

# 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 5 – February 2023**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Newcomers,

We met at the Lexington Country Club on February 1 – the first monthly meeting since November. As you recall, the January meeting was cancelled because the LCC was closed that week. A new management company took over for LCC on February 1, and everything went smoothly.

Patti Womelsdorf and Delea Bowerfind from Rockbridge Area Hospice were the guest speakers at the meeting. They explained the many services that are provided, the range of volunteer opportunities, and their merger with the Allegheny hospice group.

The Activities Committee announced a tour of the Greenbrier Bunker for April 8. Please see the details in this newsletter for how to sign up for this very interesting visit, with an optional visit that day to Lewisburg, West Virginia for the Chocolate Festival. Please be sure to check out the many interest groups for the club – all of them are active and enthusiastic.

I hope everyone has a great February – the last gasp of winter – and I look forward to seeing you on March 1.

Larry Spurgeon



## **HOSPITALITY**

Barbara and John Ekins have graciously opened their house to host the next Newcomers tea on Sunday, 26 March. We will be sending out invitations to the next group of newest members, and then looking to have “veteran” members sign up at the March meeting to bring goodies to share.

Also, we are looking into trying new venues for getting folks together, and along those lines propose a “no-host” happy hour at Devil’s Backbone brewery on Rt. 11 on Monday, February 20th from 5-7 p.m. (Reservations will be under the name Carol/Newcomers). The idea is, whoever wants to show up can, and we’ll hang out and chat. If this works, we could start doing it on a monthly basis! It is another way of trying to engage with our members who cannot make it to the monthly meetings on Wednesday mornings.

## **CLUB OFFICERS**

### **President**

Larry Spurgeon

### **Vice President**

David Connolly

### **Treasurer**

John Ekin

### **Corresponding Secretary**

Claudette Benavitch

## **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

### **Activities**

Aileen Spurgeon

### **Hospitality**

Carol Humphries

Aileen Spurgeon

### **Membership**

Marilou Schindler

### **Name Tags**

Rich Thompson

### **Welcome**

Pat Thompson

### **Publicity**

**TREASURERS REPORT**  
**January 2023**  
**Submitted by John Ekin**



**THINKING OF YOU**

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| <b>Prior Balance</b>                                | <b>\$ 3,632.41</b> |
| From November 2022                                  |                    |
| <b>Total Income</b>                                 | <b>\$ 0.00</b>     |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                               | <b>\$ (102.37)</b> |
| Holiday Party Expenses                              | \$ (27.37)         |
| PayPal Refund                                       | \$ (25.00)         |
| Correction of dues                                  |                    |
| Payment error                                       | \$ (50.00)         |
| <b>Current Balance</b>                              | <b>\$ 3,530.04</b> |
| Reconciled with bank statement,<br>January 31, 2023 |                    |

In January cards were sent to the following members:

Symphany cards were sent to:

John Ekin, for the loss of his niece  
Patti Wolmesdorf, for the loss of her nephew  
Linda McCumber, for the loss of her brother

Get Well cards were sent to:

Nick Wederman, for a recent surgery  
Sharon Culberson, for a recent surgery

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)



**PHOTOGRAPHS**

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



**MEMBERSHIP**

Our 2022-23 paid memberships to date are 205. Members who did not pay 2022-23 dues by February 1 had their names removed from the membership roster.

If you have any changes in information, please contact Marilou Schindler at 540-291-2992 or email [membership@lexnewcomers.org](mailto:membership@lexnewcomers.org)

Please welcome the following new members:

James Ferguson  
468 Jump Mountain Rd  
Rockbridge Baths, VA 24473  
fergiyford@verizon.net

Miriam Stone  
Tim Rash  
620 Jump Mountain Rd  
Rockbridge Baths, VA 24473  
[Miriamstone22022@outlook.com](mailto:Miriamstone22022@outlook.com)  
[miriamandt@comcast.net](mailto:miriamandt@comcast.net)

Please welcome the following former members who renewed their memberships since the last meeting

Robert & Caroline Donnelly  
11 Jordan Street  
Lexington, VA 24450  
[rdpenumbra@gmail.com](mailto:rdpenumbra@gmail.com)  
[carolinedonnelly64@gmail.com](mailto:carolinedonnelly64@gmail.com)

## ACTIVITIES

Activities:

### **Greenbrier Bunker Tour**

White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986

APRIL 8, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

Beneath the Greenbrier Resort is a whole other world, kept secret for some 30 years. Join us on the 90-minute underground tour which covers details of the facility's clandestine construction including secret communications between the U.S. Government and Greenbrier executives.

**Reservations are required and must be purchased by attendees by calling 855-453-4858. Specify April 8, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. The cost for Adults is \$40/per person.** For more information about the bunkers check out their website: <https://greenbrierwv.com/places/183/the-greenbrier-bunker-tour#:~:text=To%20schedule%20a%20tour%2C%20call%20855%2D453%2D4858>

Optional **Chocolate Festival**, either after bunker tour or instead  
Lewisburg, WV  
April 8, 2023, at 11:00 – 4:00 p.m.

They have 40 food booths. You need to buy \$1 tickets for each tasting. They recommend buying tickets online since they are usually sold out. It is not clear if the booths are chocolate only. Information was not yet available on their Facebook page or their website <https://lewisburgchocolatefestival.com/>

Websites to also be considered if looking for an outing but not organized by this club:

Waynesboro Theatre - many different shows and movies: <https://www.waynesborotheatre.org/>  
(Celtic Angels Ireland - March 23rd)

Waynesboro Symphony (voted the best community orchestra in the nation in 2021):<https://waynesborosymphonyorchestra.org/>

Masonic Theatre in Clifton Forge - plays and musical performances:  
<https://historicmasonictheatre.com/>. Some upcoming shows are February 18, 2023 Forever Simon and Garfunkel, and Rumours – Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band on March 2 and other great programs.



## 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 Lydia Shiver, [lshiver1053@gmail.com](mailto:lshiver1053@gmail.com)

## PINOCHLE

The pinochle group will play at the home of Ashley Mon on February 8. We play two games of double deck pinochle on the second Wednesday of the month on a rotating schedule at players' houses beginning at 1:00. At intermission, a dessert and beverage are served by the host. We complete the games by 4:30. We are seeking anyone interested in joining the pinochle group as a substitute when someone is unable to play on a given month. Interested members, 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 next!

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 and fourth Friday of every month for breakfast or lunch. Generally, at Sweet Treats for a late breakfast and at different area restaurants for lunch. 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 in Lexington or within an hour's drive 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

Fine Dining is underway for the winter session (January-March) with 12 couples participating.

Meeting new people and enjoying a themed, home-cooked meal might just be the ticket to get you out of the mid-winter malaise.

Openings are still available, so contact coordinator Sharon Littlepage at (865) 368-8604 or [s.littlepage@comcast.net](mailto:s.littlepage@comcast.net) to sign up. Guidelines are available on the Newcomers website.



## WINE TASTING

I will be putting a different spin on the wine club in 2023. The first tasting will take place in April with a specific date to be chosen at a later date. This year, the tastings will be about the wine. Each tasting will have a costar. Perhaps a tasting of exotic cheeses, or interesting cracker/bread options. The tastings will cost more but we will taste some phenomenal wines (perhaps in the 30-40 dollar per person range per tasting). I expect there to be 3-4 tastings this year. I don't expect to have as many people participating with this new program. It will be dedicated to wine lovers looking to learn and to explore and those that want to know which wine to buy for that special occasion. I would love to hear back from those that might be interested in participating in this adventure. Email me, Art Shaw, at [artie@snazzybeads.com](mailto:artie@snazzybeads.com) so I can begin to understand how many might be interested.



## 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)