

Minutes Oct. 12, 2016  
Newcomers of Catawba Valley

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m. by president Carol Hoover, following a 15-minute get-to-know-time where members and guests chatted and enjoyed coffee and snacks.

Carol thanked Bob Jones and Judy Dostall for bringing snacks and asked for other volunteers to bring snacks at future meetings. She also reminded members to pay \$1 for coffee or tea, that was provided by Crosswind Cafe.

We welcomed visitors, who joined at the meeting:

Mike and Dolores Tarnowski, who moved from New Hampshire.

Francine Gissy, who moved from Oklahoma.

Denise Bukovan, who moved from Connecticut.

The minutes from the Sept. 14 monthly meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Dianne Straley, seconded by Hedy Paussa.

Speaker Austin Pearce, executive director of the Hickory Soup Kitchen, told members about the nonprofit, which was founded 33 years ago by six downtown churches. It now serves about 300 meals a day and has moved into a new building just off N.C. 127, near AllGlass. Austin said volunteers and donations of food were key to the kitchen's success. So much food is donated by companies, restaurants, churches and individuals that Austin has to spend only \$2,100 a year on food purchases.

The president updated members on two resignations from the board of directors. Vice president Monty Matthews resigned for health reasons. Former vice president Joe Paussa agreed to replace Monty on the board until April, when the new board takes office.

Secretary Pam Moody resigned as she and her husband Pat prepare to move to Arizona. The secretary's duties will be shared by three members until a new secretary is chosen. Member Susan Reese will prepare the newsletter, former president Dianne Straley and board member Adra Kryszczuk will be responsible for minutes at the monthly meetings and board meetings, respectively.

Vice president Joe Paussa told members that the Marine Corps Reserves' Toys for Tots campaign is the club's charity for the next three months. The reserves will place a collection barrel in the airport lobby and will pickup and deliver unwrapped toys for distribution to needy children.

Members were urged to remember adolescents when they buy toys for the campaign because in the past few toys were donated for older children.

Carol applauded the 30 volunteers who organize the club's many activities, such as bridge, target practice, Game Night, etc. She urged others to become more involved in organizing one-time events, such as the hike to Rocky Face that Greg and Judy Dostall are leading on Oct. 24 and the Oct. 19 antique shopping trip to Hendersonville, organized by Debbie Brooks and Ginny Koch.

In the 50-50 drawing, Hedy Paussa won \$13.50 and \$13.50 went to our fourth quarter charity, Toys for Tots.

Carol announced Zig Kryszczuk will speak at the Nov. 9 meeting about how to smoke food on a regular backyard grill. Zig was to have spoken at the Oct. 12 meeting but was out of town at a family

funeral.

Following the Nov. 9 meeting, board members Carol Hoover and Dianne Straley will hold a workshop on making large gift bows and shaping chicken wire into large lighted Christmas balls. Cost is \$5 for the bow workshop and \$15 for the Christmas ball workshop, with all supplies provided.

Treasurer Vince LeGrand reported the club had an opening balance on Sept. 1, 2016, of \$3,495.71 and an ending balance on Sept. 30 of \$3,439.17. Income highlight: Four new members joined. Expense highlight: \$200 in charitable donations to the Women's Resource Center and to sponsor a hole in the Toys for Tots golf tournament fund raiser.

In addressing a statement made last month by a member who thought the club had too much money, Vince outlined the club's purpose and finances. The club is registered with the state as a nonprofit social club, a 501-c7 organization. Our biggest expense is for socials and special events. Although we are not a charitable organization, the club's second largest expense is charitable donations. Club income comes chiefly from members' dues. The new budget goes into effect April 1. The board will begin talking about the upcoming budget early next year, and Vince said budget talks and board meetings are open to all members.

Carol told members the board had decided to leave the monthly meeting time at 10:30 a.m. and she will allow more time so everyone has a chance to participate without feeling rushed. She encouraged members to get together for lunch after the meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Dianne Straley