



NEWCOMERS OF CATAWBA VALLEY
2425 North Ctr. St. #169, Hickory NC 28601
www.newcomersofcv.com

February 2016

Officers

**President –
Dianne Straley**

**Vice President-
Joe Paussa**

**Treasurer –
Vince LeGrand**

**Secretary –
Barb Beck**

**Past President-
Bob Wolgemuth**

Directors

**Publicity –
John Bates**

**Programs –Pam
Wagoner**

**Activities
Coordinator-
Adra Kryszczuk**

**Ad-Hoc –
Bob Jones**

Chairpersons

**Book Club – Sue
Asp, Betty Schwartz**

**Bowling –
Vince LeGrand**

**Bridge –
Gloria Berg**

**Canasta – Margaret
Clayton, Martha
Conrad, Joyce
Dennis**

Get more involved. It's February and that means there's still time to make a New Year's resolution: Become more active in Newcomers. Many people join our club to meet more people and to have fun. A big step in doing that is to go to your first event.

1. We have two casual get-togethers each month where people sit around, eat and chat. Look on the club calendar for Lunches Out – at a different restaurant on the first Thursday of each month. Make a reservation with the host, Chuck Bethany: bethanycw@charter.net. This month, we are going to Saigon Garden Restaurant in Conover. You'll see couples and singles here.

Our second event is Coffee and Conversation, usually held the last Friday of each month, from 2 to 4 p.m. at various coffee shops in the four-county area. Watch for emails from organizer Sheri Binning or email her at ronald.binning@gmail.com. Again, couples and singles.

2. Learn to play a game. Two of our games are especially easy to learn – dominoes and Rummikub, both held in members' homes so you will only have a few new names to learn. Dominoes – sometimes Chicken foot and sometimes Mexican Train – are offered on the first Tuesday of each month following a 6 p.m. potluck dinner at Shari Kidd's house in Granite Falls. Our players are couples and singles.

Rummikub is held at alternating members' homes, the second Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 p.m. So far I have only seen women at the games, which follow finger foods brought by players. Contact Michele LeGrand at exermom@gmail.com.

3. Learn a game that's a bit harder: Hand and Foot Canasta is taught at a learners' table at the Hickory Regional Airport, 11:45 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month, following lunch. Martha Conrad is the organizer: MarthaConrad@charter.net. Couples and singles.

Mah Jongg is harder than canasta and easier than bridge. We play Tuesdays and Fridays at the Pinecrest retirement center. Contact Dianne Straley for lessons: dfwhit@gmail.com. Mostly women although we have men who are learning to play the game.

4. Can you read a book, shoot at a target or roll a strike? Look at our calendar to find when and where.

The calendar for all these events is found at www.newcomersofcv.com.

- Dianne Straley, President

Happy Birthday to Our Members

Charity Coordinators – John & Harriet Bates, Bev Forrest

Coffee & Conversation – Sheri Binning

Evening Socials

Game Nights– Shari Kidd

Items of Interest– Bob Jones

Hospitality – Michele LeGrand, Carol Sawicki

Lunch Out – Chuck Bethany

Mah Jongg- Dianne Straley

Members Helping Members –Betty Schwartz, Kay Norusis

Men's Activities – Vince LeGrand

Mexican Train – Shari Kidd

Special Events – Shari Kidd

Rummikub-Michele LeGrand

Busy Hands- Collette Wronek

Web Team – Brian Hoover, Adra Kryszczuk, Michele LeGrand

February

1 – Barb Laufer
6 – Mike Rozea
8 – Gene Rozea
11 – Larry Laufer
19 – Peg Baldwin
20 – Steven Berg
21 – Sheila Cooke
21 – Joyce Walker
28 – Beth Keane

March

3- Chuck Bethany
4 – Fred Abernethy
6 – Helen Reed
7 – Harriet Bates
10 – Corwin Kippenhan
11 – Shirley Strickland
11- Judy Fahrenholz
12 – Monty Matthews
13 – Doris Wallace
13 – Denise Yow
13 - Carol Hoover
16 - Linda Fedder
19 – Cathy Knobloch
20 - Terry Eskin
22 - Larry Parker
23 – Addie McSherly
28 – Jim Bennett
28 – Ann Waldron
30 - Greg Conrad

Please email Barb Beck at ahbbjb@aol.com if your birthday is not listed or if you would prefer that your birthday not be listed.

Member News

Thank you to all who sent me get well greetings & checked on me with phone calls & to those who sent meals to help us through a very tough few weeks. Having the heart attack was surprising enough to deal with but then having the allergic reaction to Lipitor (rhabdomyolysis) was just too much. After these few painful weeks I am finally feeling stronger & hope to be back into the New Year with Mexican Train, game night, etc. Also, when you see Bob please give him a pat on the back for his never ending care of me around the clock. I wouldn't be where I am today without him. I am blessed. Hope to see you all in the New Year; Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Maureen Jones

Congratulations to Newcomer members Barbara Jackson and Tony Wilson on their recent marriage.

Welcome to our newest members, Addie and Lonny McSherly, who live in Conover!

General Meeting/Welcome Coffee

10:30 am, Wednesday, February 10 at the Hickory Airport

Please join us for our monthly general meeting at the airport. Come at 10:30 for coffee and a treat and then stay for a presentation by **Jane Bowers**, executive director of the **Humane Society of Catawba County**. (There may be squirmy puppies). Jane will talk about animal adoptions and how the society functions in our area. Her presentation will be followed by a brief business meeting. Hope to see you there!!

Elections Coming March 9

Newcomers will elect a new board on Wednesday, March 9, and there is still time to join the ballot. The board of directors is proposing a slate of nine people – five officers and four directors. The club will accept nominations until March 9, either by email, letter or on the floor at that meeting. If you are nominating someone, you must have their commitment that they want to serve. Each term is for one year and begins April 1. Here is the slate proposed by the current board:

Officers:

Carol Hoover, president
Monty Matthews, vice president
Pam Moody, secretary
Vince LeGrand, treasurer
Dianne Straley, past president



Directors:

John Bates
Adra Kryszczuk
Bob Jones
Shari Kidd

Five of the nine currently serve on the board and four would be new members. Proposed new board members are Carol Hoover, Monty Matthews, Pam Moody and Shari Kidd. We are excited that Carol will run for the office of president. She moved to Alexander County from Vienna, Va., almost a year ago with her husband Brian. They have been married 31 years and live on Lake Hickory. Carol retired as section manager for programs for Arlington County Parks and Recreation Department. She was responsible for preschools, after school programs, summer camps, teen clubs, senior adult centers, therapeutic recreation for persons with disabilities and outreach to immigrant populations. You can find Carol and her Newcomers buddies bowling and playing mah jongg, dominoes and canasta.

Game Nights

Wednesday, February 10 & Thursday, February 18 at 6:00pm, Hickory Airport

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at one or both of the game nights this month, so come eat dinner and play the game of your choice. Canasta, dominoes, rummy cube, and mahjong are regularly played. Get your group together or just come on and try a new game. Please note on your RSVP the game you wish to play. RSVP to Shari Kidd at kidd915sl@gmail.com or 828-328-4657.

Lunch Out

This month I would like to invite you to try one of our excellent local restaurants, **Saigon Garden Vietnamese Restaurant in Conover**. This has been a local favorite for many years and I know a number of the Newcomers have also enjoyed it. We will be meeting there on **February 4th at 11:30 a.m.** at 614 Conover Blvd (US Hwy 70 E), in Conover. If you are not familiar with this restaurant, you can find the directions as well as the excellent and varied menu on their website: www.thesaigongarden.com

A couple of you have mentioned that you are unfamiliar with Vietnamese food and are reluctant to try it. So stick with me for a moment while I tell you a little about their most popular dish, known as "PHO," which is a delicious hot, clear, beef flavored, noodle soup. It is so popular in Vietnam that the locals eat it for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and mid-night snacks. Because the broth is clear, you may wish to "dress it up" by adding ingredients such as beef, chicken, pork, or seafood. It's easy, from the menu you just pick out the combo that strikes you fancy. Beside PHO, they also have a variety of rice dishes, vermicelli dishes, and special dishes included roasted duck. I have not tried them all yet, but I can tell you that I always go home happy.

Send your **RSVP** to bethanycw@charter.net by **noon on February 2nd** so that I can work with the restaurant to ensure we have sufficient seats. I hope you will join us, patronize a local restaurant, and enjoy great food, company, and conversations. Chuck Bethany

Quarterly Charity

Our Newcomers' Charity for January, February and March 2016 is the **Humane Society of Catawba County**. According to executive director Jane Bowers, their current and ongoing needs are: dog and cat food- Purina One - dog , puppy, cat, kitten any flavors; cat litter, cheap, clay type; laundry detergent; trash bags 13 gallon and contractor size; bleach ; copy paper; and paper towels.

Since Jane is a former member (and past president) of NCV, we really need to come through this quarter. There is a rumor that she might show up at a general meeting with some squirmy puppies. Bev Forest and John Bates will be collecting donated items and checks and cash at NCV functions we attend. If anyone would like to do that at activities they do not attend, let Bev or John know so that they can arrange transfer and delivery to the shelter.

Newcomers Website

Brian Hoover has been added to the Web Team of Adra Kryszczuk and Michele LeGrand. The Web Team have been developing a fresh look for the web site.

The updated web site will be released in early February. As before, the directory requires a log-in. The user name and password are now unique for each user. I have already registered all members with email addresses in the directory. The email address is the user name. A password has not been established for you. To complete your registration, use the lost password feature of the site at www.newcomersofcv.com/lostpassword.

The site is intended to be your resource. Please submit any ideas to: webteam@newcomersofcv.com. This address will not be available before the new site comes online.

Coffee and Conversation

We will be going to **Lowes Foods** in the **Belle Hollow** Shopping center. The coffee and pastries are right at the front door. We will meet on **Friday the 26th at 2 pm**. Contact Sheri Binning at ronaldbinning@gmail.com

Book Club

The next meeting of the Newcomers Book Club will be on **Wednesday, March 23** when we will discuss "**Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith**" by Anne Lamott. This selection is very timely as Ann will be giving a talk at LRU on April 7th as part of this year's Visiting Authors series. In "Traveling Mercies", Lamott chronicles her journey of faith. At times, out loud funny and at times poignant, her book takes the reader from her drug addiction to alcoholism, through the deaths of her father and best friend, and the birth of her son through moving, funny, and deeply personal anecdotes.

Our meeting will be held at the **Women's Resource Center** at 125 3rd St NE, Hickory NC. If you have any questions about Book Club, please contact Sue Asp twoasps@gmail.com or Betty Schwartz bettysch69@gmail.com.

Daytime Canasta

Afternoon lunch and canasta will be held on **Thursday, February 25 at 11:30 am**. Canasta, lunch, dessert, and a beverage is \$10 & canasta with a dessert and a beverage is \$5. Don't know how to play. There is always a learning table if people indicate they need to brush up or learn the game. Plan to come for lunch and canasta in January. All Newcomer members, men and women, are welcome. To join in the fun, contact **Martha Conrad** at marthaconrad@charter.net.

Mah Jongg

If you know about the American version of mah jongg, you know that we try to replicate the 60-some legal hands on our master card by using 14 tiles.

The days are ticking down until April 1 when our current card is out of date and we start with a new challenge – 60 other hands that we all want to complete in the next 12 months.

My favorite hand this year: FF 1111 9999 DDDD. Then the card's small print says use three suits, so I chose craks and bams and four soaps.

If that sounds like Greek to you, consider learning to play mah jongg. Then you will be able to crack that code.

Contact Dianne Straley: dfwhit@gmail.com or 328-1412 to schedule lessons.



Men's Activities **(though not limited to men)**

There is a group of Newcomers who head out to the gun range twice a month for target shooting. And, in keeping with Newcomers tradition, we generally go for a bite to eat after we shoot. If you are a shooter or are interested in learning to shoot, we would love to have you join us. We shoot at the **Springs Road Gun Club** on Springs Road in Hickory. Their website is www.springsroadgunclub.com They offer gun rentals and a wide variety of training classes.

We currently shoot at **6:30 PM on the second Tuesday (February 9)** of each month and at **noon on the fourth Thursday (February 25)** of each month. Contact **Vince LeGrand** for information on shooting legravin@gmail.com or **828-466-8218**. If you are interested in the Newcomers Bowling League, also contact Vince.

Busy Hands

BUSY HANDS will meet **Feb. 5 and 19 from 1:00 to 3:00pm** at the **Westmont Senior Center**, 1316 Main Ave Dr., Hickory. We do all types of handwork and can teach you how to do so if you don't know how. This includes embroidery, knitting, crocheting. Come and enjoy the fellowship and handwork. If you have questions, please call Collette Wronek at 704-530-1767.

Bridge

Monday, Feb. 1st
Wednesday, Feb. 3rd
Monday, Feb. 8th
Monday, February 15th
Wednesday, February 17th



New members: please contact Gloria Berg (glomcberg@hotmail.com) for details about bridge or how to be put on the substitute list.

February Social

There will be a **Trivia Night** and **chili cook off** at the airport on **Feb 27th** at 6:00 pm. More information coming soon!

Rummikub

Rummikub is usually held on the **2nd Tuesday** of the month in the evening at members' homes. Contact Michele LeGrand at exermom@gmail.com for more information about Rummikub.



Mexican Train Dominoes



February 2 at 6:00pm

Place: **Shari Kidd's home**, 5495 Gunpowder Drive, Hickory

Bring a snack to share and your favorite beverage, as well as \$2.00 for the Kitty.

RSVP to Shari at kidd915sl@gmail.com or 828-328-4657 by noon on February 2.

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 might need help due to illness, surgery, hospitalization, death, etc. Types of assistance could 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. The committee currently includes Kay Norusis and Betty Schwartz. For more information, contact Betty at betty60@gmail.com.