January 2012 Vol. 29, No. 1 http://civic.bev.net/aarp

January 17 Chapter Meeting to be held at VCOM II Food, Diet and Cancer

For the third year in a row, the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) has invited the chapter to hold our January public meeting on its campus. The meeting will be held in VCOM II, the same building as previous years. There is ample free parking.

Once again, <u>VCOM</u> will furnish pizza, salad, and drinks for all chapter participants. The meal will start at 11:30 am and the program will conclude by about 1:00 pm on Tuesday, January 17th.

The program will feature an interesting presentation emphasizing the use of diet for the prevention and symptom control of cancer. The title is "Food and Dietary Supplements for Cancer Patients" and will be presented by Dr. Susan Meacham, Associate Professor Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health.

In addition, Chaplain Sandy Birch will conduct a ceremony honoring the chapter members who passed away during the last year.

Hopefully, you will be able to join our chapter partner VCOM for this interesting and free program.

February Chapter Meeting

Our February 21 Chapter Meeting will be at the Blacksburg Community Center and will feature Dr. Karen Roberto, Director of the Virginia Tech Center for Gerontology. Karen and her staff will be available starting at 11:30 am to visit with members as they arrive. Materials about the work of the Center for Gerontology will be available. Look for more details in the February Chapter Newsletter.

President's Column



We begin this year with a slightly modified Board of Directors and a full agenda for our chapter. Leslye Bloom has joined the Board and will chair the Hospitality Committee, Jewell Ritchey will join Carl McDaniels on the Program

Committee, Tom Alston, Vice President, also will assume the chair of the Membership Committee with the continued assistance of Jim Wightman, and the State AARP Liaison Committee will merge with the Legislative Committee. Val Coluni will chair this new configuration with Ben Crawford remaining in full service. Finally, Sally Anna Stapleton will chair the Community Service Committee that now includes activities of the Create the Good Committee. Mary Ann Hinshelwood will join her on this committee.

The January public meeting will be held at VCOM II at the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center—the same location as the January meeting in 2011. The program will feature Susan Meacham who will present "Food and Dietary Supplements for Cancer Patients." This program will kick off the university-related partners program theme for the early part of the year. Pizza will be served, compliments of VCOM.

Rally Day in Richmond will be held on January 24. This is a program sponsored by AARP Virginia to train and enable chapter members from across the state to come to Richmond, meet their state legislators, and talk with them about issue pertaining to senior citizens in Virginia. Val Coluni and four other members of the Board will represent the Blacksburg Chapter.

The Health Fair co-sponsored by our chapter and VCOM will be held in September. Details of this important event will be shared on these pages in future issues of the newsletter.

Don Creamer

"Age Wave" coming to Virginia

Tina King, Executive Director New River Valley Agency on Aging

An "Age Wave" is rolling into Virginia and the New River Valley. Are we ready to ride it? It is estimated that the Commonwealth's age 65+population will grow from 900,000 today to over 1.8 million by 2030. This means that about 20% of the population of Virginia will be over age 65. Currently in the New River Valley, 19% of the population is already 60 years of age and above.

The Older Dominion Partnership, an initiative to help Virginia ride the age wave, recently released the 2011 Virginia Age Ready Indicators Benchmark Survey. Researchers conducted telephone surveys with 5,000 individuals residing in Virginia seeking data on key indicators that have the most importance and relevance to Virginia's age wave preparedness. The indicators caregiving, civic and community include engagement, finances, health and well-being, housing, transportation and mobility, workforce. Completed interviews were equally divided among 25 different Area Agencies on Aging covering the official Planning Districts in Virginia. In every area 200 individuals were surveyed. 100 were between the ages of 50 and 64 and 100 were aged 65 and above. The study provides information on Virginia as a whole and compares it with each individual Area Agency on Aging district. The overall purpose of the survey is to obtain baseline data for a "benchmark" report on the status of Virginia's population aged 65 and above and monitor changes to their overall quality of life across key indicators. The plan is to repeat the survey every three years.

<u>Selected Highlights from the Survey Report</u> for the New River Valley:

- In Virginia as a whole, those aged 65 and above feel more prepared as individuals to handle the challenges of aging than those aged 50 to 64. In the New River Valley area, those aged 65 and above are slightly less likely to feel prepared, but those aged 50 to 64 feel slightly more prepared than their counterparts in the state
- Respondents in both age groups living in the New River Valley are less likely than the state as a whole to feel as though their community is prepared for meeting the needs of a substantially older population. The majority in

both age groups in Virginia as a whole and in the New River Valley indicated they believe their communities are only somewhat prepared to "not prepared" for meeting the needs of a substantially older population.

- Those living in the New River Valley area are equally as likely as those living in the rest of Virginia to rate their health as good or excellent. However, they are more likely to report being limited in some activities because of chronic illness. Respondents aged 50 to 64 in the New River Valley are less likely than those in the rest of the state to have visited a dentist within the past year than their counterparts in Virginia as a whole.
- Those aged 65 and above in the NRV are slightly more likely than those in the same age category in Virginia as a whole to be involved in providing care to a friend or family member with a health problem or long-term illness (35% vs. 26%).
- Although few respondents in Virginia or in the New River Valley reported that they currently receive public assistance, almost one quarter aged 65 and above in the NRV say that they feel they need it (23% vs. 11%).
- More respondents aged 50 to 64 in the New River Valley as compared to Virginia as a whole own their home outright. And those aged 65 and above in the NRV are more likely than the statewide average to see their home as being easily affordable. Respondents in the NRV in both age categories tend to have lived in their current home and their current community longer than those in the state as a whole.

"Age Wave" continued on page 2

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/ "Age Wave" continued from page 2

- Transportation options are less available to respondents living in the NRV than those in the rest of the state as a whole. They are less likely to report having buses and taxis available. Those in both age groups are more likely to report that their church group makes rides available to them
- Respondents in both age groups in the New River Valley are significantly more likely to be aware of their local area Agency on Aging than those in the state as a whole. Of those age 65 or older 74% said they are familiar with the local Agency on Aging, and 80% of those age 50 to 64 said they were familiar with the local Agency on Aging.

The complete results of the survey can be obtained by contacting the New River Valley Agency on Aging at 540-980-7720 or by going to the Older Dominion Partnership website: www.olderdominion.org.

While the information is a baseline report and is somewhat limited, it does offer some insight and underscores the need for Age Wave planning in our communities. The NRV Livability Planning Initiative, a three year process undertaken by the NRV Planning District Commission needs citizens input, especially seniors, regarding what needs to be incorporated in future planning for our communities. To find out more or to become involved, go to www.nrvlivability.org or call, 540-639-9313, Ext. 202.

Remember, as we progress into 2012, Agency on Aging staff is available to help find and access services, information and advocacy for older adults and family caregivers. For more information call (540) 980-7720, or e-mail nrvaoa.org

Consider a Gift that Keeps on Giving

A few years ago, Connie Anderson, together with some of our Chapter members, started a **Blacksburg Senior Center Fund** with The Community Foundation of the New River Valley (CFNRV). The **Blacksburg Senior Center Fund** is a permanent fund. All funds and donations are combined and invested/managed by the Community Foundation. As of last September, our Fund stood at \$30,740. Earnings from our permanent fund are given to the Town of

Blacksburg and administered by Joy Herbert, Senior Supervisor, Blacksburg Parks and Recreation. The more money in the fund, the more will be given for our Senior Center. More than \$800 will be given in 2012.

Many of you know that we recently lost Dan Fleming, a giant in the life of our Blacksburg AARP Chapter. Dan made numerous contributions to the Blacksburg Chapter, to our community, to the Commonwealth of Virginia, and beyond.

Please consider honoring his contributions by making a donation in his memory to the Community Foundation of the New River Valley for our **Blacksburg Senior Center Fund.**

Send your donation in memory of Dan Fleming to:

The Community Foundation (CFNRV)

P.O. Box 6009

Christiansburg, VA 24068.

Make checks payable to The **CFNRV**. *Please note* on the memo line: Blacksburg Senior Center Fund/Dan Fleming. If you'd like to pay by credit card, call (540) 381-8999. All donations are tax-deductible. You will receive documentation and acknowledgement upon receipt of your gift.

MORE ABOUT THE **COMMUNITY** FOUNDATION: The Community Foundation of the New River Valley is a locally-based philanthropic organization that supports local students and non-profit organizations distributing grants and scholarships annually. Since its inception in 1994, The Foundation has given out more than \$2.5 million dollars to local students and organizations that enhance the quality of life in the NRV. In 2011, The Foundation awarded more than \$200,000 in grants and scholarships. For more information, please visit www.cfnrv.org.

Time to renew your membership in the Blacksburg Chapter AARP

Your 2012 membership dues are now due. Our membership year is a calendar one. If '2012' is on the label and highlighted, you are paid up. *If '2011' is on the label, you now owe for 2012.* Prompt payment of your 2012 dues will be appreciated. Use the convenient form on the last page of this newsletter to renew your membership.

AARP Driver Safety Courses Coming to Blacksburg Community Center

Spring is a great time to take one of the AARP driver safety courses being offered at Blacksburg Community Center, 725 Patrick Henry Drive. Enrollment is limited so sign up early.

The March course will be held at the Center on Tuesday and Wednesday March 13 and 14 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. To pre-register for this course call Cecil McBride at 552-4396.

The April course will be held at the Center on Tuesday and Wednesday April 19 and 10 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. To pre-register for this course call Curt Finch at 552-8179.

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.

Sponsored by the Blacksburg Community Center and the Blacksburg AARP Chapter, this 8 hour classroom course assists drivers age 50 and over in refining current driver skills and developing defensive driving techniques. The course does not include any formal examinations. Course graduates may be eligible for multiyear discounts to their auto insurance premiums.

Blacksburg AARP Chapter # 2613 Financial Report December 2011

Balance at end of November	\$3,314.96
Credits	
12/02 Membership Dues	\$ 57.50
12/09 Membership Dues	165.00
12/09 Holiday Luncheon (38)	570.00
12/14 AARP Food Drive reward	150.00
12/14 Membership Dues	45.00
TOTAL	\$987.50
Debits	
12/06 Town of Blacksburg (donation)	\$ 600.00
12/12 Brian Allen (breakfast supplies)	80.39
12/13 Custom Catering (lunches 107)	1,581.25
12/14 Blacksburg Food Pantry (donation)	100.00
12/14 RSVP Montgomery Co. (donation)	100.00
12/14 NRV Agency on Aging (donation)	100.00
12/14 NRV Free Clinic (donation)	100.00
12/20 Kopy Korner	27.51
TOTAL	\$2,689.15
Balance end of December 2011	\$ 1,613.31
Balance in reserve account	\$ 2,678.87

Blacksburg AARP Chapter # 2613 Membership Report Prepared January 2, 2012

Member Profile:

Category	Count
AARP 2012 Members	158
AARP 2011 Members	126
Life Time Members	44
Life Members	11
Comp Members	17
Honorary Members	4
Total Membership	360

Newsletters printed: 243

Membership Committee: Tom Alston (Chair), Sue

Farrar, Jim Wightman

Join Other AARP Members for Annual Legislative Day January 24

Join AARP Virginia as we visit our state legislators to fight for our 2012 policy priorities to improve the lives of older Virginians. AARP Day at the General Assembly on January 24, 2012.

The location is St. Paul's Church at 815 East Grace Street in Richmond, VA 23219. The event is free and breakfast and lunch will be served.

Tentative Agenda

- 9:00 am Welcome/Introductions/Continental Breakfast at St. Paul's Church
- 9:15 am Orientation for volunteers and teams assigned
- 10:00 amTeams led by advocacy volunteers go to General Assembly Building
- 11:45 am Begin returning to St. Paul's Church
- 12:00 pm Lunch and debrief of the day
- 12:45 pm Closing remarks and Adjourn

We ask you to carpool with 4–6 members if possible. AARP Virginia will reimburse for parking. Register by going to http://aarp.cvent.com/d/lcqk8p or by calling 1 877 926-8300 before January 17. You will receive an e-mail including instructions in parking logistics and shuttle service.

How do I know if my dues are up to date? On the mailing label, If '2012' is on the label and highlighted, you are paid up. If '2011' is on the label, you now owe dues for 2012.

New at the Public Library

By Elizabeth Sensabaugh,

Blacksburg Library Branch Supervisor

The Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library (MFRL) has a growing collection to offer readers of all ages. From books in print to digital eBooks, MFRL has an array of titles. The Large Type collection consisting of books with large print is a very popular format. It's easy to read and the selection of genres is varied. Below are a few new titles in the Large Type collection that are available for checkout at the Blacksburg Library! Do you have a suggestion for something you'd like to see in Large Print at the library? If so, please just let us know!

• Rin Tin Tin by Susan Orlean

This is the ultimate must-read for those who love dogs or dog stories! Read the true story of the pup that was discovered on a World War I battlefield before becoming a movie star!

• Devil's Gate by Clive Cussler

If you enjoy a thrilling and suspenseful writer of adventure and high seas, you might especially want to read Cussler's newest about a Japanese cargo ship's explosion and the sequence of events to follow.

• The Reading Promise: My Father and the Books We Shared by Alice Ozma

This true story of a young girl and her librarian father will make you nostalgic for time spent reading classic children's literature. Each night for eight consecutive years this father/daughter duo read to each other. Referencing books from *The House at Pooh Corner* to *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, this story takes the reader on a delightful trip of words and heartwarming tale of a special parent and child relationship.

• Longing by Karen Kingsbury

New York Times Bestselling Author Kingsbury returns with a romance that spans the distance between New York City and Malibu. This title is book number three of the Bailey Flanigan series.

Thoughts on Reading Good Books

"We read to know we are not alone." C. S. Lewis

"The reading of . . . good books is like conversation with the finest men [and women] of the past centuries." *René Descartes*

AARP Chapter 2613 Board Minutes January 3, 2012

Call to Order—President Don Creamer called the meeting to order at 10:00.

Officers Present: President Don Creamer, Vice President Tom Alston, Treasurer Brian Allen, Secretary Virgil Cook

Board Members: Leslye Bloom, Mary Ann Hinshelwood, John Hillison, Jim Montgomery, June Schmidt

Non-board-member committee chairs and appointees: Doris Abraham, Val Coluni, R. B. "Ben" Crawford, Nancy Eiss, Curtis Finch, Margaret Kates, Carl McDaniels, Jewell Ritchey, Edd Sewell, Jim Wightman Guest: Ann Brown

President Creamer introduced new board member Leslye Bloom, who will help with hospitality, and Jewell Ritchey, who will help Carl McDaniels with programs.

Adoption of Agenda—Jim Montgomery moved that the agenda be approved. The motion passed. **Approval of Minutes**—Mary Ann Hinshelwood moved that the minutes of the December, 6, 2011, meeting be approved. The motion passed.

Officer's Report

Don Creamer indicated that Sandy Burch has asked the group to confirm the list of people who died last year. Beginning in March, the DMV will visit the center once a month on the first Tuesday to provide service.

Membership—Tom Alston. We currently have 360 members. We send out 243 copies of the newsletter including copies to 11 other AARP chapters.

Treasurer's Report—Brian Allen. Balance at the beginning of November, \$3,314.96; balance at the end of December, \$1,613.31; balance in reserve account, \$2,678.87 We made our annual contributions to area charities in December. Brian ran off a comparison with the budget v. what we actually spent. We gave away some \$1300 more in contributions. Thus, the amount we spent was close to the budget.

Continued on page 6

"Minutes" continued from page 5

Don introduced Ann Brown. Ms. Brown outlined a new program at Virginia Tech: VTCLASS, Virginia Tech Creative Learning Academy for Senior Scholars. Classes will meet on Thursdays, March 15-April 19. A fee of \$75 entitles you to attend any or all of the sessions. Sessions will meet in the Skelton Conference Center at the Inn at Virginia Tech. As a partner in the project, Warm Hearth will bring residents to the classes. The choice of topic areas is based on surveys from seniors and retirees in the area. Lecturers are experts in their field, and they donate their services.

Audit Report—June Schmidt. The auditors met on December 20. They found records to be properly maintained. They recommended that the ledger and bank statements be reconciled. They also recommended maintaining source documents for expenses. They commended Brian Allen for doing an excellent job.

Jim Montgomery moved that the report be received. The motion passed.

Budget--John Hillison. We had about 170 paying units in 2011. The newsletter circulation was about the same as in 2010. The miscellaneous category was deleted, and transportation was added with a \$500 designation for travel. John Hillison moved that the budget be adopted. June Schmidt suggested establishing guidelines for travel expenses. Don agreed to appoint a committee to establish guidelines. The motion passed.

Don pointed out that we need to set two dates: the picnic and the holiday luncheon. The picnic was scheduled for June 19, and the Holiday Luncheon was scheduled for December 11.

Dan Fleming Memorial Fund--Carl McDaniels. The *Roanoke Times* featured Dan's death as one of the prominent deaths in the area in 2011. The family has asked for donations to either the Fleming Endowed Scholarship or the Free Clinic of the New River Valley. John Hillison moved that we donate \$100 to the Free Clinic in memory of Dan Fleming. The motion passed.

Committee Reports

Programs--Carl McDaniels. Theme for the year: AARP Partners in Higher Education in 2012.

The January program will be held at VCOM. The Center on Gerontology will present the program on February 14. The Health fair will be held in September. The Women's Resource Center wants to appear on a program to discuss the mistreatment of older citizens, especially mistreatment in the home.

Newsletter—Edd Sewell. Edd indicated that the newsletter will resume this month. He is interested in moving the Web site from Bevnet. He will investigate such a move.

Public Relations--Nancy Eiss. Nancy requested help. She needs a committee member to stand in for her when she is out of town. Edd said that "The Burgs" may help publicity.

Health Fair--John Hillison. The fair is scheduled for September 19. Last year we had 75 exhibitors. We hope to have 100 exhibitors this year. The fair is scheduled for September 18. He asked for help on September 17 to set up tables and chairs and on the actual day of the fair. He will need help at the end of the day putting chairs away. The number of visitors encourages the exhibitors.

Caring--Margaret Kates shared the names of people to whom she has sent cards. She urged members to let her know of people who need getwell or sympathy cards.

Legislation--Val Kaluni. Because he is on the AARP State Advocacy Committee, Val will be going to Richmond next week in anticipation of Rally Day.

Members of the advocacy committee are required to meet with legislators. He met with Joseph Yost, the new delegate for the area. Delegate Yost returned a voice message very promptly. AARP was instrumental in getting the Social Security offset repealed. Seniors are no longer penalized for working while drawing Social Security.

Two or three members of the Advocacy Committee are on duty to inform legislators of AARP issues. There were close to 200 AARP members involved in Rally Day last year. Legislators expect a good turnout this year. Don asked for volunteers to go to Richmond for Rally Day, January 24.

Health--Don has asked Larry to give a health tip with each report to the board, something to include in the newsletter.

Driver's Ed--Curt Finch. Things are going well right now. There are classes in March and April. AARP has received a \$12.6 million grant from Toyota North America to promote driver safety for seniors.

Continued on page 7

"Minutes" continued from page 6

History—Doris Abraham. Don has volunteered to bring the history up to date after he finishes his term as president. Doris thanked people for looking at the display at the Holiday Lunch. Many of those who looked at the display were pleased with what they saw.

Awards--Jim Wightman indicated that we need nominations for the Leading Lights Award. Nominations are due by February 15. Mary Ann Hinshelwood, who is a recipient of the award, advised nominators to share with nominees what they plan to say about them. Jim Montgomery suggested that each member of the group submit a name by the February meeting.

Liaison--Ben Crawford. Ben encouraged members to make a contribution to the Community Foundation in honor of Dan Fleming.

There is a fund in Dan's memory in the Community Foundation of the New River Valley. We have donated money from the fund to the town every year. He urged that we put out a new brochure on the chapter this year.

Jim Montgomery recommended that we plan a meeting on healthcare in early 2013. We need to know what the new healthcare law means to the individual.

Adjournment—The meeting was adjourned at 11:55.

Respectfully Submitted: Virgil A. Cook, Secretary

2012 Officers & Board Members

Officers

President Don Creamer dgc2@vt.edu
Vice President Tom Alston tpalston@gmail.com
Secretary Virgil Cook vcook@vt.edu
Treasurer Brian Allen brian.allen@prodigy.net

Board of Directors

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

Class of 2014 – Leslye Bloom, leslye@leslyebloom.com; John Hillison, johnhillison@comcast.net; Mary Ann Hinshelwood, mah@mahhinshelwood.com

2012 Committee Chairs and Members

2012 Committee Chairs and Members		
Committee	Chair/Members	Contact
Caring	Margaret Kates	552-4107
Chapter Awards	Juanita Wightman	552-2007 wightman@vt.edu
	Jim Montgomery	552-6735 <u>jrmonte@verizon.net</u>
Community Service	Sally Anna Stapleton	552-0505 <u>zulla1947@verizon.net</u>
Driving Safety Courses	Curt Finch	552-8179 <u>crfinch@vt.edu</u>
	Cecil McBride	
Financial Planning and Audit	June Schmidt	552-1590 <u>schidt@vt.edu</u>
	John Hillison	552-8941 johnhillison@comcast.net
	Dale Oliver	jdoliver@vt.edu
Health	Larry Alexander	951-8172 <u>aalexand@radford.edu</u>
History	Doris Abraham	382-3392 <u>dsta118e@verizon.net</u>
Hospitality	Leslye Bloom	951-2025 <u>leslye@leslyebloom.com</u>
	Sue Farrar	381-1830 <u>suefarrar@verizon.net</u>
Legislative	Val Coluni	961-5014 <u>vcoluni@aol.com</u>
	Ben Crawford	961-5733 <u>ben.crawford@vt.edu</u>
Membership	Tom Alston	757-651-3065 <u>tpalston@gmail.com</u>
	Jim Wightman	552-2007 wightman@vt.edu
Newsletter Editor	Edd Sewell	951-1746 eddsewell@gmail.com
Nominating	TBA	
Program	Carl McDaniels	552-5818 <u>cmcd@vt.edu</u>
	Jewell Ritchey	sjr@vt.edu
Public Relations	Nancy Eiss	951-4015 <u>nsjeiss@verizon.net</u>
AARP Virginia Liason	Ben Crawford	961-5733 ben.crawford.vt.edu
VTRA Liason	Margaret Kates	552-4107
Chaplin	Sandy Birch	951-3455 <u>birch@vt.edu</u>

Don Creamer, 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 for 2012

Name:	_ Annual (Calendar Year) Dues: \$15.00	
Spouse/Partner	(includes spouse)*	
Address	New Renewal	
City	90+ years old (no dues)	
StateZip	Today's Date:	
Phone		
Email	Make checks to AARP Blacksburg Chapter #2613 And mail to P.O.Box 10082,	
Prefer to receive newsletters: (check one)		
Mail Email	Blacksburg, VA 24062	

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