnout to insure our personal/group positions are adequately considered by the winners. Please **participate!**

*“All failures of a democracy flow from citizens staying at home and turning their backs on their community”* (remarks recently made by a consumer rights advocate; see <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2017/lifestyle/activists/>)

**2. Gerrymandering and Filibustering.** Two processes are dual and historical dangers to our democracy: Gerrymandering (drawing political voting districts to favor a political party); and filibustering (in the U.S. Senate, using a 19th century rule that allows a political party to use a 60-vote threshold to suspend debate on the floor, thereby preventing further debate on a pass/fail vote dealing with submitted legislation). Filibustering has been used by both political parties as a weapon of obstruction to thwart the political/legislative objectives of the opponent. Neither political party is motivated to change this as they may be giving up an advantage now and/or in the future. But the filibuster can only be changed if the U.S. Senate votes to discontinue it. Your pressure on your U.S. Senator is the best way to make it happen.

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear several state cases on gerrymandering to determine whether it is acceptable under the U.S. Constitution. The Court will hear these cases in September or October 2017. Whereas previous gerrymandering cases have focused on racial gerrymandering, in *Gill v. Whitford* the Court will consider whether partisan gerrymandering disenfranchises voters by political party.

**3. Good News for 2018 Social Security Recipients.** You will be getting a raise in 2018 and it will be better than the raises in the past few years. Remember there was no raise in 2015 and only a 0.3 percent raise in 2016. You will be personally notified in December 2017/January 2018.

## Chapter Officers 2017

President • Terry Wildman, [wiley@vt.edu](mailto:wiley@vt.edu)  
Vice President • Wendy Baldwin, [wendybburg@gmail.com](mailto:wendybburg@gmail.com)  
Secretary • Pat Hyer, [hyerp@vt.edu](mailto:hyerp@vt.edu)  
Treasurer • Pat Ballard, [pballard@vt.edu](mailto:pballard@vt.edu)

### Board of Directors

- 2017—Pat Hyer, Jerry Niles, Shirley Peterson
- 2018—Wendy Baldwin, Ryan Martin, Lisa Moose
- 2019—Tamara Hodsden, Peter Magolda, Jim Montgomery, Wanda Smith

## LLI Fall Courses Begin October 2

### Registration opens September 6

What will you study through the Lifelong Learning Institute this fall? Perhaps you are attracted by social issues, such as US Immigration and Refugee Policy, the Supreme Court, War and Foreign Affairs in the Constitution, Montgomery County Government, Saudi Arabia, or 100 Photographs that Changed the World. All of these are course titles for fall.

Perhaps you would like to learn better how to express yourself artistically, through Japanese flower arrangement, memoir writing, drawing, watercolor, relief printmaking, or making a self-portrait Picasso style. LLI has a course for you.

Or maybe you are seeking better ways of living through mindfulness, developing a life plan, or documenting your end-of-life choices. Genealogy? Sustainable and organic gardening? Learning how to use your iPad? The novels of Marilynne Robinson or a look at great writers and their lovers?

The offerings are so rich that it may be hard to choose. More information about about the courses and class schedule is in the catalog and at the website at [www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning](http://www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning).

Catalogs were mailed in late August. If you were a member of LLI last year, you have received one, but if you need one, please visit [www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning](http://www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning) or phone 540-231-5182.

## Who Gets to Vote? Panel Discussion Sept. 27

### Blacksburg Municipal Building, 7 pm

Changes to the Voting Rights Act in 2013 resulted in new state laws that claim to eliminate fraud but ultimately restrict voter access. Voter suppression through gerrymandering and voter ID laws target some groups of voters and affect who represents voters in legislative bodies.

Join three panelists from Virginia Tech (Caitlin Jewitt, Nick Goedert, and Wornie Reed), who will address these critical issues about one of our most fundamental rights as citizens. Panelists will respond to audience questions.

Co-sponsored by LLI and the League of Women Voters and open to the public.

## LLI Group To Travel to New Orleans Jan. 21–26

Following the successful trip to Cuba in 2017, the LLI travel committee has planned another trip, in conjunction with Road Scholar, to New Orleans in January 2018. Travelers will attend a performance at a jazz club, visit the World War II museum, take a walking tour in the Garden District, enjoy a cooking demonstration, and hear from three experts as well as from the group leader. For more information, see the LLI website: <http://www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning/NOLASave-the-Date-1.21.2018.pdf>

Website: [www.blacksburgaarp.org](http://www.blacksburgaarp.org)


Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AARPBlacksburg/>





Blacksburg Chapter #2613  
 Terry Wildman, President  
 P.O. Box 10082  
 Blacksburg, VA 24062

**Nonprofit  
 Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Blacksburg, VA  
 Permit No. 32**

**Blacksburg Chapter  Member Application for 2017**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual (Calendar Year) Dues: **\$15.00** (includes spouse or partner)

New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ 90+ years old (free) \_\_\_

Please consider an additional donation to support our AARP chapter and its projects. \$10\_\_\_ \$25\_\_\_ \$50\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_ Other \$\_\_\_

Donations to the Blacksburg Chapter help us carry out our mission and community service activities while keeping member dues as low as possible. However, donations to the chapter are not tax deductible.

Please make your check payable to "Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613."  
 Mail the check and this form to: .

Ryan Martin • P.O. Box 10082 • Blacksburg, VA 24062



# Real Possibilities with Blacksburg VA Chapter #2613

# Blacksburg Chapter NEWS

October 2017 • Vol. 34 • No. 8  
www.blacksburgaarp.org

Serving the Greater New River Valley, Virginia

## October 17 Chapter Meeting Aging in Place in the NRV

According to the New River Valley Livability Initiative, the population of residents ages 65+ in our region will double by 2030. The vast majority of older adults want to remain in their homes and communities as they age, yet our region currently lacks the housing and services necessary to support our aging population.

Beginning in 2013, several regional agencies came together to form the Aging in Place (AiP) Leadership Team focused on specific projects and policies that will help NRV residents remain in their homes and communities as they age.

Kim Thurlow and Jessica Wirgau of the Community Foundation of the New River Valley, one of the AiP partner agencies, will provide an overview of the team's work to date, specific projects that will have a lasting impact on our region, and lessons learned as the work continues.

This presentation will also preview an LLI special program featuring the full Aging in Place team scheduled in December.



## Whitebarrel Winery

### AARP-LLI Social Oct. 26

Join the AARP Blacksburg Chapter and Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech in their Second Annual Social.

This event is an opportunity for these two organizations to celebrate their partnership and their mutual successes within the past year. Funds raised will be used to benefit both organizations. One ticket entitles the purchaser to a glass of wine or standard wine tasting and an appetizer. Tickets are \$25.00 each and can be purchased online at <http://whitebarrel.com/product/aarp-blacksburg-chapter-life-long-learning-social/>. It's helpful to the organizers if you purchase your ticket in advance, but tickets will also be available at the door.

If you have already registered through LLI, please still go to the website to buy your ticket.

Bring your friends and join the fun!  
AARP Blacksburg/LLI Social  
White Barrel Winery  
4025 Childress Road Christiansburg, VA  
October 26, 4:00-7:00 pm  
\$25 per person (one glass of wine paired with appetizers)

## Upcoming Events

- Oct. 12, 18: Candidate Forums, Blacksburg, Christiansburg (p. 5)
- Oct. 23, 24: Safe Driving Class Christiansburg (p. 3)
- Oct 26: Social, Whitebarrel Winery
- Oct. 26, 27: Safe Driving Class Giles County (p. 3)
- Oct. 31: Nominations for Chapter Awards due (p. 2)
- Nov. 13, 14: Safe Driving Class, Christiansburg (p. 3)



Wendy Baldwin, Pat Ballard, Terry Wildman, and Don Creamer enjoy the social at Whitebarrel Winery in 2016. Photo by Peter Magolda



## Blacksburg Chapter #2613

Chapter meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center, Patrick Henry Drive at 11:30 am. There are no meetings in July or August. Board meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center at 10:00 am.

## Meet Board Member, Lisa Moose

Lisa Moose was born in England and raised in South Carolina. When she was hired by the Project Engineering Department at Hoechst AG, her boss encouraged her to learn how to program computers. She worked in Information Technology for more than 20 years. After a great experience working for disciplined, structured, and demanding engineers, she was promoted and transferred from Upstate South Carolina to the New River Valley in 1990 by Hoechst.

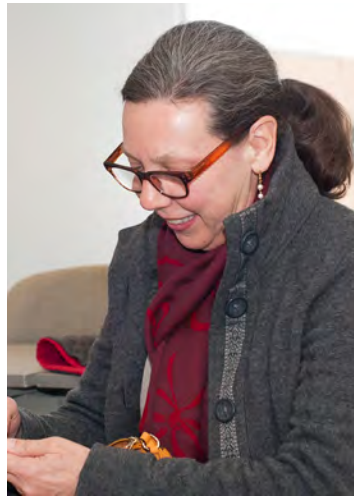
She immediately fell in love with Virginia and particularly enjoys the natural beauty of the Jefferson National Forest.

She loves to take photos of the forest wildflowers and scenery and to walk the trails at Pandapas Pond with her dog, Rags (a rescue from Montgomery County Animal Control). She finds it agreeable to live in a university town that welcomes individuals from all over the world.

When she is not sharpening her cyber-security skills, learning more about cryptography, or keeping up-to-date with network routing protocols, she loves to travel. She believes that one need not travel very far past our national borders to experience and appreciate how blessed and privileged we are to live in the United States.

Some of the countries she has visited are home to astonishing UNESCO World Heritage sites. A few of her favorite sites are The House of Septimius Severus (first Roman Emperor from North Africa), Ellora Caves (India; the largest monolithic rock excavation in the world), Island of Failaka (Kuwait; reputed outpost of Alexander the Great), Fallenfluh (Swiss Alps), Etruscan Caves (near Orvieto, Italy), Arena di Verona (Roman amphitheater), The Red Fort (constructed by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan), Valley of the Saints (Deccan Plateau, India), Victoria Butchart Gardens (Canada), Delhi Mughal Gardens (India), the Giant's Causeway (Ireland), Newgrange (a 5,200 year old passage tomb in Ireland), the Acropolis and Bronze Museum in Athens, the Aegean islands of Santorini and Delos, and the British Museum.

The most vibrant, intelligent, inspiring individual she ever met was Virginia Tech's Professor of Architecture, Milka Bliznakov. Milka left Lisa with the question: What are you going to contribute to this world?



Lisa Moose; photo by Peter Magolda



Wildflower photo by Lisa Moose

Lisa is still struggling to discover and live up to an acceptable response to Milka's question. She hopes that her answer, in part, will develop through her affiliation with Blacksburg's AARP Chapter. The chapter is a place where she can discover what she may contribute toward the promotion of dignity and purpose for older persons.

The first person she met from this chapter was Don Creamer, and she immediately knew that the chapter was a group of intelligent, uplifting, and authentic individuals.

Lisa became an active member of AARP as soon as she joined and now co-chairs the Program Committee along with Don Creamer.

Thanks for your significant contributions, Lisa!

due October 31

### Award Nominations Requested

The AARP Blacksburg Chapter presents two local awards each year at the Holiday Luncheon in December. The awards committee requests nominations for these awards from members. Nominations should reflect contributions and achievements in the past year.

#### Chapter Service Award

- Member who is giving and making an impact on our local AARP Chapter
- Recipients past 4 years: Jerry Niles, Don Creamer & Pat Hyer, John & Sharen Hillison, Edd Sewell

#### Community Spirit Award

- Member who is impacting the community with the constituents who are the focus of AARP efforts
- Recipients past 4 years: Sally Anna Stapleton, Pat Ballard, Jim Wightman, Sandra Birch

Please send your nominations, including the name, which award, and the basis of the recommendation for the nomination to one of the committee members: Tamara Hodsden (bearshed@pemtel.net), Don Creamer (dgc2@vt.edu), Ben Crawford (ben.crawford@vt.edu), or Sally Anna Stapleton (sanna418@gmail.net).



## AARP Safe Driver Courses to be Offered in Giles County, Christiansburg, Online

Taking the award-winning AARP Smart Driver™ course can refresh your driving skills and increase your confidence on the road. You'll also learn the newest traffic laws and proven safe driving strategies. And when you complete the course, you could qualify for a multiyear discount on your car insurance.

The courses are offered locally this fall, once in Giles County and twice in Christiansburg. Each class requires a commitment of two consecutive half days. Enrollment is limited, and registration is required.

**Giles County.** Senior Center, 1320 Wenonah Ave, Pearisburg

Thursday, October 26, 1–5 pm, and Friday, October 27, 12–5 pm.

Drinks and snacks will be available on Thursday; lunch is provided on Friday.

To register, call Gail Vaught at 921-3924.

**Christiansburg,** Recreation Center

Monday and Tuesday, October 23 and 24, 9 am–1 pm

Monday and Tuesday, November 13 and 14, 9 am–1 pm

\$15 for AARP members; \$20 for nonmembers.

To register, phone 382-2349.

### Online

If you cannot take these classes in person, you can take them online.

If you sign up by October 12 during Driver Safety week, you get a 25% discount on the course with promotion code DSWW. The regular fee is \$24.95; with the discount it should be \$18.75.

Go to <https://www.aarpdriversafety.org/>

## Volunteers Needed

### 2018 Health & Wellness Fair

The health and wellness fair that our local AARP chapter coordinates with several partners, including, VCOM, every two years offers a wonderful service in making health and wellness information readily available to the community in a vibrant atmosphere.

But organizing it requires lots of helping hands. There's a job for every type of skill, whether contacting potential vendors, arranging publicity, or providing snacks and drinks for the day of the event. Wendy Baldwin and Jennie Reilly are happy to match your skills and time available with the tasks.

You will gain some social interactions with other volunteers and the satisfaction of knowing that you are giving back.

Please contact Jennie at [jenmik@vt.edu](mailto:jenmik@vt.edu) or Wendy at [wendybburg@gmail.com](mailto:wendybburg@gmail.com) to explore how you might be a part of this important event.

## Updates on the Sojourn Center Hospice House Project for the New River Valley

*Developer Roger Woody Donated 27 Acres of Blacksburg Land for Hospice House*

Sojourn Center is a Virginia nonprofit corporation founded in Blacksburg in 2009 for the purpose of building a facility dedicated to end-of-life care. Sojourn Center will provide a 7-bed residential facility for terminally ill people who cannot be cared for at home. Sojourn Center is dedicated to the goal of honoring the passage of life in a dignified and meaningful way for people near the end of life, their families, and caregivers.

People would use Sojourn Center hospice inpatient facility:

- For intensive management of uncontrolled pain or other discomfort that did not respond to home hospice interventions (called GIP, General Inpatient Care by Medicare)
- When the home caregiver is temporarily not available due to surgery, illness, or injury
- When the caregiver becomes too frail, exhausted or unwilling to continue care in their home
- When the care needs are too complicated for the staff at their residential setting
- When the hospice patient is lingering in the hospital because their skilled care needs are too complex to go directly home
- When the family or patient prefers that death occur in a setting other than their home (e.g., there is an emotionally fragile household member, or the elderly spouse is exhausted, or it's a very young family with lots of commotion in the home).

Nationally, most inpatient hospice facilities are built by a hospice agency that decides their patients are in need of an inpatient facility. Our model is different. In Blacksburg a group of volunteer citizens has organized the effort. Visit Sojourn Center's new website at [www.SojournCenter.org](http://www.SojournCenter.org) and check out our significant news about Roger Woody's donation of 27 acres of land off Farmview Drive between Warm Hearth Village and LewisGale Montgomery Hospital to Sojourn Center.

For more information call or email Anne J. Campbell, 540-951-8326, [sojourncenter@gmail.com](mailto:sojourncenter@gmail.com).



## Food Drive Collects 700+ Pounds

On October 1, Sally Anna Stapleton and her crew of AARP volunteers collected food from patrons of South Main Kroger for local food pantries. They collected an estimated 700 pounds, valued at approximately \$1,155.

Thanks to the volunteers for making a difference in Southwest Virginia, where about 13% of people do not always know where they will find their next meal.

Thanks, too, if you were one of the donors of food.

## Computer Assistance Available at the Blacksburg Community Center

On Fridays, from 2:30–4 pm, students from Virginia Tech will be available to assist people with their electronic devices and software.

You don't need an appointment, but bring your laptop, smart phone, or tablet for assistance in resolving problems that you may be having.

## Worried About the Equifax Hack?

### Here's What to Do

Sensitive personal information, including social security numbers and credit card numbers, of 143 million Americans was exposed during a hack of Equifax, one of three major credit reporting agencies.

You could be one of those 143 million.

The first thing to do is to find out.

Go to [equifaxsecurity2017.com](http://equifaxsecurity2017.com). By entering some information, including the last 6 digits of your social security number, you will get a quick report about whether you are vulnerable. Do this check on your own computer, not a public one, where the information you enter could be hacked. Do it for all members of your household with social security numbers.

If your data was exposed, you can get a free year of credit monitoring.

You can get free credit reports from Equifax, Experian, and Transunion at [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com). Read the reports carefully to identify activity you don't recognize, such as applications for new credit cards or mortgages or car loans. You might want to spread the free reports out over time to catch activity that may appear later. You can get one free report per year from each of these agencies.

You should monitor your credit card and bank account statements and also check your Social Security account at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

Other options include a credit freeze and fraud alerts through each agency, for which there may be fees.

For more advice, go to <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/>

## HD Broadcasts in Christiansburg: Opera, Ballet, Classic Movies

The Regal Cinema in Christiansburg (110 New River Road) shows HD broadcasts of Metropolitan Opera and ballet performances and Classic Movies.

### Metropolitan Opera (tickets \$22 senior)

- The Met's 2017-18 *Live in HD* and Radio Program Guide is available by request: visit [metopera.org/HDguide](http://metopera.org/HDguide) or call 1-800-Met-Opera (1-800-638-6737).
- Opera synopses and cast listings are available before each performance: [metopera.org/liveinhd](http://metopera.org/liveinhd).

### 2017 Encore performance 6:30 pm the following Wednesday

10/7	<i>Norma</i>	12:55 pm
10/14	<i>Die Zauberflote</i>	12:55 pm
11/18	<i>The Exterminating Angel</i>	12:55 pm

### 2018 Encore performance 6:30 pm the following Wednesday

1/27	<i>Tosca</i>	12:55 pm
2/10	<i>L'Elisir d'Amore</i>	12:00 pm
2/24	<i>La Boheme</i>	12:30 pm
3/10	<i>Semiramide</i>	12:55 pm
3/31	<i>Cosi fan tutte</i>	12:55 pm
4/14	<i>Luisa Miller</i>	12:30 pm
4/28	<i>Cendrillon</i>	12:55 pm

### Ballet (\$15 senior)

10/22	<i>Le Corsaire</i> , Bolshoi Ballet	12:55 pm
-------	-------------------------------------	----------

### Classic Movies 2 pm, 7 pm

10/15, 18	<i>The Princess Bride</i>
11/12, 15	<i>Casablanca</i>
12/10, 13	<i>Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?</i>

For more information and titles, see [www.fathomevents.com](http://www.fathomevents.com).

## New Membership Brochure Available

Peter Magolda and Don Creamer, with the assistance (intervention?) of several people who were sure they could do a better job, have produced a new membership brochure. It reflects our current identity and activities.

You can see a digital copy at the website:

[www.blacksburgaarp.org](http://www.blacksburgaarp.org)

Thanks to Peter and Don and to several editors.

Significant economic/business reports are providing important information on economic development.

**1. Economic development—The need for a skilled workforce.** Almost all of the recent business/economic reports recently submitted to GO VIRGINIA concluded that “The biggest barrier to economic development in our state is the gap between the skills of our workforce and the skills needed by our workforce to help us attract and get expanding and new companies to do business in Virginia.” These skills are generally referred to as “middle skills” acquired through credentials from community colleges. The many authors and others who published these nine reports come from business and from research firms with years of experience in the field. The reports cover different regional economies in nine different parts of Virginia.

**2. Impact of college tuition.** These reports stated further that lower taxes, more investments in the coal industry (e.g., pumping water from abandoned mines to generate power to help reduce energy costs), uranium mining, raising the minimum wage, and other such efforts will not significantly affect the skills gap problems. However, lower college costs would help. In Virginia we have the seventh highest tuition in the nation compared to a benchmark of comparable schools. Our neighbor North Carolina ranks forty-seventh.

**3. Gap between business leaders and politicians?** If you listen to the recommendations from many of our current candidates for office, you will probably find only a few who address the issues as described above. Those who published the above reports are not amateurs in the field. Do we have some kind of unintentional barriers between business leaders and politicians?

**4. Spreading the word.** This is where you come in to play a very important role in the November election. Meet or call your representatives to insure he/she is aware of these reports. Ask for one or two copies for your review and become a quasi-expert on that report. Discuss with your family and friends and then either thru a personal meeting or a town hall meeting discuss the results of your review. Make sure you are satisfied your candidates are on the “right track.”

**5. Vote in November.** This year only two states (New Jersey and Virginia) have an election for Governor. Let’s make sure we elect our best candidate, and let’s elect the top people for the General Assembly and elsewhere to help.

**You can register to vote or update your registration** (if you have moved) online at [elections.virginia.gov](http://elections.virginia.gov). You can also go to the County Government Center (55 Roanoke St. Ste. 1F, Christiansburg), DMV, post offices, and libraries. **The deadline for registration for the November 7 election is Monday, October 16.**

## Candidate Forums, Voter Guides

The League of Women Voters-Montgomery County and the Montgomery-Radford-Floyd Branch of the NAACP are sponsoring candidate forums for local elections. (The forum for delegates to the General Assembly took place October 5.) The public is encouraged to attend.

**Blacksburg:** Thursday, October 12, 7 pm,  
Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 S. Main Street

Mayor: Krishna Chachra, Leslie Hager-Smith, Edward Lawhorn  
Town Council (3 seats open): Susan Anderson, Lauren Colliver, Ken Jones, Susan Mattingly

**Christiansburg:** Wednesday, October 18, 7 pm  
Christiansburg Town Hall, 300 S. Main Street

Mayor: D. Michael Barber, Roger Woolwine  
Town Council (3 seats open): Steve Huppert, Merissa Sachs, Brad Stipes, Jonathon Taylor

## Voter Guides

You can see nonpartisan, comparative information on candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General at [vote411.org](http://vote411.org).

You can see nonpartisan, comparative information on local candidates for the House of Delegates, town mayors, and town councils at [lwvmcva.org](http://lwvmcva.org).

## Chapter Officers 2017

President • Terry Wildman, [wiley@vt.edu](mailto:wiley@vt.edu)  
Vice President • Wendy Baldwin, [wendybburg@gmail.com](mailto:wendybburg@gmail.com)  
Secretary • Pat Hyer, [hyerp@vt.edu](mailto:hyerp@vt.edu)  
Treasurer • Pat Ballard, [pballard@vt.edu](mailto:pballard@vt.edu)

## Board of Directors


- 2017—Pat Hyer, Jerry Niles, Shirley Peterson
- 2018—Wendy Baldwin, Ryan Martin, Lisa Moose
- 2019—Tamara Hodsdon, Peter Magolda, Jim Montgomery, Wanda Smith





Blacksburg Chapter #2613  
 Terry Wildman, President  
 P.O. Box 10082  
 Blacksburg, VA 24062

**Nonprofit  
 Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Blacksburg, VA  
 Permit No. 32**

Blacksburg Chapter  Member Application for 2017

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual (Calendar Year) Dues: **\$15.00** (includes spouse or partner)

New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ 90+ years old (free) \_\_\_

Please consider an additional donation to support our AARP chapter and its projects. \$10 \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_

Donations to the Blacksburg Chapter help us carry out our mission and community service activities while keeping member dues as low as possible. However, donations to the chapter are not tax deductible.

Please make your check payable to "Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613."  
 Mail the check and this form to: .

Ryan Martin • P.O. Box 10082 • Blacksburg, VA 24062



*Serving the greater New River Valley, Virginia*

## November 21 Chapter Meeting

### A Case Study of the Hijacking of Egyptair Flight 648

by Virginia Tech Chief of Police, Kevin Foust

Chief Foust will conduct a case review of the hijacking, the investigation and the subsequent capture and successful prosecution of Rezaq.

On November 23-24, 1985, Egyptair Flight 648 was hijacked by three heavily armed hijackers shortly after take-off from Athens, Greece bound for Cairo, Egypt. There were 89 passengers and 6 crew members on board. In a desperate gun battle at 35,000 feet, a bullet pierced the skin of the aircraft and the crippled plane was forced to land on the island of Malta.

During the hijacking the lead hijacker, Omar Mohammed Ali Rezaq, personally shot 5 passengers in the head, killing two. Rezaq, the lone surviving hijacker, was critically wounded during the rescue attempt. He recovered from his wounds and pled guilty to a number of crimes on Malta and was sentenced to the maximum sentence at the time, 35 years in prison.

Rezaq was released from prison in 1993 after only serving 8 years of his sentence. A team of FBI agents traveled to Africa where they captured Rezaq. They brought Rezaq back to Washington, DC, where he stood trial for and was convicted of the crime of Air Piracy. He was sentenced to life in prison and remains in a US federal prison to this day.



Current Virginia Tech Police Department Chief of Police Kevin Foust participated in the capture of Rezaq and was the primary FBI Special Agent for the prosecution team.

## President's Column by Terry Wildman

### Are You a Member?

Well, of course you are. Kind of a dumb question if you reasonably think I'm asking about your membership in AARP Blacksburg. Most folks receiving this newsletter—although not quite all—are members of our Chapter.

So, let's ask the question again; better yet, ask this question of someone whom you know is not connected to AARP Blacksburg. Are you a member? Chances are you'll receive a quizzical look and maybe the query "member of what?" The general answer that every single person *can give* is YES, I am a member. Even the most reclusive person, living as totally off the grid as possible, has some common bonds with the few others who have achieved this elusive goal. They could probably share some things that few others could understand or comprehend, and thus have established a boundary of sorts between those inside the grid (almost all of us) and those outside. These off-the-grid recluses are *members* of an exclusive group—kind of like those few belonging to Augusta National Golf Club.

Some folks, notably some inquisitive journalists, have tried to ferret out how one becomes a member of Augusta National, and the general policy seems to be that if you need to ask you're not welcome. Certainly not women, that is until 2012, when the gates were open to Condoleezza Rice and a couple other female members after that. Membership at Augusta seems to stay around 300 or so, average age early 70s, average golf handicap for members around 15, average wealth is enormous and member credentials in terms of accomplishment is quite impressive with the likes of Warren Buffett, Bill Gates, Lynn Swann, and of course Dr. Rice fits that bill too. The other way to the green jacket is to win it, and those of us who watch the Master's tournament in early spring can see how likely that is!

## Upcoming Events

November 21: Election of AARP officers at chapter meeting

December 5: AARP holiday luncheon, 11:30–1:30

December 13: LLI spring preview, 3–4:30 German Club Manor

January 9: Registration for spring LLI courses opens

## Annual Holiday Luncheon December 5

The annual holiday luncheon will be held on December 5, 2017, at the Warm Hearth Village Center. Having a delicious lunch with friends is a great way to celebrate the season. Awards to members and donations to community groups will be presented. Details and the reservation form are on page 5.

The registration deadline is November 27, 2017, 4 pm.

### 2018 Dues are Due

You may pay your Blacksburg chapter dues with your holiday luncheon reservation or use the form on the back page of this newsletter.



### Blacksburg Chapter #2613

Chapter meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center, Patrick Henry Drive at 11:30 am. There are no meetings in July or August. Board meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center at 10:00 am.

*This issue of the newsletter was compiled and edited by Carolyn Rude and Sandra Griffith.*

## “The New River Valley Through the Artist’s Eye”

An exhibition featuring work by 51 area artists

On display at The Artful Lawyer, A Fine Gallery, 318 N. Main, Blacksburg, through December 13

Monday–Thursday 8:30-5:30; Fridays 8:30-5:00

In 2016, The Artful Lawyer Gallery invited local artists to submit art representing impressions of the New River Valley. The collection of 51 works, including paintings (oil, watercolor, gouache, acrylic), photographs, stained glass, pencil, tiles, and other media, depicts the landscapes, vistas, historic buildings, and other features of area that artists found moving and that, for them, defines the New River Valley. The art is on exhibit at The Artful Lawyer Gallery through December 13. Some of the art is for sale.

The artists were also asked to create commentaries on their works for inclusion in a book containing color photographs of each entry. The photographs were taken by Pippi Miller of Miller off Main Street, another Blacksburg art gallery. Diana Francis, curator of The Artful Lawyer Gallery, and Mary Ann Parcher coedited the book. The book, titled *The New River Valley Through an Artist’s Eye: A Visual Tour*, is available at the gallery.

As the editors observe, the New River Valley and the Blue Ridge Mountains are ancient, lovely and majestic to behold. What better way to celebrate the beauty that surrounds us than to showcase it through art?

The book is dedicated in loving memory to Jordi Calvera, an artist who made his way to Blacksburg from Spain and Venezuela.



Buffaloes in Riner, VA, by Jordi Calvera

Photo of the painting by Pippi Miller; used with the permission of The Artful Lawyer Gallery



It’s a Big, Amazing World, by Pippi Miller

This photograph depicts a travertine formation at Falls Ridge Preserve. The photographer’s son looks up in wonder and amazement. The photograph received first prize in the exhibit.

### A remembrance, by Elizabeth Calvera

One day, a friend invited Jordi to try a buffalo burger at a diner on Route 8. Buffaloes in the New River Valley? Who knew? Intrigued, Jordi accepted. After enjoying the burgers, the friend suggested they visit the farm. Unannounced and uninvited, they drove up to the farmhouse and to their surprise, the owner not only opened the door but actually drove them in his own vehicle to where the buffalo roamed. Awestruck, Jordi took picture after picture and returned home eager to see how the photographs came out. After spreading them before him, he came up with a composite that featured several bulls. Years later, he was invited to show the painting at a special event featuring buffalo meat at the Blacksburg Country Club. The owner of that farm happened to be there. He walked over to the painting, gazed at it for a few minutes, and to Jordi’s amazement, identified by name each one of the bulls in the painting! from *The New River Valley Through an Artist’s Eye*, p. 10; used by permission



This notion of *boundaries* between insiders and outsiders might not have the best vibe for those of us who champion inclusivity, but social research shows that different types of communities that people belong to do have boundaries that perform useful functions. AARP, for example, has the age 50 boundary. As people extend further into the 50 plus age range, the kinds of conversations, concerns, and interests of this group are distinguishable and important. When coalesced through participation in specific social communities, those inside the group or community may experience the emotional safety necessary for needs and feelings to be exposed and for real intimacy to develop.

In thinking about membership and belonging, it is worth remembering that we are all inherently social beings. We all have built up a unique self-narrative that is the current story describing who we are, what others are like, how things work and where we fit. Places where we find ourselves needing to do a lot of self editing are not the best fit. I remember some years ago having access to a barely affordable “deal” to spend a weekend at an exclusive resort that was so far beyond normal affordability as to create for the entire duration a strongly uncomfortable sense of being in the wrong place, almost like an imposter.

Achieving a coherent self-narrative and fully developed identity seems to depend on participation in social communities where we have a role to play, experience a feeling of acceptance, and come to know that we're in the “right place.” Everyone seems to benefit from membership in such communities. We may feel less lonely, find friends more easily, have a more interesting and vital life, and experience better health. The larger community thrives when people are connected and actively engaged.

Yet, it seems easy to become disconnected. Age and retirement are factors, but technology also enables us to access so much of what we need with little contact with other people. In my early years living in a rural environment, country stores with familiar pot belly stoves were essential news sources as well as places to satisfy one's needs for affiliation. Farmers clearly needed this; even a kid following my father around could see this. For factory workers in urban environments, the neighborhood bar likely satisfied a similar need. Along with churches and other community organizations, these places allowed newcomers to be readily assimilated into the flow of life in a new place.

In Blacksburg and surrounding areas we are fortunate to have a physical environment and other affordances that people find attractive and want to gravitate toward. Still, getting socially connected may not always be easy. Advancing age may be a barrier. Personal invitations may encourage participation. I almost certainly would have not become a member of the Blacksburg AARP Chapter without such an invitation.

For me and I suspect for many of you who include Chapter membership among the other groups you may belong to, there is something kind of nice about being a part of this particular group. Most of us need a place where we can smile, meet people, practice kindness, forget ourselves for a short while, volunteer, learn some things, and spend time with others. Come to a local

## Legislative Report *by Val Coluni*

**1. The Equifax Security Breach—A Shameful Tragedy.** Shameful because Equifax staff had the “patch” to fix the flawed software but delayed doing it until after the hackers penetrated the system. A tragedy because over 145 million customers now have some of their most important/personal data available to hackers throughout the world. It will be available to others for their lifetime! These hacks continue to threaten our ways of doing business. Even the Federal Exchange Commission—the Agency set up to protect investors—was hacked in 2016. These hackers can use your data to file a fraudulent tax return and/or create illegal industry trading profits for their own personal purposes.

Some outcomes: The IRS has canceled Equifax's \$7.25 million contract; several states are filing lawsuits; the Equifax Chief Executive Officer has resigned, and other senior staff may soon follow; Congress will hold hearings to determine legislation with much stiffer penalties to punish this breach of public trust. Unfortunately, none of these actions will retrieve your stolen data.

These credit reporting agencies use our data and sell it to others in order to make a profit. We receive no compensation for helping them do this, and we have no control over where they send our data. Many are now suggesting that compensation should be paid to us and that we should have some control over where our data is sent. And Equifax is one of the most significant and profitable companies in the credit reporting industry.

In the October issue of our Blacksburg Chapter Newsletter, we provided specific information about what you should do to protect yourself (October 2017 issue, page 4). In addition to that advice, we add a word of caution: If you are now being offered free products to protect you against these breaches and such documents require you to sign documents to accept the offer, do not do so until you have reviewed such documents with your financial advisor and/or attorney. You need to protect yourself against agreeing to mandatory arbitration and/or releasing the credit agency from liabilities in the future for security breaches. We now are living in a world filled with “bad potholes.”

**2. Social Security cost-of-living adjustment. *It is official*—a 2 percent increase, which is the largest increase since 2012.**

---

Chapter meeting and experience some of these things first hand. AARP at the national level provides an amazing assortment of services and advocacy advantages for all of us seniors even if we are not members, but the intimacy of local connections cannot be found just by having the national card in your wallet.

I'll conclude with this simple request. Consider inviting a friend, colleague, neighbor, or newcomer in our area to check out AARP Blacksburg. Invite them to a chapter meeting, point out our website, and use the back page of our newsletter to show how easy and affordable it is to join. From my experience, just being able to hear first-hand Sandy Birch's short, uplifting presentation at the beginning of our public meetings each month is more than worth the price of membership. And finally, if you find a prospective member who is kind of like a Border Collie puppy (i.e., needs a job to do), we can provide that too!

## Whitebarrel Winery Social:

Members of AARP and the Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech gathered at the Whitebarrel Winery on October 26 for a wine tasting, snacks, and a social. Here is some visual evidence that people had a good time.



Molly McClintock and Irene Petersen chat with Anne McNabb



Don Rude

### The Photographer

Peter Magolda took the other pictures on this page and most of the pictures you see in the AARP newsletter. But who takes his picture? Here he is behind his wife, Marcia Baxter-Magolda.

See more pictures of the social at <http://adlogam.smugmug.com/Organizations/AARP/n-49pk5B>



Sandra Griffith



## Chapter Officers 2017

President • Terry Wildman, [wiley@vt.edu](mailto:wiley@vt.edu)  
Vice President • Wendy Baldwin, [wendybburg@gmail.com](mailto:wendybburg@gmail.com)  
Secretary • Pat Hyer, [hyerp@vt.edu](mailto:hyerp@vt.edu)  
Treasurer • Pat Ballard, [pb Ballard@vt.edu](mailto:pb Ballard@vt.edu)

## Board of Directors

- 2017—Pat Hyer, Jerry Niles, Shirley Peterson
- 2018—Wendy Baldwin, Ryan Martin, Lisa Moose
- 2019—Tamara Hodsden, Peter Magolda, Jim Montgomery, Wanda Smith

## LLI Spring Registration Begins January 9

Catalogs for the spring 2018 term of Lifelong Learning Institute courses and special events will be mailed early in January, and registration will begin January 9.

Courses include choices in many categories:

**History and current issues:** South Africa, Political Cartoons; Confederate Monuments; Terrorism; “Making a Murderer”; Biological Ethics Debate; TED Talks

**Literature and language:** Novels of Toni Morrison; Mysteries  
**Art, music, and creativity:** Memoir Writing; Japanese Flower Arranging; Drawing; Oil Painting; Watercolor; Ukelele

**Science and the environment:** Nurturing Pollinators

**Living well / personal growth:** Grilling a 5-Course Meal, Financial Strategies; Love and Sex after 50; Staging the Conversation about End-of-Life Wishes

The VT CLASS Sampler will continue on Tuesdays.

A number of special events address these topics and more.

## Great Decisions Program Begins January 31

Great Decisions, the community discussion group on world affairs, will begin the spring 2018 term of 8 sessions on January 31. The group will meet at the German Club Manor (Southgate Drive) from 11 am to 12:30 pm.

### Topics for the spring term

The waning of Pax Americana?

Russian foreign policy

China: economic power and geopolitics

Media and foreign policy

U.S. military and global engagement

Turkey: a partner in crisis

South Africa’s fragile democracy

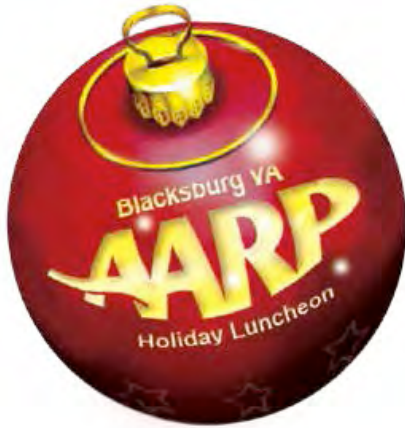
Global health: progress and challenges



A Briefing Book (\$25) provides a 10-page overview for each topic. Meetings begin with a 30-minute video with information on the issues. A local resource person who is expert on the week’s topic provides additional information and guides discussion. The Great Decisions program materials are prepared by the Foreign Policy Association. The Lifelong Learning Institute and the League of Women Voters organize the program in the NRV.

Participants must be members of the Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech (\$35/term). The cost for the course is an additional \$35. Fee waivers are available for people who need them (call 540-231-4364). Registration for LLI’s classes and events, including Great Decisions, begins January 9. If you have participated in LLI this fall, you will receive a catalog with registration information. If you need to request a catalog, please call 540-231-4364.

# AARP Holiday Luncheon



Plated garden house salad  
 Grilled turkey steak with a gluten-free sun-dried tomato cream sauce  
 Roasted vegetable lasagna  
 Wild rice  
 Broccoli, cauliflower, and baby carrots  
 Rolls and butter  
 Cherry cobbler with whipped cream  
 Coffee, iced tea, and water

## Location

Warm Hearth  
 The Village Center  
 2387 Warm Hearth Drive  
 Blacksburg, VA 24060

**Date:** Tuesday, December 5, 2017

**Time:** 11:30 am–1:30 pm

## Program

Announcement and Introduction of AARP Community Award Recipients

**Price:** \$20 per person

Guests welcome!

**Reservation deadline:** November 27, 4 pm

## Luncheon Reservation, Membership Dues

### You can write one check

Total the Luncheon and 2018 membership fees and make your check out to **Blacksburg AARP Chapter # 2613**.

Send with these forms to

Pat Ballard, Treasurer  
 Blacksburg AARP Chapter # 2613  
 P.O. Box 10082  
 Blacksburg, VA 24062

## Holiday Luncheon Registration Form

**Deadline: November 27, 2017, 4 pm**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00  
 Spouse/Partner/Guest \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00  
 Guest \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00  
 Luncheon Total \_\_\_\_\_

Reservations cannot be accepted after November 27, 2017, 4 pm.  
 For more information, contact Thais Beams (540) 552-0177;  
 thaisbeams@yahoo.com



## Member Application for 2018

**Blacksburg Chapter #2613**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse/Partner \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Annual (Calendar Year) Dues: **\$15.00** (includes spouse or partner)

New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ 90+ years old (free) \_\_\_

Please consider an additional donation to support our AARP chapter and its projects. \$10 \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_

Donations to the Blacksburg Chapter help us carry out our mission and community service activities while keeping member dues low. However, donations to the chapter are not tax deductible.

Luncheon Total \_\_\_\_\_

Dues \_\_\_\_\_ 15

Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to "Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613."

Website: [www.blacksburgaarp.org](http://www.blacksburgaarp.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AARPBlaacksburg/>








Blacksburg Chapter #2613  
 Terry Wildman, President  
 P.O. Box 10082  
 Blacksburg, VA 24062

**Nonprofit  
 Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Blacksburg, VA  
 Permit No. 32**

**Blacksburg Chapter  Member Application for 2018**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual (*Calendar Year*) Dues: **\$15.00** (*includes spouse or partner*)

New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ 90+ years old (free) \_\_\_

Please consider an additional donation to support our AARP chapter and its projects. \$10\_\_\_ \$25\_\_\_ \$50\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_ Other \$\_\_\_

Donations to the Blacksburg Chapter help us carry out our mission and community service activities while keeping member dues as low as possible. However, donations to the chapter are not tax deductible.

Please make your check payable to "Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613."  
 Mail the check and this form to: .

Ryan Martin • P.O. Box 10082 • Blacksburg, VA 24062