



## Volunteer Recognition Celebration to Be Held First Saturday in April

Mark your calendar now for the upcoming Volunteer Recognition Celebration. This outstanding event will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2008, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Blacksburg Community Center. It is sponsored by our Blacksburg AARP Chapter, the American Red Cross, the YMCA at Virginia Tech, the RSVP Programs of the New River Valley, and the Blacksburg Senior Center.

From our Chapter, Dale Oliver, Angela Little, Nancy Eiss, Connie Anderson, and June Schmidt are serving on the planning committee for the event. They ask that you help with the project in two ways.

First: They need volunteers to help with the event itself. Call Nancy at 951-4015 to let her know of your interest in serving.

Second: Nominations for outstanding volunteers from community organizations are needed. A letter inviting community organizations to nominate volunteers and a two-page nomination form can be obtained from the YMCA by calling 961-9622 or by e-mail to [ymca@vtymca.org](mailto:ymca@vtymca.org). Nominations are due Friday, March 7, 2008.

The planning committee has sent information about the event to organizations throughout the New River

*See Volunteer Recognition, page 2*

## Transportation Opportunities for Seniors Topic of March Program

The March AARP program, on Tuesday March 18 includes:

Brown Bag Lunch starting at 11:30 a.m. at the Blacksburg Community Center, followed by program about noon-1 p.m.

"Transportation Issues for New River Valley Seniors," chaired by Dr Larry Alexander, faculty member in Virginia Tech's Management Department. He will speak on "Home Delivery for Seniors."

Other members of the panel are Tim Whitten, who will speak on "Blacksburg Transit (BT) Services for Seniors"; and Tina King, executive director of the New River Valley Agency on Aging, who will speak on "Meals on Wheels and Medical Transport Services for Area Seniors." Handouts will be available from each speaker.

The Table Top Talk and Display will be from the New River Valley Blue Ridge Independent Living Center, by Coordinator Robert Wright. The BRILC.ORG requests that AARP members bring canes, walkers, crutches, or other mobility aids for the BRILC "Loaner Closet."

As a special opportunity, Chaplain Ken Dawson will sign copies of his recent autobiography, *Blessed Beyond Measure*. Copies of the book will be for sale at the meeting for \$10, with all proceeds going back to AARP Blacksburg.

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## Jo Ann's Want Ads

*Notes from the AARP President*

There are so many things I want to say to you. And thank you all for what you do for AARP, but space is limited.

I WANT to thank you all for coming to our last meeting to hear Elaine Carter's special talk on the history of Christiansburg Institute. And thanks to Elaine for a great talk.

We WANT to thank Carl McDaniels for being our program chair. The meeting for March he has planned is about transportation, so come next Tuesday, March 18 at 11:30 with your sandwich and an inquisitive mind to the Rec Center in Blacksburg on Patrick Henry Drive.

I WANT to thank the Board for all the hard work they do, and I will be calling on the membership and board to help with the project at Warm Hearth. Some engineering students from Virginia Tech ENGAGE will help us get some benches around the paths. When I have a date, I will notify you when and where.

We WANT to see all of you at the Volunteer Recognition event April 5th, 10-11:30 at the Rec Center on Patrick Henry. Our chapter AARP nominee is Dale Oliver. He has been not only a loyal, helpful member of

*See Jo Ann's Want Ads, page 8*

# 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  
*Jim Wightman* wightman@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

Jim Wightman wightman@vt.edu

**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

**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/>

## Volunteer Recognition, from page 1

Valley requesting them to nominate outstanding volunteers. A highlight of the event will be the awarding of the Jim and Lenna Moore Citizen and Community Service Award. Both Jim and Lenna were exemplary in their service to the community and to our AARP Chapter.

The Celebration features entertainment, awards presentations, and light refreshments. There is no cost for nominating a volunteer or for attending the event. The members of the committee look forward to your volunteering to help and joining with us on April 5, 2008.

## Obstacles to Health Care Reform

AARP, as part of their Divided We Fail campaign, is calling on the leaders of our government to find common-sense, balanced solutions to our broken health care system. One serious obstacle to achieving such reform is the large amount of lobbying spending by the drug industry.

In 2007, the pharmaceutical industry's main trade group spent more than \$22 million lobbying the federal government, a 25% increase over the previous year. The industry has opposed allowing the government to negotiate drug prices for senior citizens in Medicare and allowing the United States to import cheaper prescription drugs from Canada and other foreign countries. They also have resisted an overhaul of the Food and Drug Administration's drug-safety system that would give the FDA new powers to update drug safety labeling and to monitor side effects after drugs are approved.

There is little doubt that, next year, the new President and the members of Congress will be pressured

*See Health Care Reform, page 7*

# To Drive or Not to Drive?

Regardless of age, individuals want to be mobile, safe, and independent. For the majority of adults, this means that the ability to drive a vehicle or to access safe and dependable transportation is very important!

Rarely does a person suddenly find they are unable to continue driving. Usually due to physical or cognitive decline, older adults begin to experience problems gradually. While this is an unpleasant reality, it does give us time to consider how we can enhance our mobility without compromising our safety.

For those needing to learn more about how age-related changes affect driving and what can be done to safely compensate for the changes, there are classes such as the AARP-sponsored Driver Safety programs available. More information is available on the AARP website and in the Blacksburg/Montgomery AARP newsletter regarding these courses.

## The GrandDriver program

Additionally, the Virginia Department for the Aging is promoting the Virginia GrandDriver program, funded by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. This program is an educational resource designed to provide Virginians with information about staying safe and mobile as they age.

It provides suggestions for older adults and their families to improve driving skills and ways to compensate for age-related changes in order to continue driving as safely as possible, for as long as possible.

The Virginia GrandDriver program also encourages people to plan ahead for safe mobility before their later years, and the program offers suggestions for alternative forms of transportation to help older adults

maintain mobility and independence.

More information on the Virginia GrandDriver program can be found on the Virginia Department for the Aging website: <[www.vda.virginia.gov](http://www.vda.virginia.gov)> or by calling 1-800-552-3402.

## Alternative forms of transportation

If one should determine he or she can no longer drive, what alternative forms of transportation are available in the Blacksburg area? For persons who are physically mobile enough to walk to and wait at a bus stop, and need transportation in the Blacksburg area only, Blacksburg Transit is available.

The Blacksburg Transit Access service is available to anyone who has a temporary or permanent disability that prevents them from using the regular transit service. Access provides door-through-door assistance. Eligibility is established through an application process. More information can be found at <[www.btransit.org](http://www.btransit.org)> or by calling 961-1185. Although there are limitations such as the geographical area covered, this form of transportation is very economical.

Other publicly funded transportation programs can be accessed through the New River Valley Agency on Aging. The Agency offers a non-emergency medical transportation program for persons age 60 and over who no longer drive and have no dependable means of getting to medical-related appoint-

ments in the New River Valley. The service is designed to provide intermittent, as needed, transportation to medical appointments and/or regularly scheduled transportation to dialysis or cancer treatment. The NRV Agency on Aging contracts with NRV Senior Services to provide this transportation.

NRV Senior Services also provides transportation service for persons of any age who have a sensory or physical disability and who need transportation to medical appointments, to grocery shop, to work, to attend social events, etc. This service is funded in part by local governments. The Disability Services Board contracts with Senior Services to provide the transportation.

Both services can be accessed by calling the New River Valley Agency on Aging and Senior Services at 540-980-7720 or 1-866-260-4417. A short, over-the-phone screening is re-

quired to obtain basic information and to determine whether there will be a cost for the service.


These programs are also limited by the geographical area covered, hours of operation, and available funding.

However, for many people across the New River Valley, the programs offer a viable alternative that helps keep them more mobile and independent.

Private transportation businesses, such as taxi and medical transport services, are also available in the Blacksburg area.

While there are some alternative ways for people in the Blacksburg

*see Driving, page 5*



**Don't delay.**  
Pay your 2008 dues today.  
A convenient renewal form  
is found on the last page  
of this Newsletter.

# Blacksburg AARP Board, Chapter 2613 Minutes, March 4, '08

*Call to Order*—President Jo Ann Underwood called the meeting to order at 9:35

Members Present: Doris Abraham, Brian Allen, Connie Anderson, Barbara Blanton, Virgil Cook, Harriett Cooper, Harriet Damant, Ken Dawson, Nancy Eiss, Curt Finch, Dan Fleming, Joe Fontenot, Jim Gaines, Margaret Kates, Angela Little, Carl McDaniels, Dale Oliver, June Schmidt, Jo Ann Underwood, Jim Wightman. Guest: Pam Caldwell, Virginia AARP; Ken Harrah.

*Adoption of Agenda*—A report on tax-aid and a report from the Caring Committee were added.

*Approval of Minutes*—Jo Ann Underwood expressed concern that minutes are going out to the membership before they are officially acted upon. Several members indicated that they saw value in detailed minutes going to the membership quickly because of important information that they often contain and because of the value of detailed minutes for future, chapter historians. Secretary Virgil Cook agreed to try to finish the minutes by the Thursday evening after each meeting and to e-mail them to board members to allow them time to respond before the Friday afternoon deadline for newsletter material. If he receives no corrections from members by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, he will send them to Mary Holliman as written.

Jo Ann reported that she and Connie went over the Standing Rules and that they will send them to the state office when they are completed.

*Treasurer's Report*—Brian Allen reported nothing alarming. We took in \$557, mostly from dues. We spent \$268. We spent \$42 for six months' box rental. We are caught up on our 501-C3 paperwork. Dale Oliver noted

that we failed to make a contribution to the AARP Foundation last year. He asked if we could make contributions for both '07 and '08. The board assented to this suggestion.

*Membership*.—Jim Wightman distributed the report: See Membership Notes on page 7.

Following the report, Ken Dawson suggested that we look at the possibility of investing money from lifetime membership dues to help make up for the lost income. Another suggestion was to limit the number of available, lifetime memberships. Ken suggested that the Executive Committee decide on how to handle the savings. The board assented.

*Divided We Fail*—Jo Ann introduced Pam Caldwell from the Virginia AARP. AARP is making an effort to persuade presidential candidates to attack gridlock, particularly on the issues of healthcare and financial security. The Iraq War has been sidelined because of sub-prime-mortgage issues. Since AARP never endorses particular candidates, the goal is bipartisan action. All of the presidential candidates have signed the Divided We Fail pledge. Governor Kane has also signed the pledge. From the congressional delegation, Rick Boucher Jim Moran, and Tom Davis have also signed.

Virginia's Senate seat is an open race. Consequently, Virginia AARP has been given extra workers to help bring these issues to candidates' attention. Each state is putting on at least three community blitzes using Champ, the half elephant half donkey, as its symbol. Virginia AARP plans blitzes in Roanoke, Northern Virginia, and Virginia Beach. Our chapter is the largest chapter in the state. The state office is planning a mini-blitz in Blacksburg. The blitz in Roanoke will be held

in June. The state office first looked at the first week in October for the blitz in Blacksburg, but that is Homecoming at Tech. They chose October 3–8 because of a presidential debate on Tuesday, October 7, perhaps centering an activity around a debate-watching party. The state office is waiting for our chapter to determine a date and what kind of campaign we plan to undertake. Virginia AARP will give \$500 prizes to chapters that get out the most publicity. They are looking at such activities as handing out fliers at parades, providing special tray mats at fast-food restaurants — anything that can be done to call a community's attention to the issues. Perhaps we can have a flier available at the Health Fair. There is also the possibility of passing out material at Steppin' Out.

Dan suggested a debate between Senate candidates. AARP will sponsor one such debate. Judy Woodruff has agreed in principle to moderate such a debate. This year, there will be petitions instead of the previous Divided We Fail cards, allowing members to walk along parade routes, for example, to collect signatures. Jo Ann said that we will be at Steppin' Out. The state office will pay for the booth so that we will have a venue for handing out Divided We Fail fliers. Someone suggested that our chapter have a float in the Homecoming parade or the Blacksburg Fourth of July parade. The Divided We Fail van would not be available for the Fourth, however.

A committee has been appointed to look at this project.

*Legislation*—Dan Fleming reported that the legislature has reached a compromise on Payday lending. Courts threw out last year's transportation legislation, which set up regional trans-

*See January Minutes, page 5*

## March 2008 Minutes, from page 4

portation centers. The state budget is in terrible shape. Many worthwhile projects will not be funded over the next two years.

**Programs**—Carl McDaniels reported that we had a great program on Black History month. Elaine Carter, director at the Christiansburg Institute joined the chapter. Harriet Damant then updated the group on the health fair. The fair is scheduled for September 16 at the Blacksburg Community Center. She passed out a sheet asking for volunteers who could help with the fair. Carl reported that Larry Alexander, who has provided the *Home Sweet Home* newsletters, is scheduled for our March program. Because of Larry's recent surgery, his wife will probably substitute for him at the program.

Carl reported that we will have a Table Talk from the Blue Ridge Center for Independent Living in April. In May, Karen Roberto from the Center on Gerontology will give a Table Talk on the AARP scholarship. The main program for May is on the work of this year's General Assembly. Carl is working on an accordion player for the picnic entertainment. The Healing Power of Music is scheduled for November. Dan and Judy Schneck will be at the YMCA in the morning from 9:00 to 11:00. This portion of the program will be sponsored by the Open University. Virginia Bethune will speak at our meeting at 11:30. She and Deborah Hicks, another harpist, will then be at Warm Hearth in the afternoon. The October program is still open.

**Newsletter**—Nancy Eiss collects articles for the newsletter. Jo Ann passed out a sheet for people to indicate what they would like to have in the newsletter. Carl commended Connie Anderson for our Website. We aver-

age 75–100 hits per day. Brian Allen asked about our providing a Divided We Fail form on the site. Pam Caldwell suggested that we could have a link to the state site to access the form. Jim Gaines suggested that we publish on the Website a list of lending institutions that will make Payday loans at 36%.

**Publicity**—Nancy Eiss reported that she has a contact with the *New River Current*. She also has a contact person with the *News Messenger*. We did get material in the *News Messenger* about the program. The notice of our last meeting appeared in both the *Roanoke Times* and the *News Messenger*. Warm Hearth is interested in having some programs at their center. Dale Oliver suggested that we present some kind of program at Warm Hearth during the summer.

**Driver's Education**—Curt Finch reported that all who signed up showed up for the February class. Eighteen have signed up for the March class.

**Volunteer Recognition**—June Schmidt reported that the Volunteer Recognition program is scheduled for Saturday, April 5. Connie Anderson, Nancy Eiss, Angela Little, and Dale Oliver are working on organization. The Sweet Adelines will provide the entertainment. Jim Dubinsky will speak on the importance of volunteerism. Dale Oliver from our chapter has been nominated for an award.

**VT Engage**—Jo Ann Underwood reported that she took several engineering students around Warm Hearth, showing them where they might build benches for bird watchers and repair foot bridges. Carl indicated that for our May 8 work day we might be able to work with the Blue Ridge Center for Independent Living

## Blacksburg AARP's Chapter Website Popular with Members and Other Visitors

The Blacksburg AARP Chapter's Website was probably the first of its kind in Virginia; currently, there is at least one other such in Virginia.

Our website, <<http://civic.bev.net/aarp/>> receives an average of 15 to 20 "hits" a day from interested viewers, and has received more than 5,600. Chapter WebMaster Connie Anderson started the website in January 2005, and it quickly became a major source of local chapter news and information.

Recently it has made the Chapter newsletter available online as well as the Chapter's 30-Year History written by Jim Gaines. Also, it provides useful links to other AARP sources.

The quality of the web site was a major reason the Blacksburg Chapter was recognized as the "Large Chapter of the Year in 2006" by Virginia AARP.

— Carl McDaniels

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on access ramps for people in need. Dale Oliver moved that we donate \$100 to the Warm Hearth project. The motion passed.

**Tax-Aide**—Carl pointed out that you can get information on tax-aide from the state Website. By keying in your zip code, you can get information on the time and location of help sessions.

**Caring**—Harriett Cooper asked for information about people to whom the committee can send cards. Members provided her with current illnesses and concerns.

**Adjournment**—the meeting was adjourned at 11:05.

— Respectfully submitted:  
Virgil A. Cook, Secretary

# Securing Your Tax Rebate

Many senior citizens who do not ordinarily file federal tax returns are eligible for rebate checks from the federal government as part of the recently passed Economic Stimulus Package, but must file a 2007 tax return to receive the payment. For most of the people who qualify, the federal government will mail them a check later this year in the amount of \$300 for an individual or \$600 for a couple.

## To qualify for a payment, the filer must:

- Have at least \$3000 in “earned income” during 2007, including Social Security, railroad Retirement, and/or Veterans benefits
- File a federal tax return, even if no taxes are owed, and
- Not be a dependent on someone else’s tax form.

## Important notes:

- Forms should be filed by April 15, 2008. Late filers should expect delayed payments.
- According to the National Council on Aging, money received will not affect eligibility for other needs-based programs, such as Food Stamps.
- SSI income does not count toward the \$3000 minimum in earned income.
- The checks will be issued automatically to anyone who files and who qualifies. You may request direct deposit to your bank account or have a check mailed to you.
- No one from the federal government will call asking for personal information, such as bank account numbers. If you receive such a call, report it to law enforcement authorities immediately.
- Tax forms are available at IRS offices, county Commissioner of the Revenue offices, or may be copies from the website <www.irs.gov>. You may also need the Instruction Manual for the form you select, because it in-

cludes worksheets that should be completed.

- If you file on Form 1040, be sure to show your Social Security income (from box 5 of the 1099-SSA form you received in January) on line 20a, even if it is not taxable.

You can’t just enter zeroes on all lines and receive a check.

If you can’t locate the 1099-SSA form, you can estimate by multiplying your regular monthly check amount times 12.

- Both forms require you to complete worksheets to see if you owe any taxes on your Social Security. Most people won’t owe any taxes, unless they have significant amounts of income from other sources.
- Virginia residents should mail their completed tax forms to:  
Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service Center  
Atlanta, GA 39901-0015
- Other places to turn to for help include:
  - The <IRS.gov> website, which includes a “Free File” service for people whose incomes were no more than \$54,000 last year.
  - Also, you may call the IRS to get answers to questions at 1-800-829-4933.
  - For AARP Tax Aide, call 1-888-227-7669 or visit <www.aarp.org>
  - For Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, call 1-800-906-9887
  - Or, call your local Commissioner of the Revenue’s office.

## Feb. Meeting Features Christiansburg Institute

The February 19, 2008, AARP Blacksburg membership meeting in honor of Black History Month featured a talk by Christiansburg Institute Executive Director Elaine Carter. Her talk was entitled: “The Past, Present, and Future of the Christiansburg Institute.”

The history of CI from its founding in 1866 by Charles Schaeffer until it closed in 1966 was discussed. The century of service to students and community was traced in slides and narrative by Ms Carter. In recent years CI alumni have banded together to preserve the facilities and the rich heritage of the 100-year-old educational institution. For details see <christiansburginstitute.org>.

The February Table Top Talk was made by Michelle Brauns from the New River Valley Free Clinic. The NRV Free Clinic serves thousands of uninsured individuals of all ages each year. Recently the dental program has been expanding rapidly due to increased need for such service. For details see: [www.nrvfreeclinic.org](http://www.nrvfreeclinic.org).

## Driving, from page 3

area to stay relatively mobile when driving is no longer safe, it is clear that additional issues need to be examined to prepare for greater numbers of people who can no longer drive. Examining the issues and needs, and finding solutions, will require the efforts of many through a multi-disciplinary approach involving town planners, health-care providers, senior advocates transportation engineers, government, and older adults themselves.

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TWO HYDROGEN atoms meet. One says, “I’ve lost my electron.” The other asks, “Are you sure?” The first replies. “Yes, I’m positive.”

# Tax Rebate Fact Sheet

## What is the stimulus package?

To help spur a slowing economy, the IRS will send tax rebate checks to more than 130 million households beginning in May 2008 and continuing through the summer. Up to 20 million Americans who rely primarily on Social Security income qualify for a rebate check.

## How do people qualify for a stimulus tax rebate check?

Generally, a person has to have more than \$3,000 in income. Even if a person does not have any earned income, they can still qualify for a stimulus tax rebate check if their Social Security benefits, Veteran's Affairs (VA) benefits, and/or railroad retirement benefits equal at least \$3000 annually.

To qualify, they must file a 2007 tax return on IRS forms 1040 or 1040A with the IRS (even if their income is normally low enough that they are not required to file).

## If they file a tax return, how much are they eligible for?

In most cases, they will get payments ranging from \$300 to \$600. Payments increase by \$300 for families with dependent children under the age of 17.

## By what date does the 2007 tax return have to be filed and when will the checks be received?

The IRS encourages filing a return, if possible, by the regular April 15 deadline to get the rebate check in May 2008. Those filing later than April 15, with or without a tax-filing extension, may delay receipt of the rebate check; however, those who qualify for a stimulus check will receive one by the end of 2008 if they file by October 15, 2008. No rebate checks will be issued after the end of 2008.

## Will the stimulus payment affect eligibility for needs-based benefits programs?

No, receiving a payment under the stimulus package does not have any effect on eligibility for, or amount of, needs-based benefits programs (i.e., food stamps).

## Do you have questions about the stimulus package?

Contact Hilary Sohmer Dalin at the National Council on Aging at 1-202-479-6626.

## Do you know a low-to-moderate income senior who needs help filing a tax return?

The Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program provides free tax help to people age 60 and older. To find an AARP Tax Aide site, call 1-888-227-7669 or visit the AARP website.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provides help to low- and moderate-income taxpayers. Call 1-800-906-9887 for assistance.

## National Council on Aging (NCOA)

1901 L Street, NW, Fourth floor  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-479-1200  
Fax 202-479-0735

# Membership Notes

## March 2008

Our membership now stands at 363. 224 members have already renewed for 2008 but 65 members have not yet paid their 2008 dues. If a red 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 by April 1st, will not receive an April Newsletter and you will have already cost the chapter \$4 for 4 issues of the Newsletter including postage. Please do not delay and mail your renewal dues today.

Membership badges are available at our regular 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 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>.

— Angela Little / Jim Gaines /  
Jim Wightman

## Health Care Reform, from page 2

by enormously powerful special interests to not respond to the needs of the public on health care as well as to financial security for retirees.

— Dan Fleming, Legislative Chair

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

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Blacksburg, VA  
Permit No. 32

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### Jo Ann's Want Ads, from page 1

our chapter for a long time, but also a long-time member and sometime chair of the Blacksburg Planning Commission. There's so much else he's done, too much to put here.

See you at our next meeting.

— Jo Ann Underwood

A GROUP OF chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the hotel lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of his office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked as they moved off. "Because," he said, "I can't stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer."

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## 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](mailto: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.

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