

AARP

AARP Remembers —

Following years of tradition, the January general meeting of the AARP was dedicated to memorializing our friends and relatives who had passed away during the past 12 months. These stalwart members of our group provided good leadership, friendships, and direction for AARP, and they will be missed.

As candles were lit for each person, signifying how they brought light, courage, love, and friendship, the following members were memorialized:

Jean Davis	Glenn Mitchell
Eva Patterson	Elizabeth Richardson
Bill Thomas	Bill Walker
Harlan White	Venita Witherspoon
	— Ken Dawson

History of Christiansburg Institute to be February Meeting Topic

Elaine Dowe Carter, Executive Director of the Christiansburg Institute, will be the featured speaker at the Blacksburg chapter AARP meeting on February 19. Her topic will be "The Christiansburg Institute — Past, Present, and Future."

Founded in 1866 under the leadership of former Union officer Charles Stewart Schaeffer, by 1868 some 300 black students were attending Freedmen's schools in Cambria and Newbern. There's lots more to the story of this innovative school, which received major support for nearly a century from the Philadelphia

Friends' Freedmen's Association and was after 1868 owned and run by a Board consisting entirely of ex-slaves.

The "Table Top Talk" will be conducted by a representative from the Free Clinic. Suggested items to bring to the meeting in support of the Free Clinic are: boxes of facial tissues and/or containers of anti-bacterial wipes.

Bring a bag lunch and arrive at 11:30 a.m. at the Blacksburg Senior Center meeting room, 725 Patrick Henry Drive.

All AARP chapter meetings are open to the public, and all are welcome!



The Blacksburg Chapter AARP visiting with Delegate Dave Nutter in Richmond. From left: Jim Wightman, Virgil Cook, Joy Herbert, Elaine Cook, Margaret Kates, Dan Level (Giles County), Elaine Gaines, Curtis Graham (Pulaski County), Jim Gaines, Delegate Nutter, Ben Crawford and Ira Weeks (Radford Chapter).

Members of the Blacksburg chapter enjoyed a fun and productive AARP visit in the Richmond offices of our representatives in the Virginia General Assembly. We visited with Delegates Anne Crockett-Stark and Dave Nutter,

See Blacksburg Chapter Visits, page 3

Jo Ann's Want Ads

Notes from the AARP President

Another letter to the membership and another of my lists of WANTS from Jo Ann Underwood.

1. WANTED: Please cough up your dues. We will spend the funds for good deeds around the community. There are so many of you we want to hear from.

2. WANTED: Read the article in this Newsletter about our local AARP Members who went to Richmond to meet with our representatives to promote our good causes. I have found this organization is so very ready to work and represent us all in efforts to make life easier for so many. I WANT to thank them all.

See Jo Ann's Want Ads, page 2

2008 Blacksburg AARP Chapter Board

Officers

President: Jo Ann Underwood joa@warmhearthva.org
1st Vice President: Angela Little anglittle@naxs.net
2nd Vice President: Nancy Eiss nsjeiss@verizon.net
Secretary: *Virgil Cook* vcook@vt.edu
Treasurer: *Brian Allen* mballen@prodigy.net

Board of Directors

Class of 2008:

Curt Finch crfinch@vt.edu
Margaret Kates connie@vt.edu

Class of 2009:

Dan Fleming dbflem@vt.edu
Nancy Eiss neiss@vt.edu
Jo Ann Underwood joa@vt.edu

Class of 2010:

Harriett Cooper chayabrona@verizon.net
Ken Dawson kedawson@verizon.net
Joe Fontenot cajunjoe@vt.edu

Committee Chairs and Appointees:

AARP of Virginia Liaison: Ben Crawford ben.crawford@vt.edu

Associate Treasurer: June Schmidt schmidtj@vt.edu

Caring: Harriett Cooper chayabrona@verizon.net

Chapter Awards: Joe Fontenot cajunjoe@vt.edu

Community Service:

AARP Driver Safety Course: Curt Finch crfinch@vt.edu

AARP Tax Aide: Frank Lau franklau1@verizon.net

Chaplain: Ken Dawson kedawson@verizon.net

Financial Planning: Dale Oliver jdoliver@vt.edu

Health Care: Harriet Damant hdamant@verizon.net

Jo Ann Underwood joa@vt.edu

History: Doris Abraham dsta118e@verizon.net

Hospitality: Barbara Blanton

Legislative: Dan Fleming dbflem@vt.edu

Membership: Jim Gaines gaines@vt.edu

Angela Little anglittle@naxs.net

Newsletter Editor: Mary Holliman mchollim@vt.edu

Nominating: Class of 2008

Program: Carl McDaniels cmcd@vt.edu

Public Relations: Norman and Nancy Eiss nsjeiss@verizon.net

Telephone:

Harriett Cooper chayabrona@verizon.net

Margaret Kates connie@vt.edu

Rhoda Lau mommakit4@msn.com

Virginia Tech Retirees Association Liaison:

Margaret Kates connie@vt.edu

Ways And Means:

Webmaster: *Connie Anderson* connie@vt.edu

Chapter meetings are the *third* Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center, Patrick Henry Drive, at 11:30 a.m. Bring a bag lunch; the club provides napkins, coffee, and tea; the program starts at noon.

Board meetings are the *first* Tuesday of each month (except that the January meeting will be on the 8th) at the Blacksburg Community Center, Patrick Henry Drive, at 9:30 a.m.

AARP Blacksburg Chapter #2613

P.O. Box 10082, Blacksburg, VA 24062

Web: <http://civic.bev.net/aarp/>

Jo Ann's Want Ads, from page 1

3. I WANT to see you all at the February Meeting at 11:30 Tuesday, February 19th, to hear Elaine Carter tell us about the history of the Christiansburg Institute. Bring a bag lunch and meet with friends .

4. I WANT to keep this very short because there are so many things I WANT you to read in this letter about all we are doing. So read on. See you at the meeting with your peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

AARP Chapter Hospitality Committee needs volunteers. Our Chapter holds several events requiring a number of volunteers to help with registration, auction, and food. These events include the Volunteer Recognition Celebration on April 5; the Annual Picnic on June 17; the Health Fair on September 16; and the annual Holiday Luncheon on December 2. Please consider signing up to help at one or more of these events by calling Jo Ann Underwood at 951-1541 or email her at joa@warmhearthva.org. ---Angela Little

Membership Notes, February 2008

Our membership now stands at 358. 180 members have already renewed for 2008, but 109 members have not yet paid their 2008 dues. If a yellow dot appears on the mail label for this Newsletter, you owe your 2008 dues now. A convenient form appears on the last page of this Newsletter. Prompt payment of your 2008 dues will be very much appreciated. This year, those members not paying their 2008 dues will not receive an April Newsletter and you will have cost the chapter \$3 for 3 issues of the Newsletter including postage. Please do not delay; mail your renewal dues today.

Membership badges are available at our regular

Don't delay: Pay your 2008 dues today.

See Membership page 7

Tina King of AoA Featured in January

Our AARP Chapter began the New Year with our new president, Jo Ann Underwood. Program highlights included our Memorial to past members, by Ken Dawson, Chaplain, and a Virginia Legislative update given by Dan Fleming, Legislative Chair.

Carl McDaniels introduced Tina King, Executive Director of the New River Valley Agency on Aging, the featured speaker at the first Chapter meeting for 2008. She reviewed the programs and services of the AoA with a power-point presentation.

A one-page Fact Sheet handout highlighted all the major activities of the New River Valley Agency on Aging. These services are targeted to area citizens 60 years of age and older who want to maintain their maximum independence, enhance their quality of life, and maintain their dignity.

Ms. King was assisted in her pre-

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Blacksburg Chapter Visits General Assembly

from page 1

urging the need for Health Care action to help the one million Virginians not covered, the need for regulation of the Payday lending industry in Va., and other matters of concern.

We visited the offices of Delegate Jim Shuler and Senator John Edwards and talked about the same issues with their representatives.

We attended an AARP Rally where AARP presented a check for \$10,000 to Principal Lisa Martin of the Colonial Forge High School in northern Virginia. We also toured the AARP VA state office, hosted by Associate State AARP Director, Pam Caldwell.

— R. B. Crawford

Virginia Legislative Update, February 8, 2008

Help! AARP-supported legislation is still undecided as the General Assembly enters the final stages of decision making. The controversial payday lending bill imposing a 36% cap on loans is expected to pass the House and face difficulty in the Senate. Chapter members are urged to contact Senator Edwards asking his support of the interest-rate cap at district21@sov.state.va.us and Senator Ralph Smith at district22@sov.state.va.us. All members of the General Assembly can be contacted by calling the AARP Payday Lending Reform Hotline at 1-800-211-0914 and telling them that 36% is enough.

Does Money Talk? A great difficulty in serving public interests in the Virginia General Assembly is overcoming the tremendous power of big corporations that make large financial contributions to legislators. Legislators serving on key committees related to the specific interest of the donor receive the largest contributions.

For example, AARP Virginia is backing SB311, designed to help provide the lowest long term and reasonably stable prices for the consumer of electricity. The bill was sent to the Senate Energy Subcommittee of the Commerce Cmt., chaired by Republican Senator Tommy Norment. In

2007, he received \$37,909 in contributions from electric utilities in 2007, primarily from Dominion Power. The chair of the full Commerce Cmt. is Senator Richard Saslaw, a Democrat who received \$74,400 in contributions from electric utilities, again mainly Dominion Power.

The same problem exists for AARP-backed legislation dealing with placing a cap on payday lending. These bills must also pass through the Commerce Cmt. Chairman Senator Richard Saslaw received \$40,750 in contributions from lending companies in 2007 and committee member, Senator John Edwards \$8,750.

Gifts are also made of varying nature to legislators such as hunting and sporting event trips, some worth thousands of dollars. Whether contributions and gifts constitute a conflict of interests is a question for voters to decide.

For further information on all contributions and gifts made to Virginia state legislators, go to VPAP.org, an outstanding source.

— Dan Fleming

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• **104** members •
• have not renewed their local •
• chapter membership for 2008. •
• **Don't be one of the 104 gang!** •
.....

Driver Safety Courses Coming to Comm. Center

Sponsored by the Blacksburg Community Center and Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613, this 8-hour classroom refresher course assists drivers age 50 and over in refining current driver skills and developing defensive driving techniques. There are no formal examinations. Graduates may be eligible to receive state-mandated multiyear discounts to their auto insurance premiums. The enrollment fee is \$10.00, payable by cash or check to "AARP".

The February course will be held on Thursday and Friday, Feb 21–22 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. To pre-register, call Curt Finch at 552-8179. The March course will be held on Thursday and Friday, March 13–14 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. To pre-register, call Cecil McBride at 552-4396. Enrollees must attend sessions on both days to receive completion certificates.

Blacksburg AARP Board, Chapter 2613 Minutes, Jan. 8, '08

Call to Order—President JoAnn Underwood called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Members Present: Brian Allen, Connie Anderson, Barbara Blanton, Virgil Cook, R. B. “Ben” Crawford (guest), Ken Dawson, Nancy Eiss, Curt Finch, Joe Fontenot, Jim Gaines, Margaret Kates, Angela Little, Carl McDaniels, Dale Oliver, June Schmidt, JoAnn Underwood, Jim Wightman

Adoption of Agenda: The trip to Richmond for the General Assembly Rally and for meeting with General Assembly members was added.

Approval of Minutes—The Minutes for the November meeting were approved.

Volunteer Recognition—June Schmidt reported that she, Angela Little, and Nancy Eiss represent us on the Planning Committee. The committee met on January 3. The awards program will be held on April 5. The YMCA will present the awards, and RSVP will be responsible for refreshments. The committee will try to engage the Sweet Adelines for the entertainment. Connie Anderson will be in charge of letter writing and registration. She will need help with registration. The committee needs help with nominations. There are some 170 organizations that might make a nomination. Information about the program is accessible through the Y’s e-mail and Web site. Our chapter will make a nomination. The program is sponsored by our AARP chapter, the American Red Cross, The YMCA at Virginia Tech, Carilion, the New River Valley RSVP, and the Blacksburg Community Center (because they provide the facility for the program without charge). The activity costs between \$800 and \$1,000. We ask organizations to contribute \$150 in either cash

or in-kind services. It will be the eighth time that AARP has supported the Volunteer Recognition program. JoAnn pointed out that we are only one of many organizations that submit nominees. Ben observed that we started the program but that we now cooperate with the larger program.

Audit Committee Report—Dale Oliver reported that the Audit Committee has reconciled the treasurer’s books with bank statements for accuracy. The committee found the books for 2007 to be in order. Ken Dawson moved acceptance of the report. The motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report—Brian Allen stated that the report covers two months, November and December. Funds dwindled because of \$300 contributions to Literacy Volunteers of America, The Free Clinic, the Blacksburg Food Pantry, and a \$600 contribution to the Town of Blacksburg for a total of \$1,500. Dues are coming in very slowly. Our current balance is \$2,100. Thus, we are maintaining the \$2,000 balance that the board requested. JoAnn Underwood moved receipt of the report. The motion passed.

Membership—Jim Wightman reported that dues are merely trickling in. Membership stood at 357 on December 21.

Caring—Harriett Cooper, the Caring chair, is recovering from a broken ankle. JoAnn Underwood noted the passing of Jean Davis, the first woman president of the chapter. Venita Witherspoon, Bill Walker, and Glenn Mitchell also died recently. Chaplain Ken Dawson will conduct a memorial ceremony at the next chapter meeting.

Nominations Committee—We need a replacement for Frank Lau, Class of 2008, because he cannot attend meet-

ings. Jim Wightman agreed to serve out the remainder of Frank’s term. The board voted to send the nomination to the chapter to be voted on at the January 15 meeting.

General Assembly Rally—Carl McDaniels called for members to attend the GENERAL ASSEMBLY Rally on January 30. Members should meet with Delegate Dave Nutter and Senator John Edwards. AARP will pay about 48.5 cents a mile, a night’s lodging, and meals. Jim Wightman and Dan Level from Giles County will drive. The theme this year is access to healthcare. Ben reported that the state office has reserved rooms at the Crown Plaza. We should be able to walk to legislators’ offices. We already have an appointment with Senator Edwards. At 11 there will be a Rally at the bell tower of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. There is a free luncheon at 11:45. Ben called for volunteers to attend the meeting.

Program—Carl McDaniels reported that he will ask Elaine Carter, executive director of the Christiansburg Institute, to present the program on February 19, which is fitting for Black History Month. He will ask her to bring alumni. Charles Johnson and Bill Brown were mentioned as possible alumni to invite. Tina King from the Agency on Aging will give the January program. Angela Little will present the Table Talk. Someone suggested that Karen Roberto, director of the Center for Gerontology, also be here on Jan 15. Larry Alexander is working on a panel on transportation for seniors for a future program. We are planning another white-elephant sale at the picnic in June. Many people are available for a program on the healing power of music—Dan Schneck, Virginia Bethune. JoAnn Underwood

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Blacksburg AARP Board, Chapter 2613 Minutes, Feb. 5, '08

Before the call to order, Connie Anderson introduced Ken Harrah, a Ph.D. student at Tech who is also getting a 15-hour certificate in gerontology. For his 120-hour practicum, he is working at the Blacksburg Senior Center.

Call to Order—President JoAnn Underwood called the meeting to order at 10:06.

Members Present: Doris Abraham, Connie Anderson, Virgil Cook,

Harriett Cooper, Nancy Eiss, Curt Finch, Dan Fleming, Margaret Kates, Angela Little, Carl McDaniels, June Schmidt, JoAnn Underwood, Jim Wightman

Guests: R. B. “Ben Crawford, Kan Harrah, Joy Herbert, Dale Oliver.

Adoption of Agenda—Carl McDaniels asked the board to consider VT Engage and AARP Virginia issues. A report on the trip to Richmond to meet with legislators was also added.

Approval of Minutes—Because the January meeting took place on the second Tuesday, the minutes for that meeting had not been distributed. Consequently, the board agreed to consider the minutes in March.

Treasurer’s Report—Margaret Kates distributed copies of the Treasurer’s report:

Balance 12/07:	\$2,084.54
Credits:	1,424.94
Debits:	375.40
Balance 1/31/08: ...	\$3,134.08

Membership—Jim Wightman presented the following report:

Our local chapter membership now stands at 358. The breakdown is:

2008 dues not paid	109
2008 dues paid	180
2009 dues paid	3
Lifetime memberships	39
Singles	7
Couples	16
Honorary Memberships	5
Complimentary Memberships ..	15
Life Memberships	7

It is recommended that the timeline for termination of delinquent 2008 dues-paying members be moved from the April to the March Newsletter.

Membership Committee materials are being transferred from Jim Wightman to Jim Gaines and Angela Little. The transfer should be complete by February 15th.

A problem with Lifetime memberships has already been raised in discussions of the Board. However, some action appears to be needed in the near future. We lose about \$310 per year due to Lifetime members, assuming no dues increase and no additional Life Members. Some suggestions might be (1) set up a reserve fund to cover the loss of revenue; (2) cap the number of Lifetime members; (3) no longer offer Lifetime memberships.

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suggested that we share the program with Warm Hearth. Carl solicited suggestions for programs. JoAnn Underwood suggested sending notices to the Tech-retirees group to provide a little more publicity. Publicity is the main reason for low attendance. Brian Allen suggested posting fliers at churches. JoAnn Underwood has accorded space in the newsletter for publicizing our programs.

Newsletter—We need someone to go over the newsletter each month to ensure inclusion of the proper content. Carl McDaniels volunteered to take this responsibility for February. Connie pointed out that we need to send pictures to the editor to include in the newsletter. She asked if we are going to do follow-ups on programs. Carl McDaniels indicated that we would.

Public Relations—Nancy Eiss argued that we need more outlets for publicizing our programs. Some area media are devoting less space to public-service announcements.

Driver ED—The course will be offered on February 21–22. Dale Oliver indicated that he would place an announcement in the Rec Center newsletter. He will also try to put an announcement in the *New River Current*.

Connie will also put information on the Web site.

Community Partnerships—JoAnn Underwood asked whether this list of partners is a permanent list. Angela Little indicated that it is a list that organizations can use as a guide for people who are looking for volunteers.

Food Drive—Brian Allen observed that we have talked about doing a food drive at the local Kroger stores to collect for the food pantry. He will contact the management at the local Kroger stores about the possibility. The tentative date for the collection is Saturday, April 19.

Legislation—Brian Allen distributed a flier that argues that both affordable healthcare and a sound Social Security system are important national issues for everyone, not just seniors or Republicans or Democrats. There are several issues that are important to Virginians, including Payday Lending. Members need to contact Senator Edwards and Delegate Nutter because they have key positions for moving this legislation.

Adjournment—The meeting was adjourned at 10:51.

— Respectfully submitted,
Virgil A. Cook, Secretary

January meeting, from page 3

sentation by Janet Brennend, Local Long-Term Care Ombudsman. For copies of the Fact Sheet of the NRV Agency on Agency's work, call (540) 980-7720 in Pulaski.

Angela Little, Director of the RSVP of Montgomery County and Radford, brought an exhibit and brochures regarding this organization.

•••••
• **Thursday May 8, 2008 is the** •
• **National AARP Day of Service.** •
•••••

Tax-Aide Program Off and Running

The Tax-Aide program got off to a very busy start, even on a day when it was supposed to be just a shakedown of the new system. We did 6 returns, found a bad IRS laptop, so we only had 2 plus a server, and made many phone calls. This is my 13th year, and I always dislike the very first day!

Charlie Coale, Jim Hardell, Jim Wilson were busy doing returns with me, along with Pat Ray calling people and writing Interview sheets. Quality

Review has been greatly expanded as well. A super job was done by Joel Donahue in putting together the IRS and AARP equipment into a functioning computer network.

We are ready for the official startup on Monday February 11th, 10am-1pm, and 2pm-5pm at the YMCA Thrift Store. Call on my home phone at 961-0516 for free electronic filing, Federal AND State.

— Frank Lau

Blacksburg AARP Minutes, Feb. 5, '08, from page 5

Jim Wightman will continue on the committee. He has created two membership lists, one list containing all members and another for creating labels. The list of labels is shorter because of spouses. He will continue to make the labels until software issues are settled. Angela Little will do the recruiting. Members not paying dues by March 31 will be purged from the mailing list.

Budget—Dale Oliver. The projected income is \$4,100. Projected dues are \$1,510. We made about \$250 at the picnic auction. The mailing permit is \$150. Mailing cost is approximately \$2,000. Volunteer recognition is approximately \$250. The projected income from these Projects would be over and above budget. Dale recommended a budget of \$4,100 based on the projected income. JoAnn moved approval. The motion passed.

Legislation—Dan Fleming. Payday lending will probably get to the House of Delegates. The bill specifies a 36% cap on interest. Senator Saslaw doubts that it will pass. There are efforts to correct problems in utility deregulation. This bill also goes to the commerce subcommittee. Many members of the commerce subcommittee have received money from the utilities. There is hope for a bipartisan redis-

tricting committee. The population has shifted to Northern Virginia. The fate of the bill in the House is doubtful, however. The so-called "Gun Show" bill failed, but Delegate Shuler voted to close the gun-show loophole. Senator Edwards voted against this bill.

Dan said that <Vpap.org> is a good source of information about legislation, including information on contributions that legislators received from special-interest groups.

Programs—Carl McDaniels. Elaine Carter from the Christiansburg Institute will present the February program. The Free Clinic will present the Tabletop program. They need donations of Kleenex, wipes, and other items. Larry Alexander will present the March program. He will discuss Blacksburg Transit and the difficulty of finding transportation for seniors. Carl said that he would like to have Blue Ridge Independent Living present a Tabletop program at this meeting. He then passed out forms for submitting newsletter items, which included deadlines.

Driver's Ed—Curt Finch. We are approaching the 20-student limit for both sessions.

Website and Newsletter—Connie Anderson. We need to send a nomi-

nation to the Volunteer-Recognition committee. The committee hopes for 20-25 nominations. The recognition celebration is scheduled for April 5. Connie will make an appeal in newsletter for hospitality help for programs. June Schmidt said that the Volunteer Recognition committee is meeting again on February 11.

Rally Day—Ben Crawford. Eleven members from our chapter made the trip to Richmond, and everything went quite well. Members had good meetings with Annie Crockett Stark and with Dave Nutter. They also met with legislative assistants for John Edwards and Jim Shuler. We told these people that we want a 36% limit on interest. The state AARP presented a check to Colonial Forge High School for innovation.

Community Service and Community Blitzes—Carl McDaniels. AARP Virginia is planning what it calls "community blitzes" on issues. Roanoke's blitz will take place in the summer and ours in October. The National Day of Service is May 8. Karen Gilbert is the interlocutor for keeping in touch with VT Engage.

Adjournment—The meeting was adjourned at 11:19.

— Respectfully Submitted:
Virgil A. Cook, Secretary



Tina King, featured speaker at the January chapter meeting.

My name is Tina King, and I am the Executive Director of New River Valley Agency on Aging and Senior Services. I am pleased and appreciative to have been asked to participate in the newsletter by contributing a monthly article. It is a great opportunity for outreach and education..

The New River Valley Agency on Aging (NRV AoA) has been serving seniors and caregivers in the New River Valley, since 1975. The Agency was chartered by local governments as a governmental cooperative. Our purpose is to assist older adults by maximizing independence, dignity and safety with information, advocacy and services and to support the efforts of caregivers.

With monetary support from the federal government, primarily through the Older Americans Act, the Virginia General Assembly, local governments, and other contributions, the Agency provides an array of programs, including information and assistance, care coordination, respite services for caregivers, home delivered and community based meals, homemaker service, medical transportation, legal ser-

Building Bridges — AARP and AoA

vices, local long term care ombudsman and health insurance counseling. During 2007 a total of 6,657 people received services from the Agency. 2,337 of them were Montgomery County residents.

In 2007, the center on Gerontology at Virginia Tech conducted a needs assessment for the NRV AoA to determine where the Agency should concentrate its efforts in the next three to five years. The following recommendations were made:

- Expand existing services: Respite, Transportation, Homemaker, Home Delivered Meals, and phone support.
- Add Home Repair and Modification Services.
- Target baby boomers for educational classes on future planning and health optimization.
- Take a preventative approach to mental health programming.

With these recommendations in mind, the Agency has already taken steps to expand medical transportation and homemaker services and is determining the possibility of a Home Repair/Modification Program. Regarding educational programs, we will expand our target population to include

—Tina King, Executive Director, New River Valley Agency on Aging.
Ph: (540) 980-7720. Email: tinaking@nrva.org.

More information can be found on the Agency's website: www.nrva.org.

Membership Notes, from page 2

monthly meetings. Please wear your badge so newer members will feel more at home. Each badge has been numbered for easier re-filing, so leave your badge in the collection basket as you leave.

Did you know that there are 9,000 national AARP members in Montgomery County alone? Our chapter membership is only 4% of the national

adults between the ages of 40 and 60. Through partnerships with the Mental Health Association of the New River Valley and New River Community Services, we will continue to address the mental health needs of older adults through advocacy, educational programs, and counseling.

Preliminary results of a survey completed by 43 human services agencies and organizations in the New River Valley indicate that the top three needs of the older and disabled population are transportation, caregiver support, and the ability to access services.

Most of the agencies and organizations indicated an interest in forming a Long Term Care Council to address some of the issues and service needs of older and disabled adults. The NRV AoA intends to address this in the near future.

It is encouraging that the NRV AoA and AARP have similar purposes and mission statements. We may seek to accomplish our purposes in different ways, but many opportunities exists to work together and “build the bridges” needed to close gaps in elderly care. I am excited about the future collaborative projects the Agency and the Blacksburg AARP chapter will undertake.

membership in Montgomery County! Many national members do not know that there is a local chapter. Invite AARP national members to join this local chapter. Any questions about membership can be directed to Jim Gaines at 552-6851 or gaines@vt.edu.

— Jim Gaines / Jim Wightman

Jo Ann Underwood, President
AARP Chapter #2613
P.O. Box 10082
Blacksburg, VA 24062

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VT ENGAGE — AARP Blacksburg is currently exploring ways to cooperate with the new VT ENGAGE effort which was launched this year. This new Virginia Tech endeavor seeks to encourage VT students, faculty, staff, and alumni to volunteer at least 10 hours in community service in 2008. All of this is in keeping with the VT Motto: *Ut Prosim* — That I may serve. The total service goal is to pledge and perform 300,000 hours of community service. For more information see the VT ENGAGE web site: www.engage.vt.edu.

New Member, or 2008 Membership Renewal, Application

Membership in the Blacksburg AARP Chapter requires membership in National AARP. Contact Jim Wightman at 552-2007 or jpdad@bev.net if you need a national AARP application.

Date _____

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address:

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

- Membership New member of Blacksburg AARP chapter
 Renewal of membership in Blacksburg AARP chapter
 Single membership dues \$10 for 2008
 Joint couple dues \$15 for 2008
 Lifetime membership \$100 per couple

Recruited by (if appropriate) _____

Complete, attach check made out to Blacksburg AARP, and mail to AARP Chapter #2613, P.O. Box 10082, Blacksburg, VA 24062. If you are already a member of the Blacksburg Chapter, please pass this form on to a friend who may be interested in membership.

A Yellow dot on your mailing label means you owe 2008 dues.