

December 2022

The Voice



Newcomers of Catawba Valley Newsletter



Hello Newcomers!

Oh my gosh! It is December! Tis the season and lots of celebrating to be done.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day! We celebrated with our best friends of 50 years in warm Florida. It was a wonderful time!

We will be touring Hart Square Village, in its holiday decor, on Friday, December 9th, 1:00 - 2:30 PM (Sharon

Snellings is coordinating this event.)

For more information, please see the article in this newsletter.

It is election time! In this newsletter is the slate for the 2023 candidates, with

bios and pictures. Newcomers has a lot of new members, and we hope by providing

bios and pictures you can get to know all our candidates a little better.

The election will take place at the December General Meeting on December 14,

2022, 10:30 am in the Hickory Airport Meeting Room. Voting will be among those members attending the meeting. So please plan to be there.

In addition to the election there will be a short general meeting, a cookie exchange (with plenty to eat during the meeting), as well as a holiday sing-along.

More in this newsletter about the cookie exchange.



"I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"
— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

As you know, our Newsletter Editor, Susan Mata, is stepping down and this newsletter is her last. WE NEED A VOLUNTEER TO TAKE OVER AS EDITOR NOW. Susan will assist with the transition and will be available for support, if needed. Please understand there will be no newsletter after this month until a volunteer steps forward to take over. It doesn't have to be one person; it can be a team effort. The newsletter is the one tool we have to spread all the information on our club, the people, the activities and anything the members need to know about. Thank you for your consideration.

We also have an opening for a Publicity Chair NOW. Please see the volunteer list in this newsletter.

WE LOVE OUR AND APPRECIATE OUR VOLUNTEERS! We are always in need of volunteers to head up/or help committees and events. Even if you can only volunteer at one event at a time, it is a huge help. Please see the "volunteers needed" list in this newsletter for opportunities. REMEMBER, WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS THERE IS NO ORGANIZATION.

Our quarterly charity for this last quarter of 2022 is TOYS FOR TOTS. Toys need to be new and unwrapped, and may be dropped in the "Toys for Tots" boxes at the airport or any other place convenient to you. Thanks to our members for being so generous!

Our charity for the 1st quarter of 2023 will be "Our Nest Diaper Pantry" and Holly Aldridge will speak about the charity at our January 2023 evening meeting. More details coming from Nancy Geiger.

SAVE THE DATE.....the Newcomers Winter Party will be held at Duke's Market on Main (same location as last year) on Saturday, January 21, 2023. Tickets will be \$30.00 per person. Last year's party was an overwhelming success, and so much fun. We expect the same this year. Details coming soon.

Please review our list of Sponsors and use them where you can. Also, when you use our SPONSORS, please let them know you are a Newcomers member. This tells them that their sponsorship is worthwhile. If you know any businesses that could be Sponsors, please contact Kevin McCutcheon.

**As always....stay safe and healthy! Enjoy the newsletter!
I wish everyone a glorious Christmas/Holiday season full of love and celebration!**

**Cathi Montgomery
President Newcomers of Catawba Valley**

NCV ACTIVITY CHAIR VACANCIES & DUTIES (December 2022)

PUBLICITY CHAIR (NOW)

We need one (or more) person(s) to fill the Publicity Chair (new position). Duties would include the distribution of the Rack Cards; writing/working with the Hickory Daily Record on Newcomer's events; writing/updating Facebook articles, other articles for social media monthly. Other duties as the BOD/chair sees fit.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR (NOW)

Collect information from the activity coordinators and column from the President. Create the newsletter. Distribute to the membership via email on the first day of the month. Encourage members to submit photos of activities. Susan Mata will assist with the transition.

THESE CHAIRS ARE NEEDED

CANASTA AND GAMES DAY

DOMINOES

MAHJONGG (IN-PERSON GAMES)

SAMBA DAY

SAMBA AND GAMES NIGHT

The duties of Canasta and Games Day, Dominoes, Mahjong, 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.

ELECTION CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FEBRUARY 2023 - JANUARY 2024 TERM
NEWCOMERS OF CATAWBA VALLEY



Adra Kryszczuk - Candidate for President

I'm 75 years old, have two married daughters and four teenage grandsons living here in Hickory. I've been widowed for almost two years and have two cats. I've been a member of Newcomers of Catawba Valley since 2008 and have served a variety of positions. Currently I am the webmaster, maintain the club's calendar and issue the weekly 'happenings' email. I believe I have a lot of history to share as club President and look forward to serving if elected.



**Debbie Hindman -
Candidate for Vice-President**

I am Debbie Hindman and I am volunteering for vice president of Newcomers. I have been a resident of Hickory almost 9 years and have been a member of Newcomers since March of 2022. I have really enjoyed myself getting to know many people since I joined and involving myself in many of the activities offered by Newcomers. I have recently volunteered in hosting Rummikub night and love the experience. I honestly haven't been a VP since 8th grade but am

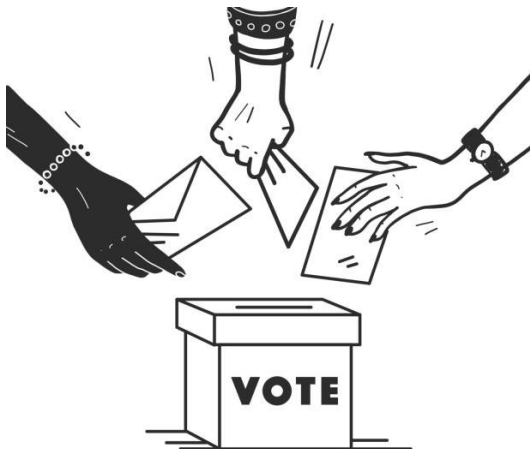
willing to do and be my best for the position of VP for Newcomers. I am willing to learn and be apart of the community. Thank you for your consideration and the honor of being of service to you all.



**Sharon Snellings -
Candidate for Secretary**

Sharon and her husband Jon have been members of Newcomers for 6 years, having joined just after they moved to Hickory in February 2016. The move to Hickory followed Sharon's retirement from Federal service after over 30 years of service .

and a career in human resources management. As a Newcomers member, Sharon has served on the Special Events Committee and the Nominating Committee. She currently serves as the Hospitality Coordinator, handling the room reservations and arrangements for the monthly General Meetings





Sonya Reid - Candidate for Treasurer

My husband, David, and I joined the Newcomers Club in September. We recently moved to Morganton after our retirement house build was complete in May 2022. We moved from Cary, NC. I retired from sales. Even though I worked more than 50+ hours a week, I was actively involved with the Wake County Schools PTAs (Parent Teacher Association). that are offered. I would be honored to serve as Treasurer for Newcomers.

I served as Treasurer at the elementary, middle school, high school and County level. I also oversaw the budget for the Youth group at our church. I am organized, committed to details and deadlines, and understand the importance of handling money with integrity and transparency. I am excited about this Club and all the activities



Evie Gibson - candidate for Director

I am an 18-month resident of Hickory, NC, running for Director on the Board of Directors. I have been assisting, and am taking over the position as Chair, Special Events Committee (SEC). With the help of our magnificent Amy Chizen and the directors, past and present, I plan to provide fun and special activities. There are many events that we will revisit because of their success but I encourage more suggestions and hope to get input from ALL members of things you would like to do. Being fairly new to North Carolina I have the disadvantage of not knowing the gems that are held secret by locals so please share.



Nancy Gieger - Candidate for Director

John and I have lived most of our adult life in Hickory. Right out of college we moved to Germany for 3 years with the Army, but after he got out he was hired by Siecor (now Corning) and we moved here.

I am a travel agent and have done a lot of free lance writing; including one newspaper column for 8 years and another for almost 5 years on non-profits. I've also written 4 books.

I've been heavily involved in volunteering in Hickory: the Western Piedmont Symphony Board, every officer and most of the committee chairs for the Symphony Guild, The Hickory Community Theatre

Board (including President), I have chaired events like the Cancer Ball, HCT's Vacation Extravaganza a couple times, ran the capital campaign for the symphony two different years, worked on special projects for the Hickory Museum of Art, CCM, The United Arts Council and my church. I also teach Sunday School and am on a rotation to do church services for Kingston nursing home.

In Feb of 2020 Rob and Cathi approached me to join the Newcomers and become the charity chair. A director spot was open then and I filled that at the same time. Then Covid hit and our board spent almost 2 years meeting on Zoom and by email.

I think the club did a tremendous job getting through Covid and we are stronger then ever. I think the people here are some of the most generous and most fun people I know!



Rob Herman - Candidate for Director

Robert Herman lives in Bethlehem in Alexander County. He is a retired industrial engineer and Vice President from the Von Drehle Corp. based in Hickory. Currently he is serving as a Board member and Vice President of the Newcomers Club of Catawba Valley where he leads the membership committee.

Mr. Herman has served on several boards and councils, including Iowa State University Industrial Engineering Advisory council and as the Iowa Interdominational Reconciliation Liaison for the Promise Keepers organization. He was a Unit Commissioner in the Boy Scouts of America, Smokey Mountain Council and has attained his Eagle Scout. He has also served on the board of

directors of his family restaurant business functioning as Treasurer and chair of the Compensation Committee.

Mr. Herman is a graduate of Purdue University in Industrial Management and has an MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University. Mr. Herman has attained certifications as a Six Sigma Black Belt and Senior Professional in Human Resources as well as in Production and Inventory Management. During his free time he enjoys hiking, gardening and boating with his granddaughter on Lake Hickory.



Susan Reese -Candidate for Director

I am a retired software engineer. I've been living in Hickory for ten years, coming from Northern California. I really enjoy Hickory, it's a lovely community of friendly people. There are so many interesting and fun things to do here. I've been a member of Newcomers for the entire ten years. I really love this fine and fun group of people. I edited the Newcomers Newsletter for two years and enjoyed it.

I also spent some time on the Events Committee and arranged a few outings for Newcomers. I enjoy Canasta, Rumikub, traveling, Mah Jongg, the community theater, the symphony, and so many other things. As we move away from the Covid years I look forward to participating again with Newcomers. If I am chosen to a Director's seat, I will do my best to help.



Kathy Rozea - Candidate for Director

Thanks for allowing me to take this opportunity to continue on the Newcomer's BOD. I have been Treasurer of Newcomers of Catawba Valley for the past 3 years. I have been an active member of the club since moving to Hickory over 10 years ago and have continued to be active in the club, it's activities and events. Throughout the years, I have held several Board positions to include President, Secretary, Treasurer and Director, and I am currently running for a Director on the BOD.



Welcome to our newest members!

Donna & Ron Ahlstedt from GA

Linda and William Zacharenko from NJ



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Peanut Butter Truffle

1 roll 16oz refrigerated Peanut Butter Cookie Dough

1 bag 12oz Semisweet Chocolate Chips

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Shape into 1 1/4 inch balls.

Place 2" apart on 2 ungreased cookie sheets. Bake 8-9 minutes. Cool on the cookie sheet. When cooled, with buttered hands, shape into a ball again. Refrigerate 10-15 minutes or till cooled completely. Meanwhile, line cookie sheet with parchment paper and set aside. In a medium bowl microwave the chips uncovered for 60-90 seconds, stirring until smooth. Dip cooled cookies one at a time into melted chocolate and place on the cookie sheet. May add nuts or flaked salt on top of balls at this time. May need to reheat chocolate. Put in fridge about 10 minutes until coating is set.

Enjoy!



Coffee and Conversation is usually held on an odd day in the middle of December for the Nov/Dec get-together. This month, we will meet on Tuesday the 13th in downtown Lenoir at the Main Street Magic Cafe at 1 PM. We can have lunch as well. Afterwards, take a walk around downtown and look at the Christmas trees. Each business has one on the sidewalk and they are all different and they are different every year.



Charity Report

Our 4th Quarter Charity is the Marine Toys for Tots

Here's a little information about them:

The mission of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is to assist the U. S. Marine Corps in providing a tangible sign of hope to economically disadvantaged children at Christmas. This assistance includes providing day-to-day leadership and oversight of the Program, raising funds to provide toys to supplement the collections of local Toys for Tots Campaigns, to provide promotional and support material and defray the costs of conducting annual Toys for Tots Campaigns. Local campaigns are generally organized and coordinated by the Marine Corps League Detachments. GOAL: The primary goal of Marine Toys for Tots is, through the gift of a new toy, help bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to America's less fortunate children.

Website link. <https://www.toysfortots.org/Default.aspx>

What our club does every year is provide new and unwrapped toys. Boxes are at the Hickory Airport and will remain there until about December 8th . You may also go to Facebook Hickory Area NC Toys for Tots | Facebook and look through the list of towns to find a drop off location closer to you. Thank you for making some children's Christmas a little more merry!

Nancy Geiger
Charity Chair

From Sharon Snellings



Cookie Exchange December 14th

For the Cookie Exchange — Please bring some of your favorite cookies to the December 14th General Meeting and sample some of the delicious favorites from other members! There is no required amount to bring but 2 dozen would be plenty to share. We will also have bags available for you to share and take goodies home.



HART SQUARE VILLAGE

Reminder - We will be taking a private tour of selected buildings in Hart Square Village on Friday, December 9th. The cost is \$20/per person (**cash only**) and you must sign up in advance to ensure that we have the right number of tour guides for our group. Contact Sharon Snellings (scsnellings@gmail.com) for information and to RSVP.

Special EVENTS COMMITTEE News

As the year comes to an end, we find ourselves cutting back on activities. So many of us are retired and yet we are busier than ever! We hope you have enjoyed this past year's various trips and socials and we look forward to repeating some of our favorites in 2023, as well as venturing out on new, uncharted paths. The members of the Special Events Committee hopes you have enjoyed our efforts this year and look forward to seeing you out and about next year!

Here's what happened in November:

Lunch at Four Peas in a Pod, then Shopping at Fantastic Finds – (This was organized by Cindy Zook.) We headed out for lunch at Four Peas in a Pod in Conover. There were 23 of us that enjoyed some wonderful home-cooked dinners! Some then went on to Fantastic Finds in Newton to see what all we couldn't pass up, and, of course, there were items there that we just HAD to HAVE! In case you are unfamiliar with this business, it is a booth mall that includes antiques, vintage items, collectibles, arts, crafts, home accessories and more. Check it out!

Moving on to December:

Friday, December 9th – Tour of Hart Square – 1:00 - 2:30 PM (Sharon Snellings is coordinating this event.) This is quite the opportunity for our members! Our group will be given a private, guided tour of Hart Square, which will be festooned in its holiday decorations! One of our past speakers, Lorissa Vines, will be leading us through the grounds. The cost for this event is \$20 (**cash only**) per person payable that day. Sharon Snellings is taking reservations.

Coming up:

Annual Holiday Party – January 21

As of the first of the year I will no longer be the Chairman of the Special Events Committee. This job will be taken over by Evie Gibson. We have already met to go over possible options/trips/activities and we are all set to get started on 2023. Look for more exciting places to visit and activities to try!

Amy Chizen
SEC Chair



Chatty Crafters will be at Linda DeGraw's house on Friday, December 2nd and Friday, December 16th . What better place to be in December than in Bethlehem?! January will find us at Deb Nielsen's house in Hickory.

The dates will be Friday, January 6th and Friday, January 20th . This just in: Watch future newsletters for a new addition to Chatty Crafters! We are working on having a Fifth Friday Fun Craft, which would be held in March, June, September and December. This would be a 2-hour time period for the attendees to do one craft together, taught by one of our members. There may be a small fee for materials, or you may need to bring your own supplies. Lots of details to work out yet, but it's in the works!



Cards and Games

Tuesday, December 6th at 5:30 PM

Canasta and Games will be held at the Hickory Regional Airport on Tuesday, December 6 at 5:30 p.m. Looking forward to seeing everyone this month, so come eat and play the game of your choice. We offer Canasta, Rummikub, Dominoes and Pinochle! All game components will be provided. Please bring any other game you want to play - How about board games? I will confirm your request to play as we fill tables of four. If you do not receive an email from me, call! Get your group together or just come on out and try a new game. Please note on your R.S.V.P. the game you wish to play, a second choice if possible and if you will be having the meal. Play includes a catered meal of Tuscan Garlic Chicken (moist chicken breast sautéed in garlic olive oil, tossed with fresh baby spinach, sundried tomatoes and shredded mozzarella), garden salad and wild rice SERVED PROMPTLY AT 5:30 p.m., cost is \$11. If you don't want to eat, you can enjoy games and beverages for only \$5. We must pay the caterer for each meal ordered, so if you make reservations and do not cancel before the deadline of 10:00 a.m. Sunday, you still must pay the \$11 charge! Reserve your spot with Adra Kryszczuk at adraellen@yahoo.com.

Samba

Thursday, December 15th at 5:30 PM

Samba is played at the Hickory Regional Airport on Thursday, December 15. Dinner and Samba begins at 5:30 p.m. Dinner of Pork BBQ (smoked and hand-pulled), pub chips, broccoli salad, beverages and an evening of Samba is \$11. If you don't want to eat, you can enjoy cards and beverages for only \$5. Don't know how to play? There is always a learning table offered for those who want to learn or simply brush up on their skills. All Newcomer members, men and women, are welcome. *I will confirm your request to play as we fill up tables of four.* **If you do not receive an email from me, call!** We like to start playing the game right at 6 p.m., so please be considerate of others and get to the airport on time. Play includes a catered meal of a Loaded Baked Potato Bar (served with bacon, sour cream, butter, cheese, steamed broccoli, sautéed onions and mushrooms) and includes a tossed salad SERVED PROMPTLY AT 5:30 p.m. We must pay the caterer for each meal ordered, so if you make reservations and do not cancel before the deadline of 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, you still must pay the charge! To join in the fun, contact Adra at adraellen@yahoo.com.



The Hickory Community Theatre had its humble beginning in 1948 when the Hickory Recreation Department employed Kay Johnson to form a theatre group. Her first offering was a series of radio dramas aired on WIRC. In 1949, informal meetings, encouraged by the Kramer family, led to the formation of what was then known as The Hickory Little Theatre. The HLT first production was an evening of one-act plays, so successful that the company presented its first full-length production, *YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU* in October in the auditorium at City Hall. The building has been the home of HCT ever since.

The Theatre grew in popularity and community support through the '50s and staged its first musical production, *THE BOYFRIEND*, in 1958 – the same year that Charles Jeffers started his life-long involvement with HCT.

A new city hall was built in 1976 and HCT slowly moved into more of the old building. Renovations in 1984 led to the two performance spaces known to modern audiences, the extremely popular Firemen's Kitchen and the HCT Mainstage, which the City Council renamed The Charles E. Jeffers Theatre in 1988, when the city turned over the entire building to the use of the Theatre. Renovations continued in the 1990s that completed the exterior restoration of the building and renovations to the Charles E. Jeffers Theatre. Each year, HCT and its community of volunteers celebrate its yearlong season of productions, events, and activities with the Kay Awards ceremony. "The Kays" honor the volunteers who have labored and shared their talents to support the Theatre throughout the year. The awards, named in honor of Kay Johnson are hosted by the Guild at HCT. The Guild represents the highest level of volunteerism at HCT. Guild members, in addition to the projects to improve the appeal and function of the Theatre and conduct special fundraisers for purchase of needed equipment. See more about our wonderful sponsor: the Hickory Community Theatre @ HCT History | Hickory Theatre.

Kevin McCutcheon
Sponsorship Chair

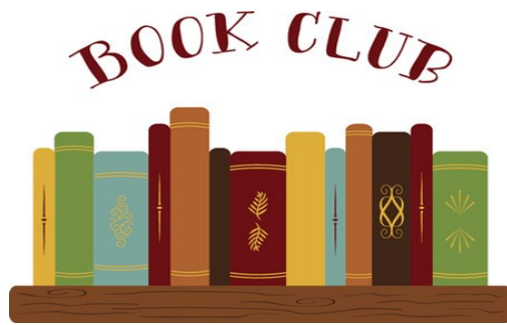


Hello Newcomers,

The December Lunch Out is scheduled for Thursday, December 8th from 11:30am-1:30pm at Fresh Chef Restaurant, 1825 N. Center Street, in Hickory. Our lunch will be held in their private room called The Barn. You can preview their menu at www.freshchefkitchen.com. Fresh Chef has plenty of parking and is accessible for those with mobility issues. Looking forward to another fun event.

Please RSVP by December 5th through email, phone call or text message.

Debbie Kelso
716-480-1606
Dkelso528@gmail.com



“Beyond the Book”



The next meeting of the Book Club will be held on Wednesday, January 25th, 2023 at 1:30 PM at the Women’s Resource Center in Hickory. We are currently in the process of choosing our reading list for next year. Once finalized, I will be sending it out to all Book Club members.

The Book Club meets every other month on the 4th Wednesday of the month except for November when we meet on the third Wednesday.

The Book Club coordinator is Laura Moran, moran.laura@att.net.

Please join us!

Laura Moran



Pearl Harbor Day, is observed annually in the United States on December 7, to remember and honor the 2,403 Americans who were killed in the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941, which led to the United States declaring war on Japan the next day and thus entering World War II.



- | | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| December 6 | St Nicholas Day |
| December 7 | Pearl Harbor Day |
| December 13 | St Lucia's Day |
| December 17 | Wright Brother's Day |
| December 18 | Hanukah Begins |
| December 21 | Winter Solstice |
| December 25 | Christmas Day |
| December 26 | Boxing Day |

Celebrities Born in December

- Steven Spielberg * LeBron James
Ossy Osbourne * Britney Spears
Taylor Swift * Samuel L Jackson
Ryan Seacrest * Jimmy Buffet
Denzel Washington * Tiger Woods
Anthony Hopkins * Brad Pitt
Judy Dench * Walt Disney
Frank Sinatra * Beethoven
Jane Austen



- | | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| December 2 | Rosie Bray |
| December 8 | Judy Ward |
| December 10 | Carol Parker |
| December 12 | Chris Beckham |
| December 12 | Michelle Tompkins |
| December 13 | Scott Hibbs |
| December 14 | Amy Chizen |
| December 14 | Dale Pfingst |
| December 15 | Sharon Bennett |
| December 15 | Albert Derocher |
| December 15 | Pam Wagoner |
| December 17 | Millie Kaufman |
| December 17 | Evon Repaire |
| December 18 | Kay Stone |
| December 21 | Kathy Durand |
| December 21 | Joe Paussa |
| December 22 | Ken Feldman |
| December 23 | Patty Ramsey |
| December 24 | Evie Gibson |
| December 31 | Karen Schafer |

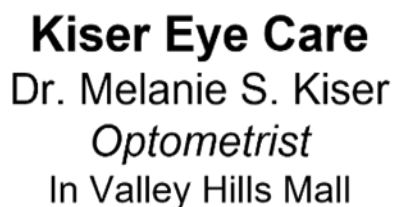
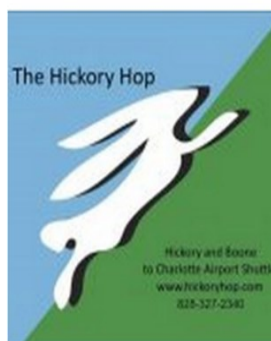


Personality Traits of December Birthdays

- Down to Earth * Friendly
Honest * Organized
Intelligent * Active
Enthusiastic
Compassionate for Others
Achieves Goals
Motivates Others
Hidden Treasure of Talents



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