

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,

It has been a beautiful fall season, and I hope you have taken time to enjoy the colorful leaves and crisp weather!

You'll note from the contents of this newsletter, that it includes a wealth of information about our upcoming Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 3, 4-6 PM at the Virginia Horse Center. The dedicated Planning Team has been at work for weeks. If we have as much fun as they are having as they plan and support the Holiday Party, you won't want to miss it!

At our November 5th meeting at the Innovation Center, we were grateful to hear from Jack Bissett, from the Rockbridge Symphony Board. He shared about their upcoming programs and a bit of its history in Rockbridge County. What a great gift for our communities to support such a diverse and robust group of musicians! Go to their website, <https://www.rockbridgesymphony.org>, to get information about their upcoming performances.

Just a reminder that the Holiday Party is our only Newcomers Club meeting in December, as there is no business meeting. Our next meeting business meeting will be at the Innovation Center on Wednesday, January 7, 10 AM. We hope you will be able to join us.

As you spread good cheer during the upcoming holiday season, I encourage you to help make Rockbridge County a place where all can thrive by supporting organizations and projects in our communities that provide extra food, gifts, and accompaniment for all who live here. Thank you for all you do to spread good news as you share your time and resources to make our community a place of welcome to others.

Peace,
Ramona Bouzard, president

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

Publicity

CLUB VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are looking to be a bit more intentional about having backups for people performing important functions for our organization. At this point, we're looking to understand where we need backup, and identify people who would be willing to take on backup responsibility. Please let me know if you're in a role where you would like some backup support. Also, we need people who can help with any of these functions:

- Web site content updates
- Newspaper/media liaison
- Mass emails
- Newsletter

Please feel free to call or email me with any questions or suggestions.
Bill Kuhns 802-238-8803 vp@lexvanewcomers.or

Holiday Party

When: Wednesday, December 3, 4-6 PM (deadline for RSVP is Monday, November 24)

Where: Mezzanine, Virginia Horse Center, 487 Maury River Road, Lexington, VA 24450

Cost: \$15.00 per person (member or guest). This includes 2 drink tickets per person. (Beer, wine, canned soda, mixed drinks).

RSVP, Monday, Nov. 24: You will RSVP on the Punchbowl invitation. Please include in your RSVP any guests. Then send a check for your total to club treasurer, John Ekin, 24 Sky View Lane, Rockbridge Baths, VA 24473. If you miss the RSVP deadline, email John at jmax8062live.com and confirm your attendance number and then put a check in the mail to him asap!

***** Extra note:** We need an accurate count for the caterer, so if you are bringing a guest make sure that you add that name to your RSVP. If your partner/spouse is a member, you can each RSVP separately, or add that person as your guest.

Food: We will have catered buffet-style items including vegetable egg rolls, sliced chicken breast with Swiss cheese on slider rolls, fruit/cheese tray, fresh bruschetta, hummus, barbeque meatballs, and spinach and artichoke dip. There will be coffee, iced tea, lemonade and water.

Desserts: We would love for you to bring a dessert to add to our always scrumptious dessert table AND for those who love competitions, you can place your dessert on our traditional "best dessert" awards table! We have three outside judges. Our hospitality "elves" will help you find its location when you arrive! Please note: if you bring a dessert to be judged, please put your name on the bottom of the dish. Also, that the entire dessert must be edible, including the decorations.

Note from the Hospitality Team - *If you know someone who might appreciate a ride to the Holiday Party, give them a call and offer to pick them up. Or if you need a ride to the party and would like to carpool, please let Nancy npreq@verizon.net or Jan janhuntersmith@gmail.com know. We would need you to give us your address to figure out who might be a good fit for carpooling opportunity.*

TREASURERS REPORT
October 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.

We wish MaryEllen and Dave Folsom well as they move to Pennsylvania!

Our thoughts are with Deb Slater on the loss of her husband Rick.

Prior Balance	\$ 5145.38
From June - Aug 2025 report	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 523.64
Dues 2025-26	523.64
TOTAL EXPENSES:	(\$ 801.65)
Meeting expense	(\$ 170.00)
(Snacks & Drinks)	
2025 Holiday Party Expense	
(room deposit)	
	(\$ 50.00)
Payment of Credit card	
balance	
	(\$ 591.65)
Balance	\$ 4867.37
as of October 31, 2025:	
this reconciled with the latest bank statement	

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.

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

HOSPITALITY



Join us for **Happy Hour** on the second Wednesday of each month. Our next get together will be November 12th 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 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

We offer a minimum of four day-trips or special activities each fiscal year (Sept-August). 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), Chair; Don Brooke (donbrooke@gmail.com), Charlie Page (chasdpage@gmail.com) Check the January newsletter for upcoming 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.

In October we had our first activity for this year - a tour of Taylor and Boody Organ Builders in Staunton. Robbie Lawson, Vice-President, explained how the organs are made from drawing to installation, not just the frame but the pipes, pedals, and keyboards as well. Eighteen members enjoyed the day, which included a stop at Trinity Episcopal Church to see and hear their T&B organ followed by lunch in downtown Staunton.



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.



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.

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 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 try to 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 November 12 at the home of Judy Koenig. Please contact Marilou Schindler at 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

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 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 for more information.



DINING OUT

Dining Out—the Side Dish. With the holidays almost upon us, it is tempting not to think about the first months of next year. Please avoid that temptation! Your Dining Out group continues and needs you to host during the first quarter of 2026. Simply pick a date, determine how many people you'd like to dine with, make a reservation, then write Chip Bouzard at glnc.diningout@gmail.com. Chip will publish the opportunity and manage the reservation list. Then, when the day comes, you need only enjoy the dining out experience.

Interested in Dining Out but not ready to host? Write Chip at the same address to be included on the mail list for dining out opportunities.



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).

There will be no wine tasting during the remainder of November and December. The next tasting cycle will be in January and February, and we will be tasting Merlot. If you would like to be a host for six or more individuals during this period, please let me know the date you will host, how many you can accommodate, and whether it is an afternoon or evening time period. After I have a host lined up, I will inform those Newcomer members who are part of the wine tasting group. If you are interested in becoming a part of this group, please email me at winegroupchair@lexvanewcomers.org with your email address and name.



The wine tasting group met for Fall on October 24, with 8 participants and 7 bottles of Pinot Noir. After the first round of tasting, one bottle was not the favorite, and everyone used the dump pitcher. After sharing our appetizers and discussions, we settled in for another sip of wine. Food can really make a difference we found, except for the "bad bottle". Another dumping round. Many of us thought it was just Bad and we'll have to try again. It was great fun, very casual, and we learned a bit too.



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

