

Greater Lexington Newcomers

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

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Vol. 31 Issue 3 – November 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Newcomers,

The Newcomers meeting at the Lexington Country Club on November 2 began in an inauspicious manner. The front door of the country club was locked, and the staff had no idea there was to be a meeting! The room was set up for a luncheon, with round tables, but the staff managed to scrounge up some coffee, and some tables for our name tags, etc., and we soldiered through. 38 members were in attendance, and we welcomed three new members.

In very sad news, one of our wonderful members, Jim Ritterbusch, passed away last week. A memorial service is planned for November 13 from 1-3 pm, at Rockbridge Baths Fire Department. Our deepest condolences to his wife Jo – please keep her in your thoughts. Annual club dues were due in October. We have 166 members and counting – we still have 50 or so members who have not re-upped, so please send your dues to Marilou Schindler at 160 Pear Blossom Lane, Natural Bridge, VA 24578. Checks should be made out to Greater Lexington Newcomers Club. \$25 per person.

The guest speakers were Bill McCorkle and Martha Burford. Bill is a long-time and well-known musician in town, and the leader of the Rockbridge Choral Society. He provided background about the choral groups and other musical groups in the community, and talked about upcoming programs, including the holiday concert on December 3 at Lexington Presbyterian Church. Martha is the Minister of Music at Grace Episcopal church. She spoke about an upcoming community singing event on November 18 from 7-8:30 at Grace Episcopal church as well as the Drum Circle this Saturday at 4 in the church courtyard.

A final reminder about the special activity for the holiday lights and dinner, at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond, on Monday, November 28. There is about a week left to sign up, so if you are interested, please contact Charlie Page at chasdpage@gmail.com.

And a reminder that The Holiday Party will be from 3:00 to 6:00 on Wednesday, December 7, at the Virginia Horse Center (Mezzanine level). We need to have a final head count by the end of November, for catering. \$15 each for members and \$20 for guests. Please send a check made out to Greater Lexington Newcomers Club, in the appropriate amount, to Larry Spurgeon, 12 Abby Road, Rockbridge Baths, VA, 24473.

For the past few years we have had a dessert contest at the Holiday Party, but I mentioned we do not have anyone to oversee that this year. After the meeting, someone suggested that we simply encourage people to bring desserts (sort of a dessert pot luck),

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

and not bother with a competition. I think it is a great idea - we can do this in remembrance of Bill Stone who started this tradition. So please bring a dessert of your choice!

Finally, we held a vote on the proposal from the Executive Committee to change the language in the bylaws about the "5 year" rule for joining the club. The language below was sent out in last month's newsletter, and the vote to approve the change in bold was unanimous. Thanks to all.

"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 in 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."

Have a great Thanksgiving holiday – see you on December 7!

Larry Spurgeon



TREASURERS REPORT
October 2022
Submitted by John Ekin



THINKING OF YOU

Prior Balance	\$ 5,041.86
Total Income	\$ 1,100.00
Dues	\$ 1,100.00
Total Expenses	\$ (\$ 245.00)
Rent	(\$ 170.00)
Replacement Check Books	(\$ 91.77)
Deposit for Christmas Party	(\$ 75.00)
Current Balance	\$ 5,805.09
Reconciled with bank statement, October 31, 2022	

In October cards were sent to the following member:

A get-well card was sent to Jim Ritterbusch. And sadly, a symphony card was sent to his wife Jo.

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



PHOTOGRAPHS

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



MEMBERSHIP

We have 166 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

Please welcome the following new members:

Jill Monahan
234 Lilly Bell Rd
Lexington VA 24450
Robert.monahan@startmail.com

Arthur & Anna Shaw
45 Roman Way
Lexington, VA 24450
artie@snazzybeads.com
annawolffshaw@gmail.com

Please update the email addresses of these members:

Judy Williams
0812jujubee@gmail.com

If you have any changes in information, email, phone number or address, please notify Marilou Schindler at 540-291-2992 or email membership@lexnewcomers.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 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.

Sign up deadline is no later than November 12 and payment is due at that time. Checks should be made out to Aileen Spurgeon and sent to her at: 12 Abby Road, Rockbridge Baths, VA 24473 Cell No: 540-460-1654

Holiday Performance

Get into the Christmas spirit with this traditional Christmas story: ***Miracle on 34th Street***. This family friendly play is being presented by ShenanArts in Staunton on December 2-4 and 9-11. Our own David Lusk is the venerable Kris Kringle! For ticket information or to purchase tickets go to their website: ShenanArts.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.

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

“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 Lydia Shiver, lshiver1053@gmail.com

PINOCHLE

The pinochle group plays 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. We are looking for one more regular player and several people to be substitute players, at present. Newcomers interested in learning the easy game, call Marilou Schindler 291-2992. We will be playing next on Wednesday, November 9.

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

If you've eaten in a restaurant recently, you've probably encountered slower service because of a shortage of workers in the hospitality industry. Or maybe the menu has been reduced from 15 entrees to 7 or 8. And then there's the increase in food and beverage prices, plus dining hours may have been shortened. It's a lot to swallow (if you'll pardon the pun).

But you have another, perhaps more palatable, option--the Fine Dining interest group! You will dine with a different group of interesting people in the comfortable setting of the host's home. The winter session (January, February & March) begins after Christmas, while Spring runs April through 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. Currently a dozen couples have signed up, and space is available for more.

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.



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

NOTE: There is NO newsletter in December. Our next meeting will be January 4, 2023!

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving

