

Greater Lexington Newcomers

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

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Vol. 31 Issue 1 – September 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Newcomers,

September begins our new membership year. The dues for 2022-23 are due by October, so if you have not already renewed your membership please bring a check (\$25 per person - \$50 per couple) to the October meeting or mail a check to Marilou Schindler, 160 Pear Blossom Lane, Natural Bridge, VA 24578. Checks should be made out to Greater Lexington Newcomers Club.

Our first business meeting was held on September 7. 38 people were in attendance, including several new members. Our guest speaker was Collette Berry-Rec, from Care Box, a local non-profit that provides care boxes and support for military personnel who are deployed.

Things are in great shape overall, with a lot of participation and enthusiasm with the Interest Groups. Much of that success is due to the hard work of all the chairs. We need a new chair for the Wine Tasting Group – that group has been inactive for a while.

I want to thank three people who are important to getting the word out about the club; John Ekin, our webmaster, Jo Ritterbusch, who manages the Facebook page, and Deb Bodner, for doing the newsletter. I also want to thank two people who are stepping down from key roles. After seven years of dedicated service as the chair of the Welcoming Committee, Pat Anthony is stepping down. She has come early to the business meetings to set up and sign everyone in, and has supervised the door prizes. I am hoping to get two or three volunteers to serve on that committee so that they can alternate months at the welcome table.

Thanks also to Jo Ritterbusch who stepped in as temporary Activities chair. I said at the meeting we need a committee of four people who are willing to take that on, with the goal of arranging several activities each year. And four people volunteered! Our goal is to have that committee plan a few events each year, and to organize sign ups, group tickets, etc.

The picnic in July was a success. The Glen Maury Park Pavilion is a wonderful venue. 78 people signed up and about 63 attended. The problem was the heat – it was about 95 and it had been predicted to hit 100. The current statement in the bylaws, in Article 10, Section 2, Clause B, reads, “Picnic Committee, appointed by

CLUB OFFICERS

President

Larry Spurgeon

Vice President

David Connolly

Treasurer

John Ekin

Corresponding Secretary

Claudette Benavitch

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Activities

Jo Ritterbusch

Hospitality

Carol Humphries
Janet Gibson

Membership

Marilou Schindler

Name Tags

Marilou Schindler

Welcome

Pat Anthony

Publicity

the President, plans the site, date, food and entertainment if any) for the annual Club Picnic held in July.” The executive committee is proposing to delete the last phrase, “held in July,” so that the date is flexible each year, but with the understanding it will be held in the fall. We will vote on that proposed change at the October 5 business meeting.

Finally, we are beginning to plan the Holiday Party, with a target date of Wednesday, December 7, based on availability of venue. The Hall of Valor at the Marshall Center at VMI was a big hit last December, but we were fortunate to get a big discount, and the Marshall Center waived a liability insurance requirement – neither will happen again – it was a one-time thing (long story). Other venues do not require liability insurance. We are looking at other options, but may have few choices this year. More on that later.

Enjoy the beginning of fall!

Larry Spurgeon



THINKING OF YOU

TREASURERS REPORT

April 2022

Submitted by John Ekin

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

A sympathy card to Jim Coker for the death of his wife, Dorothy. Earlier, get well cards were sent to Dorothy.

A get well card to Jim Ritterbusch who had shingles

A get well care to LauraLee Hart who had shingles

A sympathy card to LauraLee Hart for the death of her mother

I sent a get well card to Claudette’s husband Dave who had knee replacement surgery (ed. note)

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

Prior Balance	\$ 4,078.91
Total Income	\$ 837.50
Dues	\$ 432.50
Picnic	\$ 405.00
Total Expenses	\$ (\$ 1,459.55)
Rent	(\$ 170.00)
Gift Certificates	(\$ 300.00)
Picnic	(\$ 797.07)
Stationary	
Business cards	(\$ 73.08)
Tiger Technologies	
Website host	(\$ 119.40)
Current Balance	\$ 3,456.86
Reconciled with bank statement, August 31, 2022	

CLASSIFIEDS – POSITIONS OPEN

Welcoming Committee – Seeking a chairperson and one or two others. The committee greets members and guests and introduces newer members and guests. They oversee the attendance roster, determine the placement of the sign-up sheet and other information. They are responsible for preparing and maintaining the name tags.

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 either of these, contact Larry Spurgeon at lspurgeon333@gmail.com

Request: Barbara Ekin would like the recipe for the Dill Potato Salad that was served at the picnic.



PHOTOGRAPHS

Please send your activity photos for the on-line photo album to John Ekin at webmaster@lexvanewcomers.org



MEMBERSHIP

We have 58 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 me by email at marilous@aol.com

Please welcome the following new members:

Dennis Bussey
160 Kendal Drive #1008
Lexington VA 24450
denniskbussey@me.com

Steven Sanders & Mary Henslee
440 Unity Drive
Rockbridge Baths, VA 24473
locengineering11@gmail.com
marychenslee@gmail.com

Please update the email addresses of these members:

Glenn Mon. gemon222@gmail.com Ashley Mon. ashleymon24450@gmail.com

Any changes, i.e., email, phone number or address, should be forwarded to me at membership@lexvanewcomers.org

ACTIVITIES

If you hear or know of concerts, plays, movies, etc., that might appeal to the members, pass the information along to Jo Ritterbusch and she can investigate further. Her email is blueridgecorgis@gmail.com.

Deb Bodner & David Lusk and company will be presenting a couple of radio plays on Saturday, September 24th at 7:30 pm at Gertie's Market in Vesuvius (563 Tye River Tpke (Route 56)). Come and join the fun. BYOC (Bring Your Own Chair)

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.

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 or 540-460-1654.



CANASTA

There are two daytime canasta groups. One group of eight, "The Black 3's", plays on the second Tuesday of each month and the other group of eight, "The Red 3's", plays on the third Tuesday of each month. Each group meets in the home of a member of that group for a fun afternoon of cards, snacks and dessert.

If you would like to become a sub for one or both groups, please contact Cynthia Tucker, 463-3344, cmtucker@comcast.net.

The third Canasta group, "Canasteez", meets the 2nd 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 or call or text, 845-661 9075.

PINOCHLE

We are seeking anyone interested in joining the pinochle group as a substitute. We strive for two tables of four, but during these months after COVID, it has been difficult to achieve, as most members cannot play every month. 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, call Marilou Schindler 291-2992.

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 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 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. I will be happy to explain in more detail how dining out is conducted.

DINING IN

The Fine Dining interest group is looking for more members. If you'd like to participate as a host and/or guest, contact the coordinator, Sharon Littlepage, at s.littlepage@comcast.net or (865) 368-8604.

One key thing to remember is that if you come as a guest, you are expected to host at some point in the future. Guidelines for Dining In are available from Sharon upon request.

Although Covid has delayed our return to Fine Dining, we were able to set up three groups for the Spring session. Now we are looking ahead to start a new Summer option for June, July, and August.

Keep in mind that Covid is still in play, so guests should be fully vaccinated and boosted.



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, or Debbie Maurer, 2mtprs@gmail.com



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