
Blacksburg News



October 2007, Volume 24, Issue 8

AARP Chapter to Sponsor Book Fair

The Blacksburg AARP Chapter is working together with Barnes & Noble to host a Book Fair at the B&N Christiansburg store in Spradlin Farm Shopping Center to raise funds for the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), one of our Community Partners.

The Book Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday, November 3, 2007, when Barnes & Noble (B&N) will donate, to the Public School of your choice, a percentage of every sale made with an accompanying Book Fair Voucher. There will be coupons at the B&N checkout register for customers to designate which MCPS school they want their portion of the sale to benefit.

The vouchers will be available at the AARP Chapter Meeting on October 16th, and also will appear as a download document from our AARP Chapter website: <http://civic.bev.net/aarp/>.

Please help support our Montgomery County Public Schools by shopping at the November 3rd Barnes & Noble Book Fair with a Book Fair voucher. This is a perfect time to schedule your Holiday shopping, as well as to purchase books and CDs for your personal library. Please encourage your family, friends and neighbors to shop at the November 3rd Book Fair.

Copy of voucher on page 3.

— Connie Anderson

**Remember to VOTE
Tuesday November 6, 2007**

Charles Johnson to Speak on "Black History and the NRV"

Our AARP has planned some exciting programs for the rest of 2007.

On October 16 Mr. Charles Johnson will give a talk entitled "Black History and the New River Valley". Mr. Johnson was born in the New River Valley, grew up in the little NRV community of Wake Forest, west of Blacksburg, and owns a business on Prices Fork Road. He traces his ancestors to the Kentland Plantation and the establishment of

Wake Forest after the Civil War. Be sure to come and hear this fascinating piece of our County's history.

Mr. Johnson, a local businessman, will be introduced by former board member Darrel Clowes. Frank Lau, who had been scheduled to speak, had to postpone.

Also on October 16, Dianne Rhody-Scott of the Montgomery County Department of Social Services

will have an exhibit and present a 5-minute program on "Adult Foster Care".

November 20: Dr. Thurman Lockhart, Professor in the Department of Engineering at Virginia Tech, will discuss his research on "Physiological Changes and the Occurrence of Accidents in Older Adults."

Also on November 20, a representative of "Curves" will talk about the new Curves-AARP partnership. Look for more about this in next month's AARP newsletter.

Dec. 4: Our **Annual Holiday Lunch**. Come for fun, food, and music provided by the Blacksburg Community Band. The cost is only \$14 for all this. Bring your check made out to AARP chapter 2613 to our next membership meeting on Oct. 16. The festivities will be held at the Holiday Inn on Prices Fork Road.

— Harriett Cooper

**Candidate's Forum, Monday October 15, 7 p.m. B'burg Council Chambers
School Board and Board of Supervisors**

Jim's Jots, October

People who are dedicated to community service are also party people. Well, some of us are. So, if you like, bring your checkbook to the October meeting and sign up for the Holiday Lunch and the festivities. The more the merrier, literally.

It's time for nominations, and we will have them for you at the October meeting. We have completed all but one, but we must go to press without that one — so you'll have to wait until the meeting to find out who you'll be voting for for next year.

— Jim Gaines, President

2007 Blacksburg AARP Chapter Board

Officers

President: *Jim Gaines* gaines@vt.edu
1st Vice President: *Jim Wightman* jpdad@bev.net
2nd Vice President: *Angela Little* anglittl@naxs.net
Secretary: *Virgil Cook* vcook@vt.edu
Treasurer: *Brian Allen* mballen@prodigy.net
Associate Treasurer: *June Schmidt* schmidtj@vt.edu

Board of Directors

Class of 2007:

Don Elson elsond@vt.edu
Tom Jeffers kats7772000@yahoo.com
Harriet Damant hdamant@verizon.net

Class of 2008:

Curt Finch crrfinch@vt.edu
Margaret Kates connie@vt.edu
Frank Lau franklau1@msn.com

Class of 2009:

Dan Fleming dbflein@vt.edu
Nancy Eiss neiss@vt.edu
Jo Ann Underwood joa@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 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/>

Do-Not-Call List To Expire

For millions of Americans, their five year enrollment on the Do-Not-Call list will soon expire. If you are on this list, you are protected from being called by telemarketers. It takes only one short telephone call to re-register for the list. Call 1-888-382-1222 to re-register.

Committee Chairs

Caring:

Lula Roberts lula.roberts1@verizon.net
Kathy Jeffers kats7772000@yahoo.com

Chaplains:

Ken Dawson kdawson@vt.edu
Norman Grover ngrover@vt.edu

Chapter Awards:

Don Elson elsond@vt.edu
Jim Owens jowen@vt.edu

Community Service:

Mike Sporakowski eagle1@vt.edu

Financial Planning:

Dale Oliver jdoliver@vt.edu

Health Care:

Jo Ann Underwood joa@vt.edu
Harriet Damant hdamant@verizon.net

History:

Jim Gaines gaines@vt.edu

Hospitality:

Cerrie Coil cerrie@verizon.net
Mary Ellen Moore mem@vt.edu

Legislative:

Dan Fleming dbflein@vt.edu

Membership:

Jim Wightman jpdad@bev.net

Nominating:

Class of 2007

Program:

Harriett Cooper chayabrona@verizon.net

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:

Jim Wightman jpdad@bev.net

Ways And Means:

Margaret Kates connie@vt.edu
Jim Moore mem@vt.edu

Webmaster:

Connie Anderson connie@vt.edu

Recycle Bulbs and Batteries Downtown

Don't throw your dead batteries and burned-out fluorescent bulbs in the trash!

The Downtown Merchants of Blacksburg want to help keep toxic heavy metals out of the local waste stream and ground water. We will recycle old household batteries (alkaline or rechargeable) and fluorescent bulbs free of charge. Just bring them to any downtown merchant.

— Leslie Hager-Smith, Director, Downtown Merchants of Blacksburg

Editors: Mary Holliman and Ryan Donnelly — email: mchollim@vt.edu

YMCA Calls for Teachers and Ideas for Courses

Attention: Gifted, talented and knowledgeable members. The YMCA at VT is looking for capable individuals to teach courses for the Open U.

Those of you who would rather take a course than teach one, please share your ideas for courses that you would like to see offered. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Anyone who is interested should contact Gail Billingsly at 961-9622.

Thanks so much.

— Nancy Eiss

AARP Voter Express Van Tours Area

The AARP Virginia Voter Express Van-2007 Version completed an active tour of the New River Valley area Sept 17–19, 2007. Stops were made at the following locations: Monday—Warm Hearth Village, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; Tuesday—AARP Blacksburg Legislative Forum, 8 a.m.–12 noon, Kroger parking lot on University Blvd., 2 p.m.–4 p.m.; Wednesday—Wheatland Retirement Community 8 a.m.–10 a.m., Blacksburg Sports Club 11 a.m.–2 p.m., Blacksburg Farmers Market 3 p.m.–7 p.m. The van was returned to Richmond on September 20.

The following members served as hosts during the tour: President Jim Gaines, Past President Carl McDaniels, Board Member Jo Ann Underwood, First Vice President Jim Wightman. Past President Ben Crawford and wife Carol drove to Richmond Sept. 15 to pick up the van and returned it Sept 20. Special thanks to them for all their help.

AARP B'burg to Explore Links with VT Engage

VT Engage was launched on campus at Virginia Tech in September 2007. It is an effort to link up all VT students, faculty, staff, and alumni to meaningful community service opportunities. AARP Blacksburg is exploring ways to work with the new program. The goal is to have as many as 300,000 hours of volunteer service completed by April 16, 2008.

AARP Chapter 2613 will staff a booth at a kick-off event on the Virginia Tech Drill Field Tuesday October 16, 2007, from 4-6p.m. to discuss service opportunities for VT students, faculty, staff, and alumni with older adults in the area. Further discussion about this matter will take place at the November 6, 2007, AARP Blacksburg Board meeting. Member comments are welcome then or to President Jim Gaines any time.

Membership Notes

My sincere thanks to Connie Anderson for managing the membership list during my summer hiatus. Our chapter membership now stands at 340. This represents a 6% increase in membership since the May Newsletter. If you know of friends who perhaps just overlooked paying their 2007 dues, please ask them to consider re-joining this active chapter with no penalty. A convenient renewal form is found on the last page of this Newsletter. The Virginia AARP Voter Express is described elsewhere in this Newsletter. In addition to highlighting voter information, the Voter Express was also used to recruit new chapter members. Thanks to Ben Crawford, Jim Gaines, and JoAnn Underwood, who served as van hosts.

Did you know that every member of our chapter is a new member recruiter and not just the membership chair? Your Board has accepted a challenge to place a new member recruitment form in the hands of at least one potential new chapter member for 2008. A surprising number of AARP national members do not know there is a local chapter. If you know of such persons, why not encourage them to become chapter members? Just give them the short application form on the last page of this Newsletter. You can reduce your 2008 dues by \$1 for every new member you recruit! Any questions about membership can be directed to Jim Wightman at 552.2007 or jpdad@bev.net.

— Jim Wightman

**Barnes & Noble
Bookfair Voucher
Supporting**

Montgomery County Public Schools
Sponsored by the
Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613

November 3, 2007
9 am - 11pm
Spradlin Farm Shopping Center

Simply present this voucher at
the cash register at the time of purchase.
A percentage of the net sale
will be donated to your organization.*

OFFICE USE ONLY

Register #: Transaction #:

Amount of sale before tax less purchase
of Gift Cards, Membership Cards,
and Café consumables.
\$

* THE FOLLOWING TRANSACTIONS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN BOOKFAIR TOTALS: THE PURCHASE OF GIFT CARDS, MEMBERSHIP CARDS, AND CAFÉ CONSUMABLES. NON-PROFIT AND BUSINESS ACCOUNT DISCOUNTS MAY NOT BE APPLIED TO BOOKFAIR PURCHASES.



Blacksburg AARP Board Minutes, Chapter 2613

October 2, 2007

1. Call to order—President Jim Gaines called the meeting to order at 9:30. Members present: Brian Allen, Connie Anderson, Cerrie Coil, Virgil Cook, Harriett Cooper, R. B. “Ben” Crawford, Nancy Eiss, Donald Elson, Curt Finch, Dan Fleming, Jim Gaines, Tom Jeffers, Carl McDaniels, Mary Ellen Moore, Dale Oliver, June Schmidt, JoAnn Underwood, Jim Wightman

2. Adoption of Agenda —a discussion of Divided We Fail was added to Item 10. Hospitality was added to Item 12. VT Engaged was also added to Item 13. The agenda was adopted as amended.

3. Approval of Minutes—the minutes for the September Meeting were approved.

4. Treasurer’s Report—Brian Allen reported that our balance is dropping a bit, \$3,828.73 at the end of September. He has picked up money for four memberships. The state office will reimburse the chapter for the \$100 outlay for coffee at the candidate forum. Brian suggested that we spend down our balance before the end of the year. We should decide on the allocations at the November meeting.

5. Legislation—Ben Crawford reported that all six candidates showed up for the forum. Dan Fleming observed that Jean Jadhon did a good job and was especially on target near the end. Holding time to a minute made candidates condense their presentations. Ben commended Carl and Dan for putting the forum together. Dan reported that about 120 people attended. The actual count was about 125, but people were moving in and out during the entire program. The *Roanoke Times* estimated 150 attendees. Carl McDaniels signed up one lady for AARP while the Get out the

Vote Van was at Warm Hearth on Monday, September 17. However, the van drew little attention during its visit to Wheatland. Many signed up for AARP at the Sports Club’s meeting at Custom Catering. Two signed up at the Farmer’s Market. Carl thanked Ben and Carol Crawford for donating four days to drive two round trips to Richmond to pick up and return the van. The state office will reimburse The Crawfords for gas.

6. Web Site—Connie Anderson reported that she has posted a nice selection of pictures of the legislative forum on the Chapter Web site. Connie passed around a copy of the Barnes and Noble voucher template that our AARP Chapter’s Ways and Means Committee will use to produce 500 vouchers for our sponsored Book Fair on November 3. Each signed voucher will benefit Montgomery County Public Schools. When redeeming a voucher at the Book Fair, the customer can designate a specific school. These vouchers will be available for distribution at the October 16th AARP meeting and as a download from our Chapter website.

7. Programs—Frank Lau had to cancel his program for the October meeting because of his bus-driving schedule. Harriett Cooper reported that Charles Johnson, who owns a barbershop on Price’s Fork Road will present the October program. He will speak on Black History in Montgomery County. For November, Professor Thurman Lockhart will talk about physiological changes as people age.

Downtown merchants have adopted the block around College Avenue for regular cleanup. The merchants hope that other organizations will adopt a block. Dan Fleming observed that the same litter remains in

the area week after week. The merchants plan to contact owners of buildings where the litter accumulates. The merchants will also notify student, volunteer groups. June Schmidt observed that if we volunteer to help with cleanup, we will need help from younger and more agile groups. Jim Gaines observed that we are already involved in projects such as constructing ramps for seniors.

8. Membership—Jim Wightman thanked Connie for helping while he was out of town. Membership now stands at 340, a 6% increase from May. There are 34 lifetime members. In response to a question from June Schmidt, Jim defined two terms: Honorary members are past presidents, and life members are very elderly people. Ben observed that the state president should receive the newsletter. Dan gave his opinion that we should also send the newsletter to sitting legislators who represent our members. The board agreed, since the cost is minimal. Jim circulated a membership recruitment letter to mail to non-members with Blacksburg and Christiansburg ZIP codes. The state office indicated that they will mail the letter. Members will get credit when they pass the letter along to a potential member. Connie asked if we will challenge the membership to recruit new members. Such a challenge will be included in Jim Wightman’s report in the newsletter.

9. Nominations—Ben Crawford moved that the members whose terms end in 2007, two past presidents, and one additional person make up this year’s nominating committee. President Gaines said that he would also serve. The motion passed.

Cerri Coyle urged people to make

continued on page 5

October Board Minutes,

continued from page 4

reservations for the December Holiday party so that she can get a count as early as possible.

10. History—Carl McDaniels indicated that everyone should now have a copy of the Divided We Fail material. Members should sign and return the form. The state office will award \$250 to the chapter with the largest number of members signing up.

Carl asked whether we should continue to include the Home Sweet Home publication in our newsletter. The publication comes out about twice a year. Jim Wightman moved that we continue to include the publication. The motion passed.

11. Awards—Don Elson reported that three nominations have been submitted to the state office.

12. Caring—two members of the committee need to be replaced.

13. Whatever—JoAnn Underwood reported that Curves, a women's exercise group, wants time at the next board meeting to outline their program. Brian Allen also reported that he can now sell a Medicare Advantage plan that AARP supports. Both Curves and Brian will be given time at the next board meeting.

Dan Fleming reported that the Rec Center spent \$150 for a public-address system for the candidate forum. Brian Allen moved that we Donate \$1,500 of our balance to various charities, earmarking \$150 of our contribution to the Rec Center for the public-address system. The motion passed.

VT Engaged—Carl McDaniels reported that there will be a kickoff for VT Engaged on October 16 from 4:00 to 7:00. Some 50 volunteer groups such as the United Way and Warm Hearth will have exhibits at the kickoff. Jim Wightman moved that we par-

Caregiver "Help!"

There are more than 700,000 caregivers in Virginia. One quarter are caregivers for spouses, 75% are females, and 20% provide care for more than five years.

On Saturday October 20, Virginia Tech Retirees Association (VTRA) is offering a Seminar and Trade Fair to help these caregivers plus potential caregivers. The theme of the program is "What is available in the New River Valley for caregivers that will enhance their services and alleviate their stress?" This program is not directed solely for caregivers of seniors but for all caregivers.

The Fair will have fifty businesses or persons displaying and discussing what they have to offer. The Seminar will have three speakers, on the topics "Caregiver, Care for Yourself First", "What is in This Directory?" and "Planning for the End". The first semi-

nar will start at 10:00 a.m. and the second (a repeat of the first) at 1:00 p.m. The repeat will allow more visitors an opportunity to attend the Seminar and still have time to visit the Fair.

The VTRA also has prepared a caregiver's directory with the names, addresses, phone numbers, and services offered by the providers in the area. More than 80 sources of assistance are listed.

If you see that you will stay through the lunch hour, notify either Jim Moore (552-4688 or mem@vt.edu) or Dorothy Jones (951-1654 or dorothyjft@aol.com) for reservations. A bag lunch will be provided. Both directory and lunch are free.

The Fair and Seminar will be held at the Blacksburg Recreation Center on Patrick Henry Drive.

— Jim Moore, Chairman

participate and that we have an exhibit at the event. The motion passed.

Harriett Cooper said that the YMCA needs teachers for the Free University.

Dan Fleming expressed his concern about the jeopardy of the S-CHIP program. He reported that the Senior Newsletter failed to include the AARP perspective on the issue. It did, however, include Representative Bob Goodlatt's perspective, which supports the administration's position.

14. Adjournment—The meeting was adjourned at 11:10.

Respectfully submitted:
Virgil A. Cook, Secretary.

AARP Launches DWF Campaign

Nearly 100 Divided We Fail (DWF) campaign pledge cards were signed and turned in to Richmond as part of the AARP Voter Express Van tour of the Blacksburg area Sept 17-19, 2007.

Information about the DWF campaign and pledge cards will be available at the Chapter meeting Tuesday, October 16 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Blacksburg Community Center. Members are urged to pick up the brochure about the campaign and sign a pledge card at the meeting.

Why Join Blacksburg AARP?

**TO: Work Together
Make New Friends
Make a Difference**

No amount of time can erase the memory of a good cat, and no amount of masking tape can ever totally remove his fur from your couch. — Leo Dworken

Jim Gaines, President
AARP Chapter #2613
P.O. Box 10082
Blacksburg, VA 24062

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
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Blacksburg, VA
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Some VA AARP 2007 Goals

Economic Security:

- Advocate for legislation to curb abuses in predatory lending and payday loans
- Support national efforts to assure the long-term solvency of Social Security
- Educate our members on how to avoid frauds and scams

Health and Supportive Services

- Continue our multi-year legislative campaign to improve access, quality, financing, and services in Virginia's long-term care system
- Assure that Long Term Care is a central issue in the 2007 Virginia elections

Livable Communities:

- Advocate for increased funding for mobility services for older citizens and the disabled
- Partner with *Rebuilding Together* to modify 12 homes and demonstrate the value of minor modifications for independent living

New Member, or 2007 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 2007
 Joint couple dues \$15 for 2007
 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.