



Blacksburg Chapter News

April 2014 • Vol. 31 • No. 4
www.blacksburgaarp.org

April 15
Chapter
Meeting

**Rescheduled
from January**

The Value of Friends Among the Elderly

Dr. Rosemary Blieszner, Alumni Distinguished Professor of Human Development and Associate Dean of the Graduate School at Virginia Tech will be the speaker for the first public meeting of the year on January 21. Dr. Blieszner will speak on the value of friends among the elderly, a topic of research that she has pursued for many years. The meeting will be held at the Blacksburg Community Center on Patrick Henry Drive at 11:30 a.m.



Dr. Blieszner received her Ph.D. from The Pennsylvania State University. Her research has been supported by NIH and several foundations. She has published four books as well as nearly 100 book chapters and

research articles in gerontology, family studies, psychology, sociology, and personal relationships journals. She is a fellow of the American Psychological Association, the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, the Gerontological Society of America, and the National Council on Family Relations. She currently serves as editor of *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*. *VT website*

President's Message from Leslye Bloom

Winters like the last one help us appreciate spring days like this one.



Leslye's facebook computage—see the webpage for the color version

It's spring at last! No more snow cancellations! On April 15th, we will be making up the program first scheduled for January 2014. Dr. Rosemary Blieszner will address the value of friendship. Bring a friend if you can.

On April 10th I will be accompanying our nominee Sally Anna Stapleton to the Leading Lights Banquet. She has written a NEW Volunteer opportunities article for this newsletter.

Ben Crawford, Nola Elliott and I will be heading to Charlottesville for Federal Advocacy Training on April 16th and 17th this month. It should be very interesting. Stay tuned.

If you are a tech retiree, let me recommend that you catch Jim Wightman's talk at the Spring Banquet on May 8.

So much is happening I'll be brief here so there's more space for the nitty-gritty.

Onward and upward!

Don't forget to bring your food donation (a can or box of non-perishable food) to the AARP chapter meeting. We will collect food at each monthly chapter meeting.

Upcoming Events

April 1 • 10:00
board meeting

April 15 • 11:30
chapter meeting rescheduled from January: *The Value of Friends Among the Elderly*, Rosemary Blieszner

May 6 • 10:00
board meeting

May 8-10 *The AARP Big Event in Boston* http://www.aarp.org/about-aarp/events/national_event/boston/

May 20 The VA College of Osteopath Medicine hosts AARP chapter meeting at VCOM Speaker Dr. Ronna New of Abingdon.

June 17 Picnic and White Elephant Auction

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.

Members Attended March Events and Classes



ACA meeting March 18, 2014 photo L. Bloom



Driver Safety Class 2014 photo L. Bloom

Financial Statement

March 2014

Balance end of February 2014 \$2,430.37

Credits

Dues 495.00

50/50 Raffle 30.00

Health Fair 1,100.00

Interest .12

other 5.00

TOTAL \$1,630.12

Debits

Kopy Korner 107.19

TOTAL \$107.19

Balance end of March 2014 \$3,953.30

Balance in Reserve Account \$2,682.76

Pat Ballard *Treasurer*

Membership Report April 2014

2013 Members	41 individuals	27 households
2014 Members	202 individuals	124 households
Lifetime Members	35 individuals	22 households
Life Members	12 individuals	11 households
Comp Members	20 individuals	20 households
Honorary Members	2 individuals	1 households

Total Membership 312 individuals 205 households

Tom Alston and Jim Wightman *Membership*

Last chance!

The AARP Tax-Aide program

ends April 15. Your counselors are busy getting IRS trained and certified to prepare tax returns. The location is the Christiansburg Recreation Center (Senior Activity Room) and you will need to call and schedule an appointment. The telephone number is 382-2349. The schedule for preparing taxes is:

Mondays 1:00–4:00 pm Tuesdays 5:30–8:30 pm
Thursdays 1:00–4:00 pm Saturdays 9:00–noon

Pat Ballard. email: pballard@vt.edu • 382-1189
 1530 Cambria St. NE • Christiansburg, VA 24073

Legislative Report to the Board of Directors

Blacksburg AARP April 2014

1. State Budget. At a stalemate. Both Governor and House have submitted new revisions but neither party has accepted the proposals. There is a possibility of a Government “shutdown” if a timely decision is not made soon. The full Senate does not reconvene until April 7.

2. Medicaid Expansion. Another stalemate. Major ideological differences exist between the Governor/ Senate and the House. Several proposals have been offered as a compromise to the Federal Plan but so far all have been rejected. Whatever is decided here will probably have an impact on a large number of our citizens.

3. Delegate Yost and Medicaid Expansion. This is a very important subject for him and he sent out an extensive survey to those on his mailing list to get input. If you did not receive a copy you can still participate by calling his office (540-922-8032 or 804-698-1012)

4. Medicare Patients. Fees paid to your attending physicians were scheduled to be reduced by double digit amounts in the next few months. However, the U. S. Congress has pending legislation which if approved would reduce this percentage significantly thereby helping to prevent costs being passed on to the individual.

5. Health care bills and your credit rating. Sometimes these bills even though not your responsibility are not paid on a timely basis. These unpaid bills are sometimes reported quickly to credit agencies and could affect your credit score. Currently half of all accounts reported to credit agencies now come from medical bills. And health care bills are now the largest source of business for collection companies. Be as vigilant with these bills as you are with other major bills. *Val Coluni, Chair Legislative Committee*

Looking for the minutes from the April board meeting?

You can find the draft minutes at www.blacksburgaarp.org/minutes0214.pdf

Those without computers can pick up a printed copy at our April 15 meeting, or visit the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library and the staff will help you use one of the computers to read all the latest AARP news on the website.

Legal Assistance for Chapter Members

AARP through its legal services division has obtained local Attorney James Montgomery to serve as part of its network. The offer of legal services through AARP is a long-time service for members; however, only recently did a local attorney join the network thereby making the services accessible to our members. If you wish to obtain more information go online at AARP Legal Services or call 1-800-424-3410 to obtain a referral. Through this service now available to us, AARP members can receive a free 45 minute consultation and a 20% discount on legal matters undertaken for you by the attorney.

Please note that Jim is the only attorney from Southwestern Virginia. May he be the first of many.

I have confirmed the accessibility of Jim's contact information via <https://www.aarpls.com> and by phone, Members wishing to use the service can do so by providing their Zip Code, AARP Member Number, Last Name, and checking the “keep in touch” option within the (see box) My thanks and congratulations to Jim, who has been a mainstay of AARP Chapter 2613 for many years!

Leslye Bloom, 2014 president

At Virginia Tech:

Friday April 18 2:00 PM

Tour of the A.J. Residential Colleges

Thursday, May 8 • 11:30 AM

Virginia Tech Retirees Luncheon at Custom Catering
902 Patrick Henry Dr., Blacksburg, VA 24060

Speaker: Jim Wightman

Wednesday, May 21 • 10:00 AM

Tour of the Signature Engineering Building

Call Sandy Birch at 540 951-3455 for reservations

Please Comment!

Area Plan for Aging Services

Looking ahead and planning for activities in the warmer months ahead can help keep us out of the winter doldrums. If we haven't already, we will soon begin to see sure signs of spring. . . . lovely little crocus blooms, perky robins and shoots of green springing out of the ground!

These assurances of springtime remind us at the New River Valley Agency on Aging that it is time to look ahead and start working on our annual Area Plan for Aging Services. The new plan will take effect in October 2014 and run through September 2015. The Area Plan delineates how resources provided from the Older Americans Act will be allocated. Although the Older Americans Act provides guidelines on services that can be provided, there is a broad array of service possibilities. We do not provide all of the possible services due to funding limitations and identified needs.

With a current budget of about \$1.4 million, the NRV Agency on Aging provides aging services with federal, state and local support. The largest programs include Home Delivered Meals, Congregate Meals/Friendship Cafes, Transportation, Information and Assistance, and Homemaker services.

Client waiting lists currently exist for the Homemaker Services. Other services provided include Health Insurance Counseling and Medicare Fraud Prevention, Elder Abuse Prevention, Long Term Care Ombudsman, Care Coordination, Legal Services, Public Information, Long Term Care Coordination, Care Giver Support including Respite Care and a Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group in Pulaski County.

The NRV Agency on Aging's service area includes the counties of Montgomery, Pulaski, Giles, and Floyd and the city of Radford.

We welcome and encourage your comments on these services or other needed services. From March through mid-May we will be soliciting comments from the general public and from those receiving our services. After the state budget is adopted and we receive our funding allocations we will put together a draft Area Plan. The draft Plan should be ready by late May and will be widely distributed in local libraries, government offices, and

other human services offices, in our office and on our website for viewing by the public. A public hearing on the draft Plan will be held at the Agency on Aging in Pulaski on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

We are eager to engage others in the process so that we know that we are fairly representing as much as possible, the needs of aging adults in the New River Valley.

Tina King, Executive Director New River Valley Agency on Aging

The Agency on Aging as an Aging and Disability Resource Connection provides information, referrals and assistance to help older adults, adults with disabilities and their caregivers find solutions to meet their needs. For more information on how the Agency on Aging can assist you or someone you know, please call 980-7720; e-mail [nrvaoo@nrvaoo.org](mailto:nrvaoa@nrvaoo.org), or visit our website at www.nrvaoa.org.

Your comments can be mailed to the New River Valley Agency on Aging, 141 East Main Street, Suite 500, Pulaski, Virginia 24301 or e-mailed to [nrvaoo@nrvaoo.org](mailto:nrvaoa@nrvaoo.org). You can also call us at 540-980-7720. We really want to hear from you!

The chapter website at www.blacksburgaarp.org

Visitors to the www.blacksburgaarp.org are aware that the Home page normally contains announcements. These represent events important to members such as future public meeting topics and requests for member participation in some activity such as driver safety courses or research projects needing senior participation. Minutes from the most recent Board of Directors meeting also appear on the Home page.

The health of the organization depends upon enlisting new members and the chapter website is structured to provide descriptive material of what prospective members can expect when they join. Chapter history and current activities are available on the site for examination by anyone curious about what it means to become a member of Blacksburg AARP.

As always, members are encouraged to take an active role in shaping the material contained on the website. If you wish to suggest content for the site, simply contact the editor at dgc2@vt.edu. Don Creamer, *Website Editor*

Chapter Officers & Board 2014

President • Leslye Bloom, leslye_bloom@comcast.net

Vice President • Terry Wildman, wiley@vt.edu

Secretary • Virgil Cook, vcook@vt.edu

Treasurer • Pat Ballard, pballard@vt.edu

Board Members

Class of 2014: Leslye Bloom, leslye_bloom@comcast.net

John Hillison, johnhillison@comcast.net

Cecil McBride, cmcbride@vt.edu

Class of 2015: Don Creamer, dgc2@vt.edu

Nola Elliott, ne_elliott@peoplepc.com

Terry Wildman, wiley@vt.edu

Class of 2016: Tom Alston, tpalston@gmail.com

Tina King, tinaking@nrva.org

Sally Anna Stapleton, sanna418@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

AARP of Virginia Liaison

Ben Crawford, ben.crawford@vt.edu

AARP Driver Safety

Cecil McBride, cmcbride@vt.edu

AARP Tax Preparation

Pat Ballard, pballard@vt.edu

Caring

Margaret Kates, 552-4107

Chaplain

Sandy Birch, birch@vt.edu

Chapter Awards

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Community Service

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Financial Planning and Audit

June Schmidt, schmidtj@vt.edu

Health Fair

John & Sharen Hillison, johnhillison@comcast.net

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Hospitality

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Holiday Luncheon

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Margaret Kates, 552-4107

Website Editor

Don Creamer, dgc2@vt.edu

Community Service

Do you think Spring has finally arrived? As I look out my window the bees are buzzing around the cherry tree buds, I'd say a sure sign that Mother Nature has gotten the word out.

So what are you doing for yourself to bring in the Spring? How about getting out into you community and volunteering.

Volunteer Opportunities

LewisGale Hospital Montgomery - needs volunteers to work the Gift Shop & help with Patient Information. Call Rhonda 953-5291.

Habitat for Humanity ReStore - Looking for volunteers for various positions to help within the store. Contact the store.

Medi Home Health and Hospice - needs volunteers to fill various jobs. Call Hilda 382-5637.

Community Events

The Habitat ReStore located at 1675 N. Franklin Street in Christiansburg is holding an Open House on Monday, May 12 from 9-11 am. There will be tours of the facility, 10% discount for shoppers, demonstrations, repurposing activities, light brunch and more. This is a great way to learn how the ReStore helps families in our community have affordable housing. To learn more you may call 381-1155.

The Blacksburg Community Band, as a part of its 25th anniversary celebration, will present a concert on Sunday, April 13 at 3 PM in the Blacksburg High School auditorium. BCB participated in our chapter's annual holiday luncheon over a number of years. Your tax-deductible donations are vital to the continued operation and success of the BCB. More information can be found at www.blacksburgcommunityband.org.

Sally Anna Stapleton, *Community Service Chair*



Chapter #2613

Leslye Bloom, President

P.O. Box 10082

Blacksburg, VA 24062

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AARP Blacksburg Chapter 2613

Annual Picnic June 17
at Nellie's Cave Park

Join AARP and enjoy the annual picnic and white elephant auction!

Advance notice for

September 17 *Wednesday* HEALTH FAIR at VCOM 2

October 21 Candidates for state & national office are invited to speak.