

**Newcomers of Catawba Valley
2525 North Center Street #169
Hickory, NC 28601**

www.newcomersofcv.com

August, 2021



President's Column

**"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."
– Elizabeth Andrew**

Hi Newcomers!

Our next General meeting will be held on **Wednesday, August 11, 2021**, at the Hickory Airport. We will have a speaker(s) addressing COVID, and to address your questions. Hope to see you there!

THIS IS A PLEA. We need you! As an organization, our biggest need right now is VOLUNTEERS. **REMEMBER, WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS THERE IS NO ORGANIZATION. Please consider volunteering for an open position.**

We still have several activity vacancies coming up that need to be filled quickly. **We need a new NEWSLETTER EDITOR ASAP.** Brenda Ireland, who has been producing the monthly newsletter is moving on from that position this month. July was her last newsletter. It is time for someone else (or two....) to step up and take this activity over. Most of the content is provided by other volunteers. I know how much everyone enjoys the monthly newsletter, but without a volunteer to take charge of the newsletter it can be unmanageable. It doesn't have to be one person, it can be a team, and you will have a lot of autonomy in the development of the newsletter. Thank you in advance!

In December we will have a vacancy for the **PROGRAMS CHAIR** as Dianne Straley is ready to pass the baton. This chair researches and schedules the wonderful speakers, and field trips, we have for our General Meetings. Please consider this position and thank you in advance!

We continue to have activity chair vacancies for **CANASTA AND GAMES DAY, DOMINOES, MAHJONG (IN-PERSON GAMES), and SAMBA & GAMES DAY and SAMBA DAY** (April – September).

A huge thank you to volunteers that stepped up this past month. Catherine Caswell will be the BOD secretary for the remainder of the BOD's term. Laura Moran will be taking over the Book Club Chair in December when Mary Bucy needs to steps away. These are two of our newest members! A list of the vacancies and the general duties is attached for your consideration.

At this point, we don't see card games starting until September. Contact Adra Kryszczuk (adraellen@yahoo.com) if you're interested in playing cards. Consider having small games (two tables) at member's homes.

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

We understand there have been questions regarding members hosting NCV activities in their private homes. It is, and has been, the policy of the NCV BOD that if SPONSORING NCV activities in private homes, people CANNOT be required to talk about or prove they have had a COVID-19 vaccine. We all have privacy rights. Remember you have choices and can make decisions to participate, or not, in any NCV activities. You can choose to wear, or not wear a mask. Please RESPECT the choices of your fellow members. Don't assume that if someone walks in with a mask on, that they have not been vaccinated as it may be that are taking extra precautions, and vice versa. Keep in mind that vaccines are for your own personal protection. Vaccinated people have taken steps to protect themselves.

Hope to see at upcoming activities! Thank you! If you have any questions, please contact me (cathimontgomery@aol.com), or any other BOD member.

As always....stay safe and healthy....enjoy August!



Cathi Montgomery
President, NCV

NCV ACTIVITY CHAIR VACANCIES & DUTIES

NEWSLETTER EDITOR (NOW!)

Collect information from the activity coordinators and column from the President.

Create the newsletter.

Distribute to the membership via e mail on the first day of the month.

Encourage members to submit photos of activities.

Brenda Ireland, retiring editor, will assist with the transition.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR (December)

Diane Straley will be turning over the baton for this position in December. This chair researches and arranges for the program part of our monthly General meeting.

1. Attend General Meetings.
2. Schedule the program for the monthly meetings.
3. Inform President of scheduled programs to share with Board members.
4. Introduce speakers.
5. Write thank you cards as appropriate.

THESE CHAIRS ARE NEEDED NOW

CANASTA AND GAMES DAY

DOMINOES

MAH JONGG (IN-PERSON GAMES)

SAMBA DAY (have a volunteer, Elizabeth Strickland, for October-April; need another for April-September)

SAMBA AND GAMES NIGHT

The duties of Canasta and Games Day, Dominoes, Mah Jongg, Samba Day and Samba and Games Night are all basically the same:

Events are at the Hickory Airport meeting room.
Select a menu and confirm it and price with Crosswind Cafe
Send out announcement emails for the game about 2 weeks in advance followed with a reminder email the week before
Take reservations and confirm
Ensure that all tables are even (filled), take a wait list if needed
Make a check-in list for the event
Set the room up for activity (arrive at least 30 minutes prior to start time)
Collect monies at event and check in all participants
Provide rotation cards, as needed
Ensure that all equipment is returned to the cabinets and that the cabinets are locked.
Evening events lock up the airport.

New Member Luncheon



Vice President and membership chairman, Rob Herman along with his partner Jon Kiser, hosted the newest members of the club at a lake side luncheon at their home Wednesday, July 21st. Board members were also invited to talk a little bit about what our club does and answer questions. It was a lovely afternoon! Thank you, Rob and Jon!

MONTHLY EVENTS

August Program and General Meeting

The club's general meeting will be **Wednesday, August 11th at 10:30 a.m.** at the Hickory Regional Airport. The speaker(s) will address "COVID19: Truths and Myths" and let us know how to get up-to-date information on this vital subject.

Note: My daughter is Chief Medical Officer for the South Atlantic Region of a women's medical organization and recently sent the following COVID release to her staff. I am hoping she will be a speaker at our August meeting. Adra

What is the COVID Delta Variant? All viruses evolve and change over time. When the change is enough to impact how the virus spreads or its effect on infected individuals, it is called a new strain or variant and given its own name. There have been multiple strains so far in the US and around the world. The Delta variant was first identified in the US in March of this year and is now the dominant strain in the US.

How contagious is Delta? Delta is more contagious than other variants - in June it made up approximately 20% of US cases, but now accounts for over 80% of US COVID cases. Current estimates are that Delta is spreading 50% faster than the previous dominant strain, the Alpha variant. We are also seeing that younger individuals (including adults in their 20s and 30s) are getting sicker with Delta than with other variants. It's not yet clear whether Delta causes all infected people to be sicker than prior variants, but what is clear is that the worst illnesses are occurring in non-vaccinated individuals.

Vaccinated individuals are well protected from the Delta variant - and in cases where they do become infected, they are more likely to have mild symptoms. **It is unvaccinated individuals who make up the vast majority of very sick/hospitalized cases.** More than 97% of people getting hospitalized with Covid-19 now are unvaccinated, and 99.5% of deaths are among the unvaccinated.

The lower the community vaccination rate is, the higher the rate of COVID hospitalization and ICU bed use. If you would like to know more specific information about community spread in your county/city, there are two great resources: the [CDC map](#) and [Covid Act Now](#).

Lunch Out

We will be meeting on **Thursday, August 12th** at 11:30 a.m. hopefully at Blowing Rock Draft House, 833 Highland Avenue SE, Hickory. Watch for details in your email.

Coffee and Conversation

We'll be going to Redbone Willy's on **Friday, August 27th** at 1 p.m. Great house-made ice cream and delicious sandwiches in their café! It's located at 6533 Fallston Road in Lawndale (around 30 minutes from Target for perspective). It's been a popular choice for Newcomer's in the past. Contact Sheri Binning at ronald.binning@gmail.com to let her know you're coming.

Book Club

Book Club is reading Colon Whitehead's ***Nickel Boys***. Our next discussion meeting will be **Wednesday, September 22nd at 1:30 p.m.** at the Women's Resource Center in Hickory. We will meet in person in their meeting room. A big thank you goes out to Laura Moran who has volunteered to take over chairing the book club in December. Meanwhile we will be choosing our 2022 list this fall. If you have a book you'd like to suggest please email me a short description and why you chose it at mbucy1@gmail.com. Please check that the book is available in libraries or of moderate price, perhaps at second hand book stores.

NOTE: Richard Eller, history professor at CVCC, is speaking on ***Hickory Then and Now***, his book written for the 150th anniversary of Hickory, on Monday, August 2nd at 6:00 p.m. He's a good speaker and it's sure to be an interesting talk!

MONTHLY GAMES IN AUGUST

Bridge

Monday, Aug. 2 nd	Carolyn Eanes
Wednesday, Aug. 4 th	Karen Schafer
Monday, Aug. 9 th	Gloria Berg
Monday, Aug. 16 th	Karen Schafer
Wednesday, Aug. 18 th	Carol Parker

New Members: Please contact **Gloria Berg** (glomcberg@hotmail.com) for details about Bridge or how to be put on the substitute list.

Daytime Board Gamers

Last month we got together to play **CODE NAMES**. There were 11 players and we had a great time. Most didn't know the game but learned quickly! We'll play the same game again on **Tuesday, August 10th from 1-4 p.m.** We are hoping to have 3 tables of 4 (12 players) and will again play in a progressive manner so you get to play with everyone. If you don't know how to play, we will teach you. This game requires you to pass word clues to your partner so he can guess words that show on the board. Our hosts will again be Rob Herman and Jon Kiser at their home, 39 Lake Point Circle E, Taylorsville, NC 28681 (3 miles from the 127 bridge). Please R.S.V.P. to Rob Herman, robgherman@gmail.com by August 8 to ensure a count that pairs everyone.

Mah Jongg

Club members play online at [Real Mah Jongg Online](http://RealMahJonggOnline.com). The first two weeks are free on this very good website. Join us and search for players with 'hickory' in their username. We play at **10:30 a.m. on Fridays**. Please contact **Dianne Straley** at dfwhit@gmail.com for more information.

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 Sandi Shear Johnson and Hazel Poppe. Contact Sandi at ncvalegirl@gmail.com.

Making a Difference: Third Quarter Charity/Alexander County Habitat for Humanity



A big thank you to the five members (Rob Herman, John Montgomery, Tim Knobloch, Bill Lane and John Geiger) who worked on the Habitat house Saturday, July 17th. And to Cathi Montgomery, Adra Kryszczuk and Kathy Rozea who provided a huge lunch for all the workers. I've heard nothing but good feedback from participants, all of whom said they'd do it again! So... we'll be setting up another workday at the end of the quarter (the last Saturday in September). Watch the September newsletter for more information. If anyone wants to help between now and then they can just contact the executive director, Matt Cooksey, 828-612-2630 to make sure they will be working the day you want to come and get directions. And don't forget, you may still shop at or donate to their resale shop in Taylorsville. (Remember they don't take clothes.) As always, 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 (Or you can always bring a check to the general meeting and give it to Kathy or me.) Remember to always let them know you are with Newcomers and let me know what you did and how rewarding it was!

Nancy Geiger Charity Chair

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Our newest sponsor is **Duke's Restaurant and Wine Bar**. Here's the description from their 'about' on their website: "For over a decade we have served as both a banquet and event destination. With catering for both onsite and offsite events, Market on Main has helped revolutionize the way we eat, meet, and party in the Catawba Valley. Our unique venues can host events from 10 to 600 guests, with beautiful outdoor spaces and centrally located downtown." The club's 2018 Holiday party was held in their catering space.

When you click on any sponsor's ad, you will automatically be taken to that sponsor's web page. I also want to remind you that if you use one of our sponsors, please make sure to thank them for sponsoring the Newcomers of Catawba Valley!

Adra, for the Web Team

Welcome New Members!

Catherine Caswell from Cary NC
Laura Moran from Wilmington NC
Jan Sprague from Williamsburg VA

Birthdays

August

8.02 Suzie Matthews
8.04 Phyllis Kane
8.06 Bob Wolgemuth
8.06 Dennis Chalk
8.10 Josette Kippenhan
8.12 Pett Brands
8.13 Linda Meares
8.15 Judy Young
8.19 Brenda Ireland
8.19 Jim Earl
8.21 Richard Dickey
8.21 Martha Conrad
8.24 Dawn Remus
8.24 Pat Flachbart
8.25 Greg Dostall
8.25 Jon Snellings
8.25 Helen Woodyard
8.26 Sallie Townsend
8.27 Bob Remus
8.27 Joanie Taliaferro
8.28 Elaine Knobloch
8.29 Carol Sawicki
8.29 Ray Finnegan
8.31 Steve Sanders
8.31 Loretta Wells



September

9.05 Rose McLaughlin
9.06 Cherie Stewart
9.07 Lisa Travis
9.07 Bob Dennis
9.08 Beth Osbahr
9.09 Karen Osterer
9.11 Rob Herman
9.11 Cyd Acolia
9.13 Elizabeth Strickland
9.14 Adra Kryszczuk
9.14 Terry Winslow
9.15 Debbie Wrigley
9.16 Paige Straley
9.17 Jane Duralia
9.17 Rick Wagman
9.17 Lori Allen
9.18 Del Liggett
9.19 Carole Reising
9.19 Peggy Barton
9.20 Walter Murawski
9.20 Benny Barger
9.22 Victoria Staton
9.23 John Schafer
9.23 Ravi Patel
9.24 John Bates
9.25 Haydee Pujdak
9.26 Lynne Montgomery
9.26 Mary Bucy
9.27 Karen Finnegan
9.28 Francine Gissy
9.29 Ron Glover

Please email **Adra Kryszczuk** (adraelen@yahoo.com) if your birthday is not listed or if you would prefer that your birthday not be listed.

Officers, Directors, Activity Chairs and Committees 2020 - 2021

Officers	Position
Cathi Montgomery	President
Rob Herman	Vice President
Kathy Rozea	Treasurer
Catherine Caswell	Secretary
Delilah Bragg	Past President
Directors	
	Amy Chizen
	Nancy Geiger
	Adra Kryszczuk
	Vacancy
Activity	Chair
Book Club	Mary Bucy (Laura Moran – December)
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), Cyd Acolia, 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
Mah Jongg	Dianne Straley
Membership	Rob Herman
Members Helping Members	Sandi Johnson, Hazel Poppe
Newsletter Editor	* * * * * Position Available * * * * *
Programs	Dianne Straley
Publicity	Amy Chizen
Rummikub	Michele LeGrand
Samba Day	Elizabeth Strickland (Oct – April) * * Position Available April-Sept. * *
Samba and Games Night	Audrey Rozzelle
Shooting Practice	Vince LeGrand
Sponsors	Kevin McCutcheon
Team Cuisine	Chris and John Almeida, Jon Kiser and Rob Herman
Webmaster Team	Adra Kryszczuk (site and calendar), Greg Gervasio (site advisor)