



May 2011
Vol. 28, No. 5

<http://civic.bev.net/aarp>

May 17 Chapter Meeting -- Program by New River Agency on Aging

The AARP Blacksburg Chapter will meet on Tuesday, May 17, at 11:30 a.m. at the Blacksburg Community Center on Patrick Henry Drive. Bring your brown bag lunch to enjoy while you visit with old friends and make new friends. The program will start at noon with President John Hillison presiding.

Tina King, Executive Director of the New River Valley Agency on Aging, along with her staff will present a program giving an overview of over a dozen programs and services available to the senior population of the New River Valley. There will be brief presentations on four main activities of interest to chapter members as well as handouts on the various programs.

The presentations will be followed by ample time for questions and answers before adjourning at 1 p.m. The NRV Agency on Aging staff will be available before and after the meeting for additional discussion.

There will be a brief Table Top Talk and display by Joy Herbert, Senior Program Supervisor at the Blacksburg Community Center. She will highlight the programs and services available at the Blacksburg Senior Center during the summer of 2011.

Come early and stay late to enjoy the opportunity to meet and greet fellow members of our AARP Blacksburg Chapter.

AARP Annual Picnic will be on June 21

Our annual AARP Blacksburg Chapter Picnic and White Elephant Sale will take place on Tuesday, June 21 at Nellie's Cave Park located at the end of Grissom Lane.

There will be music by Paul Little & Son starting at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch. Start sorting out all those attic treasures you want to get rid of and bring them to the auction. Come and join the fun – there will be more details in the June Chapter Newsletter.



AARP Blacksburg Chapter #2613

Chapter meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center, Patrick Henry Drive at 11:30 a.m. 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.

PO Box 10082

Blacksburg, VA 24062

<http://civic.bev.net/aarp/>

President's Column



Awards, awards, and more awards!

The month of April was an especially good one for the Blacksburg AARP Chapter.

Our March meeting at Warm Hearth with an emphasis on their new program – Warm Hearth

at Home proved to be very interesting and informative. With the developmental help from Jim and Mary Ellen Moore Warm Hearth has a very practical way to assist seniors to stay in their homes. Our chapter's longest partner was a great host and provided a delicious meal.

In the last month recognition has been provided to numerous chapter members for their long-term volunteer and other contributions to our community. Among those recognized were Leading Lights award recipients Phyllis Albritton, Pat Ballard, and Mary Ann Hinshelwood; Rotary recognition and Leading Lights nomination for Carl McDaniels, First Humanitarian Award for Jo Ann Underwood, Lewis-Gale Montgomery Hospital Volunteer of the Year to Norm Eiss, and RSVP Certificate of Appreciation for Sally Anna Stapleton. In addition, the chapter as a whole received a Certificate of Appreciation from RSVP.

In addition to all of the above awards the AARP-VCOM Health and Wellness Fair was recognized by the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine with a third place honor at its April conference held in Baltimore. Chapter member and VCOM development officer Diane Sutphin accepted the recognition on behalf of both our chapter and the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Our May 17th meeting at the Blacksburg Community Center will feature the New River Council on Aging. The June 21st meeting will be the annual picnic at Nellie's Cave Park. Be sure to look for your white elephants and bring them to the picnic for our annual auction.

John Hillison

Next Driver Safety Course Scheduled for July 12 & 13

IF YOU ARE OVER 50 AND DRIVE A CAR it's now time to pre-register for the AARP Driver Safety Course being offered in mid-July at Blacksburg Community Center, 725 Patrick Henry Drive. Enrollment is limited so sign up soon.

The course will be held on Thursday and Friday, July 12 and 13 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. To pre-register for the course, contact Cecil McBride at 552-4396.

Course fee is \$12.00 for AARP members and \$14.00 for non-members, payable by cash or check to "AARP" on the first day of the course.

Community Service and Create the Good

Sally Anna Stapleton
Create The Good Organizer

On April 12, 2011, John Hillison and Sally Anna Stapleton attended the RSVP award celebration for volunteers involved in the project "Supplies for Seniors."

Sally Anna was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation associated with making 'supplies for seniors' the AARP 2010 Featured Project; involved in all the aspects to make this project a success.

John was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for AARP's contribution toward this project. Being recognized and awarded for volunteer work is truly divine, but as those of us who volunteer know, we do not volunteer for the recognition. Being a volunteer goes much deeper and is connected

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Community Service – continued from page 2

to the heart. Webster's dictionary states "Volunteer" - a person who offers self. Thank you to all of you who offer yourself!

May 30th, is Memorial Day. On this noble American holiday, we solemnly pause to remember the men and women who gave their lives in service to our Nation. We honor those generations and individuals who fought for liberty and in defiance of tyranny, sacrificed by dedicating their own lives to peace and the defense of freedom. Let all of us commit this day, whether in public ceremony or in quiet reflection in fitting tribute, to remember the men and women who daily volunteer to defend our freedom.

In keeping the volunteer gift alive, do something for an active military person, a veteran, or a service family. Go to JoiningForces.gov to see what ideas are available to help those who give so much to all of us.

Check out the www.createthegood.org web site for a list of the latest volunteer opportunities. Please take time to volunteer.

Older Americans Month 2011 Connecting the Community

Tina King, Executive Director
New River Valley Agency on Aging

Every May since 1963 when Older Americans Month was established, people in towns and cities across the country have formally recognized the enormous contributions of older Americans—borne of wisdom, experience, and the will to realize their dreams and speak their minds. Older Americans Month is our chance to show our appreciation and support seniors as they continue to enrich and strengthen our communities.

The theme of this year's celebration—Older Americans: Connecting the Community—pays homage to the many ways in which older adults bring inspiration and continuity to the fabric of our communities. Their shared histories, diverse experiences, and wealth of knowledge have made our culture, economy, and local character what they are today. The theme also highlights the many ways technology is helping older Americans live longer, healthier and more engaged lives.

In fact, older Americans are more active in community life than ever before, thanks in part to advances in health care, education, technology, and financial stability over the last several decades that have greatly increased their vitality and standard of living. Older adults are out and about giving back and making a difference in their community.

Seniors are mentoring the leaders of tomorrow, taking to heart the need for intergenerational learning to guide and inspire young minds. They offer a take on times gone by not discussed in any history class—a unique perspective that sheds new light on contemporary issues.

Older Americans step up to help one another as well. Across the country, seniors connect with other seniors by delivering meals, helping with home repair, assisting

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John Hillison and Sally Anna Stapleton receive Certificates of Appreciation from RSVP (see the story above for more details).

Older Americans – continued from page 3
companionship, counseling, and care. Their efforts remind us that when older adults are active and engaged in their communities, everyone benefits.

Help us celebrate Older Americans Month! Join your neighbors not only to recognize what older citizens bring to our communities, but also to help them continue playing a vital role in weaving a unique and lasting community fabric.

Contact the New River Valley Agency on Aging by phone at 540-980-7720 or e-mail at nrvaoa@nrvaoa.org to find out about volunteer opportunities that provide services and support for seniors. We believe that when individuals help seniors thrive in their communities, they gain far more than they give.

Library Update

Elizabeth Sensabaugh, Branch Supervisor of the Blacksburg Library

The Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library has a growing collection of new large print books.

New Romance titles are the splendor of Spring! Check out *Déjà vu* by Fern Michaels; *Kiss Me If You Can* by Carly Phillips; *Promise Canyon* by Robyn Carr; *A Kiss at Midnight* by Eloisa James; *The Scent of Jasmine* by Jude Deveraux; and *Reckless* by Anne Stuart.

We have other new Large Print titles including biographies, suspense, mystery, and westerns:

Bird Cloud by Annie Proulx – Proulx's memoir about the Wyoming wetlands and prairie land on which she designed and constructed her house.

Shalako by Louis L'Amour – The bestselling frontier novelist tells the story of Shalako, a man crossing the Sonora Desert and encountering the Apaches and their vengeance.

Collusion by Stuart Neville – Detective Inspector Jack Lennon is on the trail of a cold-blooded assassin and is desperate to protect his former lover and her daughter.

Jimmy Carter by Julian E. Zelizer – Read the biography of the Georgia peanut farmer whose to national power as an American president.

The Chocolate Pirate Plot by JoAnna Carl – Satisfy your sweet tooth and your craving for a tasty whodunit! A Chocoholic Mystery.

The Judas Gate by Jack Higgins – Bestselling author Higgins delivers another nail biting conspiracy action involving U.S. Army Rangers, a British medical team and the Taliban.

Stranglehold by Ed Gorman – A political campaign and a congresswoman hiding a secret are the central plot themes in Gorman's newest book.

Coming soon to the Blacksburg Library:

The highly anticipated book *The Longevity Project: Surprising Discoveries for Health and Long Life from the Landmark Eight-Decade Study* by Howard S. Friedman and Leslie R. Martin is currently on order for the Blacksburg Library.

About this book, Publishers Weekly writes, "In this illuminating addition to the burgeoning bookshelf on longevity, UC-Riverside health researchers Friedman and Martin draw on an eight-decade-long Stanford University study of 1,500 people to find surprising lessons about who lives a long, healthy life and why."

Call 552-8246 ext. 0 to reserve your copy today. Or go online to www.mfirl.org and request this title for reservation by using your library card and pin number.

AARP Donors to the Gerontology Scholarship at VCOM

The following have made donations to the new scholarship as of April 13:

James B. Bell
Jeffrey B. & Sandra E. Birch
Ben & Carol Crawford
Don & Elizabeth Creamer
Curtis R. & Karen S. Finch
John & Sharen Hillison
Jin-Sheng & Ying-Ru Lai
James Dale & Patricia Oliver
Curtis W. Roane
Easley S. Smith
Todd & Inga Solberg
Charles O. & Nancy N. Warren
James P. Wightman

Donations may be made at any time to the scholarship by contacting VCOM.

Blacksburg AARP Chapter # 2613 April 2011 Financial Report

Balance at end of March \$5,137.24

Credits

04/01	50/50 proceeds	\$ 15.00
04/13	Membership Dues	50.00
04/22	Interest	.16
TOTAL		\$ 65.16

Debits

04/11	Transfer to Reserve Acct.	\$2,676.94
04/15	Kopy Korner (newsletter)	142.02
04/15	John Hillison (postage)	34.67
04/18	VA AARP annual fee	25.00
TOTAL		\$2,878.63

Balance end of April \$2,323.77
Balance in Reserve Account \$2,676.94

Blacksburg AARP Chapter Membership Report May 2011*

Member Profile:

Category	Count
AARP 2012 Members	4
AARP 2011 Members	267
LifeTime Members	44
Life Members	9
Comp Members	18
Honorary Members	4
Total Membership	346

*Report prepared April 30, 2011

New Members: N=5

Jim & Sandy Schlaudecker

Gerald & Bonnie Lawton

Patsy Dillon-Long

Newsletters for May 2011: N=226

Membership Committee:

Jim Wightman (Chair), Sue Farrar, Don Creamer, Tom Alston

The AARP-VCOM Health Fair received national recognition

The AARP-VCOM Health Fair received national recognition at the annual American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine conference held in Baltimore Maryland in early April.

Diane Sutphin, member of the Blacksburg chapter and Director of Development at VCOM, entered the health fair project in AACOM's Excellence in Communications Awards.

Diane entered the project under the category, "Community Service – Serving Fewer than 1,000". The selection committee was most impressed with the entry. The Blacksburg AARP VCOM Partnership is perfect for a community, state and/or national model.

Senior Citizen Care Fair – Living Well

Sponsored by the Christiansburg/Montgomery Triad/S.A.L.T. (Seniors and Law Enforcement Working Together).

Tuesday, May 17th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Christiansburg Recreation Center

For more information contact:

Tammy Caldwell at 382-2349

tcaldwell@christiansburg.org

Are you reading

Home Sweet Home?

This monthly publication, published by Larry and Anne Alexander, is for helping seniors stay in their own homes. The current issue is "Reminiscing About My Life" and features Virginia Deal Lawrence who is now 102 years old!

It is available online at

www.homesweethomenews.com

Photos from the April Meeting at Warm Hearth

Photos by Sandy Birch

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Warm Hearth Staff greeted AARP members as they arrived for the meeting.



Members of AARP enjoyed the meal and had a good time visiting with old friends and new friends.



AARP Members learned about several new projects at Warm Hearth.

AARP Chapter 2613 Board Minutes

May 3, 2011

Call to order--President John Hillison called the meeting to order at 10:00.

Present: President John Hillison, Vice President Don Creamer, Secretary Virgil Cook

Board Members: Tom Alston, Mary Ann Hinshelwood, Jim Montgomery, June Schmidt

Non-board-member committee chairs and appointees: Larry Alexander, Val E. Coluni, R. B. "Ben" Crawford, Nancy Eiss, Curtis Finch, Margaret

Kates, Carl McDaniels, Edd Sewell, Sally Anna Stapleton,

President Hillison introduced Val Coluni, who will be serving on the Legislation committee.

Additions to the Agenda--June Schmidt requested that the Jim and Lenna Moore Award be added to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes--June Schmidt noted an error in the April 3 minutes. The minutes stated that we hoped the recipients would be chosen from candidates for the Leading Lights Award. The change should indicate that we hope that the award will be sponsored by Leading Lights. Don Creamer moved that the minutes be approved with the correction. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report--In the absence of treasurer Brian Allen, John Hillison highlighted items in the report. The balance at the end of March was \$5,137.24. The sum of \$2,676.94 was transferred to the reserve fund. The biggest expense was \$142.00 to Kopy Corner for the newsletter. The balance at the end of April was \$2,323.77. The balance in the reserve fund was \$2,676.94.

Don Creamer moved that the report be received. The motion passed.

Officer Report--John Hillison. After forcibly opening the chapter's filing cabinet, he and Brian Allen discarded extraneous material. On April 12, he and Sally Anna Stapleton attended an RSVP reception where Sally Anna received an award for her volunteer service and he received an award on behalf of the chapter for its work on supplies for seniors.

Committee Reports

Health--Larry Alexander. Larry highlighted the new issue of the *Home Sweet Home News*, which features an interview with a 102-year-old resident of Warm Hearth. Larry observed that members often do not get copies of the newsletter. Edd Sewell suggested putting a link to the newsletter on the chapter Website. Larry suggested also putting a link to Senior Navigator, which contains much useful information.

Membership--Tom Alston. Total membership is 346.

Public Relations--Nancy Eiss. News of our events is getting into the *Roanoke Times*.

Liaison--Ben Crawford. The AARP Foundation is no longer awarding grants to colleges and universities. It is now concentrating its efforts on hunger and housing for seniors. According to a recent AARP survey, 48% of respondents did not volunteer last year while 81% did contribute to a charity.

Legislation--Ben Crawford. Ben passed around a copy of a recent, AARP handbook that lists AARP position on various pieces of legislation. Discussion turned to criteria for AARP's lobbying for legislation. Will the cause help members? Is the issue winnable?

Ben discussed the Planning Commission and the middle-school property. MODEA's interest in the property has helped bring the issue to a head. MODEA

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will build its international office on the property nearest to Main Street. The Planning Commission is considering a couple of restaurants as well as senior or low-income housing for possible location on the property.

Programs—Carl McDaniels. The April program will feature Tina King, executive director of the NRV Agency on aging, who will update the chapter on the agency's current programs.

The annual potluck picnic will take place on June 21. There will be music by Paul Little and his son, an antique-car show, and a white-elephant auction. Members should bring items for the auction.

The program on the Christmas Store has been moved to September 20 to allow more time for recruiting volunteers.

Newsletter—Edd Sewell. We are running into a space problem. Individuals and groups want to run ads. The question is which ads to accept and which to reject. Edd would like for the board to set up guidelines.

Chapter Awards—John Hillison. Nita Wightman told him that she has three nominees for the award.

Caring—Margaret Kates. Margaret asked members to give her names of any members who should receive cards.

Driver's Ed—Curt Finch. There are 14 people signed up for the course scheduled for later this week. At least two of the 14 indicated that they learned about the course from the ad in the chapter newsletter. Another course is scheduled for July 12-13.

Create the Good—Sally Anna Stapleton. Sally Anna will attend an organizational meeting for Create the Good in Richmond on May 17.

Tech Retirees—Margaret Kates. The retiree luncheon is scheduled for May 19 at Custom Catering.

Jim and Lenna Moore Award—June Schmidt. The award will be presented at the May chapter meeting. We must move quickly to get the plaques made in time for the meeting.

Village Center at Warm Hearth—John Hillison. John distributed copies of a letter to Ferne Moschella expressing our support of the Village project at Warm Hearth, which discusses the possibility of the chapter's holding occasional meetings at the facility. June Schmidt moved acceptance of the letter. The motion passed.

Adjournment—The meeting was adjourned at 10:19.

Respectfully submitted: Virgil A. Cook, Secretary

2011 Officers, Board Members, and Committee Chairs

Officers

President	John Hillison	johnhillison@comcast.net
Vice President	Don Creamer	dgc2@vt.edu
Secretary	Virgil Cook	vcook@vt.edu
Treasurer	Brian Allen	mballen@prodigy.net

Board of Directors

Class of 2011 -- Don Creamer, dgc2@vt.edu; John Hillison, johnhillison@comcast.net; & Sue Farrar, suefarrar@verizon.net

Class of 2012 -- Mary Ann Hinshelwood, mah@mahinshelwood.com & June Schmidt, schmidtj@vt.edu

Class of 2013 -- Tom Alston, tpalston@gmail.com; Jim Montgomery, jhmontgome@verizon.net; & Juanita Wightman, Wightman@vt.edu

Committee Chairs and Appointees

AARP of Virginia	Ben Crawford	ben.crawford@vt.edu
AARP Driver Safety Course	Curt Finch	crrfinch@vt.edu
Caring	Margaret Kates	
Chaplain	Sandy Birch	birch@vt.edu
Chapter Awards	Juanita Wightman	wightman@vt.edu
Financial Planning	Dale Oliver	jdoliver@vt.edu
Health Care	Larry Alexander	aalexand@radford.edu
History	Doris Abraham	dsta118e@verizon.net
Hospitality	JoAnn Underwood	
Legislative	Ben Crawford,	ben.crawford@vt.edu
Membership	Jim Wightman,	wightman@vt.edu
News Editor	Edd Sewell,	eddsewell@gmail.com
Nominating Committee	Class of 2011	
Program	Carl McDaniels	cmcd@vt.edu
Public Relations	Nancy Eiss	nsjeiss@verizon.net
Create the Good	Sally Anna Stapleton	zulla1947@verizon.net
Community Service	Sally Anna Stapleton	zulla1947@verizon.net
VT Retirees Association	Margaret Kate	

**John Hillison, President
AARP Chapter #2613
P.O. Box 10082
Blacksburg, VA 24062**

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

AARP Chapter #2613 Member Application

Name: _____

Spouse/Partner _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Prefer to receive newsletters: (check one)

Mail _____ Email _____

Annual (Calendar Year) Dues: \$12.50

(includes spouse)*

New _____ Renewal _____

90+ years old (no dues) _____

Today's Date: _____

Make checks to AARP Blacksburg Chapter #2613

And mail to

P.O.Box 10082,
Blacksburg, VA 24062

***Local Chapter membership requires membership in National AARP. Call 1-888-287-2277 or mail dues to AARP, 601 E Street, NW, Washington DC 20049.**