

Blacksburg News



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October
September 2005

AARP Chapter #2613, P.O. Box 10082, Blacksburg, VA. 24062.
Staff: Frank Lau, Darrel Clowes, Elaine & Jim Gaines (Newsletter)

<http://civic.bev.net/aarp>
Webmaster: Connie Anderson

It's that season again: "Throw the rascals OUT, or don't let those rascals IN". Or is it somewhere in between? Yes, Virginia elections are at hand. Ben Crawford has done an excellent job in getting our Legislative hopefuls to come to our next meeting to tell us why they should be kept in office, or should be sent to Richmond, for our sakes. See Ben's article, and then PLEASE come. We are about to CHOSE, not just candidates, but our FUTURE in VA!

Health Fair Recap

From Ben Crawford

Chaired by **Darrel Clowes**, the Blacksburg AARP Chapter and AARP Virginia had an outstanding Health and Wellness Fair last month in the Blacksburg Community Center. Center staff estimated more than 400 persons attended. There were 55 exhibitors (2 no shows) nearly all of whom had give-away items. The exhibitors expressed a desire to be included again next year. In addition we awarded some 40 door prizes--really good ones like \$20 gift certificates at Krogers, Sunday Brunch for two at the Holiday Inn, etc. Exhibitors were **not** permitted to solicit funds during the Fair.

Hourly seminars were held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (with attendance): Nutrition (30), End of Life Issues (33), SS Update (43), Medicare Part D (49) and Long Term Care in Va (21). Total number attending the five seminars 176. WTOB (local public service channel 2) filmed. Beginning this Friday at 5:30 pm, Channel 2, edited Seminars will be shown weekly for the next six weeks on Soc. Sec., Medicare, and Long Term Care.

The Chapter printed a 4-page program and gave to all attendees. It picked up about 15 new

members making total paid chapter membership 315, a high for this Chapter. *Montgomery County 4-H* made and sold all the lunches they had--75, plus additional pop, cookies and chips.

The AARP **Voter Express** was a definite PLUS. It is a fine and visible educational and informational tool. The give-away items and literature provided by AARP were very popular and only one small box was left.

Board of Directors Monthly Meeting

October 4th, 2005

Harriet Damant, Secretary

Present:

Dale Oliver	Darrel Clowes
Joyce Martin	Brian Allen
Cerrie Coil	Jim Gaines
Tom Jeffers	Carl McDaniels
Frank Lau	Jim Moore
Ben Crawford	Harriet Damant
Connie Anderson	

Visitors: **Jack Leahy**-Community Center Supervisor
Joy Herbert- Senior Programs Supervisor
Anna Stockburger-VT Service Learning Program Volunteer

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by President Carl McDaniels. The September minutes were approved by acclamation. Review of the **Health & Wellness Fair of Sept 20, 2005** involved all members of the board. Jack Leahy and Joy Herbert were thanked for their support and help in the setting up and during the fair. Several board members made suggestions for the future, such as alerting the vendors specifically about what the facility can offer in terms of tables, electrical cords, windows, water, food, floor space. Others suggested review of the parking procedures as some attendees could not find a parking place and left. Attendance was approximately 350 to 400 persons. The seminars attracted about 50 at each session. McDaniels reported that AARP VA visitors to the Fair were very pleased with the Chapter efforts.

Treasurers Report. Brian Allen reported a \$3,468.44 balance as of September 1, 2005. The 2005 Health Fair Income and Expense Report was reviewed and will be presented in final form at the next board meeting. **Ben Crawford** presented a motion to donate one-half of the Health Fair profits to the Blacksburg Community Center for allowing use of the center and all of their help for the fair. The motion was seconded by Darrel Clowes and passed unanimously.

Ben Crawford presented the Election Committee Report. Nominations are as follows:

President	Carl McDaniels
1st Vice President	Don Elson
2 nd Vice President	Jim Gaines
Secretary	Angela Little
Treasurer	Brian Allen
Assistant Treasurer	June Schmidt
3 year Board Mbrs	Curtis Finch,
Karen Finch, and Margaret Cates	
2 year member	Harriet Damant

Joyce Martin, membership chairman reported 310 members and more if her mail contains

paid memberships. Martin stated that the general public does not always understand the difference between AARP and Local AARP Chapters. When the National, State and Local composition of AARP is explained they then will join the local chapter.

Ben Crawford, program chairman, reported WTOB will be presenting videos of the **Health Fair Seminars** beginning at 5:30PM Friday, October 14. The **Safe Driving Program** for October is full. There may be space in the Giles Co. Safe Driving Program to be offered October 11 and 14. The October 18, 2005 meeting will be a candidate's forum open to the public. **The Executive Director of the Literacy Volunteers of NRV** will speak briefly. November 15th will be a special program on Flower arranging and Blacksburg AARP Chapter is invited to participate in a **Giles County Senior Life Style Program.** Ben volunteered to setup a table with Blacksburg AARP information. On December 6th, the Holiday Meeting is being organized by Cerrie Coil.

Connie Anderson, Webmaster, reports 900 hits on the Website. There are a number of pictures on the site of the Health Fair taken by Robert Abraham.

The joint Bloodmobile will be held at the Blacksburg Community Ctr. tomorrow, Oct 5th.

AARP Virginia Items:

Jim Gaines, Carl McDaniels, and Ben Crawford attended an AARP Health Care Conference on Sept. 8th in Roanoke. AARP Virginia has sent to the chapter a video on Candidates For Governor. The 27 minute video will be set up for viewing at 1:00 pm immediately after the October 18th meeting. **Glenn Mitchell**, legislative chairman, encouraged everyone to take advantage of the opportunity to see the Candidates for Governor video. **Carl McDaniels** asked Anna

Stockburger, the Service Learning Volunteer, if she would organize a phone committee with her fellow volunteers to get information to local AARP members regarding the October 18th meeting, and to remind them of the November 8th election and the video offering.

Jim Gaines has written a first draft of the history of AARP Chapter 2613. It will be typed and reviewed before any formal plans are made. Carl McDaniels reminded the board that 2006 will be the 30th anniversary of Blacksburg AARP and suggested that this may be the time to present the History of AARP #2613.

Tom Jeffers requested that all Board members be sure to notify Caring Chair-man, Kathy Jeffers of any members experiencing health or personal difficulties so that an appropriate card can be sent.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:00 AM. Next Board Meeting Tues. Nov. 1, 2005.

Upcoming Events

From Ben Crawford

OCTOBER PROGRAM: FORUM for GENERAL ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES, 11:30 bag lunch, October 18, Blacksburg Senior/Community Center on Patrick Henry Drive. FIRST, we have a **MINI (5 minute) PROGRAM** presented by the Executive Director of Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley, **Donna Barnhart**. (see information in this newsletter). Then a Forum for General Assembly Candidates.

VA General Assembly Delegates **Jim Shuler** and **Dave Nutter**, along with challenger **Barbara Chrisley** have graciously accepted our invitation to participate in a Forum for VA General Assembly Candidates October 18, noon to 1 p.m. at the Blacksburg Community Center. Shuler's challenger has not responded to our invitation.

Mount Tabor Ruritans is cosponsoring the Candidate Forum with our Blacksburg AARP Chapter. The general public is invited, and with well over 350 members between the

Ruritans Club and our Chapter; there should be a good turnout.

The Candidate Forum format will be simple and non-threatening; time will be divided equally among those candidates present, with 20 minutes reserved for Q & A. As we are non partisan, our organizations can take no position for or against any candidate, but the candidates are aware that most of our members vote.

Channel 2, WTOB filmed the Health Fair Seminar sessions on **Social Security, Medicare Part D: new Drug Benefit and Long Term Care in Virginia**. One of these will be presented each Friday beginning this coming Friday (Oct 14) at 5:30 for the next six weeks. So each Seminar will be aired twice. Check the WTOB Bulletin Board for further information or call the station at 961-1199.

Donna Barnhart, Executive Director of the Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley, will speak in a 5 minute Mini Program.

She moved here from Charleston, West Virginia, to the Literacy Volunteers of the NRV, with a background in public service with the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources. As a former State WIC Outreach Coordinator, Donna was fortunate to lead several literacy initiatives for USDA and work with some outstanding organizations.

"As in a literacy project in Pennsylvania, I hope we too can find inventive and exciting ways to work together on literacy. Approximately 21,000 adults in the New River Valley are functionally illiterate. This means they may not be able to read a street sign, fill out a medical form or job application or understand the notes their children bring home from school."

Holiday Luncheon December 6th

More next month, but set aside NOW your calendar time for this highlight event for 2005.

New officers will be installed, holiday music provided, and a good time for all at the Holiday Inn, for \$14 complete.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Donald Elson, Chapter Awards Committee

Virginia AARP has announced that James M. Moore has been awarded the Gordon Morton Award for Volunteer Service 2004. The Award recognizes an individual AARP volunteer each year in Virginia who has made outstanding contributions to the work of AARP in a manner consistent with the dedication and quality of work modeled by Gordon Morton, "Mr. AARP".

We all know of the great work Jim has done for the Blacksburg AARP. He along with Mary Ellen have also worked diligently for the Red Cross, 4-H, the Senior Center, and many other community organizations.

Thank you, Jim, for your continued volunteer work for AARP and our community.

Our Giles County Neighbors Say:

YOU are cordially invited to the **Giles Senior Lifestyle Expo** Oct 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Giles Life Saving and Rescue Squad Building at the Walmart red light in

Pearisburg. The Expo will feature the many activities, services and business that are in Giles County for seniors to enjoy. Our Blacksburg AARP Chapter will have a display there.

Newest Members not included in Membership List

A warm welcome to:

Helen and Arthur Given
Beatrice and Theodore Ake
Larry Alexander
Nancy Andrewa
Helen and Arthur Ballas

Helen Hall
Betty Jahn Helen and Arthur Given
Ambrosia and Barban Smith
Erma and Linwood White
Esther and Robert Youngs

And Finally, from our own BEV-Seniors at the Recreation Center

Jessica Wirgau, Director of the Blacksburg Museum, will be providing to the BEV-Seniors, an update on the Museum's progress. By using computer projected slides and graphics, she will show us how work is progressing, and how the computer's power

aids in keeping track of the inventory of artifacts. **You are invited to come**, 10AM on October 17th, in the room where the AARP Chapter meets (Senior Room). Program's start to finish is usually 60 minutes, with coffee provided by the Seniors program.

AARP Chapter #2613
P.O. Box 10082
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BLACKSBURG AARP CHAPTER #2613
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL OR NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Membership in the Blacksburg AARP Chapter requires membership in National AARP. If you are already a member of the Blacksburg Chapter, please pass this form on to a friend that should be a member.

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Membership: _____ Renewal _____ Single membership dues **\$5.00 for balance of 2005**

_____ New Member(s) _____ Joint husband and Wife dues **\$7.50 for balance of 2005**

Complete, attach check made out to Blacksburg AARP, and bring to the next Membership Meeting or mail to:

AARP Chapter #2613, Box 10082, Blacksburg, VA. 24062