

Greater Lexington Newcomers

EDITOR: MARGARET SKOVIRA - newsletter@lexvanewcomers.org 348-1093

WEB SITE: <http://www.lexvanewcomers.org>

MEETINGS ARE HELD THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE VIRGINIA HORSE CENTER ON ROUTE 39 (2ND LEVEL).

UPCOMING CLUB ACTIVITIES SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2005

*Note: Drivers of car pools will be compensated for gasoline.
Call the contact for the activity to see how this will be handled.*

September

7: General Meeting at the Horse Center, Lexington, 10:00 AM.

24: "Down and Dirty Night" at Natural Bridge Dragstrip

Everyone needs to arrive by 6:30 PM before the race begins at 7:00. The cost is \$13.00 which includes money for fried chicken which will be provided. Bring your drinks, cups and ice, and a salad, vegetable or dessert to share. Plates, napkins and plastic ware will be furnished. Contact Mary Brooks, 463-6643.

28: Trip to Monticello, VA.

We will meet at Peebles parking lot at 8:30 AM. Cost for admission is \$11 for a group of 25. Regular admission is \$14.00. Sign ups and money need to be in by September 21. Lunch will be at a nearby restaurant. Contact Mary Brooks, 463-6643.

October

5: General Meeting at the Horse Center, Lexington, 10:00 AM. **Morale Gal activity**, see page 4. Lunch following the meeting at Mugg's (formerly Sweet Magnolia).

14: D Day Memorial in Bedford, VA and lunch at the Old Train Station. Contact Cathy and Bill Broach, 261-3141, to sign up.

21: Antiquing around Harrisonburg and lunch at the Village Inn. We will meet at Peebles parking lot at 9 AM. Contact Ava Hughes, 463-2452.

November

2: General Meeting at the Horse Center, Lexington, 10:00 AM.

4: P. Buckley Moss Museum. We will meet at Peebles parking lot at 9:15 AM to be at the barn and museum for our 10:15 tour. There is no admission fee, but carpool driver compensation must be paid by October 27. Lunch will be at the South River Grill. Contact Carol Greenan, lexyank@lexfirst.net.

December

8: Buffalo Springs Herb Farm Christmas Tour. The tour will include refreshments. We will assemble at the Herb Farm at 12:30 PM. Money and reservations will be due by November 2, at the Newcomers meeting. Contact Lyn Bing, 377-9208.

9: Holiday Party. Buena Vista Firehouse. Buffet dinner and music. Details to be announced. Contact Aline McKenna, 261-8798.

Dues are Due! See page 6

Calendar

(See Interest Groups/Activities for specifics)

September

- 7 General Meeting
- 12 Hiking
- 13 Bridge #2
Scrabble #2
- 15 Scrabble #1
- 19 Book Club #2
Painting
- 21 Couples Bridge #2
- 22 Book Club #3
- 24 Natural Bridge Dragstrip
- 27 Canasta
- 28 Trip to Monticello

October

- 5 General Meeting
- 12 Sewing
- 14 Trip to D Day Memorial
- 17 Book Club #2
- 21 Antiquing Trip to Harrisonburg
- 25 Canasta

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INTEREST GROUPS

To be a participant in our interest groups, you must be a member of Newcomers. If you are interested in joining an interest group, please contact the chairman. If the group is full, an additional group may be formed.

Baseball Club

Contact: Jerry Plante, 463-4032. Activities resume in the spring.

Book Clubs

Book Club #2 - Norma Combs (463-2745) - filled
(nacombs@ntelos.net)

3rd Monday of the month at 1:30

9/19: at the home of Sarah Pierce

Book: *The Piano Tuner* by Daniel Mason

10/17 at 1 PM in the Piovano Room, Rockbridge

Regional Library - talk by Barbara Brown entitled
"Murder Most Irish"

Book Club #3 - Evelyn Caldwell (464-5571),
ebcaldwell@earthlink.net - open

4th Thursday of the month at 1 PM

9/22: at the home of Jane Auciello

Book: *Founding Brothers* by Joseph Ellis

Bridge

Bridge #1 - Faye Welch (463-5320)

Bridge #2 - Marlies Aldridge (464-3080)

At Lexington Golf and Country Club, 2nd Tuesday -
12 Noon lunch; 1 PM game. Seeking new members for
friendly games.

Couples Bridge #1 - Faye Welch (463-5320)

1st Monday of the month at 7 PM

Next play to be determined

Couples Bridge #2 - Cathy Broach (261-3141)

3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 PM, call to join

9/21: 7:00 PM at Cathy & Bill Broach's

Canasta

Contact: Shirley Dent (348-1045). Call to join or substitute.
Meets 12 noon, 4th Tuesday of every month

9/27 Sandy Harrelson's

10/25 Shirley Dent's

Dining Out

Contact: Frank Harrelson (261-1141)
fharrelson@earthlink.net)

The first year of our dining out group was highly successful, and we are looking forward to another great year of dining and comraderie with our fellow newcomers. This group now numbers 84 and dines out 4 times per year in small groups. Our next dining out adventures will be in October. If you wish to participate and have not already signed up, please call or email Frank Harrelson. Solicitation for October dining will be in September. If you have not already served as a coordinator for one of our dining out adventures, please consider doing so for October.

Fine Dining Group

Contact: Bob and Linda Textor, 348-1919,
thetextors@direcway.com

All interested parties must sign up by Sept 20 even if you were a previous member. See page 4 for details as to how the group operates.

Hiking Club

Contact: Lucy Thornburgh (434 922-7544),
bthorn@mindspring.com

9/12: 2-3 mile hike up Cold Mt. Meet at Buena Vista
Visitor Center at 9:30 AM. Call Lucy for more
information.

Painting

Contact: Pat Monroe (464-8436).

Meets 3rd Monday of each month

Scrabble

Please call Sarah Pierce (261-2108) if you would like to start a new group or be on our substitute list.

Group #1 - Sarah Pierce (261-2108), 3rd Thursday at 1 PM
9/15: at Ellen Charske's

Group #2 - Dottie Lion (291-3514), 2nd Tuesday at 1 PM
New players wanted - call Dottie.

9/13: at Dottie Lion's

Group #3 - Frank Harrelson (261-1141)

Play is expected to resume the end of September. Details on date, time and location are not yet available, and will be announced later.

Men's Scrabble - . If you are interested in playing in a men's scrabble group, please let Frank Harrelson, fharrelson@earthlink.net know. Please indicate day and time preference and put Scrabble in the subject line of your email message.

Sewing

Contact: Kathy Gander (377-9556), kakkinanni@aol.com
2nd Wednesday, 10 AM.

10/12: at Kathy Gander's

Wine Tasting Group

Contact George Grasse (540) 463-4267. email:
histomin@rockbridge.net

Hosts are being gathered for the November white wine tastings. Hosts and dates to be announced.

For more information about the Wine Tasting Group and the results of the August "Guess the Red" tasting, visit:

www.histomin.com/wineclub/pgindex.htm

GENERAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 7, 2005

The September General Meeting of the Greater Lexington Newcomers Club was called to order at the Virginia Horse Center at 10:30 AM on September 7, 2005 by **President Sandy Harrelson**.

Vice President Glenda Grasse announced that there were 41 members in attendance, and 6 guests. The guests were: Patricia Benavento from Asheville, NC, Anita Ramp who came to our area from Charlotte, NC 4 years ago, Fran & Jim Naylor from Savannah, GA, Caren Nash from Mountain Top, PA and Kay Savary, a repeat visitor.

Sandy announced that Ann Jones would be sending cards while Corresponding Secretary Nancy Mills is out of town in September. The recent death of member Nelson Hyde was noted with sorrow. A celebration/reception will be held in the Hydies' home on Saturday, September 17 at 1 PM.

Treasurer Ellen Charske talked about an "embarrassment of riches" in the treasury. The members voted to approve the **budget** prepared by the board, with the understanding that it may be modified as the board considers additional activities for the benefit of members. Sandy suggested that the club could subsidize a trip to DC during Cherry Blossom season as one potential use for the budget surplus. She asked members to respond to this suggestion, or to make other **suggestions for use of surplus funds** in writing to her. Ideas will be presented at the October meeting and voted on at the November meeting. (See page 4 for means to access the budget on the web site, and for a description of the potential DC trip.)

A card of thanks from Ann Jones for gifts received at the end of her term as President was read. Sandy thanked Aline McKenna and her picnic committee for their work in organizing the July picnic.

Mary Brooks described the **activities planned for members through December** and solicited other ideas from members. Aline McKenna talked about the plans for the **Holiday Party** on December 9. See page 1 for detailed descriptions of these events.

Sandy introduced the leaders of the Interest Groups. See page 2 for detailed descriptions of Interest Group happenings. **Webmaster Dorothy Coker announced the new Web site address: www.lexvanewcomers.org**. See page 4 for more about the new web site.

Carol Greenan announced the return of the "**Morale Gal**." See page 4. Linda Donald asked members to volunteer to host **new member coffees**, and encouraged members of less than 2 years to continue attending the coffees.

Linda Textor shared \$30 with the club in the 50/50 drawing. After a few community announcements the meeting adjourned at 11:40.

- Margaret Skovira

GREATER LEXINGTON NEWCOMERS CLUB		
FINANCIAL STATEMENT: SEPTEMBER 1, 2004- AUGUST 31, 2005		
Bank Balance	September 1, 2004	\$2,636.43
Deposits	50/50	155.00
	Directory Sales	6.00
	Dues	2,960.00
Total Deposits		\$3121.00
Expenses	Directory	326.05
	Gifts	55.06
	Holiday Party	415.03
	Newsletter	112.17
	Office Supplies	233.48
	Photocopy	17.04
	Picnic: Site Rent	60.00
	Postage	14.80
	Room Rent	1000.00
	Web Site	155.35
Total Expenses		\$2,388.98
Bank Balance	August 31, 2005	\$3,368.45
Club Membership	August 31, 2005	151

NEWCOMERS' NEW WEB ADDRESS

Effective September 1, the Newcomer's new web site address is **www.lexvanewcomers.org**. The site has been updated significantly to include many new features such as current and past newsletters, financial statements, calendar, photos of activities, history of the organization, Bylaws, membership rules, information about interest groups, and a list of officers and committee members with contact information including email capability. Coming soon will be a page listing local links that may be of interest to members.

Please note that you must obtain a password to access certain pages that contain member-only information such as financial reports. Other pages may be developed that will also require this password. The password may be obtained by attending the monthly general meeting or by emailing the treasurer who will confirm your membership status. For privacy reasons, please do not distribute this password to non-members. If we find that abuse of this occurs, we may need to shut down access to those pages. Discussions are in process about whether we will make the membership directory available to our members through these password protected pages. If that is approved, the membership will be notified during the general meeting about how to access it.

Should you notice any errors on the new web site or have suggestions on how to improve it, please email Frank Harrelson and myself. We welcome your input.

- Dorothy Coker
webmaster@lexvanewcomers.org



SPRING TRIP

The Executive Committee has discussed the idea of a Newcomer's bus trip to Washington, DC, in the spring of 2006 during the cherry blossom season. There would be time for you to explore Washington on your own. It is proposed that the Newcomers Club allocate some funds to offset some of the costs of the trip. Would this be of interest to you? Are there other places or things that you would rather do that would be appropriate for the club to underwrite? Please let me know your opinion. Email me at fharrelson@earthlink.net, or write to me at 2631 Edgewood Road, Buena Vista, VA 24416.

- Sandy Harrelson

THE MORALE GAL IS BACK

Carol Greenan has revived the Morale Gal with an ice-breaking activity for the October meeting. Please wear something that will let us know where you came from before you landed in Lexington/Rockbridge, such as a sweatshirt, a ball cap, etc. If you came from the Islands you might wear a lei. Participation is voluntary but you could win a prize if you participate.



FINE DINING GROUP GUIDELINES

Dinners are held in the homes of the Fine Dining Group members for October/November, February/March and April/May. Dining can include brunch, lunch or dinner. This group includes singles as well as couples. Each participant is required to contribute her/his fair share of effort and fun, and members alternate as hostess/host once a year. The size of each group will be sized for hosts' accommodations and no one is expected to host more than once a year. The group coordinator will randomly assign participants to a host/hostess.

The date and time of each dinner, recipes, and food assignments for participants for a specific period is determined by each hostess/host. The cost of each dinner will be calculated and split equally by the guests attending that dinner. Should you have to cancel out at the last minute and a substitute cannot be found, you will be expected to pay your share of the dinner in fairness to all.

The dining group is accepting names for a substitute list for people who do not want to commit to the full season but would like to be called in the event a member has to cancel at the last moment. People on this list will be called as space becomes available at a dinner.

See the Newcomers website for detailed guidelines of Fine Dining Group.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all Newcomers! I am looking forward to being your President for the 2005-2006 year, and serving you to the best of my ability. My task is made easier by the wonderful group of Officers you have elected to support me in our endeavors. Also, the heads of all the Interest Groups must be given recognition, as well as our wonderful Event Planners. I know that we will have a fun year working together for the good of the club.

As you know, we meet at the Virginia Horse Center on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 AM, except for the months of August and December when there is no meeting.

Please remember, general announcements unrelated to Club activities may be made at the meeting with advance approval by the President and should be brief.

The Officers and I invite you to take an active role in Newcomers and along the way make new friends and stretch your horizons.

I hope to see you in October.

- Sandy Harrelson

NOTICES

Dues. It is time to renew your membership for 2005-2006. Please renew in September to be included in the new Directory. Membership Application Forms and instructions can be found on page 6 and on the website.

Membership Directory. Please submit addresses and email changes to Sally Claeys at 463-6322 or sjclaeys@msn.com.

Articles for newsletter. Committee Chairs, officers, and interest group leaders are asked to submit announcements for the newsletter by email to Margaret Skovira before the first Wednesday of the month in which there is a meeting. (Note email address and telephone on masthead on page 1).

Photographs. Take pictures at events for our scrapbook, send newsclippings about members, whether related to Newcomers activities or not. Bring to meetings or email to Dottie Lyon at twolions@lexfirst.net, or mail to address in directory. Please write on the back of photos identifying names, dates and places. Photos for the website can be submitted to Dorothy Coker, electronically if possible, at webmaster@lexvanewcomers.org.

DIRECTORY

Please make the following change to your directory:

Linda & Bob Textor email: thetextors@direcway.com

CARDS

Thinking of you cards were sent in July & August to the following members:

Tom Coker
Jean Rathmell
Karen & Nelson Hyde
John Bronander

Please notify Ann Jones if you know of a member who could be cheered or consoled with a card from the club in September.

In Memoriam - Nelson Hyde

Celebration /Reception
Saturday, September 17
1 PM at the Hydies' home

Officers/Committees

President: Sandy Harrelson	261-1141
Vice President: Glenda Grasse	463-4267
C. Secretary: Nancy Mills	463-5562
Treasurer: Ellen Charske	463-7971
Activities: Mary Brooks, Chair	463-6643
Directory: Sally Claeys	463-6322
Historian: Dottie Lion	291-3514
New Member Coffee: Linda Donald	463-2947
Cathy Broach	261-3141
Newsletter: Margaret Skovira	348-1093
Publicity: Pat Rafferty	348-4222
Web Site: Dorothy Coker	348-6248
Welcome: Jane Auciello	377-5332
Immediate Past President: Ann Jones	464-8906

GREATER LEXINGTON NEWCOMERS CLUB - MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

New Member Eligibility: Club membership is open to residents who have lived in Rockbridge County no more than five (5) years. To qualify for Club membership, one must (a) reside within the boundaries of Rockbridge County; or (b) have a residence with a Rockbridge County mailing address.

Renewing Members: Renewing members who pay prior to the September meeting are guaranteed the current dues rate. As of the September meeting date, renewing members are subject to any dues increase. Renewing members need to complete an enrollment form in its entirety so we can ensure a complete and accurate database.

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 all indebtedness. A former member is eligible for reinstatement one time only.

Dues: For the current year (September 2005 through August 2006), dues are \$20. Only one payment per household is required. After March 15, dues are \$10.

Payee: Make checks payable to Greater Lexington Newcomers Club. Forward to: Ellen Charske, Treasurer, 247 Green Hill Road, Lexington, VA 24450.

To ensure a complete and accurate data base, every member (new or renewing) is asked to complete the following form.

Today's Date: _____	
Your Name _____	Date of Birth (mm/dd only) _____
Spouse's Name _____	
Tel: _____	Email Address: _____
Address (Street or PO Box): _____	
City: _____	Zip: _____
Member since (mm/dd): _____ (Renewing Members only)	



Scrabble Group #1. From left to right: Ellen Rogers, Ellen Charske, Sarah Pierce and Barbara Anderson. This group has been together and playing Scrabble now for over 3 years. And it's all thanks to the Newcomers' Group that brought us together.