

Greater Lexington Newcomers

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

EDITOR: Deb Bodner – newsletter@lexvanewcomers.org

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Newcomers,

Thank you for allowing me to serve the Newcomers Club over the last year. With the election of Duncan Charlton (President), Ramona Bouzard (VP), John Ekin (Treasurer) and JackeRose Boston (Corresponding Secretary) I am excited that the Club is in great hands for the future. Our new officers take over beginning August 1st.

At this month's meeting we were pleased to meet eight new potential members! It is extremely important to extend a welcome to them as they participate in our many activities.

Since we will not be meeting again until September, it is important to note the many summer events coming up that are described in this newsletter. They include Happy Hour at Devil's Backbone (Second Wednesdays), Celebrate Rockbridge* (June 23), Tubing on the Jackson (July 22), Rockbridge Community Festival** (August 24), and Newcomers Picnic (September 21). Hope to see you at these events. Have a great summer.

Respectfully submitted,
David Connolly

*Celebrate Rockbridge Community Festival is a free event from noon to 4:00 at the Virginia Horse Center. A variety of family friendly activities are planned.

**Rockbridge Community Festival is a showcase for many area organizations. Newcomers will again have a tent and needs volunteers to staff it. Please contact Duncan if you are willing to help out. His email is duncan.charlton54@gmail.com

Three new pages have been added to the website. [Rockbridge Bibliography](#) - a compilation of books about Rockbridge County and some of the historic places. [Things To Do In and Near Rockbridge](#) – a listing, including their websites, of a wide variety of places and events to enjoy from parks and hiking to festivals and performances. [Who's Who](#) – a quick reference of the Chairs of the Activities and Interest Groups.

CLUB OFFICERS

President

David Connolly

Vice President

Duncan Charlton

Treasurer

John Ekin

Secretary

Jacke Rose
Boston

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Activities

Janet Gibson

Hospitality

Aileen Spurgeon

Membership

Barbara Ekin

Name Tags

Jacke Rose
Boston

Welcome

Ashley Mon

Publicity

TREASURERS REPORT
May 2024
Submitted by John Ekin



THINKING OF YOU

No cards were sent this past month. We hope that means everyone is healthy and injury free.

If you know of anyone who is ailing, or has had surgery, or in need of a good thought please let me know and I will respond.

JackeRose Boston, Corresponding Secretary
secretary@lexvanewcomers.org

Prior Balance	\$ 3,973.30
From April 2024	
Total Income	\$ 0
TOTAL EXPENSES:	(\$ 295.00)
Lexington Country Club - room rental	(\$ 170.00)
Chamber of Commerce Membership	(\$ 125.00)
Balance	
as of May 31, 2024:	\$ 3,678.30
This is reconciled with the latest bank balance.	

MEMBERSHIP

Our 2023-24 paid memberships are 206. Reminder: Dues for the 2024-25 year are due in September, payable starting in July. Dues are \$25/person. They should be sent to Barbara Ekin, 24 Sky View Lane, Rockbridge Baths, VA 24473.

Please welcome the following newest members: Richard Spence, David Massant, and Nan Schramm

If you have any changes to your information, please email the membership committee at membership@lexvanewcomers.org.

HOSPITALITY



Newcomers Tea and Coffee for our newest members was Sunday, June 9, at Sarah O'Hanlon's. It was nice to get to know some our newer members in a more casual setting. Thank you, Sarah, for hosting.



Join us for **Happy Hour** on the second Wednesday of each month. Our next get together will be June 12th from 5-7 at Devil's Backbone. A lively crowd has been coming, and good times have been had by all. It's a great chance to socialize. And don't forget our other summer dates, July 10th and August 14th.



PHOTOGRAPHS

Did you know that there is a photo gallery on the web page? And it is in need of some current pictures! Please send photos of your activities for the on-line photo album to John Ekin at webmaster@lexvanewcomers.org

ACTIVITIES

To sign up for an activity, or for more information, contact the trip organizer with your name, # of people in your party and your contact info. You will receive trip details, including payment method, carpooling info, restaurant options, etc., leading up to the activity date.

The activities committee: Janet Gibson, Chair; Don Brooke; Charlie Page

Museum of the Shenandoah Valley

The excursion to the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester on May 14 was enjoyed by all.



Jackson River Tubing Adventure near Covington – July 22



Don't miss the next Newcomers Activity: **Monday, July 22, 2:15-5:45.**

Tube down the crystal clear waters of the scenic Jackson River, near Covington, with Allegheny Outdoors Outfitters. Take in the beautiful mountain views and as you relax and let the river move you gently along. This Tube experience requires you to carry your tube for a 0.3 mile (1500') walk along the Jackson River Bike Trail to launch on private property, and then enjoy a **leisurely two-hour float** around a 2.25 mile horseshoe bend back to the Adventure shop. Participants must know how to swim and be comfortable in the water. *(I have done this trip twice, and I assure you, it is a*

gentle float in water shallow enough to touch the bottom~Janet). Life vests are provided. Cost is \$22. Find

out more at <https://alleganyoutdoors.com/activities/trek-and-tube/> Sign up by contacting organizer Janet Gibson at janethgibson@gmail.com. To assure your slot, sign up early.

Luray Caverns Tour & More near Luray - October date TBA

Take a self-guided tour of the beautiful caverns (approximately one hour) along well-lighted, paved walkways that lead you through cathedral-sized rooms with towering stone formations, and natural wonders at every turn. Fee of \$24 includes the Caverns tour, Car & Carriage Caravan Museum and the Shenandoah Heritage Village. Check out the website at <https://luraycaverns.com/explore/> Sign up by contacting organizer Charlie Page at chasdpage@gmail.com

If you're interested in **live theatre**, Newcomer David Lusk is back on stage in a fun production. *Double Wide Christmas* picks up where *Double Wide, Texas* left off. In order for the town of Double Wide to maintain their city status they must increase their population. The play is being performed at the Court Square Theatre in Harrisonburg on June 28-30 and July 5-7. For more information and tickets go to courtsquaretheater.org.

INTEREST GROUPS

To join an interest group, call or email the contact person. Note that two Interest Groups have been reconstituted.



BOOK GROUP

Read a good non-fiction book lately? Wish you could discuss it with others? Here may be your chance. Jimbo Smith is looking to start a book group which will focus on non-fiction. If you are interested, please contact him at 910-409-9324, or email

jasiii3962@gmail.com

The details of where, when and what titles will be worked out once the group is formed.

Newcomers has in the past hosted book groups which have spun off and are meeting independently of club.



MYSTERY DINNER

The last season of Mystery Dinners was 2018 and I'm pleased to announce that the Mystery Dinner Interest Group is back for 2024. Here's a summary of how it works. Each Mystery Dinner party has a host couple and three couples as guests. Of course, singles can be accommodated. Hosts are appointed to entertain a party of eight including themselves. The hosts assign characters to each of their guests who are notified of date, time, the character they are to play, suggested costume, and a dinner item. The dinner consists of these four periods: cocktails, 1st course (salad or soup), 2nd course (entre), and 3rd course (dessert). There are four rounds of discussion in the game. In general, a dinner course is served after each round. Rounds 1 to 3 are driven by narratives each player reveals during the course of play. When all has been said, a dinner course is served. Round 4 is the reveal and

each character reads 'end notes' which ultimately unmask the murderer. When you sign up, more details will follow. To sign up, answer these questions in your reply: 1) have you ever played this type of game before? 2) would you be willing to host this first time? 3) if you host, can you accommodate eight guests around the table? If you are interested, please contact George Grasse at hm@histomin.com

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FRIENDSHIP

JackeRose Boston followed up on her suggestion at the May meeting about 'hosting' international students at W&L. W&L does have a program in place. The **Friendship Family Program**'s mission is to facilitate friendship and a sense of belonging in the community. People interested in widening the horizons of international students need to apply and be vetted. The International Student Advisor, Hunter Swanson, liked the idea of a committee exploring ideas for group activities. For more information about the W&L program and the application form go to their website <https://my.wlu.edu/center-for-international-education/international-students/friendship-family-program> If you are interested in this potential group contact JackeRose Boston at jackerose@goganian.com.



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 are 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. 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 meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 1:30. We play double-deck Pinochle and have "cheat sheets" available with rules and melds to help those who may have played by different rules or melds. We play two games between 1:30 and 4:30. Hosts rotate and provide a dessert and beverage midway between the games. Our next play date will be Jun 12 at the home of David and Marjorie Connolly. Please contact Marilou Schindler for more information at marilous@aol.com.

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. Please contact Tom Weaver if you are interested in being a substitute: tomwvr1@gmail.com

BOARD SILLY

The "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! The next quarter for Dining Out will be September - November, 2024.

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.



From a dining out event at Hardens in Lexington on May 3rd.

Organized by Julie Eckles.

Pictured Julie Eckles, Bob Biersack, David Hopkins, Patrick and Jane Stange and Glenn Gibson. (Not pictured Nick Wedeman, Janet Gibson, Diana Hopkins and Jan Smith)

DINING IN

Remember when people used to host dinner parties in their homes? When people enjoyed cooking and sharing a meal and cocktails with neighbors, family, and friends? It's still a "thing" among Newcomers' members.

Dining In is searching for a new coordinator. Sharon Littlepage has done an admiral job for the last several years. But it's time to turn it over to someone new. For the details on running the group, contact Sharon Littlepage, s.littlepage@concast.net



WINE TASTING

Wine tastings will be held four times a year: summer, fall, winter, and spring. I will choose a type of wine for the groups to taste and will inform all those signed up within groups. Hosts will be requested at that time (1 or 2 host /s for each group of 8 tasters). I will assign the tasters in groups of 8, including the host/s. Each individual participant or couple in the group will provide their **favorite bottle of that wine choice** (priced from \$8 to \$24 per bottle) **in a brown paper bag**. The host will provide an additional bottle of the wine to be tasted if needed, for a total of six wines to taste. Each taster will need to bring six glasses for wine tasting

Groups contain three couples and two individuals. The host will be responsible for contacting tasters to schedule a date for their wine tasting, providing tasting sheets, wine glass identifiers, a charcuterie board or platter for the food items and individual small plates for serving, and a black magic marker for marking the wine bottle bags one through six. The cost of the wine is shared among the tasters. Let your host know on or before the tasting date the cost of the wine. The host will tally the cost of the wine and divide by six to arrive at the cost per taster. The host will also record tasters' remarks for the wine tasting, and report to me at winegroupchair@lexvanewcomers.org.

The winetasting groups are filling up for summer tastings of Pinot Grigio. The next tasting date with available space for four is June 13. There is room for two tasters on June 28, and four on July 14 or 21. Each couple or single taster will bring a bottle of pinot grigio of their choice. (cost between \$8 and \$24 per bottle). Each taster should also bring an item for a charcuterie board' or the host may assign a food for the tasters to bring, so there will be a variety of foods. If you are interested in participating in summer tastings of pinot grigio, please email me, at winegroupchair@lexvanewcomers.org. with your email address, name and date of tasting.



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. The Group has begun offering hikes on a Saturday so if you haven't signed up yet because of the Friday only hikes consider sending me your name and email address to add to the hiking emails so that you will see which Saturday a hike is offered. Send to donbrooke@gmail.com

There is no newsletter in July and August.
Have a safe and enjoyable summer and we will see you in September.

