

**Newcomers of Catawba Valley  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
April 26, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Adra Kryszczuk, President, at 10:08 a.m. at Patrick Beaver Library. Members present were Adra Kryszczuk, Sonya Reid, Sharon Snellings, Evie Gibson, Nancy Geiger, and Cathi Montgomery. The following members were absent: Debbie Hindman, Rob Herman and Kathy Rozea. Amy Chizen was present as a guest. The minutes from the March Board meeting were presented and no corrections or changes were made. Cathi Montgomery made a motion to accept the minutes and Sonya Reid seconded the motion. The minutes of the March Board meeting were approved. Cathi Montgomery made a motion to allow guests to speak during the meeting. Evie Gibson seconded the motion and it was approved by the Board.

**Membership:** Adra reported that we received nine new membership applications during the month of April. Adra also provided Board members with a listing of previous members who did not renew their membership for 2023-24. Current membership stands at 301.

**Secretary:** Sharon provided a summary of the difficulties encountered with the Crosswind Café staff at the evening general meeting in March. Despite earlier contact and a reminder the day before the event, no staff member from the Café was present to unlock the Café (so we could retrieve the A/V equipment) or to prepare coffee and ice tea, as requested. The Café manager also failed to respond to text messages and calls from Sharon and Adra. After discussion, the Board agreed to ask the Café to support the July evening meeting and if we have another failure, we will bring our own coffee and iced tea to future evening meetings.

**Treasurer:** Sonya presented a completed report of last year's spending and presented the proposed budget for 2023-24. Amy Chizen requested that the larger, more costly Special Events activities be identified as a separate line item in the budget. The Board determined that any event costing more than \$250 will be identified separately in the budget. Amy requested that the Special Events budget be increased by \$500 for the possible rental of a 12-person van for transportation to an event this Fall.

Sonya will increase the advertising/marketing budget to \$1250 to accommodate printing costs for more business cards; purchase of tabletop and stationary signs for off-site events; and for printing birthday cards for Club members.

Sonya requested that the Club institute a policy that all receipts for expenses incurred by members must be submitted within 30 days of the event or the Club will not reimburse the member. Board members concurred and this policy is now in effect.

Sharon made a motion to approve the proposed budget for 2023-24, as amended by our discussion during today's meeting. Cathi seconded the motion and the budget was approved.

**Marketing:** Sonya reported that she was successful in getting a local real estate agent to post a link to the Newcomers Club website on his real estate website. Adra will send a letter to the Board of Realtors and to Mortgage Companies to make them aware of the Newcomers website and to request that they provide their clients with a link to our website.

**Charities:** Nancy reported that Southmountain Children and Family Services continues as our charity for this quarter. During our May meeting, Club member Michelle Thompkins will be making

a short presentation for the Make-A-Wish Foundation that she supports. Club members will be offered the opportunity to support the Foundation through the purchase of gift cards.

Nancy led a discussion on the Club's annual financial contributions to local charities. The following organizations were recommended:

Make-A-Wish - \$200 in gift cards

Salvation Army - \$200

Hickory Soup Kitchen - \$200

Outreach Center - \$200

Cathi made a motion to accept these organizations for cash donations and Nancy seconded the motion. The Board approved these organizations and the amount to be donated to each.

**Special Events:** Amy Chizen reported the following upcoming events:

April 27 – hike in Valdese

April 28 – Chatty Crafters

May 4 – Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden

May 5 – Chatty Crafters

May 6 – Kentucky Derby Party (31 members RSVP'd)

May 12- hike at Lakeside Park & BYO picnic lunch

May 12 – beer tasting

May 26 – Crawdad's game

June 1 – miniature golf & Las Isabela's

June 11 – Lake Party – picnic at Montgomery's (pontoon optional)

Amy reported that there is a long-term plan for an event at Maple Grove (Hickory) in October. Further information on that in the future. Amy also recommended that the NCV newsletter format be amended to allow for reports of completed Special Events as a way to promote upcoming activities and inform new members.

**New Business:** Cathi requested that the Board receive information regarding planned speakers for the General Meetings. This information is needed so that she can effectively market the meetings through Facebook postings. Adra reported that the speaker for the May meeting will be a Master Gardener (Sherry Abernethy). The June meeting will be off-site at The Hub, a multi-function workspace in Hickory. Our speaker at the July (evening) meeting will be from the quarterly charity and we will also have a pop-up market from Unique World.

Next General Meeting – Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. (Hickory Airport)

Next Board Meeting – Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. (Patrick Beaver Library)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Snellings, Secretary