



BLACKSBURG NEWS

Volume 23, Issue 1

Chapter # 2613

January 2006

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

Correspondences: P. O. Box 10082, Blacksburg, VA 24062

Newsletter Editors: Ben and Carol Crawford; ben.crawford@vt.edu

Membership Meeting -- January 17, 2006

Blacksburg Transit for YOU!!

Blacksburg Senior Center

11:30 a.m. - Bag lunch and fellowship

Program from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Our AARP Chapter begins the New Year with a truly 'moving' program: "Blacksburg Transit: What's available for our older citizens." Rebecca Morton, Blacksburg Transit Director; Tim Witten, B.T. Access Manager; and Ken Tucker, Marketing Supervisor, will discuss how Blacksburg Transit can help get you where you have to go if you are ill or disabled. A Blacksburg Transit van will be in the Community Center parking lot so you can check it out after the meeting.

Mini-program on SHARE Virginia

By Host Manager, Mandy Eskew.

SHARE Virginia is a nonprofit food distribution and volunteer service program

CONGRATULATIONS!

Chapter President **Carl McDaniel** (right) congratulates **Jim Moore** along with his wife, **Mary Ellen Moore** for Jim's receipt of the VA Gordon Morton AARP Volunteer of the Year Award. Jim made brief comments, telling of their joint work for the Red Cross in the aftermath of 9/11 in New York City. **Dan Fleming** received the Blacksburg Chapter Service Award and **Ben Crawford** received the Chapter Community Spirit Award.



December 2005 Holiday Luncheon

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Carl McDaniels

First, HAPPY NEW YEAR to every member of AARP Blacksburg. Best wishes for a Healthy, Happy and Active 2006! Your new Board of Directors & selected Committee Chairs had a lively two-hour session on January 3, to review our accomplishments and achievements for 2005 and stake out an active agenda for this year. We have much to be thankful for regarding many members who worked so diligently last year for Chapter #2613. We are planning to build on what we did then to reach new goals involving expanded opportunities for meaningful volunteer opportunities and Chapter partnerships with local direct service non-profit groups. We welcome your ideas along these lines and your participation in expanding our horizons for service.

It looks like this will be a busy year. Please keep up to date by checking out each issue of the monthly newsletter and attending each meeting held on the **third Tuesday** of each month. For more current information about what is going on see our web site at <http://civic.bev.net/aarp/>. Many of us can check it out frequently on timely information such as local AARP Driver Education Classes and Tax Aide happenings. Most of our past programs with pictures are also available on line through the great work of photographer Bob Abraham and Webmaster Connie Anderson. In short, we urge all members to help make this 31st year of

our Chapter History an outstanding one by keeping up to date and taking an active role in our activities and opportunities to serve others. Together we can make this our best year ever. I look forward to our journey together in serving others through AARP Blacksburg.

Recently I saw this quote in an AARP publication which seemed helpful in laying out our direction for the year: *"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are today"* quoting AARP founder Ethel Percy Andrus.

Regards, Carl

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Harriett Cooper

February 21: We have a joint meeting with the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County. **Meghan Dorsett**, of the Montgomery County Planning Department, will discuss the new Comprehensive **County Plan** and how it is being implemented. Come and find out what is being planned in the future.

March 21: This program should be both exciting and practical. Entitled **"Making your Home Safe and Comfortable as You Age"** by **Tim Lawrence** of Blue Ridge Home Improvement, Inc. Lawrence is a Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist, acknowledging his expertise in providing for the changes people's homes require to ensure their comfort and safety as they age.

TWO AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAMS

Mar 29 & 31, 2006 (Wed and Fri) from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Blacksburg Community Center

OR

Apr 19 & 21, 2006 (Wed and Fri) from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Warm Hearth

REGISTRATION: Call **Jim Gaines** at 552-6851 to sign up for an AARP Driver Safety Class. First come, first serve to a maximum of 20.

Class # 1 March 29 & 31, 1 p.m. at the Blacksburg Community Center Wednesday and Friday.

Class # 2 April 19 & 21, 1 p.m. at Warm Hearth, Carson Library, 1st floor, New River House Apartments.

Sign up now for either Class.

All sessions begin promptly at 1 p.m. and are held four hours each day. Students **must** attend both sessions to graduate and obtain a certificate. The certificate is evidence for your insurance discount. Cost is \$10 per person payable to AARP. **Attendance is limited to the first 20 persons** who apply and you must be 50 years of age or older--only those over 55 can receive the insurance discount.

Learn how to handle problem situations such as left turns, right-of-way, free-way traffic, trucks, and blind spots. Learn what to do if confronted by an aggressive driver, when to use a car phone, how medications may affect your driving, how to properly use anti-lock brakes, air bags, and safety belts; and

much more. Our volunteer instructor will be **Bill Wagoner** of Dublin, a former pilot and auto dealer. The Blacksburg Chapter of AARP and Warm Hearth will furnish coffee/snacks.

Five reasons to take the AARP Driver Safety Program:

1. Learn defensive driving, new traffic laws, rules of the road and more in this 8-hour (two days) course.
2. Find out how to adjust your driving to age-related changes in vision, hearing, and reaction time.
3. Get an insurance discount, which, by VA law, is given over and above all other discounts for which you may be eligible.
4. You don't have to take a test.
5. Millions of people have taken advantage of this valuable course.

Here is what one graduate said: *"I have driven over three million miles as a commercial driver. Even with that record behind me, I have to keep an open mind and learn new things. AARP's Driver Safety Program taught me a lot about normal age related changes that I didn't realize. I know I'm a much better driver for it."*

OUR MOTTO

TO SERVE, NOT TO BE SERVED

IN MEMORIAM

With deepest sympathy to the families:
Cecil Driver, Helen Judkins, Louise Price, Beverly Printz, Leonard Uttal

CARING COMMITTEE

By Kathy Jeffers

The Caring Committee would like to remind members that get well, sympathy and thinking of you cards are available to be sent to our chapter members. Please contact **Kathy Jeffers** at **951-3946** with the type of card needed and, if needed, the frequency the card needs to be sent. AARP Chapter #2613 cares, and we want our members to be remembered.

TAX SEASON AGAIN FREE TAX PREPARATION

By Frank Lau

Flat tax or income tax? It's a question that always heats up the landscape this time of year. If the topic is of interest, please let the EDITOR and/or Harriett Cooper know, for it could be an interesting topic for a Chapter meeting. Basically, it is a proposal that shifts taxing policy from Consumption to Savings. There are very interesting arguments for both sides of the issue.

But for the 2005 Tax Year, we still have the present system, which Congress has made into a series of confusing and irritating rules. **Tax-Aide** is an **AARP/IRS sponsored program** to help taxpayers fulfill their taxation obligation. We are **IRS certified** to

prepare personal tax returns within limits, generally less than \$100,000 in income, without rental properties, and without business income.

Our package of service provides electronically filed returns, except for those with unique circumstances. We use an **AARP/IRS approved, professional computer program (Tax Wise)**. Clients also receive a paper return for their files. **Our hours of service are Noontime to 7 p.m. (last client no later than 6:30 p.m.) on Monday and Wednesday. Service starts on February 6th, providing **FEDERAL and STATE returns.****

Phoning the Recreation Center's front desk at 961-1149 will set the process moving for you. Our INTERVIEW/INTAKE person will contact you to determine the level of complexity, and place you in the schedule. Those needing service who have difficulty traveling from Warm Hearth should contact **Frank Lau** at 961-0516 for a Warm Hearth visit.

The Volunteer Group wants to make this obligation as painless as possible and hope to have you join our ever-growing repeat clients. It is a **FREE, UP-TO-DATE, SECURE, and PRIVATE Service** open to all (Student to Retired) through AARP. **NONE OF YOUR DATA IS RETAINED!**

2006 BLACKSBURG AARP CHAPTER OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, CHAIRS

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Margaret Kates connie@vt.edu

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VIRGINIA TECH RETIREES

ASSOCIATION LIAISON:

Jim Wightman jpdad@bev.net

WAYS AND MEANS: open

Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
Blacksburg Community Center
Tuesday, January 3, 2006

Members Present:

Curt Finch	Dan Fleming	R. B. "Ben" Crawford	Donald Elson
Dale Oliver	Brian Allen	Mary Ellen Moore	June Schmidt
Harriett Cooper	Carl McDaniels	Harriet Damant	Tom Jeffers
Jim Wightman	Joyce Martin	Connie Anderson	Frank Lau
Jim Gaines	Angela Little		
Visitor attending:	Ron Gaysunas		

1. President McDaniels **called the meeting to order** at 9:31 a.m. He welcomed new members and committee chairs to the Board and had members introduce themselves.
2. The Volunteer Recognition Event was added to item #14 of the **agenda**.
3. November 2005 **Minutes**: Martin moved to approve, second by Damant. Approved. **4. Treasurer's Report**: Allen, Treasurer, distributed a financial report showing income and expenses for November and December 2005. The bank balance as of November 30, 2005 was \$3,336.61 and as of December 31, 2005 the end of year balance was \$2,692.11. A total of \$1,615 was donated to eight agencies that were voted to receive the donations in the November meeting.
5. Oliver, Financial Planning Committee Chair, presented the Audit Report that he and Ken Martin prepared. Oliver stated the committee was satisfied that the chapter's financial records presented by the Treasurer are correct. They also added a statement of appreciation for the work that Allen has done as Treasurer. The **proposed 2006 budget** will be presented at February's meeting and Oliver asked for recommendations.
6. After discussion and review of the **Board and Committee Appointments**, Lau volunteered to move to the Board of Directors, Class of 2008, and Moore agreed to serve as Board of Directors, Class of 2006 to fill the vacant director position. It was recommended by McDaniels and approved by Board consensus.

Committees:

Legislative: Dan Fleming will co-chair with Glen Mitchell

Telephone: Margaret Kates, Harriett Cooper and Rhoda Lau

VA Tech Retirees Association Liaison and Membership Chair: Jim Wightman

Nominating: Ben Crawford, Brian Allen, and Carl McDaniels

Program Chair: Harriett Cooper

Health Care: Jo Ann Underwood

Caring: Kathy Jeffers and Lula Roberts

Chapter Awards: Jim Moore

Community Service and Ways and Means Committees remain open.

(cont'd page 7)

(Board Minutes cont'd from page 6)

Newsletter Editors: Ben and Carol Crawford.

McDaniels led discussion of possible goals, projects and partnerships. Several members will get information from organizations to determine who has needs the Chapter can assist. Further discussion/decision/adoption of projects and goals at February meeting.

7. Wightman, **Membership Chair**, reported 70 renewal memberships received. Lau will make more copies of the AARP brochure. Anderson will assist in preparing mailing labels. Wightman stated 350 members a realistic goal for 2006. He offered two suggestions to begin recruiting new members. 1. Work with the Service Learning Center. 2. Obtain a list of former Christiansburg AARP Chapter members. The Telephone Committee can make reminder calls to members to pay their 2006 dues.

8. Cooper, **Program Chair**, reported the programs are set for the January 17 and February 21 general meetings.

9. Crawford, **Newsletter Chair**, stated that the deadline for all newsletter articles is Friday, January 6. Anderson will give photos to Crawford to use in the newsletter. Lau volunteered to help with the January mailing labels.

10. Anderson, **Webmaster**, reported the photos are now on the website. Crawford recommended that all members visit the website. Anderson would like to place the chapter history on the site when completed.

11. There are two upcoming **“Driver Safety”** classes with one located at Warm Hearth. Lau, **AARP Tax-aide** Volunteer, reported that this year will be easier with 4 aides.

12. Gaines, **History Chair**, circulated a sample of the history document that he is writing. McDaniels reported Warm Hearth Retirement Village agreed to donate \$500 to the Chapter for distribution of the history brochure. Fleming, **Legislative Co-chair**, informed the Board there is a vast array of issues to be addressed. It is uncertain how the General Assembly will act on issues such as Medicaid. On the federal level, there are continuing tax cuts and capital gains issues. The Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program is changing daily and in a chaotic mess. He suggested that we contact our local representatives and Congressman Boucher with our concerns.

13. Elson, **Chapter Awards Chair**, will assist Schmidt with the Volunteer Recognition.

14. Schmidt submitted proposed budget of \$1,025 for the annual **Volunteer Recognition Celebration**. \$684.45 is left from last year’s event. Motion by Martin to approve the expenditures for hosting the Recognition Event, seconded, and approved unanimously. Oliver, Martin, Elson and Little will assist Schmidt in planning this year’s event.

The **meeting was adjourned** at 11:14 a.m. and the floor given to Ron Gaysunas, AARP member, to give a brief presentation of his ideas on dealing with the new Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program. The next Board meeting will be **February 7 at 9:00 a.m.**

Angela Little, Secretary

Carl McDaniels, President
AARP Chapter #2613
P. O. Box 10082
Blacksburg, VA 24060

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NEW MEMBER OR 2006 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.

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____ City & Zip: _____

Phone: _____ - _____ - _____ E-Mail: _____

Membership: _____ New member of Blacksburg AARP Chapter
 _____ Renewal of membership in Blacksburg AARP Chapter
 _____ Single membership dues **\$10 for 2006**
 _____ Joint couple dues **\$15.00 for 2006**

Complete, attach check made out to Blacksburg AARP, and bring to the next Membership Meeting or mail to: **AARP Chapter #2613, POB 10082, Blacksburg, VA 24062** If you are already a member of the Blacksburg Chapter, please pass this form onto a friend that may be interested in membership