

# 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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## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Newcomers,

I welcome the New Year as someone who is grateful for the opportunity to live in beautiful Rockbridge County and to know so many people, like you, who are committed to helping The Greater Lexington Newcomers Club continue to live our mission of welcoming others.

We ended the year with a wonderful Holiday Party! It was fun to catch up on the news and meet new friends. Spoiler alert - the tables that included people who joined the club this past year were the first to go to the food line! Thank you to the wonderful Holiday Party Team who planned and made our partying possible. [see the brief review of the party at the end of the newsletter for the various winners and photos]

As we look ahead to 2026, I, VP Bill Kuhns, and our executive committee, you to step up and consider offering your time and skills to help provide "back-up" leadership for a number of crucial jobs:

- Secretary and the work of ensuring that information about our regular meetings gets into the Lexington News Gazette
- Editing and publishing our monthly newsletter. (Deb Bodner took on this 2-year position, 5 or 6 years ago, and would like to allow others to invest in this important work)
- Website updating
- Interest Group leadership "partners," to provide backup and flexibility for current leaders who have served for many years.
- Please contact me ([ramona.bouzard@wartburg.edu](mailto:ramona.bouzard@wartburg.edu)) or VP, Bill Kuhns to chat about ways that you are willing to help us continue to make positive forward steps.

We covet your input and support and hope that at our February meeting (or before) you will share your questions and ideas.

Remember to carry our Newcomers Club business cards or brochures with you as you go about your daily rounds (they are available each month at our meetings) and also take time to invite people to come with you to a meeting, an event, or as a guest, to one of our Interest groups events; not just new people, but current members who might appreciate a personal invitation.

### **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**

Thanks for all you do to strengthen our connections to one another. Hope to see you at one of our Devil's Backbone "happy hour" on **the second Wednesday of each month at 5 PM**. It's a fun way to take a break and meet new folks. You don't have to like beer to attend; lemonade, iced tea and other non-alcoholic beverages are available, as well as good food.

Peace,  
 Ramona Bouzard, president



**TREASURERS REPORT**  
**November – December 2025**  
**Submitted by John Ekin**

<b>Prior Balance</b>	<b>\$ 4867.37</b>
From October report	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 3764.36</b>
Dues 2025-26	550.00
Holiday Party Income	\$ 1290.00
Bank Refund	\$ 2.03
Incorrect deposit from Erie Insurance	\$ 1922.33
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>(\$ 6082.95)</b>
Meeting expense, November (Snacks & Drinks)	(\$ 170.00)
2025 Holiday Party Expense	
Room Rental	(\$ 475.00)
Catering & drinks	(\$ 3365.46)
Dessert Judges related items	(\$ 42.68)
Table Decorations	(\$ 10.00)
Gift Certificates	(\$ 45.00)
Cost of Jar of M&Ms	(\$ 16.49)
Repayment of Incorrect Deposit by John Ekin	(\$ 1922.23)
Zelle Transfer fee for	

Incorrect deposit	(\$ 15.00)
Paper plates for 2026 picnic	(\$ 20.99)
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 2 548.78</b>
as of December 31, 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.

A Get Well card was sent to Fritz Schlinder

## 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).

We welcomed the following new members in December:

Pam & Frank DeLar and Timothy & Cornelia Tolley

Sad news: I was recently told of former member Carrie O'Sullivan's death in mid-December.

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

### Ever wonder why there are dues for Newcomers Club?

You may wonder how Greater Lexington Newcomers Club dues are used by the club. Here's a list compiled by our Membership Chair, Barbara Ekin.

- Partial funding of the Fall Picnic and Holiday Party, including decorations, supplies, gift certificates, catered food, and more.
- Monthly meeting space rental, including coffee and treats
- Rental of booth for Rockbridge Community Festival
- Routine expenses such as postage, stationery, brochures, club business cards, signage
- Website hosting and security

Just a reminder to all: Annual dues cover September - August of each year, and are \$25.00 per person. If you are unsure if you have paid your dues for 2025-26, contact our treasurer, John Ekin. He is keeper of the records and can let you know whether you are up-do-date ([jmax806@live.com](mailto:jmax806@live.com)). Thanks to all!

## HOSPITALITY



Join us for **Happy Hour** on the second Wednesday of each month. Our next get together will be January 14<sup>th</sup> 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 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))

### Mark your calendar now for THE LEWISBURG CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL

#### Saturday, April 11

Join us for this festival where the streets of downtown Lewisburg fill with dozens of chocolatiers exchanging tickets for sweet, tasty treats. The festival includes live music, chef demonstrations and much, much more, all within a very walkable four-block area. (<https://greenbrierwv.com/events/lewisburg-chocolate-festival>) Lewisburg, WV is an hour and 15 minute drive from Lexington.

Tastings are available from 11am to 3pm with each tasting costing 1, or sometimes 2, tickets. Tickets are \$1 each and sold in booklets of 5. Online ticket sales will begin in February. It is recommended that tickets be purchased in advance. FYI: Tickets are non-refundable.

**SIGN UP:** Send e-mail to Janet Gibson ([janethgibson@gmail.com](mailto:janethgibson@gmail.com)). Include your name, phone number, number in your party and if you are interested in carpooling.

Sign up deadline: April 10, provided tickets are still available.

### Taylor and Booty Organbuilders Tour

Back by popular request, this repeat of our October tour, will be offered again by early spring. Look for details in the February newsletter. Coordinator: Charlie Page

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## 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).



### BUNCO

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 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, you are invited to come watch us play. Our next play date will be January n14 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 new year means the start of our first quarter round of dining out experiences. Readers familiar with GLNC's Dining Out group know that members simply sign up to go out to dinner and pay "Dutch treat." It is a great way to spend time with friends, both old and new while you eat a good meal. If you are not on the mailing list but would like to be included, simply email Chip Bouzard at [glnc.diningout@gmail.com](mailto:glnc.diningout@gmail.com) and request that your name be added to the mail list. While many 1st quarter spots have already been taken, a few remain.

Visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BA5AA22A0F9C07-61353020-glnc#/> to review your options or to sign up to dine. You will note that options for lunch dates are also available.

Thanks to our several superstar 1st quarter hosts:

Molly Larking & Beau Heller hosting at Remedy Burger in Staunton (Jan 15),

Dennis & Sharon Culbertson hosting at El Barco in Fishersville (Jan 20),

Mary Henslee & Steve Sanders, hosting at Zynodoa in Staunton (Feb 25),

Chip & Ramona Bouzard, hosting at Zun Zun in Lexington (Feb 25), and

Jo Ritterbusch & Lydia Shiver hosting at El Barco in Fishersville (Mar 30).

Finally, be sure that your computer inbox is not full and that [glnc.diningout@gmail.com](mailto:glnc.diningout@gmail.com) is not blocked so that you can receive occasional messages about this GLNC group



## 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 next tasting cycle will be 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 the hosts lined up, I will inform by email 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](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)

## THE BRIDGE CLUB OF LEXINGTON

Not a Newcomers Interest Group but may be of interest to some of our Newcomers!

Have you ever wanted to learn or play bridge? The Bridge Club of Lexington (BCL) plays for fun, friendship and award points. They are both a teaching and competitive club and welcome all levels from beginner to expert.

When: Mondays, starting January 5th, 12:30pm

Where: The Kendal Restaurant/Dining room Fee: \$3 per game

Lessons available: Buddy Carter [featherman53@yahoo.com](mailto:featherman53@yahoo.com) or 540-816-0425

Contact: Karen Jackson [kjaxon2001@yahoo.com](mailto:kjaxon2001@yahoo.com) or 540-460-5474 or Bob Textor [rbtextor@outlook.com](mailto:rbtextor@outlook.com) or 540-784-4969

*Join them for an opportunity to meet new people, refresh your skills or learn new ones, and enhance your memory skills.*



### Holiday Party Review

The holiday party jump started the festive season. The committee did a splendid job of mixing things up with an early ice breaker of card matching. Once you found your partner you had a few minutes to chat and get to know each other. A game of ring toss also provided entertainment. And, of course, the frame of snow people was there for picture taking. A nice variety of small plate food offered sustenance. Not to be overlooked was the dessert table. And the winners were

\*Dessert contest: 1st Barbara Ekin pavlova wreath      2nd Marilyn Murphy blueberry pie  
3rd Deb Bodner bourbon rum balls   \*M&M count John malusky   \*Toss game Charlie Page

