

Greater Lexington Newcomers

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

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Vol. 24 Issue 4 – January 2016

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Newcomers,

Happy New Year, to all of you. We have all, probably, made a few resolutions to work towards. Good luck, you have the whole year to work on them. Thanks to all the brave souls who came out on the frigid Wednesday morning for our meeting. We had thirty two members and one guest. The staff at the Country Club has figured out a good set up so we have a lot of room to visit with each other.

This year is off to a great start with all of our groups. Check this newsletter to see what is being planned. If something looks like you might be interested, don't hesitate to get in touch with the contact person. Helen Moore, the Yoga Group instructor said how humbled she was by the growth of the group. It started about 3 years ago with about 4 participants and now there are up to 18 joining the group. All who participate love it. Look for her article below for place and time.

The Wine Tasting Group is without a Leader. Jim Slack, now retired, will work with the new Leader to get them up and running. This could also be done by two people. If you and a friend have enjoyed the Wine Group over the years please consider helping out. I would hate to see this very popular group miss the next set of Tastings set for spring. Planning needs to start by the end of this month. Please, please help us out!!

The only group that doesn't have room for more members is the Fourth Thursday Book Club (only women). If any of you ladies want to start up a second group we would help you get it started. Please contact me if you are interested.

The Bylaw Committee met and made appropriate changes. They are printed in full below with the changes highlighted. The members will be able to give comments at next month's meeting. If there are no changes a vote will be taken to accept them as amended. Please read them over.

I want to thank Ray Leinbach and his committee for a great Holiday Party. Everyone seemed to have a great time and kept the party going. We might have to extend the time next year. Any input would be welcome. The good news is that Ray will be on board next year.

Hope you are settling into the New Year and enjoying this lovely area that we live in. I am still finding out new places to go and things to do. Our club is such a support to connect us to each other and our area.

Next meeting is February 3 at 10:00 Lexington Country Club. We always allow a lot of visiting time before the meeting. See you there, if not before.

Jane Stange, President

pstange@embarqmail.com

CLUB OFFICERS

President

Jane Stange

Vice President

Mike Lowry

Treasurer

Nancy Wright

Corresponding Secretary

Margaret Skovira

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Activities

Shelly Undercoffer

Hospitality

Phil Crudden

Membership

Bill Docekal

Name Tags

Marilou Schindler

Publicity

Sally Nunneley

Welcome

Kim Crudden

Membership Report



Directory instructions:

1. Call up our Homepage, www.lexvanewcomers.org, click on Membership.
2. Click on “Click here to lookup a member” or “Print out a current Directory”
3. Our username is: **lexcomer** Our password is: **member5**
4. To print the directory, set your “Properties” to “Duplex Printing” so to have front and back printing. Choose the % you wish to see – I use 80% to print more on each page.

Our club increased its membership by 1 over the past month. We welcome the following Newcomer:

Janet Hughes
225 McClung Place
Lexington, VA 24450
[832-228-7022](tel:832-228-7022)
Ukprim8@gmail.com

As for now, our membership stands at 189.

Bill Docekal – Membership chair.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

JANUARY

Shakespeare's *The Tempest*

Saturday , 30 January, 2:00
Blackfriars Theater, Staunton

Tickets: \$42-\$49 estimate, depending on seats and amount of people going.

For those wanting to have lunch prior to the play, we will meet at Mill Street Grill at 12:00. Everyone else meet at 1:40 at Blackfriars.

For carpooling I will send out an email to everyone going prior to the event.

Coming up: Spring Trip to Maymount, Roanoke Food and Beverage Tour, and planning for an overnight. If you have any ideas please email me. We will have a monthly schedule sent out soon. Please contact Shelley Undercoffer for reservations and questions. 461-0623 sunder4@juno.com

THINKING OF YOU



Has a member had an operation, a new grandchild? Is a significant anniversary coming up, or has someone lost a loved one? Please send me an email with the member's name, and address if you know it, and I will send congratulations or condolences as appropriate from Newcomers.

Address to: mskovira3@gmail.com or call 464-1555. Thank you!

In December get well cards were sent to Pam Grinder and Kay Lera. Sympathy cards were sent to Dick Rathmell (death of his great-grandson), and Jane Dunlap (death of her mother).

Margaret Skovira, Corresponding Secretary

**Treasurers Report
11/01/15 – 12/31/15
Submitted by Nancy Wright**

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 6,522.08
INCOME	
Dues	\$ 270.00
Holiday Party	\$ 1,410.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1,680.00
TOTAL	\$ 8,202.08



DISBURSEMENTS	
Room Rent	\$ 60.00
Holiday Party	\$ 3,746.86
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 3,806.86
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 4,395.22

FROM THE HISTORIAN



Don't forget to send your activity photos to Gary Sullivan for the on-line photo album.

garysullivan@rockbridge.net

INTEREST GROUPS

Interest group participants must be members of Newcomers. To join an interest group, call or email the contact person.



Dining In/Fine Dining Group

Our Winter session runs from January through March. New members are always welcome to join in the fun!

Members attend three dinners per year and members are required to host once every 4 sessions (depending on the total number of members). The Fine Dining coordinator assigns groups so that you will eat with different members at each dinner. Hosts plan the menu, coordinate selecting the date among their guests and assign recipes to their guests. Costs for meals are split evenly among all attending each dinner so that hosting isn't a costly burden.

Contact Grace Simcoe at gsimcoe@gmail.com if you're interested in knowing more about Fine Dining.

Dining Out

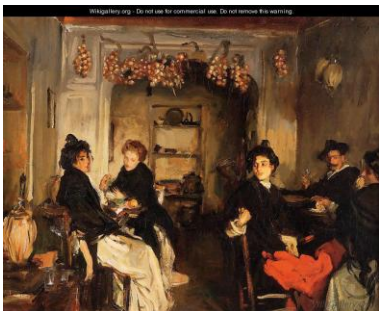


The Dining Group is looking for hosts for the spring session (February/March/April) and Summer session (May/June/July). If you

have not yet volunteered to host Dining Out, please sign up for one of these two sessions. All spring hosts need to submit their selection of restaurant, date and time by January 15 in order for members to be notified of the dining options by January 20.

The group consists of members who are interested in experiencing various dining out venues within a reasonable drive of the Lexington area. Venues have included restaurants within a 60 to 90 minutes drive. Though 90 minutes is pushing the limit a little, sometimes there is a place to dine that is too enticing to pass up. We dine out three times a year in September through November, January through March, and April through June. Members are expected to volunteer to host a dining out venue at least once a year. Each of three quarters, members will be requested to sign up as host then provide me with the name, address, and phone number of the restaurant of choice and web page, if available. Hosts indicate how many members can attend, provide a date and time, make sure that individual bills are acceptable to the restaurant as each member pays individually, confirm the booking about a week prior to the event and remind participants by email or phone.

If you are new to Newcomers, please contact Dorothy Coker at [540-348-6248](tel:540-348-6248) or cedarbranchhollow@gmail.com to be added to the distribution list.



Wine Tasting Notice

The Wine Tasting Group meets three times a year (March-April, June-July, and October-November) to taste wines. The group tastes a

selection of six wines each time. The tastings are blind. They are usually, but not always, based on a single grape or region (e.g., Zinfandel, Chardonnay, Chianti).

If you would like to join the wine tasting group, email Jim Slack at Public@Termineigh.com.

Help Wanted

New Wine Tasting Chair Needed

Jim Slack has retired as the chair of the wine tasting group after leading the group for three years. It is time for someone else to lead the group. Jim said that he has thoroughly enjoyed leading the group. He noted that the Newcomers' wine tasters have been an excellent and pleasant group to work with. Please consider taking over as the chair of this group.



BUNKO!

Come roll with the Bunko ladies! We meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm. If you are interested in learning to play, we would love to teach you. Currently we are adding to our sub list. Please contact Sharon Littley at slittley@gmu.edu or 703-625-0870 for more information.



Pinochle Club

The pinochle club is entering its third year of play. Since its inception one couple came forward to join the Schindler's to play the game. We use a combination of minor rules in playing. The standard rules are that every player receives twenty cards. The order of power is Ace high, ten, King, queen, jack. Trump is the suit called by the winning bidder. Points are given for the following: a run in the trump suit, a single marriage in any suit, an ace in each suit, a king in each suit, a queen in each suit, a jack in each suit, a marriage in each suit, a pinochle (queen of spades and jack of diamonds), and for double aces, Kings, queens, jacks, and pinochle. Determining the points you have in your hand helps to determine if you want to bid and how high you are willing to go. More on the rules of the game next month.

After two games of play (90 minutes to two hours) The hosting couple provides a snack and beverage. Hosting rotates between the couples at an agreed upon time. We look forward to having other singles and/ or couples join us. There are rules to play three handed as well as four handed.

Call Marilou at 291-2992 for more information or the date and location of the next play.



Dining Before Dealing

(clockwise) Jane Stange, Shelley Undercoffer, Deb Gordon, Suzanne King, Andie Pollock, Donna Garnett, Aline McKenna, Cynthia Tucker, Shirley Dent, Terry Fridley, Gloria Gorlin, Carolyn Rapoza, and Sharon Littley

Canasta Group

Most of the regular canasta players and many of the substitutes met for lunch at the Southern Inn on Thursday, December 3, and then went to Cynthia Tucker's to play canasta and have dessert.

Canasta meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at members' homes. Anyone interested in being a substitute please contact Cynthia Tucker, 540-463-3344 or cmtucker@comcast.net.

Fourth Thursday Book Club

The Fourth Thursday book club will meet at 1:00 at Nora Gaty's to discuss our first book of the New Year, *The Light Between Oceans*, by M. L. Stedman. This is a mesmerizing Australian novel set on an remote island off the coast of Western Australia. The lighthouse keeper and his wife's quiet life is challenged when a boat with a dead man and a crying baby washes up on the shore. Only years later do they discover the devastating consequences of the decision they made that day. Terry Fridley will lead the discussion.



Fourth Thursday II Book Club

Wanted: Book Club Members

Looking to share your ideas and reactions to books? Look no further!

The 4th Thursday II Book club is looking for new members. Over the next 12 months we will be reading the following books:

[A Portrait of the Artist As a Young Man](#) by James Joyce

[The Nightingale](#) by Kristin Hannah

[The Game of Kings](#) (Lymond Chronicles, 1) by Dorothy Dunnett

[Geronimo: Leadership Strategies of an American Warrior](#) by Mike Leach and Buddy Levy

[The Swerve: How the World Became Modern](#) by Stephen Greenblatt Ph.D.

[Friends, Lovers, Chocolate](#) (Isabel Dalhousie Series) by Alexander McCall Smith

[All the Light We Cannot See](#) by Anthony Doerr

[My Life on the Road](#) by Gloria Steinem

As you can see from this list, we are a diverse group of open-minded thinkers/readers. Our purpose is to read and enjoy literature! Generally we keep on topic but also feel free to introduce relevant (or not so) to the discussion such as historical facts, bio details, book background, related authors or topics, and personal connections. Being able to disagree with something another member has stated is an important constant in our discussions. At times we may get off track but we always respect the authority of the moderator. We usually meet at each other's homes (host) with a moderator, the individual who chose the book, leading the discussion.

Yoga Group



The Newcomers' Yoga group meets weekly on Tuesday mornings at 8:30 in the Fitness Center at Kendal. The Center is down the hill and

behind the main building, but we are requested to park our cars in the guest parking lot, anywhere on the circle.

Our class is appropriate to all levels, and individual needs are addressed with modifications. Bring your mat, wear some comfy clothes, and join us for an hour of gentle stretching, conditioning and strengthening in a union of mind, body and spirit.

Please call Helen Moore at 850-240-5619 if you have any questions.



Hiking Group Soup Party

The Newcomers Hiking Group hikes every Friday weather permitting. If you would like to be on the email list just email Don Brooke, donbrooke@gmail.com, or Debbie Maurer, mountaintoppers@exede.net.

CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 8 Hiking Group
- 12 Yoga
- 13 Pinochle
- 15 Hiking Group
- 19 Yoga
- 20 Bunko
- 22 Hiking Group
- 26 Yoga
- 26 Canasta
- 28 4th Thursday Book Club
- 28 4th Thursday II Book Club
- 29 Hiking Group
- 30 Shakespeare's *The Tempest*

FEBRUARY

- 2 Yoga
- 3 **Club Meeting**
- 5 Hiking Group
- 9 Yoga
- 10 Pinochle
- 12 Hiking Group
- 16 Yoga
- 17 Bunko
- 19 Hiking Group
- 23 Yoga
- 23 Canasta
- 25 4th Thursday Book Club
- 25 4th Thursday II Book Club
- 26 Hiking Group



Holiday Party Decorations



Cynthia Tucker, Kathy Gillette (guest), Gloria Gorland, Shirley Best, Pat Cleaveland Graham Undercoffer, Jack Littley, Shelley Undercoffer, Sharon Littley waiting to ride antique carousel at Back Home on the Farm



New Member Coffee



Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens Group



New Member Coffee



Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens

President Jane Stanger appointed a by-law review committee. Members were: Jane Stange, Mike and Jan Lowry, Linda Andrews, Phil Crudden, Terri Scholl, Pat Anthony and Nancy Wright. They met November 9 and submitted the following changes to the Executive Committee for review. The Executive Committee presents the following changes to be discussed at the January meeting and voted on at the February meeting. ~~A blue stick through denotes a deletion.~~ *Red italics denotes an addition.*

Greater Lexington Newcomers' Club

Bylaws

Amended ~~April 2007~~ *February 2016*

Article 1: Name

Section 1

This Club shall be known as the Greater Lexington Newcomers' Club.

Article 2: Mission Statement

Section 1

The purpose of the Greater Lexington Newcomers' Club is to bring together persons new to the Lexington-Rockbridge County area in an inclusive social setting. The Club strives to promote varied activities that foster the opportunity for friendship, social interaction and a sense of belonging among its members. It is ~~strictly~~ a social *and informational* organization, and, as such, is not to be used for promotion of any cause, no matter how worthy.

Article 3: Membership

Section 1

The Club membership is open to residents who have lived in Rockbridge County or any of its municipalities no more than five (5) years when they join. To qualify for Club membership, one must (a) reside within the boundaries of Rockbridge County or one of its municipalities; or (b) have a residence with a Rockbridge address. The latter restriction does not apply to anyone who is a member in good standing as of September 2003 and has maintained a paid membership. The length of time one may remain a member is unlimited. Having met these requirements, any person wishing to become a member is accepted upon payment of dues. ~~Only one payment per household is required, and membership shall include spouses/partners.~~ *Dues are charged on a per person basis.*

Section 2

Attendance at Club functions is limited to the members. ~~Single members of the Club may always bring one guest.~~ Occasional additional guests are permitted, but on a space-available basis.

Section 3

The Club year runs from September through August. Membership dues are payable beginning in July and are due by the October meeting. New members joining at or after the March meeting will pay one-half the annual dues rate. Renewing members who pay prior to the September meeting are guaranteed the current dues rate. As of the October meeting date, renewing members are subject to any dues increase.

Section 4

Any member failing to pay dues by the November meeting shall be considered terminated. Such former members may be reinstated within two (2) years of the active membership upon payment of current year dues. A former member is eligible for reinstatement one time only.

Section 5

It is the responsibility of the member to update the ~~Newsletter~~ *Membership* Chairman with personal contact information, especially a current e-mail address.

Article 4: Meetings

Section 1

The general membership of the Club shall meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. The meeting place shall be decided by the Executive Committee with approval by the membership. The club typically does not meet in December and August, but a meeting may be called by the Executive Committee to take place in either of these months if considered advantageous due to the press of business or other circumstances.

Section 2

Groups that are subsidiaries of the Club shall determine their own meeting date and place.

Section 3

In the event of inclement weather, the general meeting is cancelled if the Rockbridge County schools are closed.

Section 4

The purpose of the general meetings shall be to conduct Club business and can allow for the occasional speaker on a topic deemed to be of interest to the majority of the membership. The Executive ~~Council~~ *Committee* will be responsible for authorizing appropriate speakers and topics. ~~As noted elsewhere in the By-Laws;~~ Speakers may not represent ~~charitable~~-political, ~~or~~ business interests *or solicit funds for charities*. Information about nonprofit organizations and events may be distributed at the general meeting by way of a flyer or poster placed on the Activities table. All information must be approved by the President prior to the day of the meeting. The Welcome Committee Chairman determines appropriate placement of flyers or posters.

Article 5: Government

Section 1

The governing body of this Club shall be the Executive Committee, which is comprised of the Officers and the Immediate Past President.

Section 2

The Executive Committee prepares the annual budget for membership approval, transacts routine business between general meetings, ~~and~~ acts in emergencies *and reviews by-laws*.

Section 3

The Club By-Laws may be amended *as presented by the Executive Committee*, at a general meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present, with one month's advance notice *published in the newsletter*.

Section 4

Business proceedings of the Club shall be conducted in accordance with "Robert's Rules of Order," except that business may be conducted at General Meetings without the necessity of a quorum.

Section 5

Mailing lists, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses are for Club use only. They may not be used for other purposes nor may they be shared with non-Club members.

Article 6: Election of Officers and Standing Committee Chairmen

Section 1

The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee in March consisting of the Executive Committee and at least three members-at-large. The committee shall present a slate of officers plus standing committee chairmen at the May general meeting.

Section 2

Nominations from the floor shall be in order at that same meeting.

Section 3

The annual election of officers and standing committee chairmen shall be held at the June general meeting. The elected term of all officers shall be for one year, beginning August 1st and ending July 31st, with the Vice-President rising to the office of President the succeeding year.

Article 7: Officers

Section 1

The officers of the Club shall be elected by the membership and shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2

Each officer must be a member in good standing and must have been a Club member for a minimum of one (1) year.

Section 3

In lieu of a recording secretary, the Monthly Newsletter shall serve as the official Club record.

Section 4

No officer shall be eligible to be elected to the same office for more than three (3) years, with the exception of the Treasurer who may serve a longer term if such is approved by the Executive Committee.

Article 8: Duties of Officers

Section 1

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and of the Executive Committee. The President shall appoint, as needed, the chairmen of the standing and special committees. The President has the authority to sign checks in the absence of the Treasurer *and authorize an annual audit*.

Section 2

The Vice-President shall preside at meetings of the Club and Executive Committee in the absence of the President and perform such other duties as the President may direct including reserving space at a restaurant for lunch after each meeting. The Vice-President shall also review, and present to the Executive Committee for approval, the written proposal presented by a potential new interest group. This review is to ensure that the interest group complies with Article 2 of the By-laws.

Section 3

The Corresponding Secretary shall send cards to any member in the event of illness, ~~or~~ bereavement *or special occasion* and submit a report each month for publication in the newsletter.

Section 4

The Treasurer shall pay all bills approved by the Executive Committee. ~~and, in the event of death of a member, send a \$25 remembrance to the family's charity of choice.~~ The Treasurer shall also make available a written report of all receipts and expenditures at each general meeting. The financial information of the Club shall be posted in the newsletter and on the Club website.

Article 9: Committees

Section 1

Committees for the Club shall be divided into two categories: Standing and Special.

Section 2

The Standing Committees shall be: Activities, ~~Directory~~, Historian, Membership, Newsletter, Publicity, and Welcome.

Section 3

No standing committee chairman shall be eligible to hold the same chairmanship more than ~~two~~ *five* consecutive years.

Section 4

Special Committees shall be: Holiday Party, Nominating, Picnic and Fall Event.

Section 5

The Executive Committee has the authority to appoint other Special Committees as needed.

Section 6

The Executive Committee shall appoint a Webmaster and Associate Webmaster. These persons shall maintain the Club website to maximize use of its features. The Webmaster and Associate Webmaster are exempt from any limitation on the length of term, and shall serve at the pleasure of the Executive Committee.

Article 10: Committee Duties

Section 1--Standing Committees

A. **Activities Committee** shall plan a minimum of ten activities per year. Information about such activities shall be announced at the general meetings and publicized in the Newsletter.

~~B. **Directory Committee** shall compile and edit the directory booklet to be distributed to the membership at the November meeting.~~

~~B. C.~~ **Historian** keeps a file of all Club newsletters, newspaper clippings, photographs and other material of interest to the life of the Club.

~~C. D.~~ **Hospitality Committee** shall implement as many New Member Coffees per Club year as

are appropriate. The committee will solicit hosts; coordinate dates and arrangements with the hosts, recently enrolled members, and officers; and provide sign-up sheets and name tags for attendees. Specific guidelines regarding reimbursement procedures will be established yearly by the Hospitality Committee, in accordance with the annual budget for New Member Coffees.

D. E. Membership Committee shall be responsible for maintaining enrollment forms, ~~and the membership data base and shall distribute directories to members not at the November meeting and to new members joining after November~~ *work with the webmaster to maintain the on-line membership directory*. The committee shall send renewal reminders each August.

E. F. Newsletter Chairman shall gather and assemble all pertinent information for the monthly newsletter, including officers' remarks and activities and interest group reports. The newsletter is posted to the Club's web site, and members are notified by email. ~~One copy of each newsletter shall be provided to the Historian for the official Club record.~~

F. G. Publicity Chairman shall provide news releases to local newspapers in advance of each monthly meeting; *develop and maintain informational flier to promote the club*. News releases on ~~other~~ activities and events *should* ~~are to~~ be *published submitted*, with pictures, when available

G. H. Welcome Committee shall organize the meeting room with needs of new members in mind. ~~This Committee needs to arrive at 9:30 a.m.~~ An attendance roster shall be provided at each meeting. Committee chairman shall recruit volunteers who will greet newer members and guests, assist them in navigating the room, and introduce new members/guests to the Club. The Welcome Committee chairman shall determine the placement of sign-up sheets and other information. Committee chairman shall appoint one person to be responsible for preparing and maintaining name tags for all members.

Section 2--Special Committees

A. **Holiday Party Committee**, appointed by the President, plans the site, date, food and entertainment (if any) for the annual Holiday Party held in December.

B. **Picnic Committee**, appointed by the President, plans the site, date, food and entertainment if any) for the annual Club Picnic held in July.

C. **Nominating Committee** is responsible for presenting, at the May meeting, a slate of officers plus standing committee chairmen for the following year.

D. **Fall Event Committee**, appointed by the President, plans the site, date, food and entertainment (if any) for the annual Fall Event.

Article 11: Events, Activities and Interest Groups

Section 1

Club functions are divided into three categories: Events, Activities and Interest Groups. **Events** are held annually and are partially underwritten by the Club. **Activities** are non-recurring functions within a calendar year. **Interest Groups** meet more than once a year on a regular basis.

Section 2

Events consist of the Club Picnic, Holiday Party and Fall Event. The Club will underwrite these events in accordance with the annual budget, including an alcohol and beverage control license when required. All other expenses for these events shall be borne by the participants.

Section 3

In planning Club events and activities, the chairperson is strongly encouraged to secure a written contract for the site and from the suppliers.

Section 4

In the event that excessive monies accrue in the Club treasury, and upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, an additional underwritten event shall be planned. The choice of event must be voted upon by the membership from several proposals presented at a general meeting with at least one month's notice.

Section 5

All Activities and Interest Groups are financially self-sustaining. These groups may adopt a "no-refund" rule to preserve the event(s) for others.

Section 6

Activity Chairmen and Interest Group leaders shall publicize their activities in the Club newsletter.

Section 7

Events and activities must be open to all Club members. Because we are a private organization, interest groups may be formed to meet the specific needs of the membership. Gender-specific groups are permitted. A written proposal for a potential new interest group must be submitted to the Vice-President.

Section 8

To participate in any function of the Club, one must be either a member in good standing or a guest of a member in good standing.

Section 9

To remain a member in good standing of an interest group, members must fulfill their responsibility to the group. Failure to do so will result in the non-compliant member being excluded from participation in that group for the remainder of the Club year, and not being eligible for inclusion in the group the following Club year.

Section 10

Driver reimbursement for carpooling should generously cover the expenses of the trip and be divided among the passengers.

Article 12: Finances

Section 1

The rate of annual dues shall be determined by the Executive Committee when the annual budget is prepared. Any change in dues must be approved by the membership.

Section 2

At the September general meeting, the Executive Committee shall present a budget for the year, which shall be voted upon by the membership at the October general meeting. The budget will be published in the September newsletter.

Section 3

In an emergency, the Executive Committee is authorized to expend funds without membership approval in an amount not to exceed \$200.