



Health and Wellness of Mind and Body is Topic for October

Upcoming Chapter Programs will focus on Health & Wellness of the Mind & Body. Tuesday October 21 will be the next regular Chapter meeting with a brown bag lunch starting at 11:30 a.m.–Noon at the Blacksburg

Community Center, 725 Patrick Henry Drive, Blacksburg, VA. Hot beverages will be available. Noon to 1 p.m., Chapter News & Business with President Jo Ann Underwood followed by a Table Top Talk by representatives of the Montgomery County Christmas Store — Pat Ballard & January Gerow. They request that members bring non-perishable food items (cans or boxes or both) + children's white sox for MCCS.

store will have lists of books, CDs and other resources available on the topic. Jim asks that everyone bring their favorite cartoon or joke along to share during lunch.

The Tuesday November 18 Chapter meeting & program will be a three-part effort starting at 9 a.m. at the YMCA at VT Center on "The Healing Power of Music." The Tuesday December 2 Holiday Lunch will be at The Holiday Inn. See the November Newsletter for details or the Chapter web site: www.civic.bev.net/aarp/.

— Carl McDaniels
Program Committee Chair.

**Vote
Vote**

November 4, 2008

Vote

A Few Wants

from Jo Ann

1—I cannot thank all of you who have helped with the Health Fair and the Blitz, two busy months. But I will try. Thank you one and all, over and over. We worked hard and pulled it all off, so now we will laugh with Jim Wightman at our next meeting, the 21st of October. As you know Jim is truly funny most of the time. He keeps us all from being sad. So bring your lunch and your funnybone — 11:30 at the Blacksburg Rec Center.

Read reports of these affairs in this Newsletter.

2. The Nomination Committee has been busy. We want you to thank all those who have agreed to be nominated as officers next year. If any members have any nominations to add, bring them to the meeting with

the nominee's permission and we will add them to the roster.

3. Our December luncheon will be December 2nd at 11:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn. The price is same as last year for the buffet: \$14.00. The Community Band will play, and we will celebrate a good AARP year. Get your reservation in at our October or November

See Jo Ann's Wants, page 2

Nominations Needed

Please send nominations for the following Awards to Joe Fontenot, 824 Mc Bryde Dr., Blacksburg, VA 24060 or e-mail to cajunjoe@vt.edu.

**AARP Chapter Service Award
AARP Community Spirit Award**

Nominations must be received by October 27, 2008.

Last Call for October Driver Safety Course

There is still time for you to attend the October AARP Driver Safety Course. The 8-hour classroom refresher course does not include any examinations, but enrollees must attend sessions on both days to receive completion certificates. Graduates can apply for state-mandated multi-year discounts to their auto insurance premiums.

This course will be held at the Town of Blacksburg Senior Center, 725 Patrick Henry Drive, on Thursday and Friday, October 23 and 24, 2008, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Enrollment is \$10, payable by cash or check to "AARP" at the start of class. To pre-register and reserve your place in the course, contact Curt Finch at 552-8179.

— Curt Finch

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 dbfleming@vt.edu
Nancy Eiss nsjeiss@verizon.net
Jo Ann Underwood joa@warmhearthva.org

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 dbfleming@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

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. There will be no meetings in July or August.

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/>

We will read and write for you. Forms, leases, instructions, applications, etc.

FREE service for BLACKSBURG residents. Through Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley.

Call 540 357 3314 from 1-7 p.m. M-F to make arrangements for the service.

Paul Smeal nominated for president for 2009 term

The Nominations Committee {Margaret Kates, Carl McDaniels, JoAnn Underwood, Jim Wightman} of AARP Chapter #2613 submits the following slate for 2009:

President: Paul Smeal

First Vice-President: Jim Wightman

Second Vice-President: JoAnn Underwood

Secretary: Virgil Cook

Treasurer: Brian Allen

Assistant Treasurer: June Schmidt

Board Members, Class of 2011:

Don Creamer

Sue Farrar

John Hillison

— Jim Wightman, Chair

Jo Ann' Wants, from page 1

ber meeting. The sooner the better. November the 18th we would like to have all your reservations in.

4. We are in charge of the Rec Center's Breakfast in December, and you will hear more about that in the next Newsletter. We want you all to help with that. We have some terrific cooks in our group. So be thinking about what you can do to contribute.

Again Thank you all for a wild and wonderful two months.
— Jo Ann Underwood

AARP Health Fair a Rousing Success

It's not often that you find the parking lot outside the Blacksburg Community Center full to overflowing, and a little bit of New York-style hovering to watch when someone exits the building so that you can position yourself to get their space when they drive away, but Tuesday, September 16, that's exactly what happened. Attendees for the Chapter's Health and Wellness Fair were almost impossible to count, since the balmy weather meant the side door was open and some bypassed the registration table in the entry hall. Still, there were XXX who actually did register, and a full array of exhibitors, totaling XXXX.

Free materials and up-to-date information meant that participants could not only learn about services that might make their own lives more comfortable — not to mention more fun! — but also find ways to give back to the community themselves.

Ready to volunteer? Then maybe you learned that:

- There are lots of ways to help at the Women's Resource Center, and some include intensive training in crisis and suicide intervention, emergency response and safety planning. www.wrcnr.org
- Since 1977, when a judge realized that children are quite often the only people *not* adequately represented in court proceedings, people across the nation have started serving as advocates, under the aegis of an organization called CASA — Court Appointed Special Advocates. There are 22 in the New River Valley. You can make it 23. www.nrvcares.org
- The end of life can be greatly improved by people who care and work gently and tirelessly, doing what Sue Moore, co-founder of Good Samaritan Hospice, has so aptly de-

scribed as “walking on sacred ground.” Training programs are planned for this fall.

www.goodsamhospice.org

- Variety can be wonderful, and it's possible in volunteering, too, through the Montgomery County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. Serve as a cashier in the Habitat Restore ... call Bingo at English Meadows ... be a pen pal for a 5th grader at Auburn Elementary School ... and more and more.

www.montva.com/rsvp

Eager for information on how to manage your own life and time? Whether it was from a seminar, in a conversation with an agency representative, or through some of the literature you gathered, you may have:

- Realized that what is called an essential tremor is far more widespread than you might have thought, and there is a support group in this area. Call Deb Smith at 552-8812 or Clark Lewis at 953-2036
- Gathered comprehensive information on how to plan your funeral in a way that will reflect what is important to you, make the process easier for your family, and save money. Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Virginia Blue Ridge fcavr@bev.net
- Determined that it is possible to get home-delivered meals, share a special meal with other seniors, or receive some help with light housekeeping or home repair. New River Valley Agency on Aging 980-7720
- Learned how other seniors have found artistic and collecting hobbies that enrich their lives. *Home Sweet Home Senior News*
- Filled up your calendar with upcoming events you're interested in,

and added notes to yourself on experts you'd like to learn more from. *Senior News*

- Become intrigued by the possibilities of taking up photography or needlework, when you saw how successfully Bob and Doris Abraham have used their time and talents.

These are but a few of the opportunities the fair offered. There were also special dietary products, a light and tasty lunch, massages — the gamut. Numbers are often considered the way to determine if an event is a success, but they often matter more for the organizers than they do for the person who attends. Take-home value is counted in ideas and experiences, and on that score this fair was clearly a TOP producer.

— Rachel Garrity

“Iron-Jawed Angels”

The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County and the Virginia Tech Student Film Association are co-sponsoring a showing of “Iron-Jawed Angels” at the Lyric Theater on Saturday, October 25, at 3:00 p.m.

The film is about a group of suffragettes who picketed the White House in 1917. President Wilson had them arrested and apparently implied to the Virginia arresting officers that they were to be taught a lesson. In prison, these respectable matrons were treated in a way that today would be called ‘torture.’ Just 3 years later the XIX amendment to the constitution, giving women the vote, was passed. This showing is free and open to the public.

Recycle Fluorescent Bulbs and Batteries at any Downtown Merchant's Establishment

Blacksburg AARP Board, Chapter 2613 Minutes, Oct. 7, 2008

Call to Order: President Jo Ann Underwood called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Members Present: Doris Abraham, Brian Allen, Connie Anderson, Barbara Blanton, Virgil Cook, Harriett Cooper, Harriet Damant, Ken Dawson, Curt Finch, Joe Fontenot, Jim Gaines, Frank Lau, Angela Little, Carl McDaniels, Dale Oliver, June Schmidt, Jo Ann Underwood, Jim Wightman. **Guests:** R. B. "Ben" Crawford, Paul Smeal.

Meditation: Chaplain Ken Dawson recounted a flag-retirement ceremony that he recently attended and then offered comments on freedom in America and the importance of people voting in the upcoming election.

Adoption of Agenda: Curt Finch's report on driver's ed was added.

Approval of Minutes: Virgil Cook informed the board that he would be leaving town around noon on Friday, making it necessary for members to submit corrections by 10:30 on Friday.

Treasurer's Report: Brian Allen gave the treasurer's report, which is summarized below.

| | |
|--|------------|
| Balance on September 1 | \$3,513.97 |
| Income | \$1,789.52 |
| primarily from Health Fair and membership dues | |
| Expenses | \$414.34 |
| for Health Fair and newsletter | |
| September 30 balance: | \$4,889.15 |
| Total income from Health Fair: | |
| (35 paying vendors) | \$2,075.00 |
| Expenses for Health Fair: | \$180.04 |
| Profit from Health Fair: | \$1,894.96 |

There was a \$25 error, which was corrected when the bank statement came. Very little membership money is trickling in. The current balance is \$4889. A year ago, it was \$3828. Jo Ann asked that the Montgomery County 4-H organization be paid a bit

for the food it provided at the general meeting. Angela Little moved that the report be received. The motion passed.

Membership: Angela Little. We now have 335 individual members, 102 couples and 131 singles. We now have 47 lifetime members, from whom we will no longer be collecting dues as well as 17 complimentary memberships for people such as Pam Caldwell from the state office. We signed up 15 members at the health fair. Carl McDaniels observed that there are more than 2,400 national-AARP members in the Blacksburg Zip code who are eligible for chapter membership, giving us a large pool for recruiting.

Jo Ann reported that Pam Caldwell observed that people from 50-65 usually can't attend the general meetings. She suggested that we might hold some general meetings in Christiansburg. We might also wish to hold an occasional evening meeting to accommodate members who cannot attend daytime meetings.

Programs: Carl McDaniels Circulated a list of fall 2008 programs. Jim Wightman will speak on the healing power of humor at our next general meeting. Two representatives from the Christmas Store will present the Table Top Talk at this meeting.

The November program features the healing power of music, jointly sponsored by AARP and the YMCA at Virginia Tech's Open University. Dan and Judi Schneck will discuss music's effect on stress, pain management, rehabilitation, and behavior modification. Harpist Virginia Bethune will speak at noon. Virginia Bethune and Debbie Hix, both of whom are certified music therapists, will be at Warm Hearth in the after-

noon.

Our holiday luncheon is scheduled for December 2 at the Holiday Inn. The chapter is responsible for coffee and doughnuts for the senior breakfast on December 1 at the Rec Center.

The Blacksburg Community Band wishes to play for the holiday luncheon. The board informally endorsed having the band. Rosie Smith from Barnes and Noble will be at the October and November general meetings to display books and CDs that are relevant to the program on the therapeutic power of music.

Pam Caldwell from the state office has been here since last week working with Virginia 21 for signing Divided We Fail petitions. The chapter had a booth at the Farmer's Market in Blacksburg on Saturday. About 300 people signed the Divided We Fail petition. The goal is 1,000,000 nationally. Brian Allen observed that personal contributions to the Christmas Store are tax deductible.

Health Fair: Harriet Damant. The fair occurred on Tuesday, September 16. The chapter co-sponsored the event with the Rec Center. There were 73 vendors listed. The seminars were reasonably well attended, and the program was well received. Many members helped with setup and cleanup. We need something in the budget for advertising to go in the Current. There were an estimated 350-400 attendees. Harriet has a copy of the brain-wellness video for anyone who wishes to use it in a program.

Website: Connie Anderson. We are trying to keep the site current. She will be posting pictures from the Health Fair. She will have a link on the Website for these pictures. She should have

see Minutes, page 6

October Activities planned by the NRV Agency on Aging

Previous articles have provided brief descriptions of services offered by the New River Valley Agency on Aging. This article expands on two services that are under-utilized yet provide great benefits. The first is The Friendship Café and the second is the Health Insurance Counseling Program.

The New River Valley Agency on Aging's Congregate Meal program, named The Friendship Café, is a community gathering place for older adults to enjoy a nutritious meal, good friends, and activities. The Friendship Café is available to adults who are:

- Age 60 and older
- Mobile and not homebound
- Able to attend without physical assistance
- Living in a private residence and not residing in an adult-care residence, assisted living facility, or nursing home

In addition to meals and social activities, health and nutrition education and screenings, are provided. In most cases, transportation to the Friendship Café can be provided, if needed. Participants are also assisted with locating additional services, if needed.

There is no charge for this service. Participants are encouraged to contribute according to their ability; however, there is no obligation. The Blacksburg Friendship Café meets every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. 'til 12:30 p.m. at the First Church of God on 110 E. Roanoke Street; the Christiansburg Friendship Café meets every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. 'til 12:30 p.m. at the Christiansburg Recreation Center.

For more information, contact Carol Walters, Nutrition Program Supervisor, at: (540) 980-7720 or toll free at 1-866-260-4417, or e-mail at nutrition@nrvaoo.org.

HICP

The Health Insurance Counseling Program (HICP) provides assistance for individuals and their caregivers when they need help understanding Medicare and/or Medicaid. Also, assistance is given to make informed decisions regarding Medicare supplemental insurance and long-term care insurance. Assistance is provided through group presentations and individually by appointments.

Scheduled Medicare program for October 2008:

- October 7th, 11 a.m., Blacksburg Recreation Center: Information will be targeted to persons who are getting ready to enroll in Medicare or who have recently enrolled.
- October 10th, 11 a.m., St. Mary's Catholic Church, Christiansburg: Information will be targeted to persons who are getting ready to enroll in Medicare or who have recently enrolled. Also changes to the Medicare Part D (Prescription Drug Program) will be presented.
- October 15th, 6 p.m., Christiansburg Recreation Center: Information will

be targeted to persons who are getting ready to enroll in Medicare or who have recently enrolled.

- October 20th, 10 a.m., Christiansburg Recreation Center: Information will be presented on the changes in Medicare for 2009.

For more information on the presentations, contact Elyse Politi, Health Insurance Counseling Specialist, New River Valley Agency on Aging at 540-980-7720 or toll free at 1-866-260-4417 or by e-mail at vicap@nrvaoo.org.

Remember the Caregiver Conference and Resource Fair mentioned in the September Newsletter. It is a fun and informative event planned for caregivers in the New River Valley. "Caring Connections" will be held on Saturday, November 1, 2008 at the New River Community College campus from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. For more information or to register call the New River Valley Agency on Aging at 540-980-7720 or toll free at 1-866-260-4417.

Tina King, Executive Director
NRV Agency on Aging

Conference on "Domestic Violence in Later Life" at Radford October 21

Presented by the Women's Resource Center, Virginia Center on Aging at VCU, The Family and Children's Trust Fund, Radford University's King Endowment, and The Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

The title of the Conference is: "Looking Ahead: Promising Initiatives for a Community Response to Domestic Abuse in Later Life" with speaker Candace J. Heisler — National Expert on Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse, Former San Francisco Prosecutor, and Assistant Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of California's Hastings College. This conference will be Tuesday October 21, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Radford University West Campus Conference Center. The cost is \$45 with lunch included. There is limited space so register soon if interested. Phone Mary Beth Pulsifer at 639-9592 for more information.

October Info from RSVP Minutes, October 7, 2008, from page 4

Shred-A-Thon

Help prevent identity theft, protect your important information, clean out the clutter and shred unwanted documents by bringing them to a free Shred-A-Thon on Saturday, November 15 from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Christiansburg Recreation Center. This event is sponsored by the Christiansburg/Montgomery Triad/S.A.L.T. Council, Christiansburg Parks & Recreation Center, Christiansburg Police Department, Brad Finch, Commonwealth Attorney, Home Instead Senior Care and CiNTAS. For more information, contact Sgt. Kevin Tucker, Crime Prevention Specialist of the Christiansburg Police Department at 382-3131.

Foster Grandparent Program

The League of Older Americans' Foster Grandparent Program needs "Strong Arms, Soft Laps & Big Hearts" to fill immediate openings in public schools, and non-profit childcare and Head Start Centers in Blacksburg and Christiansburg. To apply, applicants must be 60 years of age or older, be retired, on a limited income and have access to transportation. A \$2.65 hourly non-taxed stipend, transportation reimbursements, and paid leave are some of the benefits provided to a Foster Grandparent. For additional information, call Barbara James at 540-985-9600.

Fuel Assistance Applications

The Montgomery County Department of Social Services will take applications for Fuel Assistance from October 14 through November 14. You may obtain an application or further information by calling Dora Nelson at 382-6990, ext. 256.

the pictures on the Health Fair ready in about 10 days.

Nominations: Carl McDaniels submitted the following slate: Paul Smeal, president; Jim Wightman, first vice president; Jo Ann Underwood, second vice president; Brian Allen, treasurer; June Schmidt, assistant treasurer. Board members: Don Creamer, Sue Farrar, John Hilson. The committee has not yet found a secretary.

Caring: Harriett Cooper reported that Helen Wells passed away. Ken Dawson said that we need a running record of deceased members for the January memorial service. The Caring Committee and the Membership Committee will stay in touch to keep such a list current.

Driver's Ed: Curt Finch. A class has been scheduled for October 23-24, but only four people have signed up.

President's Comments: New River Community College is offering the Caregivers and Resource Conference on November 1.

Jo Ann and Dan Fleming recently attended a conference for the Council on Aging. People from NRV agencies discussed the kind of services that area seniors would like to have.

The Alexanders are working on their newsletter, *Home Sweet Home*. They are preparing a questionnaire to help determine whether a senior can continue to stay at home.

Town leaders wish to know whether we can help transport people to the polls. Jo Ann passed around a card asking for volunteers.

This year is the 50th anniversary of AARP. Someone observed that we need to present an award to the oldest member, probably Denver Bragg. Jo Ann asked for guidance on end-of-the-year contributions. Someone suggested that we contribute \$200 to the

Montgomery County 4-H organization to help with the lunch that it provided at the last general meeting. Ken Dawson moved that we contribute \$200. The motion passed.

Giles County is conducting the Senior and Boomer Lifestyle Expo on October 24, from ten until four.

Jo Ann has a list of contributions that we made in 2007. Ken Dawson volunteered to donate a truck load of Christmas trees for the Christmas Store. Brian Allen reported that we contributed \$1,500 to other organizations last year. Harriet Damant observed that the need is much greater this year at the Interfaith Food Pantry and at the Christmas Store. Jim Gaines observed that we have left it to the treasurer's discretion on how much the chapter can afford to give. June Schmidt proposed forming a committee to suggest organizations to give to. Brian said we should be able to give \$2,000 comfortably.

Ben Crawford noted that several people have called him about this evening's group-watching of the presidential debate. He also reported that the national AARP convention in Washington was a big event. Some 25,000 attended. Many went to the Lincoln Memorial to hear nationally-known speakers. He attended a concert by Natalie Cole, daughter of Nat King Cole.

Awards: Joe Fontenot asked for suggestions for particular awards. We usually give one award for chapter service and another for community service.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:56.

Respectfully submitted:
Virgil A. Cook, Secretary

Don't forget to VOTE

Giles County RSVP Invites Blacksburg

The New River Community Action Office is announcing a Giles County RSVP Program titled "Giles Boomer and Senior Lifestyle EXPO" in Pearisburg, Virginia. It will be October 24th, 10 a.m. 'til 2 p.m. at the Community Center in Pearisburg. All are invited. Door prizes and much information will be available.

"Caring Connections" — A Caregiver Conference at New River Community College

We will participate in the Caregiver Conference and Resource Fair at New River Community College. It will be held November 1st, 9:00 a.m. 'til 2:00 p.m. in Rooker / Martin Hall. This program will be hosted by the New River Valley Agency on Aging.

Just a few of the presentations include programs by the SW Virginia Legal Aid Society; and another with Teepa Snow, a widely known speaker on dementia care, and a presentation on common sense exercise by Dr. Lauren Scott-Jones. Many other exhibitions and lectures will be available.

To register or get more information, contact the NRValley Agency on Aging, 141 East Main ST, Suite 500, Pulaski, VA 24301. The deadline, October 16th, is close to the day you get this Newsletter so sign up at once.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Montgomery Museum is seeking volunteers to assist in the following areas: Library, Garden & Grounds—Leaf Removal, Housekeeping, Filing, and Docent. Call Sue Farrar, Volunteer Coordinator, at 381-1830 to learn more about these opportunities.

AARP Divided We Fail (DWF) Blacksburg Blitz Held October 1-7

AARP Virginia & AARP Blacksburg joined the Virginia Tech Chapter of Virginia 21 for an active week of events at a wide variety of locations in the area. Wednesday Oct 1 AARP Virginia sponsored the weekly meeting of the Blacksburg Sports Club with a short talk about DWF and provided the nearly 300 members in attendance coffee mugs and reminders about the week's activity.

AARP sponsored the Downtown Blacksburg's "Wonderful First Wednesday" event at the Blacksburg Farmers Market on October 2 and again on Saturday October 4 with the AARP DWF van and display. Several hundred DWF Petition signatures were gathered at both events by Chapter Members: Ben Crawford, Don Creamer, Harriett Damant, Bill Finley, Hellen Hall, Margaret Kates, Carl McDaniels, Jim Wightman, and President Jo Ann Underwood. Reusable red DWF bags were given out along with t-shirts and other useful items.

Thursday October 2, AARP Virginia State Director Bill Kallio spoke at the regular meeting of the Mt Tabor Ruritan Club on the DWF effort.

Friday October 3 the Chapter hosted an "Opinion Leaders Invitational Breakfast" for Blacksburg Town Council, Montgomery County Board of Supervisor members, and other community leaders from non-profit groups and area media representatives. There were 35 in attendance to hear Bill Kallio speak on the DWF effort in Virginia and around the USA.

Monday October 6 AARP State President Warren Stewart met with 7 Blacksburg High School Government classes throughout the day, focusing on the topic: "Aging in America — Implications for All Age Groups."

State Director Bill Kallio spoke on "Divided We Fail — Fixing the Health Care & Financial Crisis in this Country" with about 50 Virginia Tech faculty and students in a morning session which was co-sponsored by the Virginia Tech Center for Gerontology in the Fralin Hall auditorium.

Tuesday October 7, following the regular 9–11 a.m. meeting of the Chapter Board, State Director Bill Kallio and State President Warren Stewart met for lunch with 35 Chapter Board and members to review the DWF effort and take part in a lively question and answer period.

From 7 to 10:30 p.m. the Lyric Theater was the location for a Presidential Debate Watch Party & Conversation in cooperation with the VT Chapter of Virginia 21. A panel discussion from 7:30–8:30 p.m. led by AARP National and Virginia staff leaders was followed by a spirited question and answer session. A crowd estimated at between 300–400 watched the televised presidential debate on the big screen while enjoying pop corn and soft drinks.

The Virginia Tech Chapter of Virginia 21 collected more than 1,000 signatures on campus over the week and the Chapter collected more than 500 petition signatures. It was a cooperative inter-generational effort to raise the importance of the AARP Divided We Fail effort in Blacksburg. Pam Caldwell of the AARP Virginia Staff coordinated the week's activities.

Submitted by Ben Crawford and Carl McDaniels, Coordinators of the DWF Blacksburg Blitz. For more details, see local press coverage and the Chapter web site: www.civic.bev.net/aarp/.

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

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Permit No. 32

Volunteer Opportunities in Montgomery County —

The Christmas Store will need volunteers to sort, set up and help with various jobs beginning November 1. To help with store set-up and shopping dates, call 381-0585.

To obtain information on other volunteer needs in our community, contact the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) at 382-5775 or e-mail littleam@montgomerycountyva.gov.

**Vote Vote
Vote
November 4,
2008**

Membership Renewal Or New Member Application

*If you are already a member of the Blacksburg Chapter,
please pass this form on to a friend who should be a member.*

Membership in the Blacksburg AARP Chapter requires membership in National AARP.

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ - _____ - _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Annual Membership (based on calendar year):

_____ New membership dues: \$12.50 [Spouse/Partner Free]

_____ Renewal membership dues: \$12.50 [Spouse/Partner Free]

Complete and attach check made out to Blacksburg AARP, and bring to the next Membership Meeting or mail to:
AARP Chapter #2613, P. O. Box 10082, Blacksburg, VA 24062

*NOTE: You MUST be a member of National AARP before joining the local chapter. National dues should be paid directly to National AARP and NOT through the Blacksburg Chapter.
Those of you who are 90 years old and older do not pay dues. Your label should read "Life Member."
Contact Membership Chair, Jim Gaines <gaines@vt.edu>, if you qualify.*
