

# Greater Lexington Newcomers

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

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**Vol. 33 Issue 4 – January 2025**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Newcomers,

I hope you're all having a happy start to 2025 and that your holidays were filled with visits with family and friends. Lee and I are looking forward to attending more gatherings and events with our Newcomer friends (watch this newsletter for announcements).

The club's December 4th holiday party at Virginia Horse Center was enjoyed by about 90 members and guests. I assume all who came had a good time (I didn't note any scowling faces). The winner of the dessert contest was (drum roll please...) Tammy Reitz!

Kudos to all 31 brave souls who navigated past ice and snow to attend the January club meeting at the Lexington Country Club. Mary Pederson of Verdant Acres Farms gave a great talk about eating healthy foods and the downsides of eating certain foods. I (and perhaps most of the rest in attendance) didn't know how much the nutritional level had dropped in certain foods in the last 70 years or so. We can appreciate that the modern industrialization of our food supply has provided an adequate volume of food which arrives looking appealing, yet that efficiency requires that the vegetables, meat, etc. be raised, stored and transported in ways that can cause nutritional deficiency and sometimes do us harm in sometimes subtle, and sometimes not-so-subtle, ways. Our food decisions can create health or sickness.

Although it's not listed on my calendar, I think we're entering The Dead of Winter. Time to invite your Newcomer friends to informal gatherings for lunch or a game of cards or to see a movie together. No need to hunker down until Spring.

If you are reading this but didn't pay your club dues, this will be your final newsletter. We're sorry to see you leave the club, but please don't be a stranger! (Our treasurer will still accept your dues if time got away from you!)

See you at the party!  
Duncan Charlton

[Photos for the holiday party and other events are at the end of this newsletter. ed. note]

## **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**

Looking ahead to our future meetings, our speakers will be as follows:

- February 5: Bob Biersack, Rockbridge Conservation
- March 5: Margaret Ann Paxton, Rockbridge County Community Emergency Response Team
- April 2: 5:30 pm evening meeting, Dwayne Yancy, Cardinal News (Rockbridge County demographics)
- May 7: Patti Cook, Rockbridge Area Health Center
- June 4: TBA

\*\* Note the April meeting is in the evening.

**TREASURERS REPORT**  
**November-December 2024**  
**Submitted by John Ekin**

<b>Prior Balance</b>	<b>\$ 6,811.73</b>
From October report 2024	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 2,634.52</b>
Holiday Party	\$ 1,430.00
Dues for 2024-25	\$ 1,075.00
Remediation Refund	\$ 129.52
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>(\$4,583.78)</b>
Lexington Country Club - room rental	(\$ 170.00)
Holiday Party	(\$ 4,263.78)
Duplicate Dues Refund	(\$ 150.00)
<b>Balance</b>	
as of October 31, 2024:	<b>\$ 4,862.47</b>
This is reconciled with the latest bank statement	

<b>2024 Holiday Party Report</b>	
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$ 1,430.00</b>
Income from ticket sales	\$ 1,430.00
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>(\$ 4,263.78)</b>
Virginia Horse Center Total	(\$ 4,126.75)
Room rental & set up	(\$ 680.00)
Food & Drink	(\$ 3,446.75)
Gift certificates/Door Prizes	(\$ 105.00)
Christmas decorations	(\$ 32.03)
<b>Total Party Cost</b>	<b>(\$ 2,833.78)</b>



**THINKING OF YOU**

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](mailto:secretary@lexvanewcomers.org)

## MEMBERSHIP

We have 241 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](mailto:membership@lexvanewcomers.org).

Please welcome new members Marti & Michael Young, who moved here from Wisconsin.



## HOSPITALITY

Join us for **Happy Hour** on the second Wednesday of each month. Our next get together will be November 13th 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](mailto:webmaster@lexvanewcomers.org) JackeRose Boston is collecting photos for a new Newcomers 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. Please take some photos at your next get together and send them to any of us.

## 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

## INTEREST GROUPS

To join an interest group, call or email the contact person. Note: the following new group, a Men's Book group.



### MEN'S BOOK GROUP

Greetings! At the November Meeting I announced my desire to start a Men's Book Group from the GLNC membership. Six men present expressed an interest in the idea, so we are a go! Although the content and structure of this group will be decided by consensus, the group that I was last involved in met bimonthly on Sunday afternoons, read and discussed both fiction and nonfiction, and the facilitator role rotated among interested members. WARNING: I will facilitate at least the first meeting, but I have zero literary background, so please adjust your expectations accordingly! I do expect that the group will be a great opportunity to share insights and experiences and just hang out. If there are questions or interested members my phone number is 805-403-0138 and my email is [scottloorz@yahoo.com](mailto:scottloorz@yahoo.com). Thanks!



### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 looking for more regular players and 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](mailto: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 February 12 at the home of Judy Koenig. Please contact Marilou Schindler for more information at [marilous@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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. Join us at 10 on Friday, January 24 at Sweet Treats. Email Pat Thompson at [Ptapex@aol.com](mailto: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 venues for our 1st Quarter (January-March) of dining out filled quickly. Information about the next quarter will be in a later newsletter.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Aileen Spurgeon at (540) 460-1654 or [spurgchick@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:s.littlepage@concast.net)



## WINE TASTING

The winetasting group is open for winter tastings of Zinfandel (red) during the months of January and February. If you are interested in hosting a group of eight during this time period, please let me know; let me know the date you will host, and whether it is an afternoon or evening time period.

Each couple or single taster will bring a bottle of Zinfandel of their choice (cost between \$8 and \$24 per bottle). Each taster/couple should also bring an item for a charcuterie board (meat or seafood item, cheese, crackers, raw vegetable or raw fruit, or chocolate, as per host). If you are interested in participating in winter tastings of zinfandel, please email me, at [winegroupchair@lexvanewcomers.org](mailto:winegroupchair@lexvanewcomers.org) with your email address and name.



## 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](mailto:donbrooke@gmail.com) or Debbie Maurer at [2mtprs@gmail.com](mailto:2mtprs@gmail.com)

NOTE: The following pages are a "picture album" from the holiday party and other December events



# Holiday Party, December 4, 2024

A selection of photos taken by Barbara Ekin





**A fun outing during the holiday break.**

A wonderful afternoon with W&L foreign students and Newcomers Club members for our chili & grilled cheese gala. Thank you, Sarah O’Hanlon, for the beautiful setting.



Thursday morning Bunco were in the holiday spirit!

