

Greater Lexington Newcomers

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

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Vol. 31 Issue 6 – March 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Newcomers,

For the second time in recent months the country club was locked when we arrived for our monthly business meeting, on March 1. This in spite of my emails and phone calls with the staff after the first time. A new management company for the country club took over February 1. Some former staff members have left, a few carried over. A couple of higher ups from the management company were there and scrambled to get things ready. Let's just say we had a frank conversation about the unacceptable events of the past few months. Apologies ensued, promises to do better. Second verse, same as the first, to quote Herman's Hermits.

Tom Stanley was our guest speaker. He is the Virginia Tech extension agent for Rockbridge and four other counties. He provided a lot of practical information about the services his agency provides, as well as many other interesting facts. The turnout at the meeting was considerably smaller than recent months – only about 27. No new members or guests attended.

Please check the newsletter for information about the upcoming Newcomer's Tea, as well as our next "happy hour" at Devil's Backbone. Our first happy hour was well attended, and very enjoyable.

We have been talking for a while about holding an occasional business meeting in the evening – to accommodate our members who work during the day or are otherwise unable to attend our Wednesday morning meetings. As a result, we will hold our May business meeting at **7:00 p.m.** at the country club. Hopefully we will have a good turnout. In the meantime, enjoy the early spring and our many interest groups and activities. See you on April 5.

Larry Spurgeon



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 Hubbard

Welcome

Pat Thompson

Publicity

TREASURERS REPORT
February 2023
 Submitted by John Ekin

Prior Balance	\$ 3,530.04
From November 2022	
Total Income	\$ 450.00
Refund from PayPal	\$ 23.64
Repayment of PayPal fee	\$ 1.36
Dues	\$ 375.00
Replacement of missing dues	\$ 50.00
Total Expenses	\$ (178.42)
Country Club rent	\$ (170.00)
Stationary	\$ (8.42)
Current Balance	\$ 3,801.62
Reconciled with bank statement, February 28, 2023	



THINKING OF YOU

No cards were sent in February. We hope that everyone is in good health.

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

Our 2022-23 paid memberships to date are 212.

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

Please welcome the following new members:

Elizabeth Hayden
12 Haven Oak Ct
Lexington, VA 24450
Elizabet.hayden@off.net

Hal and Sylvia Lear
1510 Forge Rd
Lexington, VA 24450
hflearse@aol.com

HOSPITALITY

Can't make the morning meeting? But still want to hang out with your Newcomer friends? Join us for Happy Hour! We missed you at the first Happy Hour on February 20! A great time was had by a group of about 20. Plan on joining us on March 21st from 5-7 p.m. We will be at Devil's Backbone brewery on Rt. 11. We look forward to seeing you there.

Barbara and John Ekin 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. For all other members, please let Aileen Spurgeon or Carol Humphries know if you are willing to bring goodies to share. The Ekin's address is: 24 Sky View Lane, Rockbridge Baths

ACTIVITIES

Chocolate Festival,

Lewisburg, WV

April 8, 2023, at 11:00 – 4:00 p.m.

There are about 40 food booths. Tickets are required for each tasting and must be purchased online. Information is available on their Facebook page, Lewisburg Chocolate Festival, or the United Way of Greenbrier Valley website <https://www.unitedwaygreenbrier.org/LCF>

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 offers plays and musical performances:
<https://historicmasonictheatre.com/>.

Do you enjoy live theatre? ShenanArts is a community theatre located in Staunton. From old chestnuts to newer hits, they produce excellent shows. Currently on stage is **Sound of Music**. And in mid-April they will present the comedy **Doublewide, Texas**. For more information, visit their website is 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

We aim to 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. We are seeking anyone interested in joining the pinochle group as a substitute when someone is unable to play on a given month. The pinochle group will play at the home of Scott Risser on March 8. Interested new members, call Marilou Schindler (540) 291-2992.

POKER

There's a new dealer in town: Tom Weaver has put on the green eye shade and cracked open a new deck. The Newcomers Poker Group has seven active members who meet in the evenings on the third Wednesday of each month. Currently, we have three on the waiting list who are also active substitutes. Please contact Tom Weaver if you are interested in being a substitute: tomwvr1@gmail.com

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

DINING IN

Question: Looking for a delicious upscale meal shared with other people who love to cook?

Answer: Join the Fine Dining/Dining-In interest group. You can sign up as a regular member or as a substitute just in time for the spring season (April, May, and June). Hosting once every year or so is a requirement, depending on the number of couples participating.

Here is an overview of the Winter session of Fine Dining, which just concluded with 3 groups.

Tina and Kirk Miller hosted 4 other couples with their theme of “Elegant Comfort Food,” which featured a sweet potato crostini appetizer, an entrée of sun-dried tomato chicken breasts with feta and spinach, and sides of French green beans with shallots and herbed garlic potato galettes. Dessert was bread pudding with a butter bourbon sauce. The Millers provided wine and other beverages. Cost per person was slightly more than \$10 each.

Sharon and Dennis Culberson offered a Souper Supper with a Valentine’s Day theme. The menu included French onion soup, beef burgundy soup, and chocolate soup with cookies for dessert. A salad plate, fresh bread, and charcuterie board rounded out the meal. Eight diners enjoyed the evening, which averaged \$18.75 per person. Beverages featured a variety of wines and homemade limoncello provided by the hosts.

Fine Dining veterans **Ann and Lynn Jones** followed a Valentine’s theme as well. Their menu included a prawn appetizer, fresh pear salad, and sides of green beans and tomatoes tartine. The entrée was roasted capon with a wild rice stuffing. Fresh raspberry cake was served for dessert. Cost per person was \$28 with wine provided by the Joneses.

For further information, contact coordinator Sharon Littlepage at (865) 368-8604 or s.littlepage@comcast.net and review the guidelines on the Newcomers website.



Left: Sharon Culberson (third from left) and Dennis Culberson (second from right) hosted Souper Supper on Feb. 19.

Right: Lynn Jones prepared roasted capon for the Feb. 25 Fine Dining experience.



WINE TASTING

I will be putting a different spin on the wine group in 2023. It will be dedicated to wine lovers looking to learn and to explore, and to those who want to know which wine to buy for that special occasion. The first tasting will take place in April with a specific date yet to be chosen. The tastings will be about the wine. Each tasting will have a costar; 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. Let me know if you might be interested in participating in this adventure. Email me, Art Shaw, at artie@snazzybeads.com



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