# Sandi Johnson, Editor

# March 2023



# The Voice

Newcomers of Catawba Valley Newsletter 2525 North Center Street #169, Hickory, NC 28601 www.newcomersofcv.com

## **President's Column**

Happy beginning of spring! Our year is off to a great start! The February speaker shared some wonderful resource information on planning and planting. Our March speaker will

bring us up to date on what we should watch for online – Cyber Security Concerns in Your Everyday Life. The February meeting also brought us four new members! Speaking of which, if you have not already mailed your dues payment (\$15 per person), you may bring it to the next General Meeting on Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> as I am now safely ensconced in my new home, I am sending a huge THANK YOU to all of you! Thanks for all your encouragement and support, the huge outpouring of boxes and packing materials and especially to those who came and helped me pack and take care of last-minute repairs. I consider all of you family! I am pleased to share that Shari Kidd has volunteered to take on the Samba Day activity. The first event will be held on Tuesday, March14. Watch for the emails! There are still several



Adra Kryszczuk

events that need volunteers to make them happen. See the list in the newsletter.

Spring cannot come too soon for me. Wishing all of you an enjoyable spring!



#### • Book Club Chair: Laura Moran moran.laura@att.net

The next meeting of the Book Club will be held on Wednesday, March 22nd, 2023, at 1:30 P.M. at the Women's Resource Center in Hickory. The book for our March discussion is Lessos in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus: NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • GOOD MORNING AMERICA BOOK CLUB PICK The Book Club meets every other month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month except for November when we meet on the third Wednesday.

### • Bowling Chair: Vince LeGrand legravin@gmail.com

The Newcomers Bowling Season began at the beginning of October 2022 and will conclude on March 23, 2023. Newcomers Bowling will be on hiatus after March 23rd until early October 2023. We bowl at Pin Station in Newton on Business 321 across from Catawba County Government Center. Bowling is every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. with practice starting at 6:20 p.m. The cost is \$8.00 per person to bowl 3 games. For

those of you not familiar with Newcomers Bowling, we do not have teams. Bowlers of all experience levels and ability are welcome. We bowl to socialize and get a little exercise. If you don't have your own ball and shoes, Pin Station has a large selection of balls that you can use for free, and shoe rentals are inexpensive. If you are interested in or have question about Newcomers Bowling, please contact the chair.

**ADDII** 

# Bridge Chair: Gloria Berg glomcberg@hotmail.com

MARCH		AFRIL	
Wednesday, Mar. 1	Susan Perkins	Monday, Apr. 3	Gloria Berg
Monday, Mar. 6	Barb Beck	Wednesday, Apr. 5	Gloria Berg
Monday, Mar. 13	Betty Stone	Monday, Apr. 10	Laurie Johnsen
Wednesday, Mar. 15	Susan Perkins	Monday, Apr. 17	Margie Dickey
Monday, Mar. 20	Karen Schafer	Wednesday, Apr. 19	Helen Woodyard

## • Program Chair: Kathy Kuehn kecen325@yahoo.com

Mike Hausler, the Director of Information Technology at CVCC will present the March program. Mike's presentation is entitled 'Cyber Security Concerns in your Everyday Life.' He will be speaking about the high-level social media and the dangers within. Please plan to attend. And bring your questions.

May program will be Container Gardening.

MADCH

- Beer Tasting Chair: Karlene Patrick karlene.patrick@yahoo.com

  Join us for the Beer Tasting on March 10 Lowes Beer Den, Viewmont (by Backstreets)
  6:00 p.m.-8:00p.m. Contact the chair for details. Hope in April to start the Beer Den tasting each 2nd Friday each month and during the 4th week plan a brewery or winery night out since the sun will be shining later, please send me your ideas for places to go!
- Canasta & Games Day Chair: NEED COODINATOR -- HELP

  Canasta and Games is held at the Hickory Regional Airport and a coordinator (or two or three) is needed. You can eat and play the game of your choice.

  Canasta, Rummikub, Dominoes, Pinochle, Cribbage, Mahjongg, Board Games, or you pick it! Most game components will be provided. Please bring any other game you want to play. Get your group together or just come on out and try a new game. Play includes a catered meal SERVED PROMPTLY AT 11:30 a.m. OR 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! Who's up to take a chance and meet new friends? Training will be provided!



• Charity Chair: Nancy Geiger ng0425@gmail.com

Newcomers who brought diapers and wipes to the February General
Meeting for our first quarter charity: THANK YOU! Our Nest Diaper
Pantry. John and I had fun delivering them to their cheery, colorful office
that afternoon. We'll do one more drive at our March meeting. As usual
we'll collect diapers from newborn size to 4t/5t pullups, wipes, and diaper

rash creams. Here's some information about the organization for those who are new, or maybe missed reading last month's newsletter: Our Nest Diaper Pantry was established in September of 2021 with a grant and community diaper drive. It is part of the Children's Resource Center. No other social programs assist parents in providing diapers for their children during a crisis or emergency. The pandemic exacerbated the current need for a community diaper bank. The pantry was established to end diaper need in our community and allow for young children to grow and thrive in a clean and healthy environment while also communicating other helpful programs to parents with young children. Parents can receive a packet of 20 diapers, wipes (when available), parenting information, and access to a family support specialist to assist with community referrals up to twice per month at The Children's Resource Center at 738 4th St SW Hickory, NC 28602. They are open Monday- Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Parents can call ahead to have the diapers ready for pick up, the number to Our Nest is 828-695-6517. The parent is

asked to fill out a five questions survey, but do not have to complete it to receive a supplemental supply of diapers. The survey allows Our Nest to get a snapshot of diaper need in the community and help them plan for the sustainability of the diaper pantry. Participants are asked to be from Catawba County, but no proof of residence or ID is required. The Children's Resource Center itself strives to be an information clearinghouse on child and family resources. They provide not only parent referrals and support, but also information on what programs is available in the community and how to



access those resources. They work closely with agencies and child/family programs in a collaborative effort to reach the Smart Start goal of every Catawba County child being healthy and ready to two learn upon entry into kindergarten. They can assist parents FOR MORE INFO with finding an agency that can help with a specific need. WEBSITE childrenresourcecenter.org or catawbakids.com Again, thank you all for such a great kick-off to the year!

## • Chatty Crafters Chair: Adra Kryszczuk adraellen@yahoo.com

Will meet at the home of Fran Tramazzo, 3575 14th Ave Dr SW, Hickory, NC 28602, this month on the first and third Fridays (March 3 and 17). Anyone is welcome to attend whenever they are available. Bring your craft with you to work on: knitting, crochet, needlework, jewelry-making, or whatever or just come to visit. Please R.S.V.P. to Fran at <a href="mailto:ftramazzo@gmail.com">ftramazzo@gmail.com</a>, so there are enough chairs. The hostess will provide coffee, tea, and water. If someone else would like to host it on Tuesday afternoons, That's another option. We crafters are always ready to work on our latest project! So, gather up your project and join us for conversation and comradery!

#### • Fifth Friday Crafts Chair: Amy Chizen chizenamy@gmail.com

Chatty Crafters has been a huge success since its start up in 2022. If you are a crafter, but haven't joined us yet, feel free to come on the first and third Fridays of the month to work on your craft, chat, and nosh on goodies. Now it's time to expand on this concept with Fifth Friday Crafts. We understand that not everyone's crafts are portable, so we are introducing a different craft concept for 2023. There are four fifth Fridays this year and we are going to use them! Fifth Friday Crafts will take place on March 31st, June 30th, September 29th and December 29th at the Hickory Airport. Each session will be a two-hour

single craft project that you will learn and accomplish during that time. This could give you a chance to try out a craft that you've been curious about without purchasing all the tools, etc. These will be led by fellow members who already know how to do it.

• March 31<sup>st</sup> craft we will be using Diamond Dotz to make bookmarks! Diamond Dotz are small beads that are adhered to a sticky surface to make a picture or pattern. To see some of the possibilities, go to Amazon and search for Diamond Dotz Bookmarks. Debbie Hindman will be leading this session. We are meeting in the "old luggage room" area at the Hickory Airport from 10:00-12:00p.m. The cost is \$2.00 per person for the room rental and a supplies fee of \$3.00-\$5.00 payable that day. Everything you need will be provided by the presenter. The Café will provide coffee, tea, and water for \$2.00 per just like at our meetings. To sign up for this project, R.S.V.P. to chizenamy@gmail.com by March 19<sup>th</sup>!



- Our second Fifth Friday Craft on June 30<sup>th</sup> will be instructions on flower arranging, led by Rob Hermann. If you would like to lead the September or December classes, let Amy know!
- Cribbage & Euchre Chair: Debbie Hindman debbiehindman2022@gmail.com
  Starting March 6, the first Tuesday of each month, Cribbage and Euchre will now be
  played at my house 4637 9th St NE, Hickory at 5:30pm social time and 6:00p.m. game
  time. Euchre is a 4-person card game. Cribbage is a 2,3- or 4-person card game. We are
  willing to teach anyone who wants to play either game. Refreshments provided but

anyone wanting to bring something to share be it drinks or food, may do so.



Cribbage and other games will be played at the Hickory Airport on Tuesday March 21. at 6:00 p.m. with dinner being offered at 5:30 p.m. We need a minimum of 8 dinners paid for to be able to have the room for free, otherwise they will charge a use fee of the room. Other games can include Mah Jongg, Dominos, Euchre and Cribbage. If you can add to 15 and 31, you can learn and play cribbage. There will be a learning table and tables for play for those who already know how to play. Come join the fun. I am also looking for a host for April.

Coffee & Conversation Chair: Sheri Binning Ronald.binning@gmail.com
We will be at Hole Lotta Donuts in Lenoir on the last Friday of the month, March 31st
at 2 pm. They have delicious donuts, coffees and even ice cream. Take a look at their
Facebook and their menu: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/holelottadoughnuts">https://www.facebook.com/holelottadoughnuts</a>
and <a href="https://www.holelottadoughnuts.com/menu">https://www.holelottadoughnuts.com/menu</a>.

Dinner Out Chair: Debbie Kelso dkelso528@gmail.com

The March Dinner Out is scheduled for Thursday, March 9th from 5:30-7:30pm at LaCocinita Mexican Restaurant, 2220 N. Center Street in Hickory. There is plenty of parking and the restaurant is accessible for those with mobility issues. Please R.S.V.P. by Thursday, March 2<sup>nd;</sup> You MUST R.S.V.P. to attend because the restaurant requested that we notify them a week before the dinner letting them know how many Newcomers are coming, so they can make sure to have enough staff to serve us.

Game Night Chair: Debbie Hindman debbiehindman2022@gmail.com

Game night will be at the airport on Tuesday night March 21st.. More info to follow.

• Mah Jongg Chair: Chair is Needed

• Members Helping Members Chair: Sandi Johnson ncvalegirl@gmail.com
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; meals, walking the dog, help with errands and meals, shopping; transportation for shopping and doctor visits; providing books and/or reading to someone; preparing meals; sending cards, etc. Please consider offering to help with this or any other activity. Just email the chair and specify when you would be available for what task(s) you would want to take on. THANK YOU

Meet-Up Chair: Amy Chizen <u>chizenamy@gmail.com</u>

With all our recent members, I thought it would be worthwhile to fill everyone in on what we call Meetups. These are loosely planned happenings, i.e., movies, plays, Music Under the Sails, shopping trips, etc. If there is something going on in the area that you would like to attend, put an email out to the membership with the information, and those who want to, and are able to, can show up. There are no commitments, no reservations, and no worries if you don't make it.

• **Example 1**: I see that there's a movie playing at the AMC Movie Theater on a Tuesday at 2:15 P.M. I put an email out, with the Subject MEET-UP, on the preceding Saturday telling members that I'm going to that specific show. I will buy my ticket and wait in the lobby. Whomever chooses to come, buys their own ticket, maybe for a seat near where I am sitting, and any refreshments they want. We can all go in together or trickle in on our own. By 2:10 P.M I go into the movie theater to watch the movie. Anyone from our group that arrives after that will not find us in the lobby but will be able to find us in the theater. Any further plans are up to individuals. Face it, there are a lot of movies, fairs, and shows out there that are not of interest to our other half. Here's a way to get to go but not alone. Watch your email from Newcomer members with the subject MEET-UP and let's get together!

#### • New Members - Welcome to our newest members!



Phyllis Kane from NC
Dick Heffron from TX
Denise Hogestyn from NY
Carol Stites from OH
Beth Bramball from NC
Janet & Thomas Groner from OH
Char & Scott Sweeney from NC
Pat Harmon from NC

# Let's give them a warm welcome the next time you see them.

#### Sponsor Spotlight



When you need professional-grade signs for your business, turn to ASignco for quality and classic signs that will help promote your business and engage the public. Trust us for quick and personalized services that will exceed your expectations! Donna and Rudy Wright began this business in 1995 as a franchisee of American Sign Shops. In 2004, they became a family-owned

business, which is completely independent. New owner, Mia Yang has been the new owner of ASignco for 2-years now and has already made a tremendous impact by supporting a number of charity activities in our community. Thank you, Mia! Mia grew up in Spartanburg SC and graduated from University South Carolina with my bachelor's in accounting & Finance. She worked as an Accounting Manager for over 15 years, but her desire was to own her own business one day. She is committed to continuing the legacy of the Wright's. As her website (www.asigncohickory.com) denotes, ASignco will create, install, repair, and service any sign that you need or have. "We are committed to helping our community, the betterment of the sign industry, and delivering top-quality customer service. Our team will ensure that your sign meets or exceeds your expectations." Contact us today to discuss your options! Check out ASignco and congratulate Mia Yang for her continued investment in our community and thank her for her sponsorship." mia@asingcohickory.com

- Rummikub Chair: Debbie Hindman debbiehindman2022@gmail.com
  Rummikub will be held in my home, 4637 9th St NE, Hickory, on March 19. at
  2:00p.m.-4:00p.m. Refreshments will be served. Rummikub is a tile game of
  numbers from 1-13 and 4 colors. You make runs of numbers in the same colors or 4
  of a kind in the 4 different colors. It's easy and only takes a moment to learn. Play
  can be 2-6 people. Don't hesitate to come give it a try. I am also looking for a host
  for April.
- <u>Samba Day Chair: Shari Kidd kidd915sl@gmail.com</u>
  This will be held on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the airport at 11:00a.m. Lunch will be served at 11:30a.m. The desserts will be brought by attendees, in alphabetical order.

• Samba Night Chair: Adra Kryszczuk adraellen@yahoo.com\_.

Evening SAMBA at the Hickory Airport is Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Come and enjoy and evening of playing SAMBA with friends. Dinner of Chicken Fajitas (sautéed onions and peppers, shredded cheese, diced tomatoes, flour tortillas, rice, black beans, salsa and sour cream), decaf coffee, iced tea and water starts at 5:30p.m. and SAMBA starts at 6:00 p.m. Dinner and Samba are \$11 per person. If you don't want to eat, you can enjoy cards and beverages for only \$5--exact change is appreciated! 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 a confirmation email from me, call please!! (828-495-7939)* We like to start the game right at 6 p.m., so please be considerate of others and get to the airport on time. We must pay the caterer for each meal ordered, so if you make an reservation and do not cancel before the deadline of 10 a.m., Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, you still must pay the charge!

• Special Events (SEC): Evie Gibson belleislebelle@ymail.com.

We had a great February with both new and old activities. Hope you were able to attend something that caught your interest! Our Beer & Wine Tasting was back on the calendar, and I can't wait to hear of the adventures with the Axe Throwing! We encourage you to give us suggestions as well as join us on our adventures! So, on to March and the celebration of all things Irish and green! Look for information in this issue about our Beer & Wine Tasting at Lowe's Food Stores in Viewmont on March  $10^{\rm th}$ .

- The SEC will have a meeting on Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Patrick Beaver Library in Hickory from 1:00-3:00P.M. in the downstairs conference room (to your right as you walk in the front door). For the first hour we will be discussing plans for April and May, and for the second hour will be for those who want to work on the Kentucky Derby Party being held on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to come to either or both parts of the meeting. Hope to see another great turnout for this meeting. Later that same day is a Meet Up (see info. on Meet Ups in this issue.)
- There is a U.S.A.F. Heritage of America Band concert being held at the CoMMA Performing Arts Center in Morganton at 7:30 P.M. This is a free concert with open seating, but tickets are required. Everyone is on their own to secure their ticket by going to www.commaonline.org/calendar. We are adding a bonus offer to this event by offering carpooling and dinner at Abele's Family Restaurant in Morganton. Check out their menu at www.abelesfamilyrestaurant.com. Your choices are: 1) meet at Amy's house (722 14<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, Hickory) at 4:45P.M. and ride together, OR 2) meet us at Abele's between 5:15-5:30P.M. for dinner and then go to the concert, OR 3) simply meet us at the concert. Please let me know your plans at chizenamy@gmail.com so we are sure to have enough drivers and to let the restaurant know how many to expect in our group. We already have 11 folks attending, so don't be left out!
- We don't have all the details yet, so watch your email to discover where we are headed, RSVP instructions, etc. Guaranteed to be a fun adventure!
- Meet Up will also be happening on March 31<sup>st</sup>. This one is for the comedy performance of "Madam Buttermilk" at the HUB Station in Hudson. "Madame Buttermilk" tells the story of Carly Speranza, who has a lifelong dream to sing the

lead role in the opera, "Carmen," but through miscommunication, gets hooked up with a country band at the State Fair. She reunites with her high school sweetheart who has become a country music star. Hilarity ensues as the worlds of opera and country music collide and come crashing together, to the delight of fans of all types of music! Tickets and more information are available at www.thehubstation.com. You have a choice of purchasing the Dinner Theater Tickets for \$37, or Balcony seats with no dinner for \$19.

- Upcoming events to watch for:  $\square$  Wine and Cheese reception prior to a play in Hickory or Newton;  $\square$  Day trip to Krner's Folly in Kernersville, NC, in April or May  $\square$  Spring trip to Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden in April
- Special Events Axe Throwing Chair: Karlene @ Karlene.patrick@yahoo.com March 21st 6:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. @ Patriot Axe 2663 US highway 70 southeast, Hickory 15\$ for groups of 10, \$18 otherwise; 10% off for military and first responders. Drinks available 203-592-7054

<u>Special Events</u> Art Show: <u>Karlene @ Karlene.patrick@yahoo.com</u>

Art- Acrylic & Mixed Media One of our own has an art show at the Old Rock School in Valdese, NC: Art will be by Renee Barnette on **March 3- April 7 / Online March 3-April 22 &** Reception Sunday, March 5 from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. at 400 Main Street West, Valdese. Monday through Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

#### **NEWCOMERS OF CATAWBA VALLEY ANNUAL DUES**

#### **APRIL 1, 2023 - MARCH 31, 2024**

Just a reminder that it is time to collect Newcomers yearly dues. The current membership rate is \$15.00 per person, due by March 31, 2023.

Your payment must be received by March 31, 2023. If not, your name(s) will be removed from our active roster, and you will have to reapply for membership. Please be mindful of the due date. You can pay your dues at our March monthly General Meeting (cash or check) or by mailing a check to our address:

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

Please contact our Treasurer, Sonya Reid, at ncvtreasurer@gmail.com or at 919-880-7216, if you have any questions or need additional information.



March	Birthdays

Date Name	Date Name
3.02 - Trish Scalise	3.19 - Paula Carr
3.03 - Chuck Bethany	3.21 - Dennis Donahue
3.04 - Cindy Hall	3.22 - Greg Gervasio
3.05 - Debbie Elias	3.22 - Diana Earnest
3.08 - Nancy Jones	3.23 - Addie McSherley
3.10 - Corwin Kip Kippenhan	3.27 - Kristen Kiser
3.10 - Janet Rudisill	3.28 - Ann Waldron
3.12 - Lori Gervasio	3.28 - Joe Longo
3.12 - Monty Matthews	3.28 - Robert Barnette
3.12 - Nancy Schultz	3.29 - Sharon Snellings
3.13 - Carol Hoover	3.29 - Tracy Breen
3.13 - Bill Weese	3.30 - Debbie Longo
3.16 - Linda Fedder	3.30 - Linda Zacharenko

# **NEWCOMERS' VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED:**



## **CANASTA AND GAMES DAY \* DOMINOES \***



# MAHJONGG (IN-PERSON GAMES) \* SAMBA DAY

The duties of Canasta and Games Day, Dominoes, Mah Jongg are all basically the same: Events are at the Hickory Airport meeting room.

- Select a menu and confirm it and price with Crosswind Café
- 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.





# Officers, Directors, Activity Chairs and Committees 2023-2024

(members), Greg Gervacio (site advisor)
Position Available (calendar) Adra Kryszczuk
Jon Kiser
Kevin McCutcheon
Vince LeGrand
Kathy Rozea
Shari Kidd
Debbie Hindman
* * * * * Position Available * * * * *
Kathy Kuehn
Sandi Shear-Johnson
Sandi Shear-Johnson
Debbie Hindman
* * * * * Position Available * ** * *
Debbie Kelso
Sharon Snellings
Bob Jones
Evie Gibson (chair), Amy Chizen
* * * * * Position Available * * * * *
Sheri Binning
Nancy Geiger
* * * * * Position Available * * * * *
* * * * * Position Available * * * *
Gloria Berg
Vince LeGrand
Laura Moran
Nancy Geiger, Evie Gibson, Rob Herman, Kathy Rozea
Secretary Past President
Treasurer
Vice President
President

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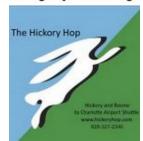














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