

# Greater Lexington Newcomers Club Newsletter

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

Vol. 34 Issue 6 – March 2026

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## 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

## Next Month's Meeting is April 1, 2026 – ALL ARE WELCOME!

At the Innovation Center – Rockbridge County High School

164 Greenhouse Road, Lexington, VA

5:30 p.m. Social; 6:00 p.m. Business Meeting Begins

Guest Speaker: GLNC Vice President, Bill Kuhns, will share information about 3-D printing including personal experience.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Newcomer Friends,

I hope you will join us for our March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Rockbridge County High School Innovation Center. We meet at 10:00 a.m. for coffee/tea and treats, as well as open time to meet new people and catch up on life with friends. We will receive updates from our Interest Group and Special Activities leaders and hear a presentation by Karen Stanley about Boxerwood, its work, innovative programs, and its impact on Rockbridge County.

I know you are hard at work in our communities, but here are ideas to ponder as you consider your support for our club's work as we welcome others to our area:

- Can I take time to invite new people to our meetings, special activities, or interest group events?
- Might I ask another member to attend our meetings or other events with me? (Some people are hesitant to come to events on their own).
- Do I pick up club business cards and/or brochures at business meetings so I can share them with others in the community?
- Have I invited others to volunteer for worthy causes in the Rockbridge area?
- Might I volunteer to help with GLNC publicity, monthly meeting hospitality, recording secretary (position still open) or partner with another person to start a new interest group?
- Can I stay in touch with one or two new members to encourage and support them?

We hope to see you at our Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. There is plenty of parking on the Innovation Center end of the High School building and the check-in process takes only about 30 seconds!

Also, remember that our April 1<sup>st</sup> business meeting is an evening meeting, at 5:30 PM gathering time!

Peace, Ramona Bouzard

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**February 2026**

**Submitted by John Ekin 2/28/2026**

**Beginning Balance (January 2026 Report) \$ 2548.78**

|                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                | <b>\$ 403.64</b> |
| Dues 2025-2026                     | \$ 380.00        |
| Automatic deposit via PayPal error | \$ 23.64         |

|                                   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>            | <b>\$ (38.68)</b> |
| Repayment of PayPal error         | \$ (25.00)        |
| Stationary                        | \$ (13.68)        |
| Gift Certificates for Monthly Mtg | \$ (75.00)        |

**Ending Balance – February 28, 2026: \$ 2963.74**  
 This reconciled with the latest bank balance.

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

No updates this month.

**THINKING OF YOU**



*(No cards were sent this month.)*

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.

**Rockbridge Conservation Announcement**

Rockbridge Conservation is trying to get the word out to local residents about recycling in Lexington, Buena Vista, and Rockbridge County.

This link will provide information about where to recycle, and what can be recycled along with additional information.

<https://rockbridgeconservation.org/2022/08/23/recycling-in-rockbridge-lexington-buena-vista/>

## HIGHLIGHTS

## Dining Out

**Dining Out – The Side Dish** Although at the time of this writing, the weather remains stubbornly blustery, spring will eventually arrive. And with spring's arrival will be a new quarter of GLNC Dining Out experiences. Please consider hosting a dining out experience any time in the months of April, May, or June. It is a light lift: make a reservation at a restaurant (you may have to call them directly during business hours) and then let Chip Bouzard know the details by writing to him at [glnc.diningout@gmail.com](mailto:glnc.diningout@gmail.com). Please consider making the reservations for an odd number of people so that single members feel welcome. Hopefully, we will have some selections by next month's newsletter!

Meanwhile, one venue remains on the first quarter schedule. On March 20 at 3:00 PM you can dine early at El Barco (12 Old Oaks Dr, Fishersville, VA). Click here to sign up: [Sign up for El Barco](#)

If you would like to be included in the e-mail list for this group, drop Chip Bouzard a note



*Dining Out Group at Zun Zun in Lexington  
(L to R: Joe Little, Lee Charlton, Duncan Charlton, Chip Bouzard,  
Ramona Bouzard, Deb Bodner)*

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If you would like to be included in the e-mail list for this group, drop Chip Bouzard a note at [glnc.diningout@gmail.com](mailto:glnc.diningout@gmail.com).

## Wine Tasting

The next tasting cycle will be April and May, and we will be tasting **Sauvignon Blanc**. If you would like to be a host for six or more individuals during this period, please let me (Marilou Schindler) know the date you will host, how many you can accommodate, and whether it is an afternoon or evening time period. If you are interested in becoming a part of this group or would like more information, please email me at [winegroupchair@lexvanewcomers.org](mailto:winegroupchair@lexvanewcomers.org) with your email address and name. New wine tasters are welcome.

## Pinochle

The Pinochle group meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 1:30. We are always **seeking new players** who know how to play or are interested in learning the game. Currently, we have eight players, but we **need substitutes**. Please contact Marilou Schindler at [pinochle@lexvanewcomers.org](mailto:pinochle@lexvanewcomers.org) for more information.



## Happy Hour

Join us monthly for **Happy Hour** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday. Upcoming: March 11th from 5-7 at **Devil's Backbone**. It's a great chance to socialize.

**SPECIAL 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))

**Saturday, March 14 JMU Planetarium/Dinner/Steel Wheels Concert** – Coordinator: Don Brooke**John C. Wells  
Planetarium**

As you all know, the January 24 Steel Wheel event was cancelled and rescheduled for March 14. The Steel Wheels will still be performing but Lone Bellow has been replaced by Driftwood. There may still be some seats available for the performance. Check the Forbes Center for Performing Arts at JMU. The first event will be at the planetarium at 3:30 pm (Back to the Moon). The parking for the Planetarium is the Mason Street parking deck which is free but only park in spaces without any marking. Mostly on levels 3 to 5. Arrive at the Planetarium early to be sure to get a seat. After the Planetarium show we will drive to the Wood Grill Buffet for dinner (7 minutes away). When arriving there ask for the area reserved under my name (Don Brooke). After dinner we will drive back to JMU campus and park in the Warsaw Avenue parking garage and walk to the Wilson Hall where the show will be held starting at 7 pm.

Below is a list of people attending if you wish to carpool . If you are attending but are not on the list please let me know ([donbrooke@gmail.com](mailto:donbrooke@gmail.com)):

Planetarium/Dinner/Show: Charlie and Peggy Page, David and Marilyn 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 and Charles Sunday, Tim Tolley and his wife

Dinner/Show: Grace and Joe Simcoe

**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 @ visitlewisburgwv.com](https://visitlewisburgwv.com)

Tickets are now on sale. It is recommended to purchase tickets in advance. Tickets are non-refundable. Purchase [here https://visitlewisburgwv.com/lewisburg-chocolate-festival](https://visitlewisburgwv.com/lewisburg-chocolate-festival)

**SIGN UP:** Once you buy your tickets, let Janet [janethgibson@gmail.com](mailto:janethgibson@gmail.com) know. Include your name, number in your party and if you are interested in carpooling.

Sign up deadline to receive more information: April 8

**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**

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

| April 2026 |        |         |  |                           |  |   |
|------------|--------|---------|--|---------------------------|--|---|
| Sunday     | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday  | Thursday                  | Friday   | Saturday                                  |
|            |        |         | 1<br>10:00am <b>GLNC Meeting</b>   | 2                         | 3<br>TBD <b>Hiking</b><br>TBD <b>Board Silly</b>         | 4   |
| 5          | 6      | 7       | 8<br>1:30pm <b>Pinochle</b><br>5:00pm <b>Happy Hour/Devil's Backbone</b><br>TBD <b>Poker</b> | 9                         | 10<br>TBD <b>Hiking</b><br>TBD <b>Morning Coffee/Tea</b> | 11<br><b>Lewisburg Chocolate Festival</b> |
| 12         | 13     | 14      | 15<br>1:00pm <b>Bunko</b>  | 16                        | 17<br>TBD <b>Hiking</b>                                  | 18  |
| 19         | 20     | 21      | 22   | 23<br>9:00am <b>Bunko</b> | 24<br>TBD <b>Hiking</b><br>TBD <b>Morning Coffee/Tea</b> | 25  |
| 26         | 27     | 28      | 29   | 30                        |  |   |

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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.



### 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 [pinochle@lexvanewcomers.org](mailto:pinochle@lexvanewcomers.org) 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).



### 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.

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). More information: [winegroupchair@lexvanewcomers.org](mailto:winegroupchair@lexvanewcomers.org)



### 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).



### 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](mailto:scottloorz@yahoo.com).