



# BLACKSBURG NEWS

Volume 19, Issue 9

Chapter # 2613

November 2002

## HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

**When:** December 3 at 12 noon

**Where:** Red Lion Inn

**Cost:** \$10.00 person

Make checks to Blacksburg AARP

**Reservations:** Send checks to Cerrie Coil,  
1404 Hillcrest Dr.  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

**DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: NOVEMBER 28**

(Cerrie can not accept checks received after November 28. You can not pay at the door.)

Entertainment: Virginia and Richard Bethune

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

R. B. "Ben" Crawford

Al Capp, creator of the famous comic strip *Lil' Abner*, was one day invited to a university to give a lecture to the students. Before he could begin speaking to the large group assembled in the auditorium, an unkempt looking student at the back shouted a vulgar word at him. The word hung in the air as an uncomfortable silence lasted but a moment... Capp, keeping his cool, quipped, "Now that you've given us your name, what IS your question?"

A positive question to me from one of our members was; "How has our chapter used the dollars some of us donated (over and above annual dues) for community service?" It was reported at the November Board meeting that, to date \$858.00 has been received for this purpose. With these — your donated dollars, your Board has made the following donations or allocations:

- \$ 50. Christmas Store
- \$250. Volunteer Action Center of the New River Valley (VAC)
- \$125. AARP Andrus Foundation: (helps millions grappling with issues of aging)

In addition, your dollars are allocated to sponsor, together with the YMCA at Virginia Tech, Red Cross, and VAC, a volunteer recognition event to take place early in 2003. Further, we plan to be a

participating and financial sponsor of the NRV Senior Olympic Games next April. Heaps and heaps of THANKS to the many chapter members who made all this possible.

From our regular or operating budget, made up entirely of member dues, the largest expense is this newsletter. Other dues money goes to the annual cost of keeping our charter up to date with the State Corporation Commission, awards and entertainment at the December Holiday Luncheon.

By the way don't forget to send Cerrie Coil your check for our Holiday Luncheon -- noon at the Red Lion Inn, Tuesday, December 3. We'll have delightful entertainment, good food, introduce the new officers and board; and present the Community Spirit and Chapter Service awards. Cerrie needs your check (made out to Blacksburg AARP) by November 28. \$10 per person. Send to Cerrie Coil, 1404 Hillcrest Dr, Blacksburg, VA 24060

We look at our gain  
To develop our aim  
As time unwinds the clock  
To run twelve months again

## Let's look back at some of our activities and accomplishments in 2002

We had interesting and informative monthly programs on such topics as:

Birds of Costa Rica,  
Fitness Can Be Fun,  
General Assembly Outcomes,  
End of Life Issues,  
Organ Donations,  
Lessons Learned About the Human --  
Animal Bond at Ground Zero,  
Old Age Ain't for Sissies,  
Improving Our Memory, and  
Senior First Aid (coming up).

We held our June picnic at Nellies Cave Park with antique cars to see from the Blue Ridge Model A Club, and new trash demonstration by town staff; and delicious food prepared by members, with special thanks to our **Hospitality Committee**. PLUS, many members took advantage of and participated in the numerous tours and special outings for seniors offered through the Senior Center.

Past president **Darrel Clowes** represented our chapter as a judge in the VFW Essay Contest, a nationwide contest to promote patriotism in schools.

Members prepared 20 independent living gift baskets and arranged for delivery to needy seniors in our area including exercisers, band-aid holders, carpet tape, night-lights, tub and shower safety tape, pill boxes, etc. Thanks to **June Schmidt, Bob Blanton, Lewis Barnett, Darrel Clowes**, Agency on Aging, and all members. Member **Frank Lau** assisted with the AARP Tax-Aide program, the largest free tax-assistance program in the nation.

The Board endorsed chapter sponsorship and encouraged member participation in the New River Valley Senior Olympic Games. Many of our members entered events and received gold, silver and bronze awards.

Hosted a community council for other AARP Chapter officers from Giles, Pulaski and Floyd Counties and the city of Radford.

We conceived and developed (by members **Paul Smeal** and **Frank Lau**) a chapter email list-serve to enhance our communication among members.

Many members participated in September 26 AARP "**National Day of Service**", and joined other local chapters across the state and nation — theme "Serve your Community, Strengthen our Nation"

Cosponsored a **Korean Commemoration Trip** to DC (two nights), attended ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, visited the Women's War Museum, and much more. Coordinated by **Frank Lau**

Prepared, printed and mailed each member a **monthly newsletter** (summer and December excluded). Included with May issue a list of all members with name, address and phone number. Special thanks to members **Don and Amy Elson** and **Lewis and Charlotte Barnett!**

Members participated in AARP eight-hour **Safe Driving Program** taught by **Bill Wagoner**, experienced AARP volunteer, and are entitled to a premium reduction on their auto insurance for three years — per Virginia law. Our Blacksburg chapter will sponsor this program next year.

**Chapter membership 217:** It was reported in the November Board meeting that we have 211 paid members and 6 Life members for a total of 217 members. Members age 90 and above do not pay dues and are classified as Life Members. Life Members are listed in each newsletter.

**Attention new officers and directors:** It is important that our new officers, directors and interested members attend the Chapter Workshop beginning at 9:00 a.m. on **Wednesday, December 4**, at the Days Inn Airport in Roanoke. (Off I 81, exit 146 — just North of Roanoke. The workshop is designed to help you understand your role in the larger organization and help you be more successful — you are the faces, hands, eyes, ears and voice of AARP in communities.

With more than 900,000 AARP members in Virginia, yours is an important responsibility. Specific areas to be covered include: review of national and state AARP programs and the opportunities they present for chapters, discuss what other chapters are doing, role of chapter officers, building and retaining chapter membership. This workshop begins at 9:00 a.m. and adjourns at 3:00 p.m. Virginia AARP will provide a complimentary buffet lunch.

**Blacksburg Holiday Parade:** Thanks to newsletter editor, Don Elson, our chapter will have an AARP entry in the Blacksburg Holiday Parade Friday, December 6, at 7 p.m. If you can assist by riding in the Elson antique car (room for 3) or by walking and handing out candy, let Don know of your interest.

There is a proverb that says; **Those who bring sunshine into the lives of others also bring it to themselves.** In serving this year as your chapter president, you have brought much sunshine into my life. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity and God Bless you and yours.

## FUTURE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS

Frank Lau describes the program for the November 19 membership meeting at the Senior Center in the Community Center. Eileen Hadbavny, who is a retired Army Nurse, will speak to us about **handling emergency and preventative health issues geared to seniors.** If you donate blood over at the Red Cross on Jackson Street, or went on the Korean War Commemoration trips, or the D-Day Memorial Dedication in our bus trips, you probably know her. I hope she covers your specific questions. I can still picture back 10 years ago, when I had to perform the Heimlich maneuver on my father.

If you desire to show support for this presentation, please help with an optional contribution. Also, she will mention "Gift Certificates" to help future training programs, like you have just received. As in the past we will gather at 11:30 a.m. to eat our bag lunches. The meeting will begin at 12 noon. Be sure to make a special effort to attend and remember to bring a friend.

The **Holiday Luncheon, December 3** at the Red Lion Inn will be held in place of the regular monthly meeting for December. Reservations are required as noted at the beginning of this newsletter.

**January: Walnut Spring.** Dr. James Otey Hoge, Professor of English at Virginia Tech will talk about the fascinating history of his home. Walnut Spring was built before the Civil War and has been in his family since then.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Pat Palmer is our current Membership Chair. (A new 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and Membership Chair will be elected at the November meeting.) If you have friends who should be members, please bring them to the November meeting and encourage them to join. Dues for 2003 can be paid at the meeting or sent to Pat.

**Pat Palmer  
2003 Scott Drive  
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

**Have I paid my dues?** Check the mail label on your Newsletter. If "2002" appears on the label, you have paid for the current year. When you pay your 2003 dues, the label will read "2003." 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        | James McCann   |
| Esther McKenna | Beverly Printz |
| Nelle Trent    | Lottie Trimm   |

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

## AARP MEMBERSHIP LIST UPDATES

If there are corrections to the Membership List as published in the May Newsletter (blue paper), please notify Pat Palmer or Don Elson.

## CHAPTER AWARDS

Bob Blanton

The Chapter Awards Committee began functioning in September 2000. Two awards are given annually at the December Holiday luncheon.

The Community Spirit Award will be given to a person in the Blacksburg community that best exemplify the goals of AARP through their volunteer activities at the national, state, or local level. The activities should better the lives of older Americans, although additional efforts related to other age groups will also receive consideration. The activities do not have to be done as part of an AARP program and the award recipient could be of any age. The Chapter Service Award will be given to a member of the Blacksburg AARP Chapter for his or her activities in AARP, whether at the national, state or local level.

## AARP E-MAIL LISTSERV

Frank Lau

I know there are some of you starting to use the ListServ. Every time an e-mail goes out, I get a message from the BEV, saying that some recipients are invalid, and therefore, delivery has "Bounced", meaning they cannot be delivered to those addresses. It means I do not have a valid e-mail address for you. So, if you have received no messages from AARP2613, and you want to, your address is wrong on the ListServ. Please send me your correct address so that I may "subscribe" you. Send me "AARP2613" in Subject to franklau@earthlink.net and I'll include it. No message necessary.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SENIORS

Paul Smeal

### Computer workshops on Scanners

A scanning workshop that will utilize a flat bed scanner is scheduled for Monday, November 25th, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., at The Community Center, Computer Lab. Mr. Gene Bard will be the instructor. Registration will begin immediately at The Community Center, and it will be available to the first eight (8) persons registering. A waiting

list will be kept, and if there are more than eight on the waiting list, a second scanning workshop will be scheduled. Fee is \$5.00 for residents, and \$10.00 for non-residents.

### BEV-Seniors general meeting

The next general meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 18th, 10:30 a.m. at the Blacksburg Community Center. Arrive early for cookies, coffee, fellowship and conversation.

At 10:30 a.m., Mr. F. Brad Denardo, executive vice president and chief operation officer for the National Bank of Blacksburg, will be accepting our thanks for donating another computer to the Computer Lab. The program will be on **Assistive Technologies (AT) for persons with Visual Impairments** by William H. Holbach, Information Technology Analyst, Information Systems and Computing.

Besides screen magnification and color filtering, he will address assisted reading for persons with low vision. If you have any family member who is blind, or you know of someone who is blind, he can address screen reading software for the blind. Since our members have both PC's and Mac's, he will bring equipment and software to demonstrate AT for both operating systems.

### Continuing the "Fun & Fit" programs

Orientation to basketball, frisbee and shuffleboard will be conducted on Friday, November 15th at 10:15 a.m. until everyone tires. Basketball is learning or relearning the skill of shooting free throws. Frisbee is learning to throw the frisbee for accuracy and distance. Shuffleboard is learning about the game and practicing. If we have persons interested, we will plan a tournament, for fun.

### Thank you Don Elson and the Newsletter Staff:

Frank Lau

Unless you have done it, you don't have a grip on the amount of hours and dedication needed to get this newsletter to you each month. At the Holiday Luncheon, or whenever you attend a meeting, please express your thanks for a job very well done!

## **BOARD MINUTES – Pending Approval at January Board Meeting**

Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613  
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting  
November 7, 2002

Present: Phyllis Talley, Dale Oliver, Donald Elson, Vincent Talley, Ray Murley, Dan Fleming, Clara Jane Billig, Bob Blanton, Jim Moore, Cerrie Coil, Charlotte Beamer, June Schmidt, Harriett Cooper, Ben Crawford, Ralph Cecchini, Darrell Clowes

9:30 am the meeting was called to order by Ben Crawford, president.

The agenda was approved as modified.

Minutes of October 1, 2002 were approved with special note that the Nominating Committee Report will require review since 1st VP, Frank Lau will not be able to accept the nomination.

Treasurer's Report: Ralph Cecchini

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Bank Balance:           | \$1663.33 |
| Total Income:           | 97.06     |
| Total Expenditures:     | 295.36    |
| Expense over income:    | 198.30    |
| Bank balance 11/01/02   | 1465.03   |
| CD at 1st National Bank | 625.51    |

Total donations: \$858.00

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Information & Items of Interest/Business: Ben Crawford

Make a Difference Day, letter of commendation and best wishes from President & Mrs. George Bush to volunteer organizations and millions of individuals who participated in this nationwide observance. AARP chapters had initiated the related National Day of Service. The next observance will be: October 25, 2003.

AARP Virginia Chapter Officer Workshop will be Wed., Dec. 4, 9-3 at the Days Inn, Roanoke. Officers are encouraged to attend; Ben Crawford is leading a workshop and will make reservations for those interested in attending.

Military Appreciation Night at the Golden Corral, Monday, Nov. 11 for free buffet at nearest one – for any and all veterans and military personnel.

Listening Sessions, sponsored by the new VA Dept. for the Aging, is a possibility for a future program meeting, led by a speaker from the department.

Blacksburg Holiday Parade, Friday Dec. 6, 7:00 p.m. The board voted favorable on the motion that the Blacksburg AARP Chapter participates in the parade. Don will drive his 'antique' car, Cerrie and Charlotte passengers with 1-2 walkers beside the car to toss-out candy.

AARP 55 Alive program was discussed. The Chapter voted favorably to sponsor the two-day driver safety program. Jim Moore and Ben Crawford will coordinate. Suggested time: Wed., March 19 & Friday, March 21, 2003, from 1:00 – 5:00.

Comfort Keepers, the affordable solution for non-medical in-home care, has a brochure that will be made available at the Dec. luncheon meeting.

#### Committee & Community Service Reports:

- a. Nominating Committee will meet briefly following the board meeting.
- b. Membership: 211 members, 6 life members.
- c. Program: December, Christmas Luncheon, Tuesday, Dec. 3, 12 noon, Red Lion Inn. Reservations: Thursday, November 28 to Cerrie Coil.
- d. January: Dr. James Otey Hoge will discuss historical Walnut Spring. Possibility of tour planned at a later date.
- e. Legislative Committee: It was moved and seconded that the Chapter offer to host a Regional Meeting by the Virginia State Assembly re: issues facing senior citizens. Registration to be required, luncheon to be provided. The vote was favorable. Other legislative items of interest: discussion of tax breaks for seniors, should it be across-the-board or related to income. Be aware of issues, e.g., cigarette tax increase, status of capital gain losses, eliminate taxation of dividends, etc
- f. Awards: Community Spirit and Chapter Service Award will be presented at the December meeting.
- g. Finance: Community Service contributions were discussed. It was voted favorably to contribute \$250 to Voluntary Action Committee.
- h. June Schmidt reported: Volunteer Recognition Event to be held in January. Coordinated by AARP, VAC, Red Cross and the Y.

The meeting adjourned: 11:00.

Next Board meeting, the 1st Tuesday, January 7, 2003, 9:30 am

Phyllis Talley, secretary

R. B. Crawford, President  
AARP Chapter #2613  
200 Cork Dr.  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BLACKSBURG, VA  
PERMIT NO. 32

Officers

|                            |                |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| President                  | Ben Crawford   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-Pres. | Pat Palmer     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-Pres. | Lewis Barnett  |
| Secretary                  | Phyllis Talley |
| Treasurer                  | Ralph Cecchini |
| Assoc. Treasurer           | Ray Murley     |
| Past President             | Darrel Clowes  |

Board of Directors

Class of 2002

Clara Jane Billig  
Harriett Cooper

Class of 2003

Charlotte Beamer  
Ray Murley  
Lula Roberts

Class of 2004

Dan Fleming  
Paul Smeal  
Shirley Strother

Nominating Committee

Class of 2002

Mary Ellen Moore  
June Schmidt

Class of 2003

Darrel Clowes  
Lula Roberts  
Vincent Talley

Newsletter Editor

Donald Elson

Committee Chairs

Caring  
Chaplain  
Chapter Awards  
Community Service  
Financial Planning  
Health Care  
Hospitality

Legislative  
Membership  
Newsletter  
Nominating  
Program  
Project Planning  
Public Relations  
Telephone  
Ways & Means

Lula Roberts  
Ken Dawson  
Bob Blanton  
Louis Barnett  
Dale Oliver  
Darrel Clowes  
Clara Jane Billig and  
Cerrie Coil  
Dan Fleming  
Pat Palmer  
Don Elson  
(open)  
Harriet Cooper  
June Schmidt  
June Schmidt  
Charlotte Beamer  
Jim Moore

Virginia Tech Retirees Association

Jim Moore