

Membership Meeting -- November 18, 2003

GADGETS, GIZMOS and OTHER COOL STUFF

Blacksburg Senior Center

11:30 a.m. - Bag lunch and fellowship

Program from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Please Bring Non-perishable Food Items for the Food Pantry

December 2: Holiday Luncheon,
12 noon, Red Lion Inn, \$10 per person.

The Blacksburg Community Band will entertain us with holiday music.
Cerrie Coil is accepting reservations. Send the number attending and \$10 for each to:

Cerrie Coil

1404 Hillcrest Dr

Blacksburg, VA 24060.

Deadline for reservations is November 27, 2003

Cerrie will also accept reservations at the November membership meeting.

TAX REFORM SPEAKERS



The speakers at the Tax Reform Forum at the October meeting included: (l-to-r) Delegate Dave Nutter; Senator John Edwards; Delegate Jim Shuler; Dan Fleming (hiding), legislative committee chair; and Brian Allen, president.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brian R. Allen

Hats off to Dan Fleming and his "Tax" committee for a great program at our last meeting. We had between 80 and 90 folks attend, and we all left the meeting knowing that something has to be done with our tax structure in Virginia, but realizing that it will take awhile before any changes are approved. Some of us were scratching our heads a little!

We have another very interesting program coming up this month. Dan Level, our area AARP person, will be demonstrating helpful items that most of us didn't know existed. Gadgets and Gizmos???

Come and join us and bring a friend to lunch. We now have over 260 members by the way,

so if you see Joyce Martin give her a pat on the back.

Our AARP chapter is hosting the Senior Center monthly breakfast next month on December 8th. Please mark your calendars and help us out by attending and bringing some breakfast food. It is a chance for you to show off your culinary skills! Details are in this newsletter.

Details about our upcoming Christmas luncheon on December 2nd are also in this newsletter. Be sure to sign up at the next meeting, or send your check to Cerrie Coil to reserve your spot. Bring a friend to this occasion; it is always a lot of fun and your friends will really enjoy it, especially when you offer to pay for their meal! This year the Blacksburg Community Band will be back to entertain us.

See you on Tuesday the 18th. All the best,
Brian

Editor's Note

I am going to repeat the request made last spring for donations for the Senior Center.

Some of you have generously contributed monies, but we have a long way to go. Below is a reprint of the Board's request.

At an earlier board meeting your directors voted unanimously to help the Senior Center obtain some much needed items for the facility, as a charitable project for our members as well as a thank you for allowing us to meet at the center and use the facilities at no charge; we also have our board meetings there. **We are asking your help in raising enough money to cover most items on their list.** They need some sets of dumbbell weights (\$135), resistance bands (\$75 a box), 10 exercise mats (\$50 each), and 2 convertible cane stools (\$25 each).

Donations can be made payable to the Town of Blacksburg and earmarked for the Senior Center. These donations are fully tax deductible if paid this way! Please mail or

give your checks to Ray Murley, our Treasurer. His address is 904 Horseshoe Ln, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

Please do what you can to help in this worthwhile project. Thank you!

Ray Murley provided the following account of this activity:

Contributions by members through Chapter account	\$232.00
Contributions by members direct to Senior Center	\$135.00
Items donated by members estimated value	\$455.00
Total contributions to date	<u>\$822.00</u>

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

If you have friends who should be members, please bring them to the monthly meeting and encourage them to join. ***Dues for 2004 are now being accepted. Please pay by check payable to Blacksburg AARP. You can pay your dues at the meeting or send them to Ray Murley.***

Ray Murley

904 Horseshoe Ln

Blacksburg, VA 24062-0652

You must be a member of National AARP before joining the local chapter. National dues should be paid directly to National –not through the Blacksburg Chapter.

If you have changed your address, be sure to notify Joyce Martin or Don Elson; also, if you have an e-mail address please give it to one of them.

Have I paid my dues? The Chapter's membership year is based on the calendar year. Check the mail label on your Newsletter.

If "2003" appears on the label, you have paid for the current year. After you pay your 2004 dues, the label will read "2004." There has been a question as to the meaning of the "N" at the end of the year on some of your mail labels. "N" denotes that you are a new member.

Those of you who are 90 years old and older do not pay dues. Your label should read "Life Member." The current membership list has the following members that are 90 years of age or older:

Fay Hoy
Alice Johnson
James McCann

Esther McKenna
Beverly Printz
Nelle Trent

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

AARP MEMBERSHIP LIST UPDATES

If there are corrections to the 2003 Membership List (included in the May Newsletter on green paper), please notify Joyce Martin or Don Elson.

FUTURE MEETINGS

November 18

Dan Level will present a sampling of devices that make tasks in daily life easier. In most cases, a variety of devices can greatly increase an older person's ability to stay in their own home independently and safely. For example, round door knobs can be hard for some people to grasp. A round door knob extension can be snapped to any round door knob transferring it into an easy to use lever. Other examples are a needle threader, key turners, giant push button telephone index, lifter seat, plug puller, cardholder and many more. There are literally thousands of devices that may be of assistance. The devices that

Dan will show and demonstrate can improve or enhance :

- moving about home or community;
- preparing meals and eating;
- personal care and grooming;
- housekeeping and yard care;
- recreation and hobbies; and
- transportation.

Persons of all ages and functional abilities can benefit from these devices called Assistive Technology. The devices shown should help you start thinking about what devices might help you. Be more independent in your own residence and in your travels by benefiting from Assistive Technology. This program is **offered by AARP VIRGINIA** with help from the Virginia Assistive Technology System, Virginia Department of Aging, Virginia Center of Aging, Virginia Association of Area Agencies On Aging, and the Virginia Department of Social Services. This is a meeting you won't want to miss. It will be helpful, educational and fun.

The membership meetings are held at the Blacksburg Community Center on the third Tuesday of each month except December, July and August. Be sure to make a special effort to attend and remember to bring a friend and your lunch. **We begin eating our bag lunches at 11:30 a.m. (coffee and tea available) with the program following at noon.**

Monthly Senior Breakfast at the Senior Center

The Blacksburg AARP Chapter will host the monthly breakfast on **December 8 at 10:00 a.m.** AARP members are asked to bring any Christmas goodies to share with others – muffins, sweet rolls, banana bread, cranberry bread, bowls of cut-up fruit, or other good things to eat that are your specialties. Coffee and tea will be furnished. This breakfast is open to all seniors so come and bring a friend.

Tax Counseling for the Elderly.

Frank Lau

Again, this February, the AARP Tax-Aide program will be preparing tax returns under the name of Tax Counseling for the Elderly. As in years past, there will be a group of preparers who have passed the IRS test, at the Blacksburg Recreation Center. The service is as always, free of charge for the preparation of Federal and State tax returns.

As always, we ask those with rental properties, or who are in business for themselves, to consult a paid preparer, for they are not within our certification. Those with

amended returns, or back taxes, estate, trusts, or partnerships should also seek paid help.

This AARP service will start the second week of February. So as you receive your 2003 tax documents, keep them together, along with medical, and charitable receipts, keep them ready for us. We also offer help for those wishing to work on their own.

Contact the Center after the first of February, to get an appointment.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 4, 2003

Dale Oliver, Acting Secretary

Present: Donald Elson, Ray Murley, Ben Crawford, Paul Smeal, Cerrie Coil, Charlotte Beamer, Harriett Cooper, Jim Owen, Bob Blanton, Darrel Clowes, Joyce Martin, Dan Fleming, Carl McDaniels, June Schmidt, Jim Moore, Brian Allen, and Dale Oliver.

President Brian Allen called the November 4, 2003 board meeting to order. The agenda for the meeting and minutes of the October 7, 2003 board meeting were approved.

Information and Items of Interest or Business

Treasurer's Report: Ray Murley.

The balance, including everything in the account, was \$1,926.77.

Harriett Cooper moved that members be asked to bring nonperishable food items for the food pantry to the November meeting. The motion was seconded and passed. Jim Moore agreed to transport the food to the food pantry.

June Schmidt gave a financial report on the Volunteer Recognition Celebration which our chapter has sponsored two times. The balance to carry forward was \$598.12. June moved that our chapter sponsor the Volunteer Recognition Celebration for 2004. The motion was seconded by Jim Moore and passed. Darrel Clowes moved that our chapter provide financial support for the 2004 Celebration. June Schmidt seconded the motion and it passed. A motion was made and passed to table the question of financial support for the 2004 Celebration until the January 6, 2004 board meeting. June will work with Ray Murley on the financial details.

Committee Reports

Nominating: Darrel Clowes presented the following nominees for offices:

President Brian Allen

1st Vice-Pres. Joyce Martin

2nd Vice-Pres. Jim Owen

The committee will meet again to seek nominees for the office of Secretary. Ben Crawford will install the officers at the December Christmas Luncheon.

Membership: Joyce Martin reported that we have 5 new members and Ray Murley noted that the total membership is 261.

Program: Ben Crawford reported that the topic for the November 18 meeting will be *Gadgets and Gizmos for use in the Home*. Ben will be assisted by Dan Level in presenting the program. Ben reported that four people will be here at the Blacksburg Senior Center from January-April with the tax aide program and the driver's safety program will be here at the Center November 20-21. Harriett Cooper noted that Beth Obenshain of the New River Land Trust will present the January program.

Legislative: Dan Fleming reported that the tax reform study prepared by his committee has been forwarded to the Governor and he noted that the Speaker of the House has stated there will be no new taxes next year. Nationally, progress is being made on a prescription drug program. Jim Moore moved that Dan write an article representing this chapter's views on tax reform and submit it to two local newspapers. The motion was seconded by Carl McDaniels and passed.

Hospitality: Cerrie Coil indicated that reservations are being taken for the Christmas Luncheon to be held December 2 at the Red Lion Inn.

Awards: Bob Blanton reported that the Community Spirit Award and the Chapter Service Award will be presented at the Christmas Luncheon.

Financial Planning and Audit: There was no report.

Newsletter: Don Elson needs everything for the Newsletter by Saturday, November 8.

Other Business

Charlotte Beamer announced that AARP will provide the Senior Center breakfast on December 1. The following individuals volunteered to serve on a committee for the breakfast: Cerrie Coil, Joyce Martin, Darrel Clowes, Charlotte Beamer, Jim Moore, and Brian Allen. Charlotte agreed to chair the committee and noted that food is needed. It was reported that Jim Moore has donated a grill to the Senior Center.

The Blacksburg Holiday Parade will be held December 5th and the theme is *Magic Winter Wonderland*. Ben Crawford moved that we participate in the parade. The motion was seconded by Jim Moore and passed. Don Elson agreed to enter an antique car with three riders.

An Intergenerational Conference on Aging will be held December 4-6 in Washington, DC. Anyone interested in attending should contact Brian Allen.

Brian Allen passed around a plaque received by the Blacksburg AARP Chapter for 25 years of service. Ray Murley will ask if our chapter can display plaques at the Senior Center.

Jim Moore is working on our chapter's by-laws. The group was asked to study the proposed changes and make recommendations to Jim.

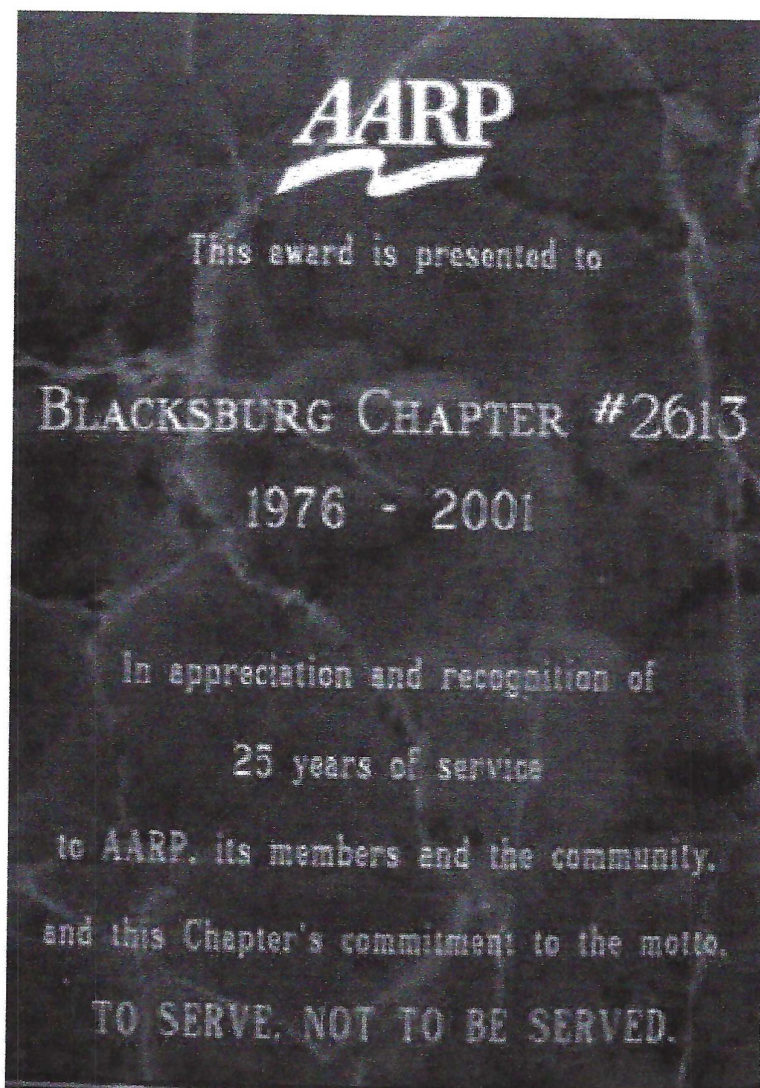
The Mount Tabor Ruritan Club has donated \$100 for the 55 Alive program. Ben Crawford will talk to the Club about how this money can be used.

June Schmidt announced that the Voluntary Action Center is sponsoring its annual Wine, Food, and Art Festival and Silent Auction on November 15 from 5-8 p.m. at the Donaldson Brown Conference Center. Tickets may be purchased from June.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m. The next board meeting will be Tuesday, January 6, 2004.

BLACKSBURG AARP CHAPTER IS 25

Our chapter received this plaque from National AARP for serving the seniors of Blacksburg for 25 years.



BLACKSBURG AARP CHAPTER #2613
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL OR NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

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

Name: _____ Spouse: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ - _____ - _____ E-Mail: _____

Membership: _____ Renewal
 _____ New Member(s)
 _____ Single membership dues **\$6.00**
 _____ Joint Husband and Wife dues **\$10.00**

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

Ray Murley
904 Horseshoe Ln.
Blacksburg, VA 24060

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

AIR POLLUTION AND HEALTH: The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County Virginia will be sponsoring a "Brown Bag" luncheon presentation by Dr. Dudley Rochester, MD, past President of the American Lung Association (2000-2002) on "Air Pollution and Health". The session is open to the public and will start at 11:30 a.m. with a brown bag lunch, followed by Dr. Rochester's presentation at Noon. The time will be 11:30 - 1:30 Friday, November 14, 2003 at the Blacksburg Community Center. Dr. Rochester was for many years the Head of the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Virginia School of Medicine.

WINE, FOOD, & ART FESTIVAL: Sponsored by the Voluntary Action Center of the New River Valley November 15, 2003 5:00 p.m. -- 8:00 p.m. Donaldson Brown Conference Center, Virginia Tech
Donation \$15 singles, \$25 couples

Featuring heavy hors d'oeuvres from local restaurants, numerous door prizes, and silent auction of contributions from local artists
Contact June Schmidt, 552-1590, for reservations

AARP members are invited to spend a memorable evening supporting a worthwhile cause.

Brian R. Allen, President
AARP Chapter #2613
P. O. Box 10652
Blacksburg, VA 24060

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Officers

President	Brian Allen
1 st Vice-Pres.	Joyce Martin
2 nd Vice-Pres.	Jim Owen
Secretary	Phyllis Talley
Treasurer	Ray Murley
Assoc. Treasurer	Jim Moore
Past President	Ben Crawford

Board of Directors

Class of 2003

Charlotte Beamer
Ray Murley
Lula Roberts

Class of 2004

Dan Fleming
Paul Smeal
Shirley Strother

Class of 2005

Carl McDaniels
June Schmidt
Joyce Martin

Nominating Committee

Class of 2003

Darrel Clowes
Lula Roberts
Vincent Talley

Class of 2004

Ben Crawford
Harriet Cooper

Newsletter Editor

Donald Elson

Committee Chairs

Caring
Chaplain
Chapter Awards
Community Service
Financial Planning
Health Care
Hospitality

Legislative
Membership
Newsletter
Nominating
Program
Public Relations
Telephone
Ways & Means

Lula Roberts
Ken Dawson
Bob Blanton
Louis Barnett
Dale Oliver
Darrel Clowes
Clara Jane Billig and
Carrie Coil
Dan Fleming
Joyce Martin
Don Elson
(open)
Ben Crawford
June Schmidt
Charlotte Beamer
Jim Moore

Virginia Tech Retirees Association

Dan Fleming