



BLACKSBURG NEWS

Volume 21, Issue 3

Chapter # 2613

March 2004

Membership Meeting -- March 16, 2004

Local Community Foundation -- Andy Morikawa

Warm Hearth -- John Robinson

**11:30 a.m. - Bag lunch and fellowship
Program from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.**

It is time to pay your 2004 dues.

BLACKSBURG AARP CHAPTER DUES

\$6.00 individual or \$10.00 for husband and wife

Please renew your membership by completing the membership form at the end of this newsletter and returning it along with your check.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brian R. Allen

We had a very good board meeting last Tuesday. We always cover a lot of territory, and this month was no exception. You will notice from the minutes that we are still a long way from our \$500.00 goal. Please help us out with this. We have collected \$150.00 so far, which is a great beginning. Some members have mentioned to me that they would like to make donations larger than the suggested \$10.00, but they could use the tax deduction. Well, Joy has agreed to accept checks made payable to the 'Town of Blacksburg' and having them be earmarked for Senior Center Donations. If this is something you would like to do please go ahead, but give the checks to

Jim Moore or Ray Murley, so we can keep track. Thank you in advance!

Frank Lau and his 'Tax Aide' helpers have been really busy this season and are to be congratulated. They have processed 45 returns. This is the third year for this free service, and utilizes volunteers to assist our community as a whole. Thank them when you see them!

We have another Volunteer recognition celebration coming April 3, and our own Dale Oliver has been nominated. Be sure to put this on your calendar. We also will have a continuation of our very successful 'End of Life Planning' seminar coming May



8. This time the focus will be on caring for folks at the end. It will probably include speakers from Hospice, Nursing Homes, Social Services, etc. Put this on your calendar, too. It will be held on Saturday May 8, probably after lunch. Times will be announced later.

We also have 'Senior Olympics' coming up April 28 – May 5. Get your exercise now in preparation for this fun event. I will be joining in this year myself. Other years I have been away as Easter fell close to the same time. There are 26 different events to participate in, so there is bound to be something for you! I think I will try discus, Frisbee, horseshoes (I came close to catching Paul Smeal last time), shot put, tennis and, for sure, riflery. Care to challenge me?

This month's meeting will be great. We have two speakers for you to enjoy and of whom to ask questions: Andy Morikawa from The Community Foundation, plus John Robertson from Warm Hearth. Pack a lunch and bring a friend. It will be a very informative meeting. See you there.

All the best, *Brian*

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CELEBRATION

APRIL 3, 2004

10:00 - 11:30 a. m. at the Blacksburg Community Center

The Volunteer Recognition Celebration, sponsored by our Blacksburg AARP Chapter, the Voluntary Action Center, the American Red Cross, the YMCA at Virginia Tech, and the Blacksburg Senior Center, will be held, Saturday, April 3, 2004 from 10:00 - 11:30 a. m. Put this important

event on your calendar. The purpose of the event is to recognize outstanding volunteers from throughout the New River Valley.

Joyce Martin and June Schmidt are serving on the event planning committee from our Chapter. They need help on April 3 with welcoming guests, serving as hosts, assisting with the refreshments, and room set up and clean up.

The planning committee has sent information about the event to organizations throughout the New River Valley requesting them to nominate outstanding volunteers. A highlight of the event will be the awarding of the Jim and Lenna Moore Citizenship and Community Service Award. Both Jim and Lenna were exemplary in their service to the community and to our AARP Chapter.

The Celebration features entertainment, awards recognitions, and light refreshments. There is no cost for the event. Besides the five organizations sponsoring the event mentioned above, others contributing to it include the Montgomery County Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Montgomery Regional Hospital, and Carillon Hospitals of the New River Valley.

Joyce and June look forward to your volunteering to help as well as seeing you on April 3. Call Joyce at 552-0013 or June at 552-1590 to let either know of your interest in serving.

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 fill out the membership form in this newsletter and attach a 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 NOT 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

Eva Patterson

Nelle Trent

Esther McKenna

Beverly Printz

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.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

The Board of Directors, at its January 1998 meeting, adopted the following policy relative to Board and/or chapter meetings during inclement weather:

AARP Board and/or chapter meetings will be canceled if Montgomery County Schools are closed due to inclement weather on days AARP Board and/or chapter meetings are scheduled."

FUTURE MEETINGS

March 16 – Andy Morikawa and John Robertson

Andy Morikawa, Executive Director of The Community Foundation of the New River Valley, Inc. will speak on "Our Relationship to Our Local Community Foundation." Andy will report on the fund being established and the good works done in Montgomery County and beyond through the community foundation.

John Robertson of Warm Hearth will speak about people moving to Warm Hearth, to either subsidized apartment housing or to Town houses. Also he will discuss the connection of these units to moving to assisted living and/or nursing.

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.**

TAX COUNSELING FOR THE ELDERLY.

Frank Lau

AARP Tax-Aide program is working hard to keep up or ahead of demand for help with taxes. So far, the Blacksburg group has processed 45 returns. We can use software to also check your numbers if you choose to do your own. There have been changes this year to dividends and stock transactions, which have made for much confusion.

We not only serve our own age group, but also young families, singles, students, and VT service personnel. So we are doing quite a variety. Warm Hearth residents are also joining in to ask for assistance. A continuing clientele is developing there, now in its third year.

The AARP Tax-Aide program is preparing tax returns under the name of Tax Counseling for the Elderly. As in years past, there is 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.

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.

Keep your 2003 tax documents 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 (961-1134) to get an appointment.

STATE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS Virginia AARP

Independent Research: 68% of Virginians Believe State Has Serious Financial Problems; Support Balanced Tax Reform to Meet Essential State Needs

Richmond, VA. - Independent research completed just last week found that a total of 68 percent of Virginians registered to vote believe that Virginia "has serious financial problems" and support a balanced approach to tax reform to adequately fund essential state services. This approach includes a combination of tax reductions and increases. The AARP Virginia released the research today in the State Capitol in Richmond.

The research report and questionnaire may be viewed at:

http://research.aarp.org/econ/va_budget.html

"These findings clearly show that Virginians not only support services to meet chronic needs, but that they understand we must have more revenue and they are willing to pay higher taxes to provide that revenue," emphasized AARP Virginia State Director Bill Kallio in examining the research findings.

The research showed that 60 percent of Virginia voters support a tax reform package that includes tax increases through state sales, cigarette, gasoline, corporate and some incomes taxes - and decreases in car, estate, food and some income taxes.

There is even greater support for total tax reform if it helps Virginia provide quality public and higher education (77%) and balances the state budget without more major cuts in spending to meet major needs (73%).

When paired with reductions in other taxes, about 70 percent of voters in Virginia support increasing specific taxes - cigarette (75%), corporate (73%), income taxes on households with incomes of \$100,000 (68%) and sales (60%) - to help balance the state budget without major spending cuts.

Less than a majority of voters supported some proposals - 35% support increasing the gasoline tax and 35% support reducing the age-based income tax exemption.

When coupled with increases in other taxes, significant majorities of those surveyed support:

- lowering income taxes on the first \$20,000 of income for all filers (72%)
- increasing the personal income tax exemption from \$800 to \$1,000 (69%) and increasing the standard income tax deduction from \$3,000 to \$3,500 for individuals and from \$5,000 to \$7,000 for couples (68%)
- lowering the sales tax on food from 4 percent to 2.5 percent.

The research did find deep-seated concern about cuts that do not meet needs identified in several important areas. Eight in ten voters in Virginia oppose cuts to health and long-term care services for children, older persons and people with disabilities (81%) and education including K-12 and higher education (81%).

CARING COMMITTEE

If you know of someone that is ill and/or in the hospital or if there is a death in our AARP family, please notify the Caring Committee chairperson, **Lula Roberts**, 552-7655.

SPECIAL POEM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

A row of bottles on my shelf
Caused me to analyze myself.
One yellow pill I have to pop
Goes to my heart so it won't stop.
A little white one that I take
Goes to my hands so they won't shake
The blue ones that I use a lot
Tell me I'm happy when I'm not.
The purple pill goes to my brain
And tells me that I have no pain.
The capsules tell me not to wheeze
Or cough or choke or even sneeze
The red ones, smallest of them all
Go to my blood so I won't fall.
The orange ones, very big and bright
Prevent my leg cramps in the night.
Such an array of brilliant pills
Helping to cure all kinds of ills.
But what I'd really like to know...
Is what tells each one where to go.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING

March 2, 2004

Brian Allen, Acting Secretary

The following members were present: Darrel Clowes, June Schmidt, Carl McDaniels, Jim Owen, Bob Blanton, Paul Smeal, Joyce Martin, Lula Roberts, Jim Moore, Don Elson, Dale Oliver, Brian Allen, Frank Lau, Dan Fleming and Doris Abraham.

Brian Allen, President, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a. m. Approval of the agenda was moved by Dale Oliver and seconded by Jim Moore. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as they appeared in the newsletter-moved by Dale Oliver and seconded by Carl McDaniels.

Carl McDaniels reported for the committee to explore a name change for our chapter. He checked with AARP National office in Washington, DC and was advised that we could change it to almost anything as long as it was not an individual's or company's name. Suggestions were put forward to change to the New River Valley Chapter, or Blacksburg/Christiansburg chapter. A motion to keep our chapter name as Blacksburg Chapter #2613 was moved by Jim Moore and seconded by Lula Roberts. A vote was taken and the majority approved the motion. Our name will not be changed for now.

A discussion ensued following Carl McDaniels report about soliciting AARP National members that live in and around Blacksburg, in order to increase our membership. Up until now we have been told that those names are not available to us. Carl asked National about this and they said we should be able to get them from the state office, and they do not have a problem with that. Carl is to follow up with the state office. It was also discussed that we need to inform existing members that dues are **actually payable in advance** of the year, and certainly should be paid by the March meeting. It was agreed that a phone call would be placed to anyone unpaid after that date. At this point we have 265 members on the list, including four life members and only 187 members have paid. It was agreed that if dues remain unpaid by May 1, 2004 those members risk being dropped from the list and may no longer receive the newsletter. We need to have 200 mail pieces to maintain our postage discount. It was further proposed to table any discussion on increasing dues until the September meeting.

Last year's nominating committee agreed to work to find a secretary for us, and another two board members by our April meeting. Frank Lau volunteered to be a board member this year and was unanimously approved.

Dan Fleming reported that the State legislature and Senate were in a stalemate (gridlock) with the tax increases, and former governors George Allen and Douglas Wilder had voiced their opposition to tax increases. Dan also mentioned that he was sending a letter to Senator Warner, Senator Allen and Representative Boucher asking them to help reduce drug costs by lifting the ban on price negotiations, and to find a way to allow us to buy supplemental coverage to cover the 'donut hole.'

June Schmidt reminded the board that the Volunteer recognition celebration was to be held at

the Senior Center on April 3, 2004 at 10.00 a.m. and that Dale Oliver had been nominated for the outstanding volunteer of the year for the NRV. Montgomery Regional Hospital, Va Tech YMCA, AARP, the Red Cross and the Volunteer Action Center sponsor this event. A large turnout, especially from AARP members, is anticipated, and help is needed to register people. The hospitality committee will assist. If you would like to help please call June at 552-1590. June also announced that the 'Sweet Adelines' musical group will be performing at this function and help will be needed with their equipment.

Jim Moore reported that we had received \$150.00 in additional contributions toward our goal of \$500.00. Dale Oliver reported on our budget this year, and with all dues paid we would have a deficit of \$434.00. A motion to approve the budget was proposed by Dale Oliver and seconded by Darrel Clowes. The motion carried.

Approved Budget for 2004

INCOME

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Dues (60 couples @ \$10 and 130 singles @ \$6 | \$1,380 |
| Interest | 10 |
| Special projects/contributions | 500 |
| Holiday luncheon | 860 |
| TOTAL | \$2,750 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Senior Olympics | \$100 |
| Other gifts/donations | 400 |
| Bulk mailing permit | 150 |
| Printing and mailing newsletter | 1,200 |
| Volunteer recognition celebration | 150 |
| Administrative costs | 200 |
| Miscellaneous | 50 |
| Holiday luncheon | 934 |
| TOTAL | \$3,184 |

Projected Deficit (\$434)

Jim Moore reported that the seminar, which will follow the 'End of Life' planning seminar we had last spring, will be held May 8, 2004. It will probably be titled 'End of Life Care' and will likely include speakers from Hospice, Social Services, Long Term Care, etc. The Red Cross, NARFE, AARP and the Senior Center are jointly sponsoring the seminar.

Jim Moore checked with Joy Herbert and announced that anyone wishing to make a **tax-deductible** contribution to our fund, in excess of \$10.00, may do so by making the check payable to the Town of Blacksburg, and earmarking it for Senior Center Donations.

Frank Lau reported that Tax Aide, as of March 1, 2004 had assisted 33 people. There were 10 more scheduled for this week.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a. m.

Brian Allen, acting secretary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Input Sought on New County Comprehensive Plan

Montgomery County is in the process of developing a comprehensive plan to guide the future development of the county. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County League of Women Voters and the Blacksburg Senior Center. Meghan H. Dorsett, the county comprehensive plan coordinator will discuss the proposed new plan and seek input from the audience concerning their views of the plan. Ample time will be allotted for questions from the audience.

Time: Noon, Friday, March 12, 2004

Place: Blacksburg Senior Center

The doors open at 11:30 a. m. for those wishing to come early and bring a bag lunch. Beverages will be provided.

Town Council Elections

April 4 – Last day to register

May 5 – Election day

Town Council Candidate Forums, sponsored by the League of Women Voters

Christiansburg – 7:00 p. m. April 15, Montgomery County Government Center

Blacksburg – 7:00 p. m. April 19, Blacksburg Town Council Chamber, Town Hall

Blacksburg Community Center

Fun and Fit Activities

When: Every Friday morning from 8 to 9 a.m. and again 10:15 to noon.

Where: Gym at the Community Center

Activities: Shuffleboard

Indoor Bocce

Basketball free throws

Frisbee throwing

Practice golf putting

Ping Pong – Table tennis

Billiards

No cost --- No registration`

Come for fun, recreation, and fellowship.

Fit over Fifty Aerobics

9:10 – 10:10 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at the Community Center

A fee and registration required.

For information call or email:

Joy Herbert, Senior Programs Supervisor

Town of Blacksburg

Department of Parks & Recreation

725 Patrick Henry Drive

Blacksburg, VA 24060

540/961-1134, Jherbert@blacksburg.gov

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

_____ 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

The New River Valley Senior Olympic Games

April 28 to May 5, 2005

Registration deadline – April 1, 2004 -- No late registrations accepted

The Senior Olympic-Games of Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd, Montgomery County, Wytheville, Giles and Pulaski County and City of Radford is open to all residents 50 years of age or older. Through a multitude of athletic and social events, participants have the opportunity to display their athletic ability, exchange and share common ties and interests with other senior individuals. The emphasis is not so much competition as it is the fellowship and socialization characteristic of Senior Olympic-Games.

For more information contact:

Blacksburg Parks & Recreation, Joy Herbert, 961-1134, jherbert@blacksburg.gov

Montgomery County Parks & Recreation, Kemvia Adams-Bush, 382-6975, kemviaab@naxs.net

Paul Smeal, treasurer/registrar, 552-4085. psmeal@vt.edu

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 | (open) |
| Treasurer | Ray Murley |
| Assoc. Treasurer | Jim Moore |
| Past President | Ben Crawford |

Board of Directors

Class of 2004

Dan Fleming
Paul Smeal
Shirley Strother

Class of 2005

Carl McDaniels
June Schmidt
Joyce Martin

Class of 2006

Doris Abraham
Frank Lau
(open)

Nominating Committee

Class of 2004

Ben Crawford
Harriet Cooper

Class of 2005

Dan Fleming
June Schmidt
Cerie Coil

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
Cerie Coil
Dan Fleming
Joyce Martin
Donald Elson
(open)
Ben Crawford
June Schmidt
Charlotte Beamer
Jim Moore

Virginia Tech Retires Association

Dan Fleming