

**Newcomers of Catawba Valley  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
February 28, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Amy Chizen, President, at 10:05 a.m. at the Patrick Beaver Library. Board members present were Amy Chizen, Paul Nielsen, Sharon Snellings, Sonya Reid, Nancy Geiger, and Michelle Tompkins. The following members were absent: Adra Kryszczuk, Roxanne Hibbs and Patti Ramsey. Club member Marje Wells attended as a guest.

The minutes from the January Board meeting were presented with no changes or corrections. Michelle made a motion to accept the minutes and Sonya seconded the motion; the minutes of the January Board meeting were approved.

Sharon made a motion to allow guests to speak during the meeting and Nancy seconded the motion; motion carried.

**Treasurer:** Sonya reported that 164 members have paid their annual dues so far. Our current balance is \$4,468.16, and Sonya expects to start the fiscal year at approximately \$7,800 (projecting the remaining dues coming in March). Sonya received notification from the IRS that we do not meet the specific qualifications to use either Venmo or PayPal at no cost. Therefore, we will not pursue online payments any further.

There was a review of the current 2023-2024 budget and discussion ensued regarding charitable donations that would be paid in April to four local charities. In an effort to represent all four counties, the following charities were recommended: Hickory Soup Kitchen, Highways & Hedges, Mt. Pisgah Food Pantry, and South Mountain Childrens Home. Nancy moved to approve these charities and Michelle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Michelle recommended that we allow the Club to make donations to the YMCA Bright Beginnings. A speaker from that organization will be speaking at our June meeting and donations can be taken up then.

Sonya presented the proposed budget for 2024-2025 and discussion ensued. One change will be made to increase the April charity pay-out amount to \$1,000. Nancy made a motion to accept the budget, as amended, and Michelle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Membership**

Paul reported five new members in January and three in February. He also reported that he has sent the new applications to the applicable Club Chairs and that process is going smoothly. Paul presented the New Member packet that had previously been sent to all Board members for comment. Minor changes were suggested to include the new name of the café at the airport. The Board unanimously endorsed the packet.

**Secretary:** No report.

**Program Schedule:** Michelle reported that she has found program speakers for every month in calendar year 2024 and provided a copy of that schedule to the Board members. She will be providing that information to Adra, Jon Kiser (Publicity Chair) and Joan Lamana (Newsletter Editor).

**Charities:** Nancy reported that the Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry (CCM) is the charity for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024 and our last collection for them will be at the March meeting. There will be a second tour of CCM tomorrow (2/29) at 1:30. Other volunteer opportunities include helping an individual de-clutter her home (Elaine Knobloch and Michelle Thomkins responded). We are still awaiting information on when and where wheelchair ramps need to be constructed. Amy listed the remaining charities for the calendar year: Caldwell Habitat for Humanity, Pregnancy Center, and a combined effort for Toys for Tots/Salvation Army/United Way. We are looking at new ways to contribute to these organizations in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

**New Business:** Amy led a discussion of how best to structure the New Member Receptions. Following discussion, we will likely hold a reception in April at Hickory Airport. Board Members and Committee Chairs will be asked to attend. Light refreshments and drinks will be served.

- Adra and Greg Gervasio will conduct a special meeting to discuss the NCV Website on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. Sharon will reserve the room at Hickory Airport. Information on this meeting will be in the March newsletter.
- Amy presented an idea from Jon Kiser to create a Facebook page for NCV members. Jon will serve as the Administrator and will invite members to join if they are interested. Sharon made a motion to approve Jon Kiser's initiation of a Facebook Page for NCV members and Sonya seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Sonya announced the first hike of the Spring season – Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Information provided in the newsletter.

**Old Business:** Amy led a discussion on a concern raised in a previous Board meeting regarding requests by members that their personal contact information not be shared in the NCV Directory. Discussion ensued and the Board agreed that we would honor those requests. There will be a follow up with Adra regarding the ability to include these members in the group email to allow for dissemination of information.

**Next General Meeting – Wednesday, March 13, 2024 @ 10:30 a.m. (Hickory Airport)**

**Next Board Meeting – Wednesday, March 27, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m.**

**(Patrick Beaver Library – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room)**

**Meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Snellings (Secretary)