

Greater Lexington Newcomers

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

EDITOR: Deb Bodner – newsletter@lexvanewcomers.org

WEB SITE: John Ekin - www.lexvanewcomers.org

Vol. 31 Issue 8 – May 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Newcomers,

The Newcomers Club meeting at 7:00 p.m. on May 3 was a success! About 40 members and one guest were in attendance, and several people who work during the day were there. We will likely hold at least one evening meeting in the fall – and get a sense from members whether to begin at 7:00, or perhaps 5:30, allowing more time for dinner and spontaneous gatherings at restaurants.

Our guest speaker from Hull's Angels did not show up, but Lee Charlton and Bob Biersack provided impromptu information about the historic drive-in theater – the only non-profit one in the country. Bob noted that the theater is a great community gathering place, so please give it a try if you have not done so. And, if you are interested in being a Hull's Angel (a volunteer), please contact Lauren Summers, the Executive Director, at hullsangels@hulldrivein.com.

We had a very good discussion about activities and ways to accommodate the schedules of our members. Several good suggestions were made. One was to have the occasional weekly hike on a Saturday. Another was to include a section in the newsletter for the many volunteer opportunities in the community. And another one was to provide information about the many events to attend in the area. Susan Miloski volunteered to work on the latter.

The nominating committee presented a slate of officer nominees for the next membership year, to be up for election at the June 7 meeting (which will be at 10:00 a.m.). The nominees are Duncan Charlton for vice-president and John Ekin for treasurer. David Connolly automatically becomes the president in July. The other officer position is Corresponding Secretary. Claudette Benavitch has maxed out her three-year term. We have been concerned that it could be difficult to recruit someone for that position if it is an officer-level, and I said at the meeting that we would propose a bylaw change to be discussed and voted on in June. But, in very good news, we are tabling that proposal because JackeRose Boston volunteered after the meeting to be the new Corresponding Secretary, and is willing to be an officer! So she will be one of the officer nominees for the June meeting.

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

Looking ahead, our June 7 meeting will be the last for this membership year. There are no monthly business meetings in July and August. The picnic will be in September – with the date to be decided later. Our monthly happy hour at Devil’s Backbone will be on Tuesday, May 23, at 5:00 – I hope to see you there.

Larry Spurgeon



TREASURERS REPORT
May 2023
Submitted by John Ekin

Prior Balance	\$ 3,801.62
From	
Total Income	\$ 75.00
Dues	\$ 75.00
Total Expenses	\$ (270.50)
Country Club rent	\$ (170.00)
Gift certificates	\$ (100.00)
Service charge	\$ (00.50)
Current Balance	\$ 3,606.12
Reconciled with bank statement, March 31, 2023	



THINKING OF YOU

A sympathy card was sent to Doris Greywall for the loss of her sister.

A card of encouragement to Sharon Littley for her recovery.

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

HOSPITALITY



A nice turnout at Devil's Backbone for our happy hour a couple of weeks ago! All are welcome to come and relax, chat, visit. Our next outing will be on Tuesday, 23 May, at Devil's Backbone, from 5-7. They no longer take reservations so whoever shows up first at 5 can grab a table for us. And if you would like to suggest another venue for this event, please let Carol Humphries know.

ACTIVITIES

MAYMONT MANSION AND GARDENS

1000 Westover Road
Richmond, VA 23220
804-525-9000

Tour of house on Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. Fee \$15. Please be advised: there are stairs inside the mansion.

History: The Romanesque-style mansion built by James Dooley and his wife Sarah was completed in 1893. They spent the next three decades filling the sumptuous, 12,000 square-foot, 33-room home, with treasures from around the world and establishing magnificent gardens, landscapes and architectural complex. You may tour the gardens outside the mansion on your own anytime starting at 10:00 a.m. or after the tour.

Tour fee is \$15 per-person. The check should be made out to Aileen Spurgeon and received by her no later than May 10, 2023. Send payment to 12 Abby Rd, Rockbridge Baths, VA 24473. If payment is not received by that date, only those who have paid will be counted for the tour.

Other websites to be considered if looking for an outing but not organized by this club:

Waynesboro Theatre - many different shows and movies: <https://www.waynesborotheatre.org/>

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/>.

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 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 Bunco ladies! If you are vaccinated, the Wednesday Bunco 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 next on May 10. Interested new members, call Marilou Schindler (540) 291-2992.

POKER

The stakes are high for a good time at the Newcomers Poker Group. Currently, the seven active members meet in the evenings on the third Wednesday of each month. There are 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!

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

Fine Dining is about to complete the 2022-23 season with three events scheduled this spring. Volunteer hosts include Debbie and Alan Mauer, Grace and Joe Simcoe, and Jane and Pat Stange.

New members are being accepted now. All that's required is an appreciation for fine food and interesting conversation, as well as a willingness to host occasionally.

For additional information, contact coordinator Sharon Littlepage at (865) 368-8604 or s.littlepage@comcast.net. Or go to the Newcomers website at www.lexvanewcomers.org/ and scroll down to Fun/Fine Dining.



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 or May 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

