

# 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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## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Newcomers,

Welcome to October, another gorgeous season in Rockbridge County, VA!

Our September picnic brought new friends and old acquaintances together as we gathered for delicious food, encouragement, and the sharing of stories from the summer, all accompanied by the beautiful view at Glen Maury Park in Buena Vista. We even managed to take a group photo, though some folks had already departed! Thank you to all the volunteers who made our gathering possible. By the way, we have awesome helpers every time we gather! Thank you to all.

The October 1<sup>st</sup> business meeting hosted Lynne Johnson, Executive Director of Rockbridge Area Habitat for Humanity ([rockbridgehabitat.org](http://rockbridgehabitat.org)) as our speaker. She offered a wealth of information, as well as an invitation to volunteer through Habitat. Just to note, there are a fair number of our GLNC members who volunteer and can answer questions you may have about Habitat's work. Its mission is "to partner with the community to create safe, affordable housing solution available for individuals and families with limited means and work toward the elimination of substandard housing in Rockbridge County." Many thanks to Lynne for joining us after a long day of work.

Also at our meeting:

- John Ekin, treasurer, walked those present through the 2025-'26 budget, and responded to questions. It was moved and seconded that the budget be accepted, and the motion passed. (Copies will be available at the November business meeting.)
- John shared a reminder that it is time to pay Newcomers Club annual dues ('25-'26), which remain at \$25.00 per person. He reported that 98 members have paid their dues.
- Announcements included updates about upcoming events and opportunities in the community, including the October 16, Special Activities event to Taylor and Boody Organ Builders event in Staunton and the need for Youth Literacy Program volunteers at Rockbridge Library (contact Lenna Ojure at [lojure@rrlib.net](mailto:lojure@rrlib.net)). Also, members Marilyn Murphy and David Katz shared that they are once more offering dance classes at Center of Gravity (see GLNC Facebook post).
- There was a good deal of laughter as we tried to give and receive the door prizes, which included the monthly gift certificate, as well as small prizes our speaker brought with

her.

### **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**

- At the meeting's close, a tour of the Innovation Center was offered and a group of about eight members were able to tour with Robyn Sherman, Work-Based Learning Coordinator, and our gracious host each month.

It was announced that Mary Ellen and David Folsom are moving to PA to be closer to their children. Besides the fact that they are moving, this unfortunately also means that Mary Ellen's last meeting as recording secretary will be in November. Her departure helped the executive team converse about the need to share the tasks of leadership in the club. We are aware of the fact that, whether a member is actively working or is retired status, this is a volunteer organization and it is good club practice to ensure that at least two people are aware of information about tasks and duties. This also allows more members the opportunity to commit to helping with small tasks that allow us to accomplish our goals. More to come on this in the future.

At present, we invite you to offer your time for the following upcoming opportunities to serve the club (Please me know of your interest):

- Communication with the Lexington Gazette about Newcomers Club, updating the calendar of events section for the club. We have clear instructions to guide you. This is one way that we are able to reach out to the community with information about the work we do to welcome people to the area.
- The Holiday Party planning team (already populated with a number of volunteers) needs a few more people to help plan our Wednesday, December 3, 4-6 PM celebration (save this date!) at the Horse Center Mezzanine. Please let me know that you are willing to join the planning fun. You can contact me at [ramona.bouzard@wartburg.edu](mailto:ramona.bouzard@wartburg.edu), or 319-229-3658.
- You will receive an email invitation via a Punchbowl in late October, and will be asked to RSVP through that invitation (yes/no).
- The executive team will be working through some by-law changes concerning the recording secretary position and report back to our membership. In the meantime, if you would be willing to serve as recording secretary (record any official decisions at business meetings and serve on the executive team which meets 2-3 times a year) let me or one of the other club officers know of your interest.

One last note, at the executive team meeting, it was reiterated that, as has been the club's practice, the purpose for our club email "blasts" is to send out official club information - monthly newsletters and limited reminders.

Interest group leaders, don't forget to communicate regularly through your email list of interest group members and through the newsletter. Also, all of us are invited to share news of events or opportunities by posting on GLNC Facebook page, and don't forget to personally network with members as you reach out at our meetings or other gatherings.

Thank you to each of you for your work to welcome people to our area and to offer your support to club members as together we build strong, positive communities in the Rockbridge area.

Peace,  
Ramona Bouzard, president

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m.



## FALL PICNIC



Members enjoyed a beautiful day at Glen Maury Park for the annual fall picnic!

### TREASURERS REPORT September 2025 Submitted by John Ekin

<b>Prior Balance</b>	<b>\$ 3560.40</b>
From June - Aug 2025 report	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 2105.00</b>
Dues 2025-26	1875.00
Picnic payment 2025	230.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>(\$ 520.02)</b>
Meeting expense (Snacks & Drinks)	(\$ 170.00)
Picnic expense	(\$ 225.80)
Gift certificate	(\$ 75.00)
Community Festival Posters stand	(\$ 44.22)

<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 5145.38</b>
as of September 30, 2025: this reconciled with the latest bank statement	



## 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.

## 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 the following new members: Kimberly & Bryan Beidle

## HOSPITALITY



Join us for **Happy Hour** on the second Wednesday of each month. Our next get together will be October 8th 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 facility located in a renovated school building three miles west of Staunton**

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



The creation of a musical instrument is a unique event. Taylor & Boody, located in Staunton, specializes in designing and building high-quality pipe organs, firmly grounded in historical tradition. Join Newcomers members for a free tour of this facility, learning how each part is made and how they all fit together. In over forty-five years of business the company has completed more than ninety instruments and undertaken museum quality restorations of significant historic organs. The tour will conclude with a visit to Trinity Episcopal Church across the street for a brief concert as Trinity's Organist Bolena plays for us on Taylor and Boody's little box organ Opus 91.

Learn more at <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:

If you enjoy working with kids, consider becoming a Literacy Partner with an elementary school student. The Youth Literacy Program, a partnership between the Rockbridge Regional Library and the Rockbridge County and Lexington City schools, pairs students with a trained volunteer literacy tutor. There are three general training sessions which provide tutors with the basic tools, as well as additional resources at the library.

If you are interested or would like for information, contact Lenna Ojure, Coordinator, Youth Literacy Program, at [lojure@rrlib.net](mailto:lojure@rrlib.net).

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. The Food Tent needs a few people to cover the day in shifts, either morning or afternoon. 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 October 8 at the home of Ashley Mon. 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.** A big thank you for those who stepped up to be hosts in the fourth quarter schedule of Dining Out. Reservations remain open for four of the five venues:

October 15, The Cross Keys Bistro, hosted by Tom & Karen Reeves

October 21, The Taste of India, hosted by Ashley Mon

October 29, House Mountain Inn, hosted by David Wade

November 11, Montaros, hosted by Sharon & Dennis Culbertson

If wish to sign up to dine out, sign up at [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BA5AA22A0F9C07-58747423-glnc#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BA5AA22A0F9C07-58747423-glnc#/)/ If you have problems with the sign up process, email Chip Bouzard at [glnc.diningout@gmail.com](mailto:glnc.diningout@gmail.com), Please use that same address to send requests to be added to the Dining Out email list.



### WINE TASTING -- edit down

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).

One tasting of Pinot Noir has been scheduled and is full. If you are interested in hosting before November 9, please let me know the date and whether it is an afternoon or evening. If you 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)

