



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

March 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**

President's Column

This is my farewell column as president of Newcomers of Catawba Valley. It's been fun. When I agreed to run for the office two years ago, I knew I wanted to nudge the group a bit. I wanted club members to have more fun. Most of us are retired, right? That means we have more time to dance, bowl, read a book, play a game, go for a hike. And you can do all those things through Newcomers.

Your board members and other volunteers have organized wonderful events over the last couple years: murder mystery dinners, hula lessons, pool parties, pontoon boat parties, fondue party, baseball game outings, 50-60s party, full moon party, winery trip, ice cream social, magician visit and cookouts. Last weekend, almost 30 of us said goodbye to winter with a chili cook off.

Of course, you can do any of those things with a few friends, but Newcomers do it in big groups. I love the buzz of the crowd I often hear as we meet for game night or a potluck. We're having fun. We enjoy each other's company and look forward to welcoming new faces as our social club continues to grow.

For me, this is a farewell to the office but definitely not a farewell to the club. I've got too many new activities to try.

Dianne Straley
President

Happy Birthday to Our Members

**Charity
Coordinators –
John & Harriet
Bates**

**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**

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 Eskind
22 - Larry Parker
23 – Addie McSherly
28 – Jim Bennett
28 – Ann Waldron
30 - Greg Conrad

April

8 - Mike Flo
10 – Margie Dickey
10 – Don Baldwin
11 – William Waldron
15 – Bob Jones
15 – Collette Wronek
15 - Margaret Clayton
16 – Marianne Merrill
17 – Dianne Straley
18 – Joe Durand
27 – Susan Perkins
27 - Naomi East
30 – Bert Perkins
30 - Susan Turner

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.

Dues

If you'd like to save some money, remember to send in your dues check or give it to any Newcomers board member by March 31. Throughout March, dues for the next fiscal year will be **\$25**, but as of April 1, it will cost you **\$30** for your membership. Easy choice, right? Mail it to:

Newcomers of Catawba Valley
2425 North Center Street #169
Hickory, NC 28601



General Meeting/Welcome Coffee

10:30 am, Wednesday, March 9 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 to vote for your officers and directors for the upcoming fiscal year. In addition to voting, you will have another opportunity to make your voice known. Dianne will be asking all of you about the type of activities you would like to see in the coming year. Hope to see you there!!

Elections on 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.

Game Nights

Wednesday, March 9 & Thursday, March 17 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

The Newcomers Monthly Lunch Out for March will be at our local **Olive Garden** restaurant. We will be meeting on **March 3rd at 11:45** at 2261 Highway 70 in Hickory. If you are not familiar with this restaurant, you can find the directions as well as the excellent and varied menu on their website: http://www.olivegarden.com/locations/nc/hickory/hickory-valley-crossing-shopping-center/1407__

Please consider my invitation and send your **RSVP** to bethanycw@charter.net by noon on March 1st so that I can work with the restaurant to ensure we have sufficient seats. I hope you will join us 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. John Bates will be collecting donated items and checks and cash at NCV functions he attends. If anyone would like to do that at activities John does not attend, let John know so that he can arrange transfer and delivery to the shelter.

Bridge

Wednesday, March 2nd
Monday , March 7th
Monday, March 14th
Wednesday, March 16th
Monday, March 21st



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

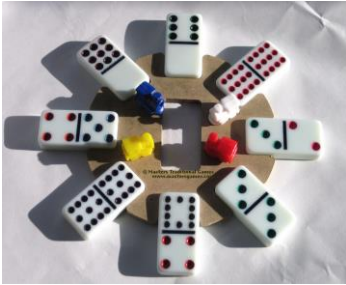
Newcomers Website

The updated web site was released last month. As before, the directory requires a log-in. The user name and password are now unique for each user. Members with email addresses in the directory have already registered. Your email address is your user name. If you have not done so already, you need to establish your password. To do so, use the lost password feature of the site at www.newcomersofcv.com/lostpassword.

Coffee and Conversation

We're going to go to **The Wooden Spool Cafe** at the Furniture Mart on Hwy 70 on the **25th at 1 pm** (a little earlier than normal). The cafe is run by the Mosteller Mansion events group. <https://www.facebook.com/TheWoodenSpoolCafe/> Looks like it should be good! Contact Sheri Binning at ronaldbinning@gmail.com.

Mexican Train Dominoes



March 1 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 the 1st.

Book Club

The next meeting of the Newcomers Book Club will be on **Wednesday, March 23 at 1:30 pm** 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, March 24 at 11:30 am**. Canasta, lunch, dessert, and a beverage is \$10 & canasta with just 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. All Newcomer members, men and women, are welcome. We like to start playing the game right at noon, so please be considerate of others and get to the airport on time. If an emergency arises, please **call Martha Conrad on her cell ASAP at 828-234-8955**. To join in the fun, contact **Martha at marthaconrad@charter.net** or call her at home for more information at **828-495-4599**.

Mah Jongg

When I tell people I play mah jongg, they invariably tell me: "Oh, I do, too. It is a fun computer game." Nope, that is not the real mah jongg. Computer mah jongg is a simple game of matching tiles that are scattered around the screen.

Newcomers play **American Mah Jongg**, which is centered around a list of 60-some possible combinations or hands. If you play a couple times a week, you probably will be able to finish the entire list in one year. That is what many of our club players are doing now...pressing on to finish our list before the national league releases its 2016 list of hands on April 1.

Want to learn more? We play twice weekly at **Pinecrest Retirement Center**, 915 29th Ave. NE, Hickory, at **1:30 p.m. Tuesdays** and **10:30 a.m. Fridays**. Call or email me to schedule lessons: 308-4282 or dfwhit@gmail.com. Dianne Straley

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 (March 8)** of each month and at **noon on the fourth Thursday (March 24)** 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 Activity Group

Starting in March, the group will move from 1st and 3rd Fridays to **every Thursday** at the **Westmont Senior Center**, 1316 Main Ave. Dr. from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. All are invited to this Senior Center to play games, cards, do hand sewing, or just chat. There is plenty of parking and lots of chairs and tables in a large room. If you have any questions, please call Collette Wronek at 704-530-1767, or email her at sewalot38@hotmail.com.

Rummikub

Rummikub will be held on **March 8 at 6:30 pm** at the home of Lisa Eskind. Please let her know by March 7 if you will be able to attend. You can reach her at 704-995-0357 or email her at lisa.eskind@gmail.com. Contact Michele LeGrand at exermom@gmail.com for more information about Rummikub.



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.