

October 2023

Sandi Johnson, Editor



# **The Voice**

Newcomers of Catawba Valley Newsletter  
2425 North Center Street #169,  
Hickory, NC 28601  
[www.newcomersofcv.org](http://www.newcomersofcv.org)

## **President's Column**

Hello Friends,

What a crazy month this has been! For those who didn't know, I had a minor accident on August 10<sup>th</sup> which resulted in my car being totaled. Six days later I had a freak accident in my back yard with wheelbarrow full of bricks sliding down the outside of my right leg, taking all the skin with it. The result of this accident left me car-less and pretty much confined to bed for a couple of weeks. It has only been the last week or so that I've been comfortable with standing still. Walking came quickly, thank heaven! Once again, I can honestly say that Newcomers has saved my life! Thank you everyone, for the kindnesses you have extended.



I found a car online and was able to purchase it locally. My doctor has given me the go-ahead to drive starting October 1<sup>st</sup> (YAY)...The club has a lot of events and activities planned starting today, Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> with the Revolutionary War Drama in Gastonia. Please read up on (and sign up for) the events scheduled by the Special Events Committee, later in this newsletter. I'm pleased to report that Sonya and Dave Reid will be leading hikes for Newcomers. I understand they will be four miles or less. Read on for more information. Also, the club will have a float in the Hickory Christmas Parade and the theme will be "Getting to Gnome You." Anyone is welcome to join in the fun.

It is nearing time for Board Elections for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Amy Chizen has volunteered to head a nominating committee. If you are willing to help or serve in any capacity, please contact Amy (chizenamy@gmail.com). I would like at least two other people to help her with these determinations. Thank you!

This newsletter is jam-packed with information and fun activities for the month of October. I'm hoping to see many of you at the General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at Hickory Regional Airport.

Adra, Your President

**Book Club Chair: Laura Moran** [moran.laura@att.net](mailto:moran.laura@att.net)

The next meeting of the Book Club will be held on Wednesday, November 15th, 2023, at 1:30 P.M. at the Women's Resource Center in Hickory. The book for our September discussion will be *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick. INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER - The Read with Jenna Today Show Book Club Pick! A story of love and hope as interweaving characters display: how all moments, big and small, can measure a life. If you want joy, love, romance, and hope—read with us; —Jenna Bush Hager A luminous, spirit-lifting blockbuster that asks: would you choose to find out the length of your life?

Eight ordinary people. One extraordinary choice. It seems like any other day. You wake up, pour a cup of coffee, and head out. But today, when you open your front door, waiting for you is a small wooden box. This box holds your fate inside: the answer to the exact number of years you will live. From suburban doorsteps to desert tents, every person on every continent receives the same box. In an instant, the world is thrust into a collective frenzy. Where did these boxes come from? What do they mean? Is there truth to what they promise?

As society comes together and pulls apart, everyone faces the same shocking choice: Do they wish to know how long they'll live. And, if so, what will they do with that knowledge? The Measure charts the dawn of this new world through an unforgettable cast of characters whose decisions and fates interweave with one another: best friends whose dreams are forever entwined, pen pals finding refuge in the unknown, a couple who thought they didn't have to rush, a doctor who cannot save himself, and a politician whose box becomes the powder keg that ultimately changes everything.

Enchanting and deeply uplifting, The Measure is a sweeping, ambitious, and invigorating story about family, friendship, hope, and destiny that encourages us to live life to the fullest. 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](mailto:legravin@gmail.com)

Newcomers Bowling will open its new season on Wednesday, **October 4<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30p.m. at Pin Station in Newton. We will bowl every Wednesday (except around holidays) with the season concluding on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Bowlers of all abilities are welcome. Please contact Vince LeGrand ([legravin@gmail.com](mailto:legravin@gmail.com)) if you have any questions. If you have already contacted me, I have you in my roster and email distribution, and I hope to see you on the 4<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't contacted me and want to bowl, please contact me A.S.A.P. so I can include you in the roster.



**Bridge Chair: Gloria Berg** [glomcberg@hotmail.com](mailto:glomcberg@hotmail.com)

## OCTOBER

Monday, Oct. 2nd	Pett Brands
Wednesday, Oct. 4th	Kathy Rozea
Monday, Oct. 9th	Kathy Bethany
Monday, Oct. 16th	Betty Stone
Wednesday, Oct. 18th	Gloria Berg

## NOVEMBER

Wednesday, Nov. 1st	Carol Parker
Monday, Nov. 6th	Helen Woodyard
Monday, Nov. 13th	Adra Kryszczuk
Wednesday, Nov. 15th	Peg Baldwin
Monday, Nov. 20th	Susan Perkins

**Chatty Crafters Chair: Millie Kaufman** [mkauf188@bellsouth.net](mailto:mkauf188@bellsouth.net)

**October 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.**

Chatty Crafters Chair: Chatty Crafters will meet the 1st and 3rd Friday: **October 6<sup>th</sup>** and **October 20<sup>th</sup>** from 10 a.m. until noon. Anyone is., welcome to attend whenever they are available. Bring your craft with you to work on: knitting, crochet, needlework, jewelry-making, or just come to visit. Please R.S.V.P. too. Our hostesses this month, so there are enough chairs. The hostesses will provide beverages. **SPECIAL ALERT FOR OCTOBER: MEETING LOCATIONS ARE SPLIT THIS MONTH.**, The October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting is at Linda DeGraw's home, 277 Gentle and Smith Road, Taylorsville. Contact Linda at: [teach1999@gmail.com](mailto:teach1999@gmail.com). , The October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting is at my home, 1615 Indian Springs Dr. NW Conover.. , Contact me at [mkauf188@bellsought.net](mailto:mkauf188@bellsought.net).

**Coffee & Conversation Chair: Sheri Binning/** [Ronald.binning@gmail.com](mailto:Ronald.binning@gmail.com)

We will go to Lowes Foods on the last Friday of the month, **October 27<sup>th</sup>** at 2 p.m. I'm not yet sure which one though, but it will be in Hickory. I will let everyone know when the location is finalized.

**Charity Chair: Nancy Geiger** [ng0425@gmail.com](mailto:ng0425@gmail.com)



Thank you to everyone who supported our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter charity, Shining Hope Farms. Especially Darren Beeksma, Michelle Tompkins and Kevin McCutcheon (and his wife, Chris) who all raced (and each placed first in their age category!) Also, Sonya Reed, John Geiger and I for showing up from 7:30 – 11:30a.m. to set up and man booths. And of course, the members who wrote checks!

The event was wonderful and since the money raised will go to getting veterans, first responders and law enforcement scholarships to participate in Shining Hope Farms' Saddles and Salutes program and mental health offerings the whole atmosphere was patriotic and positive. If you get a chance, go out to their Conover location and walk some of the paths, meet the horses and staff. It's a beautiful place!

I don't have a total for how much the club raised for the cause yet, but you can still donate if you would like. Mail your check to Newcomers of Catawba Valley 2425 North Center Street #169, Hickory, NC 28601. And put Trail Run on the memo line.

### **On to our 4th Quarter Charity - the Marine Corps Toys for Tots**

Here's a little information about them: The mission of the Marine Corps 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 Corps Toys for Tots is, through the gift of a new toy, to 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 toys. (We might also help with picking up and delivering individual drop off boxes but stay tuned for that - we are still working out those details) Boxes will be at Hickory Airport starting in mid-October and remaining until early December. You can drop toys off there at any time (our monthly General meetings are at the airport, so that would be an easy time for you to drop things off.)



**Games Chair: Debbie Hindman** [Debbiehindman2022@gmail.com](mailto:Debbiehindman2022@gmail.com)



Games, games, games, will be on **Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>** at 6 p.m. with dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Hickory Airport. Games will include but are not limited to, Rummikub, Cribbage, Euchre, Board games, Dominos, and other card games, EXPECT Samba and Canasta. The Airport asks that at least 10 dinners be purchased to pay for the room. Please R.S.V.P. with choice of game and yes or no to dinner. Please consider joining us for dinner and conversation before game play. The airport does a fine job in making our meals. Games can be Cribbage, Euchre, Dominos, Rummikub, Mahjong, board games, or any other game you may want to play. Euchre and Mahjong are the best at 4 players/table. Each table decides on how they want to play their games. No uniform rules.



**Lunch/Dinner Out Chair: Denise Hogestyn [denise14526@gmail.com](mailto:denise14526@gmail.com)**

This month is Dinner out at DaVinci's on October 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30p.m. The address is 2968 North Center St, Hickory. The food is awesome. There is plenty of parking. Please R.S.V.P. for a head count by October 9<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see you.



**Members Helping Members Chair: Sandi Johnson [ncvalegirl@gmail.com](mailto: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 any illness, surgery, hospitalization, death, etc. We can schedule meals for a group of people as well.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED WITH LAST MONTHS' REQUEST FOR HELP. You came to the aid as needed. That is what makes this club special.

**THANK YOU**

**New Members**

**Welcome our new members:**

**Priscilla Arbuckle from NH  
Nancy Johnson from CT  
Maggie Morris from NH  
Mary and Larry Pennington from FL**

**Samba Day Chair: Shari Kidd** [Kidd915sl@gmail.com](mailto:Kidd915sl@gmail.com)



Samba Day is the Second Tuesday of each month. Lunch 11:30a.m. and Samba begins at noon on **Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>**. Please be considerate of other players and arrive on time. Lunch is \$11.00 per person. Beverages include Water and Tea. We are required to pay the caterer for each meal ordered. If you make a reservation and do not cancel before the deadline 6:00p.m. **Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>**, you must still pay the charge. Games and Beverages are ONLY \$5.00 per person. DESSERTS: players with last names ending in A- N may bring a dessert to share with players. **Samba will be the only game played and there 'Will Not' be a learning table.**



**Samba Night Chair: Kathy Rozea** [krr510@yahoo.com](mailto:krr510@yahoo.com)

Samba is played at the Hickory Regional Airport on the 4th Thursday Evening each month. Our next Evening Samba. Please arrive about 5:15p.m. for registration. **Thursday October 26<sup>th</sup>** is the Samba night and in November, the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in November is Thanksgiving, so Evening SAMBA will be postponed until November 30<sup>th</sup>. Dinner starts at 5:30p.m. and SAMBA starts promptly at 6:00p.m. The menu will be posted

We offer cards and dinner for \$11 per person or cards only (no dinner) for \$5 per person. Sweet and Unsweet Tea is available to all players. We encourage players to suggest any dinner selections that they would like to see offered at future Evening Samba Nights.

We regularly also offer a learning table, for members who would like to learn how to play or to brush up on the skills. All Newcomer's, men and women, are welcome.

Please contact Kathy Rozea at [krr510@yahoo.com](mailto:krr510@yahoo.com), if you have any questions or would like additional information.



**Shooting Chair: Vince LeGrand [legravin@gmail.com](mailto:legravin@gmail.com)**

Newcomers Shooting has returned! There are 2 shooting sessions per month. On the second Tuesday of each month there will be an evening shooting session at 6:30p.m. There will be an afternoon shooting session on the fourth Thursday of each month at 12 noon. Shooting sessions are held at the Springs Road Gun Club in Hickory. Memberships are available, but you do not have to be a member to participate.

Shooter of all abilities are welcome. Please contact Vince LeGrand ([legravin@gmail.com](mailto:legravin@gmail.com)) if you have any questions. If you have already contacted me, I have you in my roster and email distribution. If you haven't contacted me and want to shoot, please contact me A.S.A.P. so I can include you in the roster.



**Shining Hope Farm Race**



## **Special Event Committee News:**

**Sunday, October 1st** –“Liberty Mountain: The Revolutionary Drama” in Kings Mountain, NC. This is a play about the American Revolution. (See description below and go to LibertyMountainDrama.com for more info.) We will be attending a matinee, which begins at 3:00P.M. Those who wish to carpool will meet at Rose’s Discount Store parking lot by 1:45 P.M. as this will be about a 45-minute drive. Amy Chizen is purchasing a row of tickets (Center section, 12 seats per row) and you will pay her \$27 per ticket. Please email Amy at chizenamy@gmail.com to make your reservation. Also indicate if you would be willing to be a driver. After the play, we will be going to The Hickory Tavern in Gastonia for dinner. Please indicate on your email reservation if you will be joining us for dinner. “From the pen of playwright and novelist Robert Inman comes the compelling historical drama Liberty Mountain, the story of the hardy, resourceful people who settled the Carolinas and their crucial role in the winning of American Independence. The immersive production features larger-than- life battle scenes, cutting edge special effects, and handcrafted costume pieces that will transport you back to the Revolution.”



**Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** - Special Events Committee Meeting at Patrick Beaver Library, Hickory, 1:00P.M. – 4:00P.M. From 1-2 we will be discussing Special Events activities; from 2-3 we will be discussing the Hickory Christmas Parade float; from 3-4 will be discussing the Annual Holiday Party.

**Sip & Paint: Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at the Airport, 10 A.M. – 12 noon**, Led by Crystal Rice. We chose 3(?) designs and will be in touch soon with details.

**Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>** -- Beer & Wine Tasting, 6:00-8:00 P.M. at Lowe’s Grocery Store in Viewmont (behind Backstreets Restaurant). Bring or buy a snack and enjoy a flight of beer/ale/cider/stout/porter, or a glass of wine! Always on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month.

**Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>** – Fall Fling at Maple Grove in Hickory, 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. We will be having apple-themed refreshments on the front veranda and then go into the house for a presentation on “The Streets of Hickory.” This event has reached the capacity of 40 people and there is a waiting list. Led by Amy and Evie, “Everything Apple”. Time for self-guided tours before and after, free will donation, limit of 40. Please contact Amy at chizenamy@gmail.com to add your name to the waiting list.

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**Please come for any of these that you would like to be involved in!**

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## **Good to Know**

**In one study, older adults who enjoyed leisure activities with others or volunteered were up to 17 percent more likely to maintain excellent physical, mental, and cognitive health than those who skipped such activities. Charity work, or doing games, gardening, or hobbies with others contributed most.**

**Source: International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 6/2023**



## Keep an eye out to further information on:

**Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup> – Hike, 1:30 PM,** Place to be determined.

**Hike then Souper Party – November 4<sup>th</sup>,** hike at Geitner Park at 3:30 P.M. then Souper Party at the Patricks' house. This will be hosted by Karlene & Kathy Patrick. Everyone will bring a crock pot of soup or chili; or if you aren't into cooking, bring bread to accompany the soup and chili, there may be a hike before-hand on the new Rivertrail at Geitner Park. More on this to follow in the next newsletter.

**Monday, November 13-14<sup>th</sup> –** Overnight trip to Seagrove, NC.

The Christmas Parade is on **Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M.** and our float theme is "Getting to Gnome You!" **Led by Amy, built at Amy's, have trailer and car to pull it, need ideas and to get started**

Fifth Friday Crafts: **Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup>** at the Hickory Airport, TBD

The Annual Holiday Party is scheduled for **Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Other events in the works:**

- ✚ Travelling Wine Tastings – Karlene, we now have a contact on a van for this event. More info coming soon!
- ✚ Windy Wool Windings in Vale – On hold due to avian flu, Led by Evie, Nov?
- ✚ Escape Room - July or August, maybe Feb. or March. 3 rooms, 1 hour, no space there for gathering, meal before/after? offer different times?
- ✚ 3-day trip to Asheville

## **October Birthdays**

Lonny McSherley 10.02  
Shari Kidd 10.21  
Mike Sigmon 10.05  
Linda Dunn 10.23  
Ray Mata 10.06  
Scott Ireland 10.23  
Jerry Johnson 10.07  
Paul Nielsen 10.23  
Crystal Rice 10.09  
Liesl Giorgio 10.24  
Kathy Bethany 10.11  
Linda DeGraw 10.25  
Linda Monroe 10.13

Julie Nunn 10.27  
Rege Duralia 10.14 C  
Connie Yokum 10.27  
Cathi Montgomery 10.16  
Shirley Moore 10.28  
Michele Sedney 10.17  
Cindi Williamson 10.30  
Thomas Groner 10.19  
Constance Willis 10.30  
Lynne Hines 10.20  
Louise Mason 10.31  
Larry Goonan 10.21

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

<b>Officers</b>	<b>Position</b> as of July 1, 2023
Adra Kryszczuk	President
Debbie Hindman	Vice President
Sonya Reid	Treasurer
Sharon Snellings	Secretary
Cathi Montgomery	Past President
<b>Directors</b>	Nancy Geiger, Evie Gibson, Rob Herman, Kathy Rozea
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Chair</b>
Book Club	Laura Moran
Bowling	Vince LeGrand
Bridge	Gloria Berg
Canasta and Games Daytime	Susan Reese
Charity Coordinator	Nancy Geiger
Chatty Crafters	Millie Kaufman
Coffee & Conversation	Sheri Binning
Events Committee	Evie Gibson & Amy Chizen (co-chairs), Kathy Eichelberger, Lynne Hill, Jon Kiser, Adra Kryszczuk, Cathi Montgomery, Karlene Patrick, Kathy Patrick, Patti Ramsey, Sonya Reid, Judy Ward, Cindy Zook
Items of Interest	Bob Jones
Hospitality	Sharon Snellings
Lunch/Dinner Out	Denise Hogestyn
Mahjongg	Elaine Knobloch
Membership	Debbie Hindman
Members Helping Members	Sandi Shear Johnson
Newsletter Editor	Sandi Shear Johnson
Programs	Kathy Kuehn
Publicity	***** Position Available *****
Rummikub and Games	Debbie Hindman
Samba Day	Shari Kidd
Samba and Games Night	Kathy Rozea
Shooting	Vince LeGrand
Sponsors	Kevin McCutcheon
Team Cuisine	Jon Kiser
Webmaster Team	Lisa Raggio (calendar), Adra Kryszczuk (members), Greg Gervasio (site advisor)

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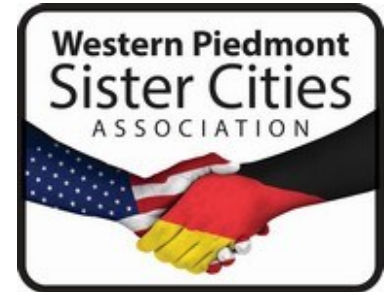
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# LET'S SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS!



## **Sponsor Spotlight**

HSP is a non-profit organization representing the Hmong communities throughout the southeastern, part of the United States of America, particularly, the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. HSP is a non-profit. cultural organization existing to preserve the heritage and rich. cultures of the Hmong people. Their mission is to:

- Secure and preserve Hmong Arts and Culture.
- Practice, promote and coordinate cultural activities and the Hmong New. Year celebrations.
- Educate, support and promote Hmong culture, music and arts.
- Establish a facility or a Cultural Center for the Hmong New Year. Celebration, cultural activities, and culture preservation.
- Promote education and family values.

A bit of history. The Hmong people have one main holiday. This holiday is the annual New Year. Celebration. To preserve this significant event, the Hmong community and its. members came together and formed the Hmong Southeast Puavpheej Organization. (HSP). This organization includes members from all four states to serve as. voluntary representatives to work towards maintaining HSP's organization goals. and the Hmong New Year. Their mission was built on the foundation of the. community and was responsible for coordinating the Hmong New Year in hopes of. preserving and prospering the growing Hmong communities. United, this. organization would govern the four following states: North Carolina, South. Carolina, Georgia and Florida. During the early 1990s, the Hmong population in. the Southeast was small and scattered throughout the different regions of the states.. It was a difficult task to organize an event on a larger scale such as the Hmong. New Year for all in the four states, but nevertheless, through the collective wisdom. and knowledge of the elders, the "Hmong New Year" has taken place annually. since 1992. This annual event is not limited to only the four founding states but has. become nationally recognized among the Hmong and Lao communities from the. west to the east coast attending the "Hmong New Year Celebration" during the. weekend of the U.S. Thanksgiving Holiday.

The very first Hmong New Year was. hosted in Albemarle, North Carolina in 1992 and held at Albemarle High School.. There were an estimated six to seven hundred people in attendance. HSP will be hosting a 5K Run on 7 Oct at their New Year Celebration will take place from 23-. 26 Nov. Both events are in Newton, NC. Read more about their history their upcoming events and activities at. [hmongsoutheastpuavpheej.org](http://hmongsoutheastpuavpheej.org).

We are pleased to have them as Newcomers' ` newest sponsor.