

# Greater Lexington Newcomers

Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 10:00 to 11:30 AM Each Month Except August & December

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**Vol. 31 Issue 2 – October 2022**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Newcomers,

I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful October weather. A lot happens this time of year. We had a good and enthusiastic turnout for the October 5 meeting at Lexington Country Club, with 38 members, and several guests/prospective new members. The guest speaker was Dr. Kyle Nielsen, professor at SVU. He talked about the music programs at the college, as well as the many music programs and performances in the area. Members David Katz and Marilyn Murphy made an announcement about Cha- Cha dance classes they will be teaching at Garth Newel on October 16, 23, and 30 from 2:00 to 3:30.

The dues are due this month, and at this point we have about 130 members who have renewed the membership – with about 100 left to do so. Please send your check to Marilou Schindler at 160 Pear Blossom Lane, Natural Bridge, VA 24578. Checks should be made out to Greater Lexington Newcomers Club.

Pat and Rich Thompson, and Ashley Mon are the new members of the Welcome Committee, taking over from Pat Anthony. Thanks to all of them. And thanks to Aileen Spurgeon, Wanda Troupe, Don Brooke, and Charlie Page for agreeing to serve on the Activities Committee. They have arranged for a Newcomers event at Lewis Ginter in Richmond, on November 28, for a group dinner and tour of the Holiday Lights. The Newcomers have gone there in the past and it is spectacular. See the information about signing up in this Newsletter and please join us for a great time.

The Holiday Party will be held at the Virginia Horse Center on Wednesday, December 7, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person, and you can pay at the November 2 meeting, or by sending your check to me, Larry Spurgeon, at 12 Abby Road, Rockbridge Baths, VA, 24473. Please plan to attend.

Treasurer John Ekin presented the budget for 2022-2023 and it was approved unanimously. We are in good shape, with a modest surplus anticipated at the end of the member year. We voted on the proposal from the Executive Committee in September to delete the phrase “held in July” from the language in the bylaws about the picnic. The vote was unanimous, so that will give us flexibility in future years to hold the picnic in the fall.

The last part of the meeting was a spirited and thoughtful discussion about a proposal from the Executive Committee to revise the “five-year rule” for eligibility for membership. The purpose of the time cutoff is to provide a welcoming community to people who are new to the area, and to meet people with similar backgrounds and interests. However,

### **CLUB OFFICERS**

#### **President**

Larry Spurgeon

#### **Vice President**

David Connolly

#### **Treasurer**

John Ekin

#### **Corresponding Secretary**

Claudette Benavitch

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

#### **Activities**

Aileen Spurgeon

#### **Hospitality**

Carol Humphries

Janet Gibson

#### **Membership**

Marilou Schindler

#### **Name Tags**

Marilou Schindler

#### **Welcome**

Pat Anthony

#### **Publicity**

we have had a number of instances where people have lived here longer than five years, but due to various circumstances, or because they did not know about the club (yes, that does happen), they did not seek membership until after five years.

Some expressed the view that the time limit should be removed altogether, and that led to a discussion about our mission – what separates us from a general social club? There was a strong consensus for allowing flexibility and discretion, especially because of Covid. Someone suggested later that instead of the phrase “special circumstances,” the bylaws should state that the five-year rule can be waived “at the discretion of the Executive Committee.” So, we are proposing the change in bold below, to be voted on in November. I hope to see you in November.

**“Art. 3, Section 1: The Club membership is open to residents who have lived in Rockbridge County or any of its municipalities no more than five (5) years when they join, *though this time limit can be waived at the discretion of the Executive Committee.* To qualify for Club membership, one must (a) reside within the boundaries of Rockbridge County or one of its municipalities; or (b) have a residence with a Rockbridge address.”**

Larry Spurgeon



**TREASURERS REPORT**  
**September 2022**  
**Submitted by John Ekin**



**THINKING OF YOU**

<b>Prior Balance</b>	<b>\$ 3,456.86</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 1,830.00</b>
Dues	\$ 1,830.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ (\$ 245.00)</b>
Rent	(\$ 170.00)
Gift Certificates & Donations	(\$ 75.00)
<b>Current Balance</b>	<b>\$ 5,041.86</b>
Reconciled with bank statement, September 30, 2022	

Over the summer, cards were sent to the following members:

A sympathy card to Dave & Diana Hopkins for the death of their son, Clint

A thinking of you card to Bruce Lillegard

Please let me know when there is a need for a card to be sent and I will respond.

Claudette Benavitch, Corresponding Secretary  
[secretary@lexvanewcomers.org](mailto:secretary@lexvanewcomers.org)

**Wine Tasting Interest Group** -- The wine tasting group is in need of a coordinator. This person will solicit hosts from the group and put together the guest lists, and works with Washington Purveyors to select a type of wine for the tasting. Washington Purveyors will select the actual wines.

If you are interested in this, contact Larry Spurgeon at [lspurgeon333@gmail.com](mailto:lspurgeon333@gmail.com)



### PHOTOGRAPHS

Please send your activity photos for the on-line photo album to John Ekin at [webmaster@lexvanewcomers.org](mailto:webmaster@lexvanewcomers.org)



### MEMBERSHIP

We have 130 paid members. Dues are due now! Checks made out to the Greater Lexington Newcomers Club, in the amount of \$25/per person (\$50 for a couple) and sent to Marilou Schindler, 160 Pear Blossom Lane, Natural Bridge, 24578. If you are not sure if you paid your dues or wish to be dropped, please contact Marilou by email at [marilous@aol.com](mailto:marilous@aol.com)

Please welcome the following new members:

Laurie & Ben Huger  
150 Collierstown Rd  
Lexington VA 24450  
[blhuger@gnml.com](mailto:blhuger@gnml.com)

John & Susan Maluski  
50 Rustic Ridge Rd  
Lexington VA 24450  
[johnmaluski@gmail.com](mailto:johnmaluski@gmail.com)  
[smaluski58@gmail.com](mailto:smaluski58@gmail.com)

Please update the email address of this member:  
Steven Sanders [docengineerig11@gmail.com](mailto:docengineerig11@gmail.com)

Any changes, i.e., email, phone number or address, should be forwarded to me at [membership@lexvanewcomers.org](mailto:membership@lexvanewcomers.org)

## ACTIVITIES

### **Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens - The GardenFest of Lights**

NOVEMBER 28, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

This includes a buffet dinner for the group (minimum of 15 people) and admission to the Dominion Energy GardenFest of lights. Time is at 5:30 and the cost is \$58 per person. There are gluten free, vegan and vegetarian food options available. Parking is free.

Payment is due prior to day of event. Please pay Aileen Spurgeon at time of signing up or by next Newcomers Meeting, November 2. Checks should be made out to Aileen.

Aileen Spurgeon address: 12 Abby Road, Rockbridge Baths, VA 24473

Cell No: 540-460-1654

**Come dance!** Newcomers club members David Katz and Marilyn Murphy, in partnership with the Garth Newel Music Center, will be teaching a course in the cha- cha. This fun course starts at a beginner level and builds in successive sessions. It's from 2:00 to 3:30 pm on October 16, 23, and 30 at Herter Hall on the beautiful Garth Newel campus.

It is recommended but not necessary to have a partner. The cost for couples is \$95 for the series. For singles the cost is \$55. To sign up go to [GarthNewel.org](http://GarthNewel.org).

## INTEREST GROUPS

*To join an interest group, call or email the contact person.*



### **BUNKO**

If you are vaccinated, the fourth Thursday morning Bunco group has resumed in-person playing. If you are interested in learning an easy dice game of chance, as well as having an opportunity to spend the morning with friends, join us. After a light breakfast is served by the hostess, the group plays from 9:00 to 10:45-11:00. Please call or email Diana Hopkins if you are interested, 540-348-6946 or [vatxrok@me.com](mailto:vatxrok@me.com).

Come roll with the Bunko ladies! If you are vaccinated, the Wednesday Bunko group will be playing in person on the third Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. We have an opening for regular members, as well as taking names for subs for this group. If you would like to learn to play, we would love to teach you. For more information, please contact Aileen Spurgeon at [spurgchick@gmail.com](mailto:spurgchick@gmail.com) or 540-460-1654.



## CANASTA

"Canasteez", meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month with the start time at the discretion of the host. Each person will bring a dish for a light dinner before the cards are dealt. We usually have 2 tables of 4, sometimes 3 tables of 4, but always have a great time. We are looking for the ol' gang as well as any other new Canasta players. Not ready to commit? There is always a need for subs.

If you are interested or have questions please contact Jo Ritterbusch, [blueridgecorgis@gmail.com](mailto:blueridgecorgis@gmail.com) or call or text, 845-661 9075.

The Black Keys and Red Keys canasta groups have withdrawn their affiliation with Newcomers as most of their members are no longer in Newcomers.

## PINOCHLE

The pinochle group is looking for one more regular player. In addition, we are seeking several people who would be willing to be substitute players. We play two games of double deck pinochle on the second Wednesday of the month on a rotating schedule at players' houses beginning at 1:30. At intermission, a dessert and beverage are served by the host. We complete the games by 4:30. Interested Newcomers, in learning the easy game, call Marilou Schindler 291-2992. We will be playing at the home of Joe Little on Wednesday, October 12.

## BOARD SILLY

Newcomers newest group, "Board Silly", is now 'traipsing' around the gameboards at full steam! We meet on the 1st Friday of the month. Start time is at the discretion of the host. Each gamer takes a turn hosting, and selects the game of the day! So far, we have played Tripoley and Monopoly, and I am happy to report all Board Sillies got out of jail free! Can't wait to see where our 'boardwalking' takes us in 2022!

If you are interested in joining us, contact JoAnn Ritterbusch at [blueridgecorgis@gmail.com](mailto:blueridgecorgis@gmail.com) or call or text, 845-661 9075.



## MORNING COFFEE (OR TEA)

The ladies' coffee club meets the second Friday of every month at 10 am, generally at Sweet Treats. Email Pat Thompson at [Ptapex@aol.com](mailto:Ptapex@aol.com) for more information.



## DINING OUT

Each quarter volunteer hosts select a restaurant of their choice (usually within an hour of Lexington) and make reservations for a group of 6 to 8 (including the hosts). Group members then sign up to join their hosts for a meal out!

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Aileen Spurgeon at (540) 460-1654 or [spurgchick@gmail.com](mailto:spurgchick@gmail.com). I will be happy to explain in more detail how dining out is conducted.

## DINING IN

Have you been pining for a delicious meal prepared by excellent cooks who enjoy sharing their tables with interesting guests from just about anywhere in Rockbridge County? But without the frustration of other noisy tables and an exorbitant bill. Then Fine Dining just might be your answer.

For 2022-2023, we hope to have three dinners: **Fall** (October & November), **Winter** (January, February & March), and **Spring** (April, May & June). Everyone eventually has to host, usually once every fourth quarter. A host usually has 6-8 guests, who split their expenses at the end of the meal. The group's coordinator, Sharon Littlepage, makes the guest lists. Hosts get to choose their dinner theme and assign recipes. You will dine with different people every time.

For additional information, refer to the Guidelines for Fine Dining, which are posted on the Newcomers website: <https://www.lexvanewcomers.org/>. Just go to Fun Stuff/Interest Groups/Fine Dining. Or contact Sharon at [s.littlepage@comcast.net](mailto:s.littlepage@comcast.net).



## HIKING GROUP

The Newcomers Hiking Group hikes every Friday weather permitting. Each week Don (or his appointee) announces where the hike will be including a relative degree of difficulty and elevation. If you would like to be on the email list, email Don Brooke, [donbrooke@gmail.com](mailto:donbrooke@gmail.com), or Debbie Maurer, [2mtprs@gmail.com](mailto:2mtprs@gmail.com)



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