

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

WEB SITE: John Ekin - www.lexvanewcomers.org

Vol. 33 Issue 1 – September 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Newcomers,

Our first meeting of the 2024/25 session was heavily attended with roughly 50 members and 10 visitors or new members. Our speaker was Hunter Swanson of the W&L Friendship Family Program. Several members expressed interest in becoming involved in that program, which matches foreign students with local residents. Many of these students don't go home for the holidays, when much of the school is shut down and loneliness can set in. Having a warm, friendly home to visit can really make a difference. More information is below.

The members voted to accept the proposed club budget. Secretary JackeRose asked members of interest groups to submit photos for use in a club brochure that we plan to produce — so if someone is taking your photo at a club gathering in the next couple of months and you don't want your photo included in our publicity materials, please make your objection clear. We can always use more up-to-date photos for the website (send to John Ekin or Janet Gibson), newsletter (Deb Bodner) and Facebook page (Jo Ritterbusch, but you can post them yourself if you're a member).

We need someone would take over leadership of the Happy Hour. Carol Humphries initiated that group but has moved out of the area. There is not much work required of that role.

If someone in the club is a CPA, please contact me. The club's (simple) finances have not been audited in years and I'd like to explore that.

Don't forget — the picnic is at 1pm on Saturday, September 21st at the double-decker pavilion at Glen Maury Park. We need a head count by Monday, September 16th so the picnic committee knows how much Kenney's chicken to order. More information is below.

Also don't forget — the October 2nd meeting is at 5:30pm at the Country Club.

Respectfully yours,
Duncan Charlton

CLUB OFFICERS

President

Duncan Charlton

Vice President

Ramona Bouzard

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
June – August 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	\$ 3,678.30
From April 2024	
Total Income	\$ 380.00
Dues for 2024-25	375.00
Picnic	5.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	(\$ 490.43)
Lexington Country Club - room rental	(\$ 170.00)
Anti-spam software services	(\$ 100.00)
Bank fee	(\$ 2.03)
Community Festival space Rental	(\$ 75.00)
Website hosting	(\$ 143.40)
Balance	
as of August 31, 2024:	\$ 3,567.87

MEMBERSHIP

Our 2023-24 paid memberships are 206. (Our membership roster for 2024-25 is 212, but not everyone has paid their dues yet.) 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: Michelene and Edward Brame, and Claire “Charlie” and Alex Paul. Several additional applications are pending.

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

HOSPITALITY



Join us for **Happy Hour** on the second Wednesday of each month. Our next get together will be September 11th 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.



The **annual picnic** is Saturday, September 21st, from 1 - 3 at the upper pavilion at Glen Maury Park in Buena Vista – the same venue as the past few years. It is a “potluck” so please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert. The club will provide Kenney's chicken, water, iced tea, and lemonade; you may bring your own soda, beer or wine.

The cost is only \$5.00 per person, the **deadline to sign up is September 16th**. Payment is preferred prior to the picnic. Check, made out to Greater Lexington Newcomers Club, or cash should be sent to Barbara Ekin, 24 Sky View Lane, Rockbridge Baths, VA 24473. If you include this in your annual dues, just be sure to indicate that.



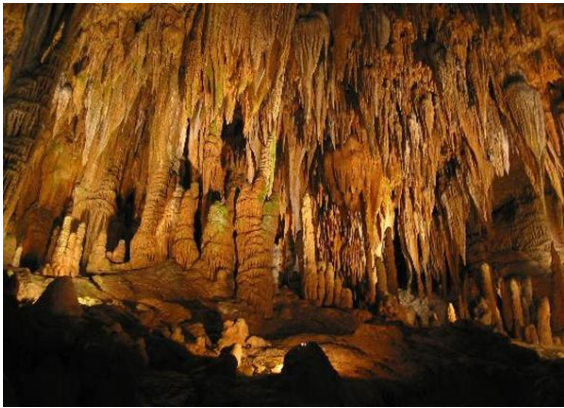
PHOTOGRAPHS

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 Photos can also be sent to Deb Bodner for the newsletter and Jo Ritterbusch for the FaceBook page.

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



Luray Caverns Tour & More near Luray - Wednesday, October 16.

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. The fee of \$34 (with discount options) will be paid upon arrival and includes the Caverns tour, Car & Carriage

Caravan Museum, the Shenandoah Heritage Village and Toy Town Junction. Arrive time is 10:20. The drive is approximately 1 and 1/2 hours. Check out the website at <https://luraycaverns.com/explore/> Sign up by contacting organizer Charlie Page at chasdpage@gmail.com

Jackson River Tubing Adventure near Covington – July 22

After rescheduling due to weather, our party of 22 had a perfect day floating the 2.25 miles of crystal-clear waters.



A good time was had by those who went to the **Museum of the Shenandoah Valley** in May.



Activities to do on your own:

This Activity is recommended, but not offered as an organized group activity. Thank you to Barb Ekin for this suggestion. To recommend future time-sensitive activities to be listed here, please contact Janet Gibson.

The Wall That Heals—a traveling, three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., that tours the country—will be on display in the City of Covington from October 3, 2024

through October 6, 2024 at the Jackson River Sports Complex. For more information, visit The Wall That Heals website at <https://thewallthathealscovington.com/>

INTEREST GROUPS

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



MYSTERY DINNER

The last season of Mystery Dinners was 2018 and Chief Detective George Grasse pleased to announce that the Mystery Dinner Interest Group is back for 2024. Please stay tuned for more information.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FRIENDSHIP

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>



BUNCO

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

The Canasta group is currently taking a pause.



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 September 11 at the home of Joe Little. Please contact Marilou Schindler for more information at marilous@aol.com.

POKER

The Newcomers Poker Group currently has seven active members who 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! We are currently in our 3rd Quarter of dining out. The next opportunity to participate is in the 1st Quarter of 2025 (January, February, and March). I will start planning for that quarter in December.

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

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. For the details on running the group, contact Sharon Littlepage, s.littlepage@concast.net



L-R: Jim Littlepage, Margie Harrill, Nimfa Szarka, Kirk Miller, Sharon Littlepage, Tina Miller



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.

Fall wine tastings of Cabernet Sauvignon will be held in October and November. Four hosts/hosting couples are needed and more tasters will be accepted now. If you are interested in participating, please email me, at winegroupchair@lexvanewcomers.org. with your email address.



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

