

Greater Lexington Newcomers Club Newsletter

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

Vol. 34 Issue 5 – February 2026

EDITOR: Christine Herman for Deb Bodner – newsletter@lexvanewcomers.org WEB SITE: John Ekin - www.lexvanewcomers.org

Next Month’s Meeting is March 4, 2026 – ALL ARE WELCOME!

At the Innovation Center – Rockbridge County High School
164 Greenhouse Road, Lexington, VA
10:00 a.m. Social; 10:30 a.m. Business Meeting Begins

Guest Speaker: Karen Stanley from Boxerwood Nature Center & Woodland Garden. She’ll share information about Boxerwood’s impact in the county, their programs, volunteering, and their newest addition, the Meadow natural cemetery.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Newcomer Friends,

It has been quite a month! We were sorry to cancel our February business meeting, but we found out that when the schools are declared closed, then the building is closed. Please be advised, as long as meet at the Innovation Center, during periods of inclement weather, check out information about school closings before heading out to the meeting. Besides missing a great presentation by Bill Kuhns (we hope to include that another time), we missed the opportunity to gather and catch up with one another and/or receive new members.

The Executive Team continues to talk about and research how we can best support the members, as well as, strengthen the club's sense of purpose. We are excited about the ideas you share and the leadership you offer as you volunteer your time and leadership in a welcoming way. Your efforts energize us all to improve our outreach to people in our community and to envision new ways to work together.

As you meet people around town (younger or older), remember to ask them questions about how their experience in our community and the ways a club like GLNC can support and strengthen their sense of connection. Then share what you have learned at one of our meetings, with an interest group leader, or someone on the Executive Team. What we learn from others (whether members, strangers, friends or neighbors) will help us strengthen our work of welcoming others.

I encourage you to try out a new interest group, attend a monthly meeting, or join a Special Activity event. I know you will find new friends and acquaintances, catch up with people you already know, and find support and energy for life.

Thanks for all you do to support and care for each other and our community.

Peace, Ramona Bouzard
President

OFFICERS
President Ramona Bouzard
Vice President Bill Kuhns
Treasurer John Ekin
Secretary Open Position
COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Activities Janet Gibson
Hospitality & Membership Barbara Ekin
Name Tags Barbara Ekin
Welcome Ashley Mon
Publicity Open Position

TREASURER’S REPORT

January 2026

Submitted by John Ekin 1/31/2026

Beginning Balance (Nov-Dec 2025 Report) \$ 2548.78

TOTAL INCOME	\$ 415.00
Dues 2025-2026	\$ 400.00
Refund of erroneous Zelle fee	\$ 15.00

TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$ (365.00)
Meeting expense (Room, Snacks & Drinks)	\$ (170.00)
2025 Holiday Party Expense Gift Certificates	\$ (120.00)
Gift Certificates for Monthly Mtg	\$ (75.00)

Ending Balance - January 31, 2026: \$ 2 598.78
This reconciled with the latest bank balance.

TREASURER’S REPORT for 2025 Holiday Party
Submitted by John Ekin 1/31/2026

TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1290.00
Holiday Party Income (86 Members)	\$ 1290.00
Refund of erroneous Zelle fee	\$ 15.00

TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$ (4124.63)
VHC Room Deposit	\$ (50.00)
VHC Room Rental	\$(3365.46)
VHC Catering & Drinks	\$ (120.00)
Dessert Judges Related Items (B Ekin)	\$ (75.00)
Table Decorations (S Culberson)	\$ (10.00)
Gift Certificates (A Mon)	\$ (45.00)
Cost of Jar of M&Ms (B Heller)	\$ (16.49)
Gift Certificates (B Heller)	\$ (120.00)

Net Cost - January 31, 2026: \$ (2834.63)

MEMBERSHIP

of Members: 192
- Includes 29 unpaid

To Update Your information, email:
membership@lexvanewcomers.org

Welcome new members:
❖ Please join us next month at our in-person meeting!

Payment:

- Future Payments:
 - Members paying dues/party fees in cash at meetings or events, will receive a receipt.
 - In the case of payment made by check, the member’s bank statement or copy of check written will be considered their receipt.

THINKING OF YOU



This month, a sympathy card was sent to Deb Bodner on the death of her husband, David Lusk.

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, email [Nimfa Szarka](mailto:Nimfa.Szarka) (or call 848-210-0154), our Corresponding Secretary, and she will send a card on behalf of the Newcomers.

HIGHLIGHTS

Dining Out – The Side Dish

February continues 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 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 upcoming 1st quarter hosts:

Coming Up:

- Feb 25: Mary Henslee & Steve Sanders, hosting at Zynodoa in Staunton
- Feb 25: Chip & Ramona Bouzard, hosting at Zun Zun in Lexington
- Mar 30: Jo Ritterbusch & Lydia Shiver hosting at El Barco in Fishersville

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



Happy Hour

Join us monthly for **Happy Hour** on the 2nd Wednesday.. Upcoming: **February 11th** and **March 11th** 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.

Wine Tasting

The wine tasting cycle continues in February, and we will be tasting Merlot. If you would like to be a host for six or more individuals during this period, please send an email to winegroupchair@lexvanewcomers.org. Please include the **date** you will host, **how many** you can accommodate, and whether it is an **afternoon or evening** time period. Currently we have two hosts and their groups are full. If you are interested in becoming a part of this group, please email winegroupchair@lexvanewcomers.org. Include your email address and name.

Bunko – 4th Thursday

The new contact for Bunko on the 4th Thursday is Jo Ritterbusch, blueridgecorgis@gmail.com 845-661-9075.

Men's Book Club

The Men's Book Club is currently at capacity. Stay tuned for future openings.

Pinochle

You are invited to come watch us play. Our next play date will be **February 11 at the home of Scott Risser**. Please contact Marilou Schindler at marilous@aol.com for more information.

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.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

The activities committee: Janet Gibson (janethgibson@gmail.com), Chair; Don Brooke (donbrooke@gmail.com), Charlie Page (chasdpage@gmail.com)

Sunday, February 8: Taylor and Boody Organ Builders Open House from 2-5:00 PM

Open house to celebrate the finish of the Opus 88 organ with music. Location: 8 Hewitt Road, Staunton. Visit their [website](https://www.taylorandboody.com/) for more information. See notes about parking.

<https://www.taylorandboody.com/>

Saturday, March 14 JMU Planetarium/Dinner/Steel Wheels Concert – Coordinator: Don Brooke

**John C. Wells
Planetarium**

If you registered for the original January 24 event: Steel Wheels will still perform but The Lone Below has been replaced by Emily King. Parking information will be sent out as the date approaches. First event is the planetarium at 3:00 pm. Here is a list of people attending so that some of you can carpool. If you are attending but not on the list, please contact Don Brooke.

Planetarium/Dinner/Show: Charlie and Peggy Page, Grace and Joe Simcoe, David and Marily Katz, Bo Heller and Molly Larking, Don Brooke, Bill and Cindy Kuhns

Planetarium/Dinner: Chip and Ramona Bouzard, Tom and Tammy Reitz, Pamela and Frank DeLar, Amanda Jordan, Janet Harte & Charles Sunday, Tim Tolley and his wife

Dinner/Show: Grace and Joe

Interested but not registered?

We plan to leave Lexington about 1:50 pm to attend the **3:30 pm free hour long show at the JMU Planetarium** [JMU Planetarium https://www.jmu.edu/planetarium/index.shtml](https://www.jmu.edu/planetarium/index.shtml). After the show we will dine at a yet to be determined restaurant and then attend a performance of the Steel Wheels and Emily King at Wilson Hall of JMU (<https://www.jmuforbescenter.com/events/2026/01/24-steel-wheels-lone-bellow.shtml>). A limited amount of tickets are currently available. Click on March 14 on the calendar to purchase. Please let Don (donbrooke@gmail.com) know if you plan to attend.

Saturday, April 11 THE LEWISBURG CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL – Coordinator: Janet Gibson

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. 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. Find out [more](https://greenbrierwv.com/events/lewisburg-chocolate-festival):

(<https://greenbrierwv.com/events/lewisburg-chocolate-festival>)

Online ticket sales begin March 1st. Purchase [here](https://visitlewisburgwv.com/lewisburg-chocolate-festival): <https://visitlewisburgwv.com/lewisburg-chocolate-festival>. It is recommended to purchase tickets in advance. FYI: Tickets are non-refundable.

SIGN UP – Deadline is April 8: Once you buy your tickets, let Janet janethgibson@gmail.com know. Include your name, number in your party and if you are interested in carpooling.

**TBD April: Taylor and Boody Organ Builders Tour** – Coordinator: Charlie Page

By request, Charlie is organizing another chance for the popular Taylor & Boody tour for mid-to-late April. More details to follow.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 10:00am GLNC Meeting	5	6 TBD Hiking TBD Board Silly	7
8	9	10	11 1:30pm Pinochle 5:00pm Happy Hour TBD Poker	12	13 TBD Hiking TBD Morning Coffee/Tea	14
15	16	17	18 1:00pm Bunko	19	20 TBD Hiking	21
22	23	24	25 TBD Dining Out – Zynodoa TBD Dining Out – Zun Zun	26 9:00am Bunko	27 TBD Hiking TBD Morning Coffee/Tea	28
Other: Men’s Book Group – Date/Time TBD Dining Out – Date/Time (See Schedule) Wine Tasting – Date/Time TBD				Upcoming: Taylor and Booty Organ Builders Tour – TBD The Lewisburg Chocolate Festival – Saturday, April 11, 2026		

March 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 10:00am GLNC Meeting	5	6 TBD Hiking TBD Board Silly	7
8	9	10	11 1:30pm Pinochle 5:00pm Happy Hour/Devil’s Backbone TBD Poker	12	13 TBD Hiking TBD Morning Coffee/Tea	14 JMU Planetarium/Dinner/Steel Wheels Concert
15	16	17	18 1:00pm Bunko	19	20 TBD Hiking	21
22	23	24	25	26 9:00am Bunko	27 TBD Hiking TBD Morning Coffee/Tea	28
29	30 TBD Dining Out – El Barco	31				
Other: Men’s Book Group – Date/Time TBD Dining Out – Date/Time (See Schedule) Wine Tasting – Date/Time TBD				Upcoming: Taylor and Boody Organ Builders Tour – April TBD The Lewisburg Chocolate Festival – Saturday, April 11, 2026		

See following pages for more information about INTEREST GROUPS.

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).

For now, photos can also be sent to communications.lexvanewcomers@gmail.com for the newsletter. Send to [Jo Ritterbusch](#) for the FaceBook page. Please take some photos at your next get together and send them to any of us.

INTEREST GROUPS

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



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.



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.

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.



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.



PINOCHLE

The Pinochle group meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 1:30. We play double-deck Pinochle and have 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. 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.



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 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.

Finally, be sure that your computer inbox is not full and that 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).



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.



MEN’S BOOK GROUP

The Men’s Book Group is currently at capacity, but it’s a great opportunity to share insights and experiences and just hang out.

The host is Scott Lorz at 805-403-0138 or email scottloorz@yahoo.com.