

# Greater Lexington Newcomers

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

**EDITOR:** Deb Bodner – [newsletter@lexvanewcomers.org](mailto:newsletter@lexvanewcomers.org)

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**Vol. 34 Issue 1 – September 2025**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Newcomers,

We are off to a great start for the fall season of Newcomers activities that include interest groups, special activities, monthly meetings, and our fall picnic\* (Saturday, September 20) and more. \*Details for the picnic are below.

At our September meeting we welcomed 50 people, including guests new to the area and six new members. Grateful thanks to our executive team members and a number of volunteers who helped shepherd you through our new check-in procedures at the Innovation Center.

Robyn Sherman, our speaker, shared the story of the Innovation Center including a rundown of the programs offered and the goal of helping students discern their gifts and passions for learning and preparing for their first jobs. Due to extenuating circumstances, we were not able to offer a short tour at the end of the meeting, but we will be able to offer this to 10-12 people after our meetings in October (5:30 pm) and November (10:00 a.m.).

Many thanks to the nearly twenty volunteers who made possible our Newcomers presence at the Rockbridge Community Festival on August 23. They greeted a host of people, including over 25 club members and 40 people new to the area who expressed interest in more information. Extra thanks to Duncan for providing the transportation and use of their tent for the day.

One last note, if you would like to serve on the Holiday Party Planning Team, let me know soon ([ramona.bouzard@wartburg.edu](mailto:ramona.bouzard@wartburg.edu)). We plan on holding an initial meeting no later than the first week of October.

We hope to see you at the picnic and our evening meeting on October 1st.

Thank you to each of you for your commitment to welcome people to our area and strengthen ties with others through our activities and events.

Ramona Bouzard

### **CLUB OFFICERS**

#### **President**

Ramona Bouzard

#### **Vice President**

Bill Kuhns

#### **Treasurer**

John Ekin

#### **Secretary**

Mary Ellen Folsom

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

#### **Activities**

Janet Gibson

#### **Hospitality**

#### **Membership**

Barbara Ekin

#### **Name Tags**

Barbara Ekin

#### **Welcome**

Ashley Mon



## FALL PICNIC

**When?** Saturday, September 20, 2025 1-3 PM

**Where?** Glen Maury Park, **Upper Pavilion**, 100 Maury Park Road, Buena Vista, VA 24416

**Cost?** \$5.00 per person whether GLNC member or guest.

**What do I bring?** A side dish or dessert to share, potluck style. If needed, a serving utensil. If you wish, bring beer or wine for yourself or to share.

**What is provided?** Lemonade, water, iced tea, Chicken from Kenny's (of Lexington), limited variety of Jersey Mike subs (veggie included), plates, cups, utensils, napkins, fun for all!

**What's next?** **RSVP** at <https://www.punchbowl.com/parties/8cf72da43b01a2299148> by Monday, September 15.

**How do I pay?** After sending your RSVP, you can either pay when you arrive or send a check written out to GLNC (\$5 x number of people). In memo line write "Fall Picnic." Mail check to club treasurer: John Ekin, 24 Sky View Lane, Rockbridge Baths, 24473.

**How can I help?** We still need a few more volunteers for clean-up, one more cooler with ice for the drinks, and someone to volunteer for set-up, clean up, welcome table and hospitality, or food pick up, please contact Ramona Bouzard at [ramona.bouzard@wartburg.edu](mailto:ramona.bouzard@wartburg.edu).

## TREASURERS REPORT

June-August 2025

Submitted by John Ekin



### THINKING OF YOU

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)

Get well cards were sent to:

Barbara Ekin  
Pat Stange  
Marjory Harrill

A good-bye card was sent to Emma & Dave Wouldham who moved back to England

<b>Prior Balance</b>	<b>\$ 4,092.57</b>
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From Mayl 2025 report

<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 315.00</b>
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Dues 2025-26	250.00
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Picnic payment 25	65.00
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<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>(\$ 847.17)</b>
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Lexington Country Club - room rental	(\$ 170.00)
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Chamber of Commerce	(\$ 125.00)
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Brochure/Business card printing	(\$ 310.05)
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Gift certificate	(\$ 25.00)
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Community Festival posters	(\$ 73.72)
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Tiger Technologies	(\$ 143.40)
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( Web host)

<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 3,560.40</b>
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as of August 31, 2025:

this reconciled with the latest bank statement

## MEMBERSHIP

We have 219 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).

A friendly reminder Club dues are due now. Yearly dues are \$25.00 payable by check made to GLNC mailed to Barbara Ekin, 24 Sky View Lane, Rockbridge Baths, VA 24473

We welcome to following new members:

Sheila & Martin Reed, Richard & Neely Kaydos-Daniels, Kenton "Kent" & Akemi Smith



## HOSPITALITY

Join us for **Happy Hour** on the second Wednesday of each month. Our next get together will be September 10th 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

The committee is always open to suggestions for events and activity ideas. If you have attended an annual event or visited an interesting place, please share your recommendation with any member of the committee. The activities committee: Janet Gibson ([janethgibson@gmail.com](mailto:janethgibson@gmail.com)), Chair; Don Brooke ([donbrooke@gmail.com](mailto:donbrooke@gmail.com)), Charlie Page ([chasdpage@gmail.com](mailto:chasdpage@gmail.com))

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.

**Join us on Thursday, October 16, at 10:00 a.m. for a fascinating tour of TAYLOR & BOODY ORGANBUILDERS located in a renovated school building three miles west of Staunton**

**Optional lunch in downtown Staunton following the tour**



Taylor & Boody specializes in designing and building high-quality pipe organs, firmly grounded in historical tradition. Virtually all parts of the organs are made in-house, including the metal pipes and reed stops. Each project undertaken is a unique creation requiring thousands of hours of design, study and manufacturing. In over forty-five years of business the company has completed more than ninety instruments and undertaken museum quality restorations of significant historic organs.

- Observe and learn about the steps in the production process.
- Hear about the company history and some of their major projects.
- Participate in Q & A time.
- Conclude the tour with a visit to Trinity Episcopal Church across the

street to see Taylor and Boody's Opus 34 and the little box organ Opus 91. Delight in the sounds as Trinity's Organist and Director of Music Virginia Bolena plays the Opus 34 for us!

Learn more:

<http://taylorandboody.com>

<https://www.trinitystaunton.org/about-us/history/>

SIGN UP: Send e-mail to Janet Gibson ([janethgibson@gmail.com](mailto:janethgibson@gmail.com)). Include your name, phone number, if you are interested in carpooling and if you plan to stay for lunch after. Lunch location(s) TBD, depending on number of participants. Sign-up deadline: October 12.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

While there are many opportunities to volunteer throughout the many organizations in Lexington, these two were recent requests:

The Friendship Family Program at Washington & Lee offers a unique opportunity for local families to build connections with W&L's international students. If you are interested, Hunter Swanson would like to hear from you. His contact is [hswanson@wlu.edu](mailto:hswanson@wlu.edu). If you have any questions, you can also ask JackeRose Boston at [JackeRose@Gogonian.com](mailto:JackeRose@Gogonian.com). A number of Newcomers have participated in this program and found it to be a positive experience.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Chessie Trail Race, on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, is looking for volunteers to help with organizing and helping pull off a successful race for between 600-700 runners. There are different ways to help; the Food Tent needs a few people to cover the day in shifts. If you would like to help with the Food Tent, contact Deb Weddle, [ddw819@gmail.com](mailto:ddw819@gmail.com) Or Race Volunteer on the web is [RunSignUp.com](http://RunSignUp.com)

## INTEREST GROUPS

*To join an interest group, call or email the contact person. Many of the interest groups continue to meet over the summer.*



## MEN'S BOOK GROUP

The Men's Book Group successfully held their first meeting last spring! 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

The fourth Thursday morning Bunco group continues to roll along. 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! The Wednesday Bunko group continues to play 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 September 10 at the home of Scott Risser. Please contact Marilou Schindler at [marilous@aol.com](mailto:marilous@aol.com) for more information

## 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, respectively. Generally, They're 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—the Side Dish.** Those wishing to host a dining out event during the fourth quarter (October to December) should plan to do so very soon.

If you are unfamiliar with the Dining Out group, here's what you need to know: 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 themselves. Group members then sign up to join their hosts for a meal out! Guests pay for their own meals. Hosts are provided with the guests' names and email addresses so that, about a week before the event, they might send reminders and any other information the guests might need.

If you are interested in dining out with other GLNC members for the first time, please email Chip Bouzard at this dedicated email address: [glnc.diningout@gmail.com](mailto:glnc.diningout@gmail.com). If you would like to host during the fourth quarter, or simply would like more information, again please email [glnc.diningout@gmail.com](mailto:glnc.diningout@gmail.com). You may also call Chip Bouzard at 319-229-3805 and leave a message.



### WINE TASTING

The winetasting is an opportunity to try different wines within a given group. Each couple or single taster will bring a bottle of the specified wine of their choice (costing between \$8 and \$24 per bottle). Each taster/couple should also bring an item for a charcuterie board that will complement the wine (meat or seafood item, cheese, crackers, raw vegetable or raw fruit, or chocolate, as per host).

The winetasting group is ready to start a new year with the tasting of Pinot Noir during the months of September and October. I am seeking one or two hosts interested in hosting a group of six or more 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. After the hosts have been scheduled, I will inform those who were members of the group last year of the dates available for signing up. If any new members are interested in joining the wine tasting group, 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)

