

Newcomers of Catawba Valley

2425 North Center St #169

Hickory, NC 28601

Web: newcomersofcv.com

January 2021



President's Column

"Cheers to health, happiness, and prosperity in 2021! Wishing you and yours a safe, healthy, and prosperous new year!"

Happy New Year Newcomers!

I hope that everyone has been enjoying a wonderful holiday season. After this past year we are all ready for the New Year! I hope the New Year brings us all a very different and positive year from this last year. Happy 2021!

Instead of talking about what we didn't get to this past year, I am going to brag about the NCV Board of Directors. I want you to know that this BOD met every month, via Zoom, to discuss the current situation and come up with ideas to keep people connected. I appreciate every person on this BOD and am grateful for all their help, advice and assistance.

First, I will start with our Vice-President, Rob Herman. He was able to process a few new memberships despite COVID-19. He is a voice of calm and positivity. Thanks Rob!

Then there is Chris Beckom, our Secretary. She records our minutes accurately each month, and that can't be easy on Zoom with multiple people talking and the challenge of determining who said what. Thanks Chris!

Kathy Rozea is our treasurer. She keeps the books, and handles all the finances for NCV. She has great ideas and we appreciate her hard work. Thanks Kathy!

Delilah Bragg has been there to offer advice and answer questions from her previous experience as President. Thanks for hanging in there Delilah!

Adra Kryszczuk is a BOD member and our webmaster. She keeps our website updated and running smoothly. She has more NCV BOD experience than most of us and I count on her for her experience. Thanks Adra!

Nancy Geiger is our Charity Chair and jumped right in when asked to take over the charity function this past year. She is determined and a great advocate for all the charities. Thanks Nancy!

Amy Chizen is our chair of the Special Events Committee and she has had a tough year. She laid out plans for several events that then changed, or fell through, due to the NC changing policies on the COVID-19 issues. She works hard at planning these events, and we are thankful for those we were able to pull off this past year. I know she will do the same for this coming year. Thanks Amy!



So this is the BOD and I am blessed to be able to work with each of them, and to call them friends!

So, it seems we will start off the New Year in the same way as we ended the old, but I am hopeful that things will improve quickly and we can, once again, begin to enjoy all the wonderful events that the NCV has to offer.

Sadly, we lost member, Zig Kryszczuk, just before Christmas. Please keep Adra and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Stay happy, stay healthy, and stay hopeful! Hope to see you in 2021!

Blessings,

Cathi Montgomery
President, NCV



In Loving Memory



"Zig" Kryszczuk



Zigmunt "Zig" Kryszczuk, age 76, of Hickory, passed away suddenly at home on Tuesday, December 22, 2020. Born October 3, 1944 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, he was the son of Michael Kasmer Kryszczuk and Wanda Kryszczuk (nee Tarnowski). He immigrated to the United States in 1952, relocating to Rockford, IL and was incredibly proud to become a US citizen at the age of 19. He graduated from Rockford East High School in 1962 and earned an Associate's degree in engineering at DeVry Technical Institute. He married Adra Ellen Forrester in July of 1968, and they raised their children in Hoffman Estates, IL. He was a dedicated husband, and family was always his number one priority.

Zig was a loving and proud father to his daughters. While he was playful and fun, he also espoused a strong work ethic and encouraged his children to constantly seek knowledge. He was equally proud of their doctoral degrees and their crafting, having taught them both to swing a hammer and use a drill. He was famous for building back decks, smoking turkeys, and playing a mean game of cribbage.

For most of his career he worked in electronics sales, retiring in 2008. When not working and after his retirement, he loved to spend his free time woodworking, crafting, and gardening. For years he regularly square danced with Adra and their friends at the Flying Squares in the Chicago area. After retirement he and Adra moved to Hickory to be close to their grandchildren. He enjoyed playing cards, especially

Cribbage, Poker, and Samba. Zig was active in the social group, Newcomers of Catawba Valley, where he headed one of the group's game nights. He proudly wore the title of 'World's Biggest Fan' at his grandsons' sporting events, concerts, and theatrical performances.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother-in-law, Gerald Schindler.

Zig is survived by his wife of 52 years, Adra; his daughters Elizabeth Braun (Jeff) and Katherine Farris (Steve); his grandsons, Will (16), Zack (14), Ryan (14), and Kyle (12); his sisters Sharon Schindler and Yvonne Kryszczuk-Grimes (Chuck); and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Condolences may be sent to the Kryszczuk family at www.drumfh-hickory.com.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to www.cityofhope.org/giving.

There will be an internment in Illinois at a future date, and a virtual memorial service will take place in the coming weeks, details to be shared by the family.



Zig & Adra's 50th anniversary celebration 2 years ago. Four grandsons, Will, Ryan, Zack and Kyle. Daughters Elizabeth (Jeff w/beard) and Katherine (Steve).



Book Club

The Book Club will discuss **Say Nothing: A true Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland by Patrick Radden**

Keefe. In December 1972, Jean McConville, a thirty-eight-year-old mother of ten, was dragged out of her Belfast home by masked intruders, her children clinging to her legs. They never saw her again. Her abduction was one of the most notorious episodes of vicious conflict known as The Troubles. Everyone in the neighborhood knew the I.R.A. was responsible. But a climate of fear and paranoia, no one would speak of it. In 2003, five years after an accord brought an uneasy peace to Northern Ireland, a set of human bones was discovered on a beach. McConville's children knew it was their mother when they were told a blue safety pin was attached to the dress—with so many kids, she had always kept it handy for diapers or ripped clothes. **Patrick Keefe will be in the Visiting Writers Series at Lenoir Rhyne University on March 18-19, 2021.**

The Book Club meets every other month on the 4th Wednesday of the month, except for November when we meet on the third Wednesday. Our next meeting is January 27 by Zoom at 1:30 PM.

Books for the coming year are:

January 27: **Say Nothing A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland by Patrick Radden Keefe**

March 24: **American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins**

May 26: **The Necklace: Thirteen Women and the Experiment that Transformed Their lives by Cheryl Jarvis**

July 28: **Even As We Breathe by Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle**

September 22: **Nickle Boys by Colson Whitehead**

November 17: **The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett**

The Book Club Coordinator is Mary Bucy at mebucy@hotmail.com



Bowling

Newcomers Bowling returned to the lanes at Pin Station as of September 2020. Just as last year the cost is \$8.00 per person for 3 games of bowling. We will start bowling at 6:30pm with a 10 minute practice session starting at 6:20pm.

We will bowl on alternate Wednesdays.

We currently only have 8 people signed up to bowl which means we will only be reserving one pair of lanes. If you wish to bowl, please let me know ASAP so that I can request a second pair of lanes.

Vince LeGrand LaGravin@gmail.com

Bowling Dates for 2021 are as follows:

Jan 13, 2021 Jan 27, 2021

Feb 10, 2021 Feb 24, 2021

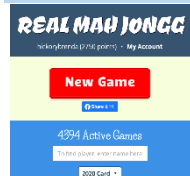
March 10, 2021 March 24, 2021

April 7, 2021 April 21, 2021

COVID-19 advisory: Please make note that Pin Station has revised their Covid-19 protocol they now require MASKS to be worn.



MAH JONGG



Many members of the Mah Jong group have continued to play Online Mah Jongg. <https://realmahjongg.com/>



The photos here are what the opening page and sign in/up page looks like.

Just like in the old days - pre-Covid 19 - Newcomers' mah jongg enthusiasts play every Tuesday and Friday. But instead of playing at Pinecrest retirement center, we play in our own homes online. Look for other Newcomers, many who have used Hickory in front of their name, hickorybrenda, hickorydianne, hickorychris, hickoryhoover...(we have several Carol's..lol)...come online and join us!!

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS



Members Helping Members is a way that we can help each other during **any** particular hard time. I'm not just talking about the Corona 19 virus. I am speaking about any time that someone needs help with a day-to-day activity or a once in a month activity. For example, we're just going to the store for groceries or prescriptions. Please reach out and contact me for whatever you might need. If you need someone to walk your dog or you need a ride to the doctor or if you need a house cleaner . . . anything that you might need help for, we're here for you. You don't have to worry we don't charge for our services sometimes some of the people that end up doing the work may charge but you'll be fully aware of that if that should occur. For the most part if it's one of our members helping another member I don't expect there'll be a charge. So, let's see what we can do to help each other in times of need. It's hard enough to be alone or sick during this period that we don't want you to have to suffer not being able to achieve something that you need done.

My phone number is 828-228-4016. Please feel free to contact me by phone, text or email at ncvalegirl@gmail.com. I look forward to speaking with you and even if it's just to say "hi."

COVID-19 Fraud Warnings and additional INFO

To All our NCV Members

Please be sure to get all your information about the Covid-19 Virus and what is happening in our State and our area from **FACTUAL and RELIABLE** sources. There have been numerous misleading articles on social media and even sent through emails and texts that are just plain wrong and harmful.

Below are some websites with accurate and timely information on the corona virus:

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/counterterrorism-and-emerging-threats/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

<https://www.nih.gov/health-information/coronavirus>

<https://www.wfae.report/breakingnews/>

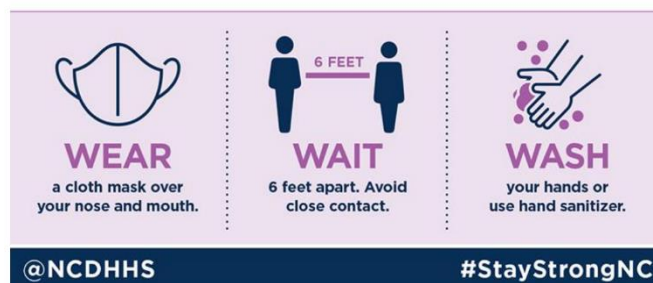
<https://www.wbtv.com/news/catawba-county/>

All these websites have the ability for you to sign up for regular updates

For all CURRENT North Carolina Vaccine info

<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines>

If you leave home, know your 3 Ws!



Help fight Medicare fraud

Note

Medicare covers the [COVID-19 vaccine](#) at no cost to you, so if anyone asks you to share your Medicare Number or pay for access to the vaccine, you can bet it's a scam.

Here's what to know:

- You can't pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine.
- You can't pay to get early access to a vaccine.
- Don't share your personal or financial information if someone calls, texts, or emails you promising access to the vaccine for a fee.

Con artists may try to get your Medicare Number or personal information so they can steal your identity and commit Medicare fraud. Medicare fraud results in higher health care costs and taxes for everyone.

Jo Paul | Sr. Technical Advisor



N.C. Department of Insurance
Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program
1201 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1201
919.814.9931 office
919.807.6901 fax



The "Alternate" Special Events Committee....lol

Soooo....since the SEC is eventless right now, Amy Chizen has come up with some alternative FUN. Amy has researched a website that shows National Holidays for everyday of the year!! So just for fun...for our first posting...here are National Holidays for all the FRIDAYS in January!!

January 1st

Start your Year with "Bloody Mary Day"



January 22nd

Get out the plates for "Pie Day"



January 8th

Have a long soak on "Bubble Bath Day"



January 29th

A great winter activity! "Puzzle Day"



January 15th

"Hat Day" catch your fancy?





Happy New Year!! We thought it would never get here, right?

There were a lot of things we couldn't do as a group in 2020, but you did a wonderful job supporting our charities. Thank you!!

Our 1st quarter of 2021 we'll be

supporting **Exodus Homes**. <https://www.exodushomes.org/>

Here's what the executive director, Susan Smith, says about them:

Currently Exodus Homes is a United Way agency that provides 73 beds of faith based supportive housing to homeless men and women who are returning to the community from treatment centers and prison. We have a comprehensive array of services to meet their needs including housing, transportation, case management, vocational training, employment, leadership development and volunteer opportunities. Our length of stay is individualized.

We are 75% self-supporting through our revenue generating vocational training program Exodus Works, and fees paid by residents after they are employed in the community. We are primarily operated by current and former residents, mostly in volunteer staff positions. Over the past 23 years we have demonstrated effectiveness in significantly reducing prison recidivism, neighborhood crime, and improving the local workforce for hard to employ people.

Members of Newcomers of Catawba Valley Charity can support us by hiring us for moving, landscaping, gutter cleaning, pressure washing, debris removal, hauling and other kinds of general labor. We also need donated furniture and household accessories in good condition for our thrift store and donated vehicles for our transportation services. Donation pick up is free and tipping for our volunteer workers is appreciated. We have volunteer opportunities in our thrift store to help clean and measure items to post for sale online as well as work the cash register when the manager needs help.

You may call Exodus Works Administrator Andreana Warren at 828-324-2390 to schedule their workers or to ask for a pickup for your donation. Or you may as always send a check to our treasurer: Kathy Rozea at 2425 N Center Street #169 Hickory, NC 28601. Your check should be made out to Newcomers of Catawba Valley with Exodus Homes written in the memo line.

If you have any questions for the executive director, you may email Susan at:

revsusansmith@gmail.com

****If you hire Exodus workers please consider sending me (Nancy Geiger) an email telling me what you had them do and how they did so I can share it in another newsletter with the group. (I'd also like to keep track of what the club does for our charity, so if you volunteer over there, please let me know that too!)**

As always, thanks for your willingness to help others!

Nancy Geiger, Charity Chair



EXODUS HOMES WISH LIST

Bring your donations to Exodus Works at 610 4thSt. SW Hickory, NC 28602 SW or call 828-324-2390 for pick-up. All donations are tax deductible.

Financial support for residents too sick to work

Adopt a location for the annual or monthly utility expenses

Financial support for residents who are unemployed

Financial support for transportation services – gasoline, vehicle maintenance

Tools and equipment for Exodus Works

Donation of cars, trucks, vans in fairly good condition

Volunteers who can do vehicle and building maintenance.

Twin beds, bunk beds, full size beds

EXODUS WISH LIST con't

Linens, pillows, comforters for beds
Clothing in good condition, including x-large sizes for men and women
Household items of all kinds in good condition
Furniture in good condition – living room, dining room, bedroom, bathroom
Dishes, silverware, cups, glasses, pots, pans, other kitchen items, etc
Washers and dryers
Microwave ovens
Cleaning supplies
Welcome packets with personal hygiene items of all kinds for men and women
First aid supplies
Latex gloves
Laundry detergent and bleach
Office supplies
Bibles and inspirational materials
Other seasonal/recreational/inspirational items we could use in supportive housing
Kindle/Nooks readers
DVD players
Recreational equipment/games/board games



Holiday Magic and Traditions shared from Members



These are the wonderful responses received from Members about Christmas Traditions....thank you to all of you who shared your stories and pictures.



This year we decided to downsize our main Christmas tree. I had what I called my “Charlie Brown” tree that I used for the grandchildren in the downstairs family room. Well, this year I brought it upstairs with one hand, we put a few decorations on it & are really enjoying our little tree in the living room. Might be our main tree for a long time to come.

Merry Christmas from Sue Asp

Next three Christmas photos have been provided from **Kevin McCutcheon.**

Tree with lake in background, pic over mantle of St. Francis of Assisi, and our beloved presepio.



More Christmas Shares



Photos from Vince and Michele Le Grand

- Main Christmas tree in our living room along with a crocheted tree we hang from the ceiling fan (and one of our cats)

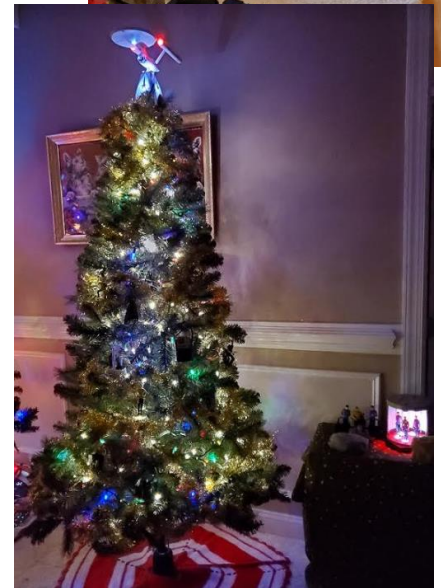
- Main Christmas tree with the Polar Express



Our Peanuts/Disney tree. Note the Mickey Mouse tree topper and the lighted Peanuts tree skirt. There is another one of our cats in this picture.

- Our Star Trek tree. Note the USS Enterprise tree topper.

Both of these trees are in the foyer when you enter our home.



- on the left side is our Star Wars tree. Note the Death Star tree topper and lighted Star Wars tree skirt. Next to the tree is a wreath with 7 animated Star Wars ornaments.

- in the background to the right of the Star Wars tree is a tree with only ornaments from Christmas Vacation and A Christmas Story plus a few M&M's ornaments



- the other tree in the background is our Cat tree. Every one of the approximately 200 ornaments features one or more cats. If you look closely you will see the tree topper is Grumpy

- Cat. The tree skirt features cats, of course.

- the rightmost tree features 2 series of Hallmark ornaments: Frosty Friends and North Pole Tree Trimmers.



More Christmas Shares

Christmas with the Bob and Joyce DENNIS One of our traditions is to have Christmas crackers at our holiday dinner. This year's art project for the grandkids was to make these pictures to decorate the buffet table. Our older grands decide on an endangered animal to adopt thru National Wildlife Assn.; this year it was an Orangutan!



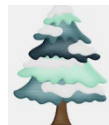
Donna and Benny Barger

I made this fabric trees many years ago, but still love to put them up in my house. Benny and I are having a "low key" Christmas this year with just the two of us. Daughter and son-in-law live in Louisville, KY. My family lives here in this general area, but we have chosen not to get together with them. Trying to stay healthy. Have a Very Merry Christmas.



Margie and Richard Dickey

A new, fun tradition started at Players Ridge Golf course: a parade of decorated golf carts. So cute! I managed to get a few good shots before they all drove away... probably 25 in all.



Patsye Thompson Instead of a Christmas Tree, I put up a New Year's Tree marking the passage of time with an additional antique clock face. Some are alarm clock size; two are 12" across from grandfather clocks; and two are wooden from cuckoo clocks. The table top tree is old painted steel and very heavy. The decorations are all antique, including Victorian baby shoes and tiny leather gloves, curiosities, and antique or vintage bird ornaments with great patina. What might otherwise go on a Christmas tree is in this hutch. Photos and needlework of my Christmas wedding and my son on Santa's lap, mercury glass ornaments, and a collection of framed cross stitch holiday every year



projects that I made



BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays in January		Birthdays in February	
Lee Wagoner	1/1	Christi Austin	2/1
John Montgomery	1/2	Larry Laufer	2/1
Becky Thomas	1/2	Vicki Mullins	2/6
Patricia Lang	1/4	Mike Rozea	2/6
Eric Koch	1/7	Susan Fontyn	2/8
Wil Mullins	1/7	Marje Wells	2/9
Hedy Pausa	1/7	Phyllis Polo	2/9
Miki Valkanoff	1/10	Donna Barger	2/10
David Martin	1/16	Barbara Laufer	2/11
Kevin McCutcheon	1/16	Butch Dunlap	2/15
Gail L. Miller	1/17	Ron Kapnick	2/16
Barb Beck	1/21	Bill Lane	2/18
Millie Broselow	1/22	Peg Baldwin	2/19
Bryan Wood	1/22	Steven Berg	2/20
Sue Bumgarner	1/23	Sheila Cooke	2/21
Royce Dunn	1/23	Joyce Walker	2/21
Betty Stone	1/23	Cheryl Powell	2/23
Sue Asp	1/27	Cathie Lane	2/24
Bob Connor	1/28	Iris Sechriest	2/26
Ginny Heinrich	1/29	Beth Keane	2/28
Steve Womack	1/29		
Edie Ashman	1/30		
Carolyn Eanes	1/30		
Mary Ellen Glover	1/30		



Sponsor Spotlight

Catawba Valley Community College

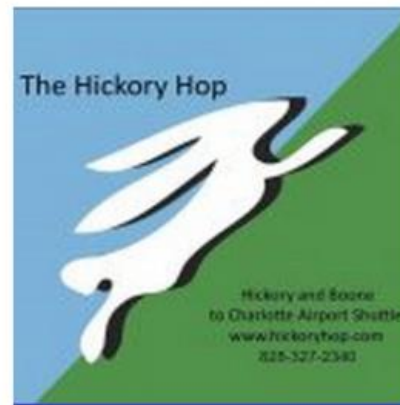
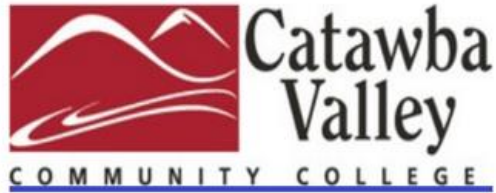
Catawba Valley Community College has been a Sponsor of NCV since 2011.

Through the concerted efforts of concerned and united Catawba County citizens and North Carolina educational leaders, on April 3, 1958, Catawba Valley Community College was established by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction as the ninth school of its kind in the state. Construction of the original facilities began in 1959. Catawba Valley Community college celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2018. The faculty and staff have touched the lives of hundreds of thousands and still today, we are about empowering people to achieve their dreams.

Catawba Valley Community College promotes **student success** and **quality stakeholder engagement** by demonstrating **excellence in teaching**, instilling a passion for **life-long learning**, and creating premier **economic and workforce development**. All CVCC employees are committed to and accountable for a college environment built on a foundation of **professionalism, integrity, and ethics**, to foster **global and diverse perspectives** within a **safe, secure, and inclusive college community**.



Our Sponsors



Sponsor's cont'd



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Broker, REALTOR®

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828-322-1005 Business

828-327-3199 Fax

lindameares@cbbh.com

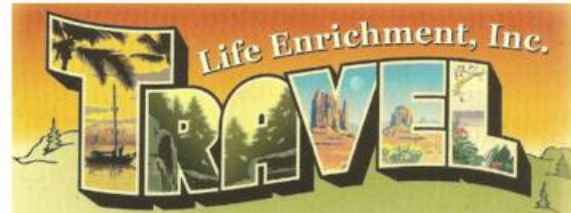


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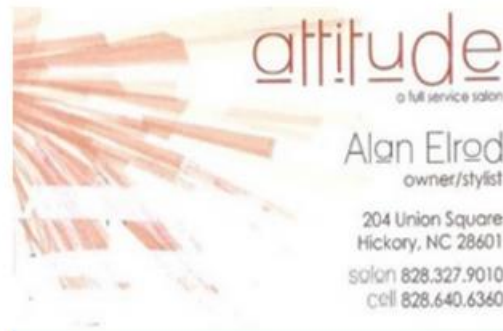
President

mcsigmon69@gmail.com

404-277-7369 - Cell

226 44th Avenue NW

Hickory, NC 28601



FUNNNNNNNNNNIES



The tale of one eyed Bob



The wife said:
"Here's \$20, get
the dog a jacket.
If there's any
money left over,
get yourself a beer!"



I stepped on to my talking-
scales this morning. It said:
"Please practice social
distancing. Only one person at
a time, please."



Officers, Directors, Activity Chairs and Committees 2020

Officers	Position
Cathi Montgomery	President
Rob Herman	Vice President
Kathy Rozea	Treasurer
Chris Beckom	Secretary
Delilah Bragg	Past President
Directors	
	Amy Chizen
	Nancy Geiger
	Adra Kryszczuk
	Addie McSherley
Activity	Chair
Book <u>Club</u>	Mary Bucy, Donna McDermott
Bowling	Vince LeGrand
Bridge	Gloria Berg
Canasta and Games Day	* * * * * Position Available * * * * *
Canasta and Games Night	Zig and Adra Kryszczuk, Addie and Lonny McSherley
Charity Coordinator	Nancy Geiger
Coffee & Conversation	Sheri Binning
Dominoes	* * * * * Position Available * * * * *
Events Committee	Amy Chizen (chair), Chris Beckom, Dottie Demarest, Mary Ellen Glover, Shari Kidd, Jon Kiser, Kevin McCutcheon, Audrey Rozzelle, Sharon Snellings and Paige Straley.
Items of Interest	Bob Jones
Hospitality	Sharon Snellings, Carol Sawicki, Judy Dostall
Lunch out	Chuck Bethany, Francine Gissy
MahJongg	Dianne Straley
Membership	Rob Herman
Members Helping Members	Sandi Johnson, Hazel Poppe
Newsletter Editor	Brenda Ireland
Programs	Dianne Straley
Publicity	Amy Chizen
Rummikub	Michele LeGrand
Samba Day	* * * * * Position Available * * * * *
Samba and Games Night	Paige and Dianne Straley, Audrey Rozzelle
Shooting Practice	Vince LeGrand
Sponsors	Brenda Ireland
Team Cuisine	Chris and John Almeida, Jon Kiser and Rob Herman
Webmaster Team	Adra Kryszczuk (site and calendar), Greg Gervasio (site advisor)

Last.....but not least.....(:>)

