

NEWCOMERS of Catawba Valley

2425 North Center Street
#169
Hickory, NC 28601
Newcomersofcv.com

APRIL 2021



PRESIDENT'S Column

"Spring: a lovely reminder of how beautiful change can truly be."

Hello Newcomers!

Happy **SPRING** - Happy **EASTER!**

Dear Newcomers,

First of all, let's talk about opening 'Newcomers of Catawba Valley' activities/events.

Thank you all so much for your quick responses to our survey earlier this month. The results were very positive (see VP Rob Herman's article in this newsletter). NCV is ready to reopen! In addition, Governor Cooper has made positive changes to his COVID-19 rules and this is even more encouraging in opening up our activities.

There were remarks made in the survey results and several addressed the COVID-19 vaccination issue. Folks asked if vaccination proof would be required for people to join activities? The answer is no. It is a matter of privacy and human rights that people do not have to provide any medical information to anyone. It is the decision and policy of the NCV BOD that no NCV events/functions/activities will require any information regarding the COVID-19 vaccines or other medical information.

In addition, we do understand that members host NCV activities in their private homes. It is also the decision and policy of the NCV BOD that if sponsoring NCV activities in a private home, people cannot be required to talk about or prove they have had the COVID-19 vaccines. Obviously if you are sponsoring a private event, NOT under the aegis of the Newcomers of Catawba Valley, you may do as you wish.

Please understand that NOT everyone will get vaccines due to medical issues or other matters.

Remember you have choices and can make decisions to participate, or not, in any NCV activities.

Also keep in mind that vaccines are for your own personal protection. If you were vaccinated, then you have taken steps to protect yourself. We will continue the need for masks and social distancing (except when eating or drinking a beverage), in accordance with North Carolina rules, and until herd immunity has been announced.

So, to our Activity Chairs.....please open and schedule your activities!

Our first in-person General Meeting, since over a year ago, is scheduled to take place in May, at the airport, at 10:30 am. Details to follow shortly. There will be beverages, but no food served. We are looking into streaming the meeting in case there are those that are uncomfortable coming out just yet.

The are other events, especially outdoor events, being discussed and we will be getting information out as soon as we have it.

Don't forget the picnic on April 15th at Glenn C. Hilton, Jr. Park, Hickory, Pavilion #2 at 12:00 Noon. Bring our own lunch and beverage. No food or drinks will be provided. We will have games. Hope to see you there!

We are issuing checks to two charities this month. \$100 will go to Newton's 'Stand up for Hunger' campaign. They are sponsoring a stand-up comedian competition at the Crawdads stadium on April 15, and our own, Mike Sigmon is one of the comedians. More details in this newsletter. Another \$100 will go to our first-quarter charity, Exodus House. In addition, a \$25 check was received for Exodus House in memory of Zig Kryszczuk, and will be sent to the charity.

Our second-quarter's charity is the Habitat for Humanity store in Taylorsville, NC. Nancy Geiger and Amy Chizen are planning a special event for getting items donated. Stay tuned for those details. As always, when you donate to our charities, let them know that you are from the NCV, and let Nancy know as well.



Also, when you use our SPONSORS, let them know you are from NCV. This tells them that their sponsorship is worthwhile.

Can't wait to see you at upcoming events!

Thank you! If you have any questions, please contact me (cathimontgomery@aol.com), or any other BOD member.

As always....stay safe and healthy....and happy!



Happy Easter!

Cathi Montgomery
President, NCV






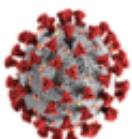
Memorial for Carol Rozea

In
loving
memory

Our wonderful Newcomer's friend, Carol Mae Rozea died Wednesday, March 17, 2021, after a brave battle with lung cancer. She was at home and surrounded by family; both daughters and their families and her two sisters. Carol grew up in Norwich, CT and graduated from Norwich Free Academy in 1967, before

continuing her education at UCONN where she earned her BA majoring in math and computer science. She worked at General Dynamics and taught computer classes at Adult Education, before heading back to Computer Science Corporation to work in system programming. She was also a talented and generous seamstress and quilter, a lover of yoga, the ocean, and walking in the fresh air. She touched the lives of so many people and will be greatly missed. (Photo is Gene and Carol on their Wedding day a few years ago)



Newcomers Catawba Valley March 2021 COVID-19 Survey Results Snapshot	Engagement	Activities in Demand	Safety Precautions	Survey Comments
	 <p>92% of Respondents Indicate they will remain a member of Newcomers</p> <p>86% Will Likely resume activities next month with Safety Precautions in place</p>	 <p>56% Want Outdoor Activities of Any kind: Picnic, Hiking, Biking, Boating, Field trips</p> <p>48% Cards of Any type</p> <p>39% Lunch Bunch</p> <p>35% Monthly Meetings</p>	 <p>75% Only want members to attend who have had no symptoms for 10 days</p> <p>65% Want members to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Wear a Mask • Use Hand Sanitizer • Small groups •Social Distance 	 <p>Many members have expressed a desire that everyone attending a function be vaccinated.</p> <p>Others have expressed that we are old and wise enough to decide if we are going to attend a function regardless if others are protected by a vaccination.</p> <p>Others have indicated they will wait till Summer to resume activities</p>

Survey Results & Vaccination Concerns

by Rob Herman; NCV Vice President

Big thanks to all members who completed our Covid19 survey. We had 96 responses representing over 180 households or more than 80% of our members. This is a fantastic response and shows how connected we remain after nearly a year of no activities. The response shows clearly everyone is ready to get back to being normal again. 86% of members are ready to start up, however many only want to start with safety precautions in place and vaccination is a prime concern. We received numerous comments, why did we neglect to ask the question, **"Have you been vaccinated?"** This is a valid question and lies completely with privacy issues. Vaccination is a medical procedure and it involves your civil liberties and human rights. You owe no one a response to your medical history or prior medical procedures. The Newcomers Club will not in any way violate your civil liberties or require you to tell us (or prove with your vaccination card) you are vaccinated to attend a function. Currently, social pressure is expecting you to conform, but put simply, it is very rude for someone to ask you if you have been vaccinated. A good response to this social intrusion is "My medical history is between me and my doctor, thanks for your understanding."

Additionally, you really should not care if people around you are vaccinated. It's the same if you got the Flu shot and the guy next to you at the grocery store didn't. If you choose to be vaccinated then you have protected yourself from those in public with the virus. **"All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States have been shown to be highly effective at preventing COVID-19,"** according to the CDC.

I feel confident that with vaccines available and the majority of our members getting them the risk of Covid19 is substantially reduced. I look forward to seeing everyone as we begin to re-open our activities.



SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE.....Let's Gather!!!!

We are back in business! I don't think there is anyone more excited by this news than me, but I hope you are happy about this as well. Here's where we are at now:

April 15: Let's Do Lunch Picnic. This is an informal meet up for lunch. Bring your own lunch to Hilton Park in Hickory, Pavilion 2, at noon. Sit (distanced) and enjoy each other's company. We will have some games available, but feel free to bring along anything you are interested in playing. Or, just stop by to say hello! See the flier in this Newsletter for more details.

May 4: Let's Do Lunch Picnic. Since we are all going to have such a good time at the picnic in April, we'll plan another one for May! Our second one will be held at Riverbend Park on Highway 16 in Conover at the pavilion by the water. See the second flier in this Newsletter for details.

May 13: Habitat for Humanity Restore Outing. Our Charity for the second quarter is Habitat for Humanity in Alexander County. One of their sources of income is their Restore Shop in Taylorsville. Start gathering together items that you want/need to get out of your house and consider donating them to the Restore. To make donating easier, we are going to meet at the Lowe's Grocery Store parking lot in Bethlehem on May 13th so you can bring your boxes or bags of donated items for transport up to Taylorsville. We encourage you to join us to help unload the cars and then do a little shopping at Restore as well. Then plan to join us for lunch at Casa Mexico just around the corner. Watch for the flier for details, but start gathering your goodies now!

May 13: Lunch Out at Casa Mexico. Join us for our first-in-a-long-time Lunch Out! After working up an appetite at Restore, join us for lunch. If you aren't participating in donating or shopping at Restore, you can join us for lunch anyway. More details on this will be forthcoming, but put it on your calendar now.

I hope you will take a look at our fliers, mark the dates on your calendar, and join us for some long-awaited socializing.

Amy Chizen, SEC Chair chizenamy@gmail.com

COME JOIN the Special Events Committee

Since we are hearing from our governor that meetings and gatherings can start happening, I would like to see about getting the Special Events Committee together again. We won't actually meet until late April or early May, but I need to know who is interested in continuing/joining our group. We meet at the Hickory Library for about 90 minutes as we see fit. During some periods we meet every month, at other times it's not that often. Since this group is basically re-forming, I'm open to suggestions for the day and time. Of course, all this would need to be cleared through the Library as well. Please send the following information to me at chizenamy@gmail.com:

Name

E-Mail

Phone

Meeting day preference

Morning or afternoon preference

Any particular activities you are interested in seeing

We are currently concentrating on outdoor activities, but, as you know, it can turn hot and humid here in the blink of an eye. So, we will be looking at open area indoor activities for the summer. I'm looking forward to sharing our ideas from the past and hearing new suggestions that will work.

Amy Chizen, SEC Chair

Bring Your Own Picnic Lunch!

To get things started again, let's do lunch! This is going to be a very informal meet up just to say hi.



Date: Thursday, April 15 (Rain date: Friday, April 16)

Where: Glenn C. Hilton, Jr. Park, Hickory, Pavilion #2

Time: 12:00 noon until ???

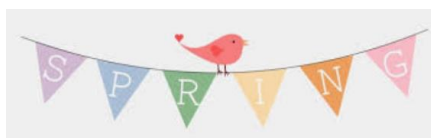
Bring: Your own lunch including drinks (You don't have to make it yourself; stop on the way and pick it up!)



There are no RSVPs, no commitments, nothing you have to provide except your own lunch. NOTHING will be provided by the club and we prefer that you not bring anything to be shared. Masks must be worn except when eating. If you don't want to do lunch, just stop by and say hello!



You are welcome to bring any activities you would like, such as dominoes, cards, and we'll have the Corn Hole.



BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the Book Club will be a Zoom meeting to be held on Wednesday April 28 at 1:30 PM. Please contact Mary Bucy at mebucy@hotmail.com to be put on the list to receive the Zoom invite.



The book to be discussed is Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery.

Anne Shirley is a young orphan from the fictional community of Bolingbroke, Nova Scotia. Through a misunderstanding, the orphanage sends Anne to live with Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert, unmarried siblings in their fifties and sixties, to help them run their farm at Green Gables. At first, stern Marilla says that Anne must return to the orphanage but after consideration, along with kind, quiet Matthew's encouragement, Marilla decides to let Anne stay.

The book follows Anne's adventures at Green Gables, in the small town of Avondale, later at Queens Academy and beyond.



The Book Club meets every month on the 4th Wednesday of the month with a few exceptions. The Book Club coordinator is Mary Bucy at mebucy@hotmail.com. New members are always welcome.

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:

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.



BRIDGE

APRIL

Monday, April 5th	Gloria Berg
Wednesday, April 7th	Phyllis Kane
Monday, April 12th	Barbara Womack
Monday, April 19th	Carolyn Eanes
Wednesday, April 21st	Gloria Berg



MAY

Monday, May 3rd	Barb Beck
Wednesday, May 5th	Susan Perkins
Monday, May 10th	Addie McSherley
Monday, May 17th	Carol Parker
Wednesday, May 19th	Karen Schafer



MAH JONGG

Newcomers' mah jongg players will eliminate their Tuesday game as of May 4 and only play online on Fridays. The change will allow individual players to gather at private homes on Tuesdays, at games not affiliated with Newcomers.

To play online on Fridays, find us at 10:30 am on Real Mah Jongg, where most of us use hickory in our username.

- Dianne Straley dfwhit@gmail.com



2nd QUARTER CHARITY Habitat for Humanity-Taylorsville

Happy April, everyone!

April starts the 2nd quarter of the year which means we have a new Charity to support!



We have chosen **Habitat for Humanity in Taylorsville**. (For people new to the club we try to choose a charity in a different county each quarter since we have members living in Catawba, Caldwell, Burke, and Alexander counties.)

I'm sure everyone is familiar with this great organization, but just in case, here's some info from their website:

Our mission

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

Our vision

A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Our principles

Demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ.

Focus on shelter.

Advocate for affordable housing.

Promote dignity and hope.

Support sustainable and transformative development.

Who we are.

Habitat for Humanity partners with people in your community, and all over the world, to help them build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. With your support, Habitat homeowners achieve the strength, stability, and independence they need to build a better life for themselves and for their families.

So, as a club here are some ways we can support them:

Donations to their Resale shop, **RESTORE**. They have a big store in Taylorsville at 176 Westgate Dr. Taylorsville, NC 28681/phone(828) 635-7889 and will pick up items if you live on that side of the river, or you can drop them off and then do some shopping in their store at the same time.

Also, Amy is putting together an outing scheduled for May 13th where people can meet at the Lowes parking lot in Bethlehem and carpool to the store, drop off your items, shop and then go out to lunch together in Taylorsville. Watch for more information from Amy. **Please note - they do not take clothes. They take household goods. **And if you want to participate on the 13th start saving up your items now!



HOURS	
Monday:	Closed
Tuesday:	Closed
Wednesday:	9 AM to 6 PM
Thursday:	9 AM to 6 PM
Friday:	9 AM to 6 PM
Saturday:	9 AM to 4 PM
Sunday:	Closed

Help build a house! If 1, 2 or 10 people want to do this they can help any Saturday. Contact **Matt Cooksey, Executive Director** at 828-612-2630 to tell him you are interested and get directions. You can do this once or as often as you like!

Donate lunches to the people building on Saturdays. They usually have 10 - 12 people there so this wouldn't be a huge amount of food. Maybe several of you would like to get together and do this one or two Saturdays. If you are interested let me know dates that work for you and I'll set it up with Matt. My email is - Ng0425@gmail.com

Give money. If you'd like to write a check to this great organization, please make it out to Newcomers of Catawba Valley with *Habitat for Humanity* in the memo line and mail it to our treasurer Kathy Rozea at 2425 N Center Street #169 Hickory, NC 28601

****And remember to always let them know you are with Newcomers!**



The executive director was THRILLED we are taking them on this quarter. When I emailed him, he replied, "We would welcome any help. We rarely get the attention of others in the Unifour, so you made my day by reaching out!"

I don't know about you, but I like making someone's day! ☺

Nancy Geiger - Charity Chair

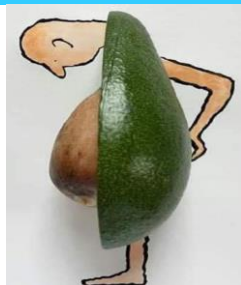


BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays in April		April	con't	Birthdays in May	
Andy Bucy	4/1	Dianne Straley	4/17	Janis Goonan	5/1
Kym Armstrong	4/1	Ruth Siskind	4/17	Al Osbahr	5/4
Carmen Barnett	4/2	Joe Durand	4/18	Carolyn Shoemaker	5/10
Judy Dostall	4/4	Deborah Wood	4/19	John Wrigley	5/11
Mike Caudill	4/5	Lori Martin	4/22	Anna Murawski	5/12
Sharon Hilliker	4/6	Gail Feldman	4/25	Brenda Gordon	5/14
John Almeida	4/9	Nancy Geiger	4/25	Elaine L. Kalber	5/20
Harold W. Mason	4/9	Chad Burel	4/26	Debra Palmer	5/22
Don Baldwin	4/10	Raymond Osterer	4/26	Pratibha Patel	5/24
Margie Dickey	4/10	Naomi East	4/27	Teeky Kenny	5/25
Donna McDermott	4/10	Susan Perkins	4/27	Robyn Wolgemuth	5/26
William Waldron	4/11	Delilah Bragg	4/29	Marc Fedder	5/27
Debbie Dalton	4/13	Craig Hines	4/29	Karen Mills	5/28
Susan Leininger	4/13	Bert Perkins	4/30		
Jon Kiser	4/14	Susan Turner	4/30		
Bob Jones	4/15				



FUN FOOD ART



CITY WALK Progress Update

Dianne Straley

If you have driven NC 127 near downtown lately, you probably have seen the new wooden arches that went up March 20 as part of the City Walk pedestrian bridge.

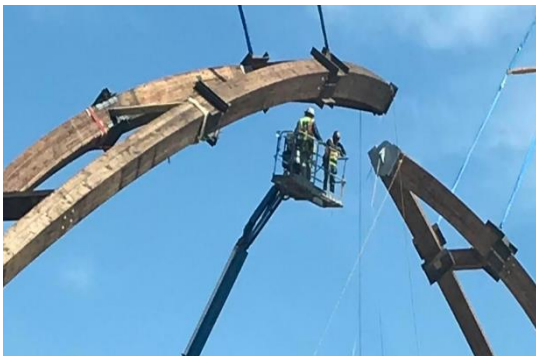
The huge beams are made of Douglas fir that has been laminated to make the arch components. Take a look at the size of the curved beams, next to member Paige Straley, who lives a block from the new bridge.

The arch work is only half done: A second, taller arch will go up the weekend of April 10. City Walk is almost complete, with a gap at NC 127. It runs alongside Main Avenue from Lenoir-Rhyne University, through downtown and ending at 9th St. NW. It's designed for walkers, runners and cyclists.



Left: Close up of arches before installation.

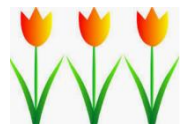
Right: Paige Straley next to massive beams used to make the arch over NC 127.



Left: Crew from Dane Construction works with two crane operators to close the gap between the two arms of the wooden arch for City Walk's pedestrian bridge over NC 127.

Below Left: First Arch. Second one will be two feet taller.

Below Right: View from NC 127. The second arch will follow the same path and stand two feet taller.



THE FUNNNNNNNNY PAGE

When QUALITY Checks have failed.....



Ones that make you say...OMG!!!!

Stick a Turkey leg in a sneaker and let your dog patrol your yard.



This little guy told his Dad that he wanted to learn how to train his dog and his Dad said there were lots of dog training videos on YouTube. So here he is, showing them to the dog!



I'll never forget the first words I learned from my dad ... or the taste of the soap my mom used shortly afterwards.



Wife texts husband on a cold winter morning:
"Windows frozen, won't open."

Husband texts back: "Gently pour some lukewarm water over it and then gently tap edges with hammer."

Wife texts back 10 minutes later: "Computer really messed up now."



Starting tomorrow
whatever
life throws
at me,
I'm ducking
so it hits
someone else!



My grandma talking to my mom about her new hearing aid, "it's the most expensive one you can buy, it cost me \$4,000"

My mom: "What kind is it"

My grandma: "it's 4:15pm"



THE CORNER TABLE BACKPACK FUNDRAISER

This show raises much needed funds for our Backpack Program which has faithfully served the Catawba County, and surrounding area, since 2009, providing weekly food bags to over 1,200 children and their families. With the help of countless donors the program fundraises over \$150,000 per year which is then used to purchase food which we pack into bags at our warehouse facility in Hickory. ***Newcomer's own MIKE SIGMON is one of 8 comedians***

"Come Laugh Your Backpack Off!"

StandUP to Hunger

A Stand-up Comedy Competition & BBQ Supper

Thursday, April 15th, 2021

Rain Date: April 16th if actively raining at start time

Stand-up Comedy Competition, & Supper

5:15pm Doors Open and BBQ Meal

6:00pm Live Comedy Competition

New Location!

L. P. Frans Stadium Home of the Hickory Crawdads

2500 Clement Blvd NW, Hickory, NC 28601



Tickets: \$35: Available on Eventbrite.com

For more information or group sales call (828) 464-0355.

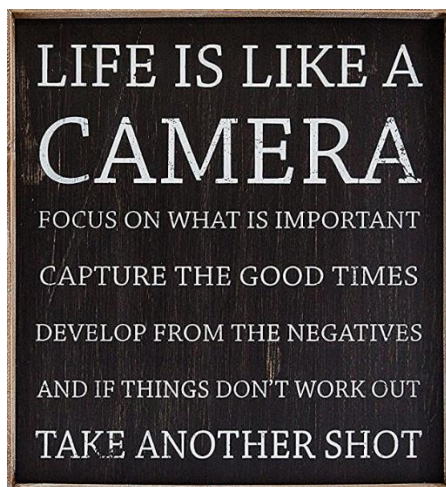
Groups of 10+ call for discounted tickets.

**50/50
Cash
Raffle**

Proceeds of the event go directly to Backpack Program, a program of The Corner Table. The mission of Backpack Program is to eliminate hunger as a barrier to a good education for local school children by providing a bag full of food each and every weekend of the school year to over 1,200 children in 45 school sites.



....a few more FUNNNNNNNNNIES !!!!!



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

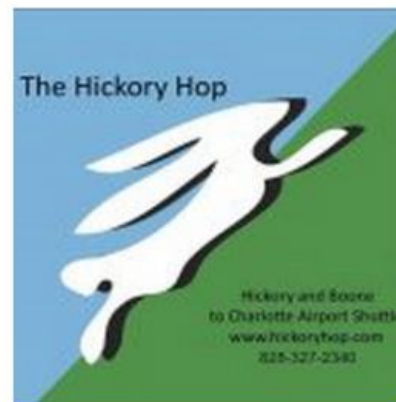


out and contact me for whatever you might need. If you need someone to walk your dog or you need a ride to the doctor or if you need a house cleaner . . . anything that you might need help for, we're here for you. You don't have to worry we don't charge for our services sometimes some of the people that 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."**

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT UPS STORE #455

The UPS Store @ 2425 North Center Street in Hickory (does this address seem familiar?) Has been a sponsor for many years and they are a "one stop shop" for all your printing, shipping, and mailing needs. If this address seems familiar, is because the also have PO boxes for rent. They provide passport photo services, Notary services, and are a designated return item location for your Amazon returns. Stop by next time you need mailing or have an Amazon product you need to return and tell them you are from "Newcomers"!!

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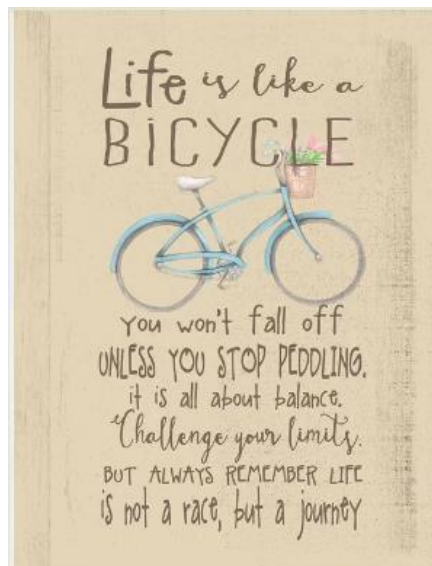


attitude
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Alan Elrod
owner/stylist

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salon 828.327.9010
cell 828.640.6360

Some POSITIVE thoughts....



Officers, Directors, Activity Chairs and Committees 2020 - 2021

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
	Vacancy
Activity	Chair
Book Club	Mary Bucy, Donna McDermott
Bowling	Vince LeGrand
Bridge	Gloria Berg
Canasta and Games Day	***** Position Available *****
Canasta and Games Night	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, 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	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	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)

.....and last but not least.....

