

NEWCOMERS OF CATAWBA VALLEY**2425 North Ctr. St. #169, Hickory NC 28601****www.newcomersofcv.com****April 2014****Officers****President -
Dianne Straley****Vice President
(Membership)
Kay Norusis****Treasurer -
Vince LeGrand****Secretary -
Barb Beck****Directors****Past President-
Bob Wolgemuth****Publicity -
Kathy Rozea****Programs - Pam Wagoner****Activities Coordinator -
Betty Schwartz****Ad-Hoc -
Bob Jones****Chairpersons****Book Club -
S. Asp & B. Schwartz****Bowling -
V. LeGrande****Bridge -
Gloria Berg****Canasta -
C. Reising, C. Parker,
B. Schwartz****Charity Coordinator -
J. & H. Bates****Coffee & Conversation -
S. Binning****Evening Socials -**

April is the start of a new year for Newcomers of Catawba Valley. You've got a new president - me - and a renewed commitment to have a lively, fun organization. My husband and I lived in Hickory two years before we joined Newcomers and it wasn't until I started making new friends with this group that I felt I belonged in my new

city. Newcomers is where I learned how to navigate these crazy streets, the politics of the region, the best places to buy furniture and craft beer.

My new friends in Newcomers taught me canasta, Mah Jongg, Mexican Train, Rummikub and Qwirkle. They introduced me to Wilson's Creek and Blowing Rock, while I gave them many a tour of uptown Charlotte. Like many of you, I have moved around. I'm a North Carolina native and a Chapel Hill graduate, with a 17-year dalliance with San Diego, Boise and Rochester, NY, before moving to Charlotte more than 25 years ago.

Let me touch briefly on a few of the events you can expect over the next 12 months:

- K-9 demonstration by Hickory Police.
- Pontoon boat party on Lake Hickory
- Lessons in shag and line dancing,
- Evening social and laser show at the SALT block's planetarium
- Outing to the Western Piedmont Symphony
- Pool party
- Hickory Community Theater evening
- Chili cook-off
- Hickory Crawdads baseball game
- Golf outing and potluck
- And more!!

We need your help to make those events happen. Do you see at least one activity on that list you will help organize and publicize? Call or email me if you can help. I also would love to find a member who would lead occasional hikes in the area - if winter will ever go away.

Dianne Straley
dfwhit@gmail.com
328-1412

Game Night – D. Straley

**Items of Interest-
B. Jones**

**Historian –
K. Rozea**

**Hospitality –
M. LeGrand & R.
Wolgemuth**

**Lunch Out –
Jones & Paussa**

Mah Jongg – J. Womack

**Members Helping
Members –A. Kryszczuk**

**Men's Activities –
Vince LeGrand**

**Mexican Train –
S. Kidd**

**Special Events –
S. Kidd**

Evening Canasta-S. Kidd

**Webmaster –
Gary Schwartz**

Happy Birthday to Our Members:

April	May
2 – Karen Skulina 8 - Mike Flo 10 – Margie Dickey 10 – Don Baldwin 15 – Bob Jones 15 – Tom Woodyard 15 – Collette T. Wronek 16 – Marianne Merrill 17 – Dianne Straley 18 – Joe Durand 20 – Lesli Garvett 27 – Susan Perkins 27 - Naomi East 30 – Bert Perkins 30 – Susan Turner	3 – De Martin 3 – Robert Leimbach 3-- Charlie Bender 4 – Al Osbahr 8 – Marjorie Chu 11 – Bob Sykes 15 – Bill Brown 19 – Sandy Davis 26 – Robyn Wolgemuth 28 – Ric Johnsen 31 – JoAnn Womack

Please email Barb Beck at ahbbjb@aol.com if your birthday is not listed.

ANNUAL DUES

The new fiscal year for Newcomers starts on April 1st, so it's time to send in your annual dues payment. The dues remain at the same level as this year. The dues are \$25 and are due by April 1st. Please remit your payment (checks should be payable to Newcomers of Catawba Valley) to:

Newcomers of Catawba Valley
2425 N Center St
Box 169 (Please DO NOT put PO in front of Box 169)
Hickory, NC 28601

You can also give your payment to any member of the Board at any Newcomers activity. Thanks, Vince LeGrand, Treasurer

April 2014

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 6:30 pm Mexican Train Dominoes	2 1:00 pm Bridge 7:00 pm Bowling	3 11:30 am Lunch at Chili's	4 10:30 am MahJongg 1:00 pm Busy Hands	5
6	7 1:00 pm Bridge	8 6:30 pm Rummikub 6:30 pm Shooting	9 10:00 am General Meeting with lunch 6:00 pm Evening Canasta	10	11 10:30 am MahJongg	12
13	14 1:00 pm Bridge	15	16 1:00 pm Bridge 7:00 pm Bowling	17 6:00 pm Game Night	18 10:30 am MahJongg	19
20	21 1:00 pm Bridge	22	23 10:00 am Board Meeting	24 11:30 am Lunch & Canasta 12:00 pm Shooting	25 10:30 am MahJongg 1:00 pm Coffee and Conversation	26
27	28	29	30			

GENERAL MEETING/WELCOME COFFEE

-Lunch Is On Us-

Our **April General Meeting** will feature two things that are bound to please: trained dogs and a **free lunch**. You are invited to hear an officer of the Hickory Police Department talk about the work of the city's K-9 unit. After his talk and a question and answer period, we will go out to the airport lawn to watch a demonstration with one of the dogs.

Following the meeting, Crosswinds Cafe will serve beef fajitas, one of its most popular catering items. The meal comes with beans, rice, salsa and other fixings, plus drinks. **Newcomers is buying lunch for its members** at this very important meeting where we will discuss plans for the coming year. You must give us your **lunch reservation by 11 p.m. Sunday, April 6**. Email Dianne Straley at dfwhit@gmail.com.

The General Meeting starts at **10 a.m. Wednesday, April 9, at the Hickory Regional Airport**.

QUARTERLY CHARITY

The NCV charity for the spring is the **Lenoir Soup Kitchen** (Caldwell). They particularly need paper towels, sugar, barbeque sauce, mayo, canned carrots, canned greens, and canned fruits. Right now they especially need **paper towels**. Checks are fine as well, and they have agreed that they will not share donor information or use it themselves other than for a personal thank you.

Looking forward, during the summer we are looking to support the Women's Resource Center in Hickory (Catawba) and in the fall the Mount Pisgah Food Pantry in Bethlehem (Taylorsville). Suggestions for Burke County for next winter would be appreciated.

For those who do not attend the general meeting and would like to participate, items may be brought to our house or perhaps someone in each activity will act as a go-between in their group so that all members can be a part of this work. We are making a difference, and it is appreciated. Harriet and John Bates johnwbates@gmail.com

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT

Never let it be said that Newcomers let any grass grow under their feet! All month long, we are kept busy with multiple activities from which to choose. It is my responsibility to keep the web site calendar up to date with fun choices of ways to spend your time. I only hope I can do as good a job as Adra did. Obviously, I will need your help – so please keep me informed of all changes and additions as they come up. You can print a weekly or monthly view of the calendar and can see all details of each activity by simply clicking on the activity. Please do let me know if you have any suggestions for making the calendar even better. Betty Schwartz, betty69@gmail.com

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Once a month, Newcomers meet, usually in the afternoon, to share a beverage and just chat. In April, we will be going to **Marie and Twannette's Bakery and Cafe** in **Newton** on the **25th at 1 pm**. They have good lunches, as well as pastries. It is across from the Catawba History Museum. For more information, contact Sheri Binning ronald.binning@gmail.com

CANASTA

Monthly canasta and lunch at the airport will be held on **Thursday, April 24 at 11:30 am**. Canasta, lunch, dessert and a beverage is \$10 and canasta with a dessert and a beverage is \$5. If you make a reservation and then cancel after 6 pm on the Monday prior to canasta Thursday, you are still responsible for paying the \$10 for your lunch. We will continue having the learning/talking table as long as we have members interested in learning canasta for the first time, refreshing their skills, or learning some strategies. Winners in March were **Jane Woodward with 20,050 points** and **Shari Kidd with 19,515 points**. To join in on the fun, contact Carole Reising at creising@embarqmail.com

EVENING CANASTA

Watch for an email about Evening Canasta which will be held this month on **April 9** at the airport.

LUNCH CLUB

Thursday, April 3, at 11:30 am is our luncheon at Chili's at 2181 US Hwy 70 in Hickory. Please respond to Maureen Jones at 302-2385 or mfi1947@gmail.com with your reservation by Wednesday April 2 @ noon. Hope to see you there!

GAME NIGHT

The next Game Night will be **Thursday, April 17 at the Hickory Airport at 6:00 pm**. Come join us, bring a friend, have dinner and play a game of your choice. Since we have to commit to a number for dinner, all no shows will be responsible for paying for their reserved meal. An email will be sent out each month with the cost and menu for dinner. For information, contact Dianne Straley dfwhit@gmail.com.

MEN'S ACTIVITIES **(though not limited to men)**

Join us on Tuesday, **April 8 at 6:30 pm** or **Thursday, April 24 at 12:00 pm** for a shooting session at the Springs Road Gun Club. The Newcomers Wednesday evening bowling league is in full swing. Contact Vince LeGrand for information on shooting or bowling. legravin@gmail.com or 828-466-8218

NEWCOMERS BOOK CLUB

At our next meeting on **May 28th at 1:30 pm** at the Women's Resource Center, we will discuss **The Burgess Boys** by **Elizabeth Strout**. It is the story of two brothers, one a successful corporate lawyer who belittled his bighearted brother their whole lives, and the second, a Legal Aid attorney who idolizes his brother and has always taken his brother's treatment of him in stride. Their long-standing dynamic is upended when their sister calls them home because she desperately needs their help. The brothers return to their childhood home and the long-buried tensions that shaped and shadowed their relationship surface in unexpected ways that will change them forever. This book is a tender, tough-minded, loving, and deeply illuminating story about the ties that bind us to family and home. All are welcome to join us! Contact Sue Asp twoasps@gmail.com or Betty Schwartz bettysch69@gmail.com for more information.

MAHJONGG

Daytime MahJongg is on Friday mornings @ 10:30 at Bistro 127. Please contact JoAnn Womack for information at 256-3495 or joannwomack@embarqmail.com. This is a fun, fast-paced game.

BRIDGE

Bridge dates for the month are as follows: **Wednesday, April 2; Monday, April 7; Monday, April 14; Wednesday April 16; and Monday, April 21**. New members: please contact Gloria Berg (glomcberg@hotmail.com) for details about bridge.

MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES

The next Mexican Train will be held on **Tuesday, April 1** at 6:30 pm. Please bring a snack to share and your favorite beverage as well as \$2.00 for the kitty. Place: Shari Kidd's home at 5495 Gunpowder Drive, Hickory. RSVP by Monday, March 31 to Shari at 828-328-4657 or to Dianne Straley at dfwhit@gmail.com. Plan ahead for next month's dominoes which will feature a Cinco de Mayo celebration!!

RUMMIKUB

Rummikub will be held at the home of Sue Reese on **Tuesday, April 8 at 6:30 pm**. Please let Sue know by April 4 if you will be able to attend so she can make the necessary arrangements. Please don't forget your \$3 and a side dish! Dessert and a main dish will be provided. You can reach Sue at 322-3309 or email her at sereese62@gmail.com.

BUSY HANDS

This handwork group will meet only on Friday, **April 4** this month from 1:00-3:00 pm at Habitat for Humanity. Bring any handwork including knitting, crocheting, tatting, embroidery, scrapbooking, beading, etc. Coffee will be provided and everyone is welcome. Contact Collette Wronek at sewalot38@hotmail.com or 704-530-1767.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Information must be submitted by noon on Wednesday of each week. As always, I want to hear from you if you run across any interesting things. **If you aren't familiar with "Items of Interest", go to our web site for guidelines for submission rules. The web site is: newcomersofcv.com.** Click on "**Resources**", & then on "**Items of Interest**". **Please feel free to browse our website, and see what we have to offer!!** If you select our "**Sponsors**" page, you will see those businesses that offer us support. You can then access their web sites by clicking on their individual icon. **If you respond to any of these business ads, PLEASE mention that you saw their ad on our website.** This is how we get advertisers to continue to support us for the future. Thanks, Bob Jones itsmerbj@charter.net

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

The focus of this support group within Newcomers is to coordinate assistance for members and their immediate families who need help due to illness, surgery, hospitalization, death, or other problems. The committee contacts any recommended member to get approval before offering member support and to identify the type of assistance needed. Once specific assistance is identified and approved by the family, the committee sends out requests to the membership.

Types of assistance include hospital and home visits; help with errands and grocery shopping; transportation for shopping and doctor visits; providing books and/or reading to someone; preparing meals; sending cards, etc. Monetary donations are excluded. Adra Kryszczuk is the new chair of this committee and you can contact her at adraellen@yahoo.com.

"WANTED" - Advertisers for our Website

If you know of any business or service company that would like to link up with our website as a sponsor, please notify Bob Jones. The ads cost \$35 and run for twelve months after signup which can be at any time during the year. Thank you.

Support our advertisers!!

They are: Catawba Science Center, UPS, Mattie's Pantry, Wine & Design, Heaven's Best Carpet Cleaning, Western Piedmont Symphony, Hickory & Catawba Valley Home Builders Association, Catawba Valley Community College, Jack's Christmas (Paige Straley), Dentists Thomas Rider & Allison Reese, ARDC Heating & Air Conditioning, Hickory Museum of Art, Broome Associated Insurance, and Hickory Community Theatre.

Let them know you saw their ad on the Newcomers' web site!