

# 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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## 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

Barbara Ekin

### Welcome

Ashley Mon

### Publicity

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Newcomers,

Time to get those gardens going and lawns mowed for the first time.

We had a good turnout at our April meeting, with 45+ members listening to Wayne Yancey give a fascinating talk about Virginia's (and Rockbridge's) demographics. He elaborated on census and IRS data by using maps that show a breakdown (by county and city) of population age, income, etc. plus how things have changed over time with people moving about the state or in and out of the state. Dwayne was reluctant to crow about his recent award, but here is a link to the article about it, if you haven't already read it: <https://tinyurl.com/29ed7a37>

Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll find updates about club activities. Be sure to sign up early for anything that looks interesting to you.

The hiking club had 20+ volunteers show up on Friday April 4th to remove roadside trash along Old Farm Road. I didn't get a full count, but we must have filled between 10 and 20 of the large orange trash bags. Thank you, team!

The Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission created a mobile museum with an exhibit entitled, "Out of Many, One" regarding American independence from England. The mobile museum trailer will be at the Frontier Culture Museum, 1290 Richmond St. in Staunton from **Tuesday April 15 through April 17th**, open from 1pm to 7pm. While you're there, the FCM offers a special \$3 entry fee to enter the FCM itself that same day. Details about the exhibit here: <https://tinyurl.com/mr3a6s3n>. Does anybody feel like leading a Newcomer group to visit? If so, please ask Deb Bodner to send out an email blast to the membership so they know who to contact to join the group visit.

Duncan Charlton

Ed note: At last month's meeting Debbie Funkhouser mentioned a number of good websites for emergency preparedness and training. Below are several beyond the CERT website:

Emergency Preparedness at <https://www.ready.gov/>

<https://www.stopthebleed.org/training/#public>

<https://www.fema.gov/node/you-are-help-until-help-arrives-1>

slides at <https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/until-help-arrives-web-tutorial.pdf>

local monthly meetings - website <https://www.co.rockbridge.va.us/252/Community-Emergency-Response-Team-CERT>

The manual used can be found here:

[https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2019.CERT\\_Basic\\_PM\\_FINAL\\_508c.pdf](https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2019.CERT_Basic_PM_FINAL_508c.pdf)

Also, American Red Cross – online first aid and CPR/AID courses. and

Mountain Gateway also offers first aid courses

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

May 7: Patti Cook, Rockbridge Area Health Center

June 4: TBA

### TREASURERS REPORT

March 2025

Submitted by John Ekin



### THINKING OF YOU

<b>Prior Balance</b>	<b>\$ 5,082.87</b>
From February 2025 report	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 98.64</b>
Dues for 2024-25	\$ 25.00
Dues for 2025-26	\$ 50.00
Paypal Payment error	\$ 23.64
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>(\$ 270.00)</b>
Lexington Country Club - room rental	(\$ 170.00)
Gift Certificates	(\$ 100.00)
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 4,911.51</b>
as of March 31, 2025:	
This is reconciled with the latest bank statement	

When life throws a curve ball, whether it's an ailment, surgery or something else, it's nice to know your fellow Newcomers are thinking of you. If you know of someone who could use some cheering up or just a good thought, let Nimfa Szarka, our Corresponding Secretary, know and she will send a card on behalf of the Newcomers. The email is [secretary@lexvanewcomers.org](mailto:secretary@lexvanewcomers.org)

## MEMBERSHIP

We have 220 members on the roster. If you have any changes to your information, please email the membership committee at [membership@lexvanewcomers.org](mailto:membership@lexvanewcomers.org).



## HOSPITALITY

Join us for **Happy Hour** on the second Wednesday of each month. Our next get together will be April 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](mailto:webmaster@lexvanewcomers.org). 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 event 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



We will meet at Poplar Forest Museum shop at 10:00 am. I am working on trying to get a guided tour for us but it depends on them finding a volunteer for us. Either way, I would suggest you get the Poplar Forest AND Day Memorial app on your phone (and bring ear buds or head phones). This will allow to have a virtual tour if we are on our own.

We will have a few lunch options available when we are ready to leave or you can bring a picnic lunch if you wish to eat on the grounds at Poplar Forest. Travel time is about 1:40 to Poplar Forest via 501, about 30 minutes on to the D-day memorial, and then about an hour back to Lexington.

YOU will be purchasing your own ticket on-line through Poplar Forest website, <https://www.poplarforest.org/visit/>. Purchase the combo ticket if you are going to the D-Day Memorial

which will cost \$30. This is good for a year at each site. If just going to Poplar Forest you can purchase a ticket for just that site. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Charlie Page 815.347.3467 [chasdpage@gmail.com](mailto:chasdpage@gmail.com)

We will have our Maymont/ Agecroft trip on May 6<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't been to either you can check them out at <https://www.agecrofthall.org/> and <https://maymont.org/visit/>. The mansion at Maymont is not open and is under renovations but we will tour the Japanese gardens and zoo area (no cost). After visiting Maymont in the morning we will have a picnic lunch on the grounds and then drive to Agecroft which is only 15 minutes away. We will take a guided tour of Agecroft at 2 pm (\$12) and then tour the gardens. We plan to arrive at Maymont around 10:15 a.m. so you can plan your drive accordingly, and should be back in Lexington around 5:15 pm. I will try to coordinate carpooling. So, if you plan to attend, please RSVP to [donbrooke@gmail.com](mailto:donbrooke@gmail.com)

### Activities to do on your own:

The Virginia American Revolution Commission debuted a mobile museum in January that will be touring the state over the next three years. It is scheduled to be at the Frontier Museum in Staunton April 15-17. For more information about the whole project visit to their website <https://va250.org/>

### Consider Hosting an Exchange Student

**Perhaps you or someone you know would like to host a foreign student during an exchange year?** Our host families simply open their heart and homes to a student and set another plate at the table. Our students come with their own health insurance and spending money and can attend the host family's local public high school. Ed. note: Members Mary Ellen & Dave Folsom hosted a student this past year.

CIEE (The Council on International Educational Exchange) has high school exchange students that are available for placement for the school year 2025-2026. The students come from many different countries such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, Turkey, Germany, Spain, Brazil, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, India, Italy, S. Korea and more. The students are proficient to a certain level of English, have good grades, and become part of the host family. They help with chores and go on outings with the host family. Students arrive in early to mid-August and return home at the end of May or first part of June. Host families are needed for 2025-2026.

Here are some students who are waiting for a host family for 2025-2026:

- Ruwaidah from Bangladesh has a passion for ballet/dance. She also likes debate, poetry, music, shopping, gardening, and cooking. Ruwaidah is outgoing and friendly. She would like to dance, join the debate team or student council and/or play volleyball.
- Tammo from Germany likes cooking, playing the piano and fluegelhorn, singing in the choir, playing sports, and joining in the church youth group.
- Doruk from Turkey loves reading, playing volleyball, games movies and soccer. He would like to join the theater group or Model UN club here in the States.

For more information on hosting, please contact local coordinator, Cindy Miller, at [cmiller24450@outlook.com](mailto:cmiller24450@outlook.com) or (540) 817-8851.

## INTEREST GROUPS

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

### Possible new group: a Supper Club

Are you interested in joining a group for a Supper Club. I'd like to find 6-8 diners interested in forming a casual group that would like to get together on a regular basis to fix food and enjoy each other's company. Call or email me, Sharon Culberson at 401-523-7353 or [hilltopgardens3@gmail.com](mailto:hilltopgardens3@gmail.com)  
I'd like to hear from people by April 16.



### **MEN'S BOOK GROUP**

The Men's Book Group successfully held their first meeting recently! It is hoped that the group will be a great opportunity to share insights and experiences and just hang out. If there are questions or interested members, please contact Scott Loorz at 805-403-0138 or email [scottloorz@yahoo.com](mailto:scottloorz@yahoo.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 Jo Ritterbusch at [blueridgecorgis@gmail.com](mailto:blueridgecorgis@gmail.com) or call or text, 845-661 9075.



### **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. If you are interested in learning the game and being a sub until there is an opening, you are invited to come watch us play. Our next play date will be April 9 at the home of Joe Little.

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! Participants take turns hosting to play on the first Friday of each month. 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 brunch or lunch. Generally, at Sweet Treats for a late breakfast and at different area restaurants for lunch. Email Margery Harrill at [margeryharrill@gmail.com](mailto:margeryharrill@gmail.com) for more information.



## DINING OUT

**Dining Out Side Dish Notes.** Thanks to the hosts who made reservations for GLNC Dining Out venues this quarter: Mary Ellen & Dave Folsom at **Bonfire Burgers and Bourbon** (Amhurst); Sharon & Dennis Culberson at **Helios Mediterranean** (Staunton); Deb Bodner & David Lusk at the **Chop House** (Staunton); Jan Smith & Bob Biersack at **House Mountain Inn**; Ramona & Chip Bouzard at **Queen City Bistro** (Staunton).



Next month will see a formal request for hosts for July through September, but you need not wait. Prospective hosts and "wannabe" participants are invited to write Chip Bouzard @ [glnc.diningout@gmail.com](mailto:glnc.diningout@gmail.com) to be added to the group list.

picture is of the group dining at *Bonfire Burgers and Bourbon*



## WINE TASTING

The winetasting group is open for spring tastings of Riesling during the months of April and May until June 15. I am seeking two hosts interested in hosting a group of eight during this time period, (no previous hosts, please). Please 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 Riesling 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 spring tastings of Riesling, please email me, at [winegroupchair@lexvanewcomers.org](mailto:winegroupchair@lexvanewcomers.org) with your name and 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](mailto:donbrooke@gmail.com) or Debbie Maurer at [2mtprs@gmail.com](mailto:2mtprs@gmail.com)

