

Greater Lexington Newcomers

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Newcomers,

Enjoying fall yet? 82 people came to the club picnic at the pavilion in Glen Maury Park a few weeks ago. Thanks to all those who helped set up and clean up. I don't think anybody hated the picnic.

You may recall that September's meeting featured a speaker who told us about the W&L Friendship Family program, which links local citizens with foreign students. One of our members recently attended a meeting of that group and she reported that most of the people in the room were Newcomers. Way to step up, friends!

Wednesday's meeting was a little different than usual — not only was it an evening meeting, but instead of having a speaker, we played a get-to-know-each-other game. We each wrote something down that nobody in the room would know about us. When I read the notes, the audience tried to guess who wrote the note. Many of these revelations were quite surprising. Many were humorous and it was great to learn more about our fellow club members. We are still perplexed (and entertained) by the "I'm in the witness protection program" entry (obviously, that person wasn't willing to 'fess up!)

Folks at the sign-in table are asking visitors and new members to step over to an area where they are greeted by club officers and other volunteers (we've been using the area near the refreshments). I hate the idea of seeing new members and visitors wandering around the room by themselves. Let's make sure they feel welcome in our group. We had about six new members and potential members attend this time. You may have seen the yellow cards we give to them, which ask the usual questions such as where they came from and how they chose to move here. We really do want to know about our newest members and in the past, I've seen some get tongue-tied and say their name and nothing more. Last month Roy Mendoza went first and set the tone for the ones that followed — thank you, Roy!

The recent club survey turned up a few ideas for future interest groups: A Spanish language conversational "cafe," a star gazing/cookout/campfire group, Mah Jong, beer making, travelogue discussion (to exchange tips and ideas). Not all of these ideas came from those who wanted to lead those groups, but that doesn't mean these ideas won't grow wings. I'll announce them again at the next meeting and ask for a show of hands of people who are interested in joining these groups. We can then let the originator of the idea know who to contact. Or better still — if those who came up with the ideas will show up at the November

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

meeting, they can better explain and promote their ideas. By the way, if you have additional ideas for interest groups, please send them to our Vice President, Ramona Bouzard.

Mary Ann McDevitt spoke briefly about wanting to start up a fishing group, and several people expressed interest in joining in — contact her (member contact info is in the club directory on our website).

Nimfa Szarka brought up the idea of a walking group. Some would rather walk on less challenging terrain than the hiking group often experiences. Contact her or our secretary JackeRose Boston if you're interested.

I gave a tour of the club website (lexvanewcomers.org) It has a lot of resources on it and we hope to continue to add features of interest to our members. If you haven't explored it lately, please take the time to do so now. You'll need the super-secret password to view the membership roster (four very familiar initials, all in lower case, followed by the first three digits of most members' zip code) and soon the archived newsletters will also be password-protected in order to better protect members' privacy. Also, if you see that your favorite trusted contractor is not on the resource list, please let me (or our head webmaster and treasurer John Ekin) know and we'll see to it that other Newcomers have access to that information too. Most people new to the area seem to need reliable contractors, so let's help each other out.

We also briefly discussed the club Facebook page, which is managed by Jo Ann Ritterbusch. It's a members-only FB page. Any member can post comments and photos there, so please don't leave it all up to Jo.

We had 36+ attendees at the meeting. I asked how many people came to the meeting specifically because they can't attend morning meetings. Three people replied in the affirmative — I'm happy they were able to attend.

Membership dues — if you haven't sent in your payment, please don't delay any longer!

Next month's speaker is club member Ginger Bomar, who will speak about Community Table. **

Don't forget to put Wednesday December 4th on your calendar for the annual holiday dinner and party. More details to follow. Time is tentatively set at 3pm.

Respectfully yours,
Duncan Charlton



Annual Picnic, 2024

** The November 6th meeting presentation will be on The Community Table and its work in Lexington and Rockbridge County. GLNC members who volunteer with Community Table will want to be present to share your stories.

TREASURERS REPORT
September 2024
Submitted by John Ekin

Prior Balance	\$ 3,542.87
From August report 2024	
Total Income	\$ 3,604.28
Dues for 2024-25	3,222.28
Picnic	382.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	(\$ 478.11)
Lexington Country Club - room rental	(\$ 170.00)
Gift certificates	(\$ 100.00)
Picnic	(\$ 208.11)
Balance	
as of September 30, 2024:	\$ 6,669.04
This is reconciled with the latest bank statement	



THINKING OF YOU

Cards were sent to the following members: Rick Slater, Diana Hopkins, Julie Eckles, Nimfa Szarka
 A sympathy card was sent to Debbie & Alan Maurer for the loss of Alan's mother.

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

MEMBERSHIP

We have 227 members on the roster. Reminder: Dues for the 2024-25 year are due now. Dues are \$25/person. They should be sent to Barbara Ekin, 24 Sky View Lane, Rockbridge Baths, VA 24473.

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 October 9th 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.



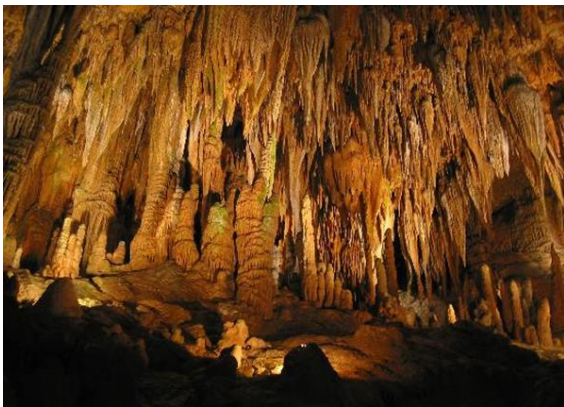
PHOTOGRAPHS

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 JackeRose Boston is collecting photos for a flyer/brochure to be handed out at events such as the Community Festival. 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

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/>

For a great **theatre experience** ShenanArts in Staunton, will be performing “The Homecoming” the first two weekends in December. This play was adapted from the novel Spencer’s Mountain by Earl Hamner. The book served as the basis for the television series “The Walton’s”. I will have more information in the November newsletter.

INTEREST GROUPS

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



MYSTERY DINNER

The Mystery Dinner has had a setback. If there are any would-be Sherlock Holmes’ out there who would like to take this on, George Grasse will share the mysteries and help get you started. You can contact George at georgehgrasse@gmail.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 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 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 October 9 at the home of Marjorie and David Connolly. 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.

The next meeting will be October 18, from 3-5 pm. The hosts are Sharon and Dennis Culberson, 125 Dalewood Dr, Lexington. Game will be Mexican train dominoes. Call Sharon (401-523-7353) if interested.



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



WINE TASTING

Wine tastings will be held four times a year: summer, fall, winter, and spring. The chair selects the type of wine to be tasted. 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 if needed, for a total of six wines to taste. The cost of the wine is shared among the tasters.

Each tasting is hosted by a member in their home with six to eight tasters at each location. The host will be responsible for contacting tasters to schedule a date, and providing a charcuterie board or other hors d'oeuvres. (The request for food may be shared among the tasters.)

Ratings from each hosting are shared with the wine chair, who compiles the scores and distributes the results to members via email. If you are interested in participating, and for more detailed information, please email Marilou Schindler, at winegroupchair@lexvanewcomers.org with your email address.



HIKING GROUP

The Newcomers Hiking Group hikes every Friday weather permitting. Each week Don, Debbie or a designated person will announce 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 Don or Debbie your name and email address to add to the hiking emails so that you will see which Saturday a hike is offered. Send it to donbrooke@gmail.com or Debbie Maurer at 2mtprs@gmail.com

