

## Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) to host the January chapter meeting

*The January chapter meeting will be held at The Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) on January 19, 2010.*

VCOM has invited the Blacksburg AARP to meet at their new facility in the VT Corporate Research

Park for our regular chapter meeting.

The "Pizza Party" will begin at 11:30 am with the program about how VCOM & AARP Blacksburg can work together for better health care for seniors.

Details & direction to the location will appear in full in the January 2010 Chapter Newsletter.

AARP Blacksburg Chapter hosted three special guests at our annual Holiday Lunch on Dec 8 from the Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine. They were: Diane Sutphin, Director of Alumni & Development, Elaine Powers, Director of Library Services, and Rhoda Myers, Controller at VCOM. VCOM will be hosting our January meeting. Look for more details in the January 2010 Chapter Newsletter. Arrangements for tours of VCOM will be available as well.



### **AARP Service Award Winners:**

Top -- Paul Smeal  
Bottom -- Dale Oliver



### 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, Patrick Henry Drive, at 10:00 a.m.

P.O. Box 10082  
Blacksburg, VA 24062  
<http://civic.bev.net/aarp/>

## Notes from the New River Valley Agency on Aging

Tina King, Executive Director

It is December! Are you “making a list and checking it twice?” Although this is a question that derives from a Christmas song, it is a reminder related to the open enrollment period for the Medicare Part D program. Borrowing from one of the Agency on Aging’s well informed health insurance counselors, Deena Flinchum’s recent article in the Roanoke Times, I want to pass along some important things to consider and deadlines to observe as you make your list for what you need in regard to prescription drug insurance coverage in 2010.

During the open enrollment period from November 15 through December 31, 2009, all persons who have a Medicare Part D plan to cover their prescriptions should review their plan to see if it will be the best plan for them in 2010. There are several questions to ask in order to make a good decision. Will the plan cover all of my drugs? Is it the least expensive for me? Would I prefer receiving my drugs through the mail? Is my current drug plan going to be around in 2010? Will I fall into the “doughnut hole” in 2010?

If you make the decision to change your Part D plan, this must be done no later than December 31, 2009, unless you qualify for “Extra Help” or another protected category. Persons in “protected categories” can change Part D plans outside

of the open enrollment period.

If you have or are considering a Medicare Advantage plan that has prescription coverage, the same questions apply. Additionally, several Medicare Advantage Programs will not be offered next year and there are some new ones available. If your Medicare Advantage plan will not be offered in 2010 you should have received your notice by now. Which plan will be best for you in 2010? If your current Medicare Advantage plan covers drugs and it is one that will not be offered in 2010, you will need to at least select a new drug plan for 2010, or you may end up without coverage for the entire year.

The open enrollment period for Medicare Advantage Plans is January 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>. During this time you can change Medicare Advantage Plans, go back to “original Medicare coverage”, or switch from “original Medicare coverage” to a Medicare Advantage Plan.

For information to help make an informed decision, use the Medicare website, [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or call 1-800-Medicare. Also, it might help to talk with a family member, friend, or other caregiver to help decide the drug coverage that best meets your needs. During this Part D open enrollment period, the Agency on Aging health insurance counselors have reached their capacity through December to provide one-on-one assistance. They are “booked solid” with appointments all the way through December 31, 2009. However, plan ahead and

consider contacting us next year for help with this decision.

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy holiday season!

Paul Smeal passed the gavel to AARP’s new president Brian Allen at the holiday luncheon.



AARP Chapter 2613  
Board of Directors  
Minutes  
December 1, 2009

**Call to Order**—President Paul Smeal called the meeting to order at 10:05.

Officers Present: President Paul Smeal, First Vice President Jim Wightman, Secretary Virgil Cook

Board Members: Harriett Cooper, Don Creamer, Ken Dawson, Nancy Eiss, Sue Farrar, Dan Fleming, Joe Fontenot, John Hillison

Non-board-member committee chairs and appointees: Doris Abraham, Larry Alexander, R.B. “Ben” Crawford, Curtis Finch, Carl McDaniels, Curtis Roane, June Schmidt, Edd Sewell

President Smeal thanked the group for its support during his tenure.

**Approval of Minutes**--John Hillison moved that the minutes be approved. The motion passed.

**Treasurer’s Report**—Because Brian Allen was absent, President Smeal distributed copies of the financial statement.

*Continued on page 3*

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BALANCE	\$2,904.94
end of October 2009	
CREDITS	
11/06 Membership	37.50
11/06 Christmas Lunches	60.00
11/16 Membership	25.00
11/23 50/50 drawing	26.00
11/23 Interest	.18
11/23 Christmas Lunches	390.00
11/23 Membership	162.50
11/24 Adjustment	45.00
(additional. Deposit cash not counted in)	
11/30 Christmas Lunches	90.00
<u>11/30 Membership</u>	<u>237.50</u>
TOTAL CREDITS	\$1,073.68
DEBITS	
11/16 John Hillison	34.44
(Postage)	
11/17 Joanne Underwood	17.90
( Table decorations for holiday lunch)	
<u>11/30 Kopy Korner</u>	<u>125.48</u>
TOTAL DEBITS	\$177.82
BALANCE	\$3,800.80
Income for 12 months	\$3,051.00
Expenses for 12 months	\$2,892.00
(includes \$300.00 donation to Town in honor of Connie Anderson)	
Currently have checks totaling \$200.00 in donations for Town of Blacksburg.	
Our current balance is closer to what we had at the end of last year. Brian has four checks from members totaling \$200 designating money for the Blacksburg Department of Recreation. The question is what end-of-year donations we should make. We spend on average about \$160 a month for the newsletter. Ken Dawson moved that we donate \$200 to the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry. The motion passed. John Hillison moved that we donate \$600 to the Blacksburg Department of Recreation. The motion passed.	
<b>Christmas Lunch</b> -Curt Roane. We now have only 48 paid. We usually have around 70. Harriett Cooper suggested that we call friends and acquaintances urging them to sign up.	

**Legislation**--Dan Fleming. Many of the groups sponsoring ads on the healthcare legislation are funded by insurance companies. The war cost might impact the healthcare bill. In a meeting with Congressman Rick Boucher, Dan learned that his primary reason for voting against the healthcare bill was the public option, which Congressman Boucher called "the government option."

**Programs**--Carl McDaniels. Carl passed out a suggestion form for future programs. The Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) would like to host our January meeting at their conference center. Carl suggested that we accept the offer. They will provide both the program and a pizza lunch. They would also like to host the health fair. Carl indicated that the venue might be very desirable because of parking. VCOM has indicated that it wants to work with seniors. A senior might work with an individual student, who would check vital signs periodically. There has been warm response to Paul's focus on health. Carl asked that the Program Committee be expanded to include Jo Ann Underwood, Ben Crawford, and Larry Alexander. Paul thanked Pat Bower for heading up the tax-aid program.

**Membership**--Don Creamer. We currently have 336 members.

**Awards**--Joe Fontenot. Recipients have been chosen, and the plaques are ready for the presentation at the Christmas lunch.

**Newsletter**--Edd Sewell. The November letter is the first one that had space available, requiring him to add fillers. Jim Wightman stressed the importance of renewing membership. The group suggested publishing a shorter, four-page newsletter for December, for we need to promote the January program at VCOM.

**Caring**--Harriett Cooper mentioned two members who have moved to Wheatland and are unhappy there.

**Driver's Ed**--Curtis Finch. There are

two courses for the spring: March 2-3 and April 22-3. We offered five courses last year. We must have a minimum of 12 students.

**Auditing**--John Hillison has asked Dale Oliver and Judy Sewell to serve on an audit committee. John asked for a volunteer to back him up mailing newsletters. Sue Farrar agreed to serve as a backup.

**Chaplain**--Ken Dawson pointed out that we usually do memorials at the January meeting. Should we wait until the February meeting because of the venue in January? Paul argued that doing it at VCOM would probably reach more people. Ken suggested that we ask the incoming president to authorize the memorial in January.

**Health**--Larry Alexander-We are down to 35 states with increasing swine flu.

**State Liaison**--Ben Crawford. Ben commended Larry Alexander for the *Home Sweet Home Newsletter* and to Edd Sewell for the chapter newsletter. Congressman Boucher gave a small, AARP group a good hearing, but he is adamant about the public option. He hopes that the senate will come up with something he can vote for. The congressman argued that the option would put the nonprofit companies out of business.

**Adjournment**--The meeting was adjourned at 11:13.

Respectfully submitted:  
Virgil A. Cook, Secretary

**Welcome new member!**  
**Helen A. Matthews**

**Did you know that next month takes us into 2010?**

**It's time to RENEW your membership!**

(See the back page for a renewal application form, or get a friend to join our local chapter.)

Paul Smeal, President  
AARP Chapter #2613  
P.O. Box 10082  
Blacksburg, VA 24062

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

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## TIME to RENEW Your Membership in Blacksburg AARP Chapter 2613 or to Become a New Member

Membership in the Blacksburg AARP Chapter requires membership in National AARP.

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

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership (based on calendar year):

\_\_\_\_\_ New membership dues: \$12.50 [Spouse/Partner Free]

\_\_\_\_\_ Renewal membership dues: \$12.50 [Spouse/Partner Free]

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

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

NOTE: You MUST be a member of National AARP before joining the local chapter. National dues should be paid directly to National AARP and NOT through the Blacksburg Chapter. Those of you who are 90 years old and older do not pay dues. Your label should read "Life Member."