

**Newcomers of Catawba Valley
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
November 29, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Adra Kryszczuk, President, at 10:05 a.m. at Patrick Beaver Library. Members present were: Adra Kryszczuk, Debbie Hindman, Sharon Snellings, Sonya Reid, Evie Gibson, Nancy Geiger and Rob Herman. The following members were absent: Cathi Montgomery and Kathy Rozea. Amy Chizen, Roxanne and Scott Hibbs were present at the meeting and Rob Herman moved to allow guests to speak at the meeting. Motion was seconded by Evie Gibson; motion carried.

The minutes from the October Board meeting were presented and no corrections/changes were made. Evie Gibson moved to accept the minutes and Rob Herman seconded the motion; the minutes of the October Board meeting were approved.

Adra reminded everyone that the next General Meeting will be on December 13th and will include a cookie exchange and sing-along. Sharon will send out the message about the cookie exchange. Rene Barnett will lead the singing. Ms. Barnett has requested a \$100 stipend be sent to the Humane Society of Catawba County. Rob Herman moved that the stipend be sent on January 30th and Sharon Snellings seconded the motion. Motion carried. Voting for the 2024-2025 NCV Board will be conducted at the December meeting.

Membership

Debbie Hindman reported 2 new members in November. It was noted that Carole Reising passed away in November. Debbie noted that the next new member reception is scheduled for January 30th. Discussion ensued regarding the small number of new members attending these sessions. Members discussed the pros/cons of delaying the next reception till a new Board is in place and the consensus was to do so.

Secretary – No report.

Treasurer

Sonya reported the following:

Income	\$ 159.00
Expenses	\$ 355.17
Current Balance	\$3,981.68

Sonya reported that based on her research into methods for collecting money from members for various activities/events, she recommends establishing a Venmo Charitable Account for NCV. Venmo will charge 1.9% + \$.10 per transaction. Rob Herman made a motion to set up a Venmo account for designated events and Deb Hindman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There was a discussion regarding the need for an increase in annual dues from \$15 to \$20. Based on the increased cost of food and supplies that we encountered this year; it was agreed that an increase was necessary. Rob Herman moved to increase the annual dues to \$20/person, effective 3/1/24. The motion included the provision that any new member who joins (and pays the \$20 dues fee) from October to March will gain membership for the subsequent Club year at no additional cost. Sharon Snellings seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Charities

Nancy reported that the Toys for Tots 4th quarter charity donations are finished, and the Club members were very generous. The Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry will be the charity for the 1st quarter of 2024. Nancy is looking for someone to take over the responsibility for organizing Charities for 2024-2025. She will be sending out a message to all members to seek potential candidates.

Special Events

Amy Chizen and Evie Gibson reported the following:

- NCV Float in the Hickory Holiday Parade was a great success.
- Special Events Committee has no major events for December.
- Garden Gurus are having a wreath making event on 11/30 at Amy Chizen's house.
- Chatty Crafters continue during the month but there will be no Fifth Friday Craft event this month due to the holidays.
- Beer/Wine Friday night event – December 8th
- Special Events Committee meeting will be held on December 1st

Old Business

Holiday Party update – Amy reported that the event will be held at Warehouse 18 in Hickory. Cost will be \$40/member and \$60/guest (this amount will include \$20 toward a Club membership). Schedule: Appetizers from 5:00 – 6:00; Dinner @ 6:00; Dancing 7:00- 10:00.

Informing Members of Changes in Activities – Sonya reported that she has established the call-in number (828-544-1929) and it will be effective January 1st. The Board will use multiple communication tools to inform the members of this new system.

New Business

Issue of Members Only Event Attendance – Discussion ensued concerning the problem that occurs when guests “use up” spaces at limited attendance events. Adra volunteered to draft a new policy that would allow guests to join as Club members by paying \$20 in Club dues (in addition to the cost of the event). Since the Club By-laws would also have to be amended, such a change would require a vote at a General Meeting (scheduled for January 2024).

Program Coordinator – Kathy Kuehn has resigned, and we will need to find a new volunteer.

Speakers who are Members - Rob raised the issue of seeking out members to speak at our General Meetings. Amy concurred and is currently considering a member who would speak on the subject of the Honor Flight.

Next General Meeting – Wednesday, December 13th @ 10:30 p.m. (Hickory Airport)

Next Board Meeting – Thursday, December 28th @ 10:00 a.m. (Library)

Change-Over Board Meeting – Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at the home of Amy Chizen

Meeting adjourned at 11:25

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Snellings, Secretary