

January 2024

Sandi Johnson, Editor



The Voice

Newcomers of Catawba Valley Newsletter
2425 North Center Street #169,
Hickory, NC 28601
www.newcomersofcv.org

President's Column

As I am approaching the end of my tenure, I want to say again how much I appreciate the support and encouragement you have given me. Serving as President and giving back to the club that has provided so much enjoyment in my life has been a pleasure.

I extend special thanks to the members of my Board; Debbie Hindman, Sharon Snellings, Sonya Reid, Nancy Geiger, Evie Gibson, Rob Herman and Kathy Rozea. I'm also grateful for the guidance provided by Cathi Montgomery as Past President.

Thanks also to all committee heads for their service and support. Of note, Amy Chizen for her unwavering dedication to the Events for the club and Sharon Snellings for her organization and scheduling of all the Board and General Meetings.

As happens with any organization run by volunteers, things change and with change comes vacancies. There will be MANY openings for activity leaders for the 2024-2025 club year, as listed near the end of this newsletter. If you enjoy club activities, please consider taking on a committee head position. Our club is run by volunteers. The most pressing need is a newsletter editor!

Your new Board was elected at the December General Meeting:

President: Amy Chizen
Vice President: Paul Nielsen
Secretary: Sharon Snellings
Treasurer: Sonya Reid

Directors: Nancy Geiger, Roxanne Hibbs, Patty Ramsey, Michelle Tompkins
Past President: Adra Kryszczuk

The next General Meeting will be Wednesday, **January 10th** at **7:30 p.m.** We will have a speaker from the Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry (CCM), our first quarter charity. Watch your emails for information on how we can support CCM.

The Board has instituted a Newcomers' Events Hotline **(828-544-1929)** that will have information on club activities. This is a non-monitored phone number that will only provide changes to **major** club events. Please add this number to your phone. As always, this newsletter contains lots of good information for upcoming club activities, so keep reading!

Thanks again,

Adra



Without the volunteers, there is no club.

*Please consider taking on
a role to help our club continue!*



Needed Chairs

Publicity Chair – Responsible for putting a monthly notice on the Nextdoor and Facebook websites announcing the meetings and speakers; make sure we have business cards printed and any other handouts or signs; occasionally sending notes to the Hickory Record newspaper.

Newsletter Editor – Responsible for collecting and editing articles from the committee heads and officers each month

and creating and publishing, via our email, The Voice. **Here is your chance to provide your input on how the newsletter looks! It is done using Word software.**

This is my last issue of the newsletter. Thanks to everyone for their cooperation in giving me the information for the newsletter. I know it took time to do this and I am grateful for your help. It has been fun. Now, I will be moving on to another project. Hopefully, someone will step up to take on this important aspect for the club to keep everyone informed. Sandi

Program Director – Responsible for lining up the speakers for our General Meetings; some of the “speakers” could include a visit to a business or school in the Catawba Valley that would be of interest to our members.

Charity Chair – We sponsor four charities, each for one quarter of the year, with the fourth quarter always being Toys for Tots. This Chair is responsible for contacting the charities and determining what their needs are and getting that message out to our members. They would also line up a speaker from the charity for the evening meeting the first month of every quarter. All donations to the charity are taken by the Chair, or a designated alternate, to the charity site each month. This Chair would be the contact point for our quarterly charities.

These are all important jobs that your fellow members have been taking care of, sometimes for years. We thank all our previous Chairs and Coordinators for the great job they have done for us over the years! Think about our club without these peoples’ help! We would not be as strong or active without them. Please think about stepping up and taking on a position to keep our club running smoothly.

We are saddened to share with you – the passing of a member:

Obituary:

Dr. Eric Jonathan Kemper, D.C. born September 9, 1956 in Michigan, passed to be with the Lord on November 29, 2023. Eric is predeceased by his mother Carol Kemper, father, Eugene Kemper Sr, brother, Chris Kemper and son, John Kyle Kemper.

Eric graduated from Palmer School of Chiropractic. He eventually moved to Paradise, California where he practiced for many years. His life was filled with many opportunities to help others. His patients all called him Doc and many established lifelong friendships. The Camp Fire in Paradise burned down both his office and home in 2018. He had already purchased a home in North Carolina where he planned to retire. The fire precipitated his retirement and move to Taylorsville, North Carolina ten years before he had hoped. He fell in love with the climate, the friendly people and area.

A graveside service was held Friday, December 8, 2023, at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens, 3120 Falling Creek Road, Hickory, NC 28601.

General Meeting: Kathy Keuhn kecen325@yahoo.com

This past December program was a lot of fun. Our musical Christmas program was performed by Renee Barnett, our very own Newcomer's member. Renee is the lead vocalist for Euphoria Entertainment. She donated her honorarium to Habitat for Humanity.



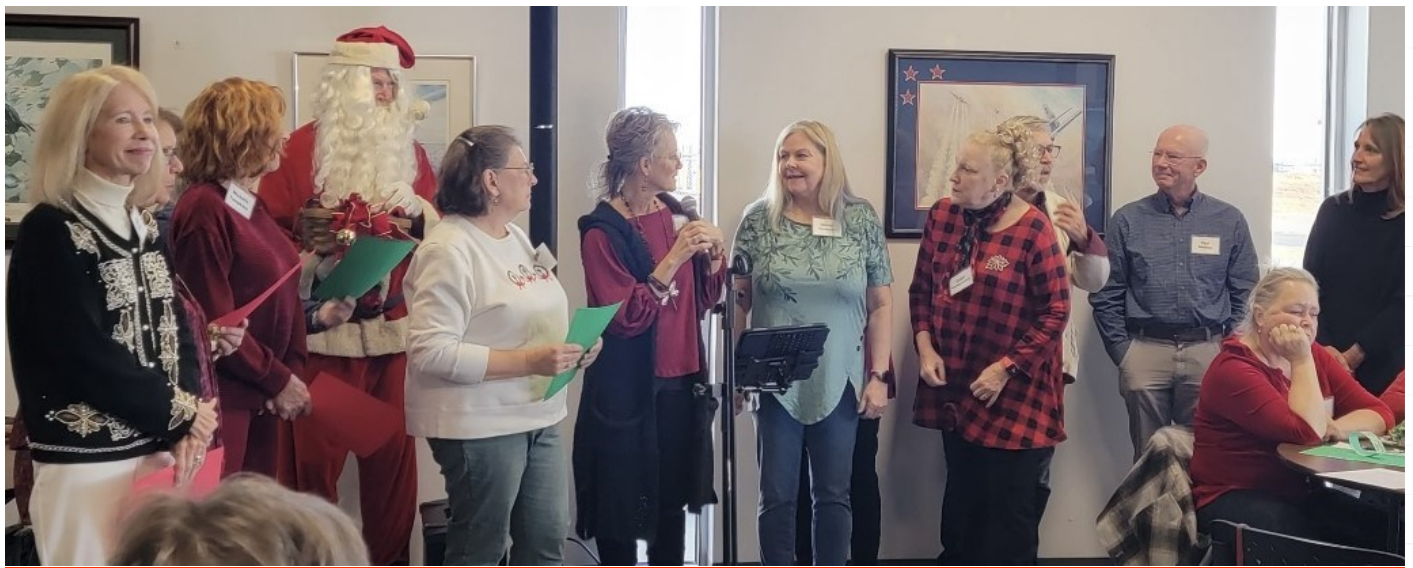
As our Board was joining Renee for our sing-along, Santa stopped in for a visit! (Santa was played by Bee Watts, another one of our newcomers' members).

A special thank you to our Newcomer members, Renee and Bee for making our December Meeting such a great event.

I am passing the Program Chairman baton on this next calendar year. Thank you to everyone for your wonderful program topic suggestions. Setting up the Newcomers programs have really been enjoyable. The suggestions you share make this job much easier. Especially those that include contact information, such as those written in the Program Questionnaire. The questionnaire results will be passed on to the next Program chair. The questionnaire results will be an invaluable tool to the next chairman.

Thank you again! Enjoy this holiday season & be safe.





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

The next meeting of the Book Club will be held on **Wednesday, January 24th, 2024**, at 1:30P.M. at the Women's Resource Center in Hickory. 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 next meeting of the Book Club will be held on Wednesday, January 24th, 2024, at 1:30P.M. at the Women's Resource Center in Hickory.



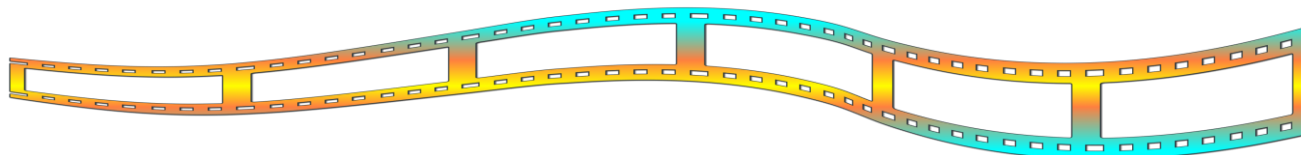
The Book Club meets every other month on the 4th Wednesday of the month except for November when we meet on the third Wednesday. The book for discussion in January is *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger:

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER--WINNER OF THE 2014 EDGAR AWARD FOR BEST NOVEL -- WINNER OF THE 2014 DILYS AWARD--A SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL BEST BOOK OF 2013 -- From New York Times bestselling author William Kent Krueger, a brilliant new novel about a young man, a small town, and murder in the summer of 1961. "That was it. That was all of it. A grace so ordinary there was no reason at all to remember it. Yet I have never across the forty years since it was spoken forgotten a single word." New Bremen, Minnesota, 1961. The Twins were playing their debut season, ice-cold root beers were selling out at the soda counter of Halderson's Drugstore, and Hot Stuff comic books were a mainstay on every barbershop magazine rack. It was a time of innocence and hope for a country with a new, young president. But for thirteen-year-old Frank Drum it was a grim summer in which death visited frequently and assumed many forms. Accident. Nature. Suicide. Murder.

Frank begins the season preoccupied with the concerns of any teenage boy, but when tragedy unexpectedly strikes his family—which includes his Methodist minister father; his passionate, artistic mother; Juilliard-bound older sister; and wise-beyond-his-years kid brother—he finds himself thrust into an adult world full of secrets, lies, adultery, and betrayal, suddenly called upon to demonstrate a maturity and gumption beyond his years.

Told from Frank's perspective forty years after that fateful summer, *Ordinary Grace* is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God.

We are going to try adding movies to our Group activities. Our first movie meeting will be on February 28th from 1:30 – 3:30p.m. at Amy Chizen's home and we will be watching "On the Basis of Sex" about Ruth Bader Ginsberg. More details and reminders to come.



Bowling Chair: Vince LeGrand legravin@gmail.com

Pin Station in Newton is where we bowl every Wednesday (except around holidays) with the season concluding on March 27th, 2024. Bowlers of all abilities are welcome. If you have already contacted me, I have you in my roster and email distribution. If you haven't contacted me and want to bowl, contact me A.S.A.P. so I can include you in the roster.

Hopefully, y'all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. The tryptophan from all that turkey should have worn off by now. That means it's time for Newcomers Bowling! Come on out on a Wednesday evening for some bowling.



Bridge Chair: Pett Brands pettway163@gmail.com

January Hosts	Date	Club
none	1-Jan	1st Mon
Kathy Rozea	3-Jan	1st Wed
Kathy Bethany	8-Jan	2nd Mon
Gloria Berg	15-Jan	3rd Mon
Kathy Durand	17-Jan	3rd Wed



Hope you all have a glorious Christmas and wonderful New Year. and of course, we will all be playing good cards and lots of slams made!

Chatty Crafters Chair: Millie Kaufman mkauf188@bellsouth.net



Friday January 5th and 19th Chatty Crafters 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

This is our craft group. So, start the new year off with a new project, finish up an old one, or keep on keeping on with an old favorite. Bring whatever craft with you that you are working on knitting, crochet, needlework, jewelry-making, etc. The hostess will provide coffee, tea, and water. The group is open to everyone on a come when you can basis. Join us for conversation and crafting. This month our hostess is Pam Allison, 3915 Steve Ikerd Dr. NE., Hickory. cell/text 828-337-9811 Her email is: shill555@earthlink.net Please let Pam know if you can attend so she can set up enough chairs. Questions? Contact Millie Kaufman at mkauf188@bellsouth.net

Coffee & Conversation Chair: Sheri Binning/ Ronald.binning@gmail.com

The Frothy Rooster for Coffee and Conversation, is a relatively new place in downtown Hickory. It is located at 1 N. Center Street. We'll go for lunch at noon on the last Friday of the month, January 26th. They have quite a few different coffee and tea drinks, as well as some cocktails to choose from. They have added to the menu since then. Here's a link: <https://frothyrooster.com/menu/>

Charity Chair: Nancy Geiger ng0425@gmail.com



A new year, a new charity we can learn about and help! The first quarter of 2024 our charity will be Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry. They have recently restructured their focus and way of doing things, so Molly Sain, the executive director, will be the speaker at our January 10th General meeting at **7:30p.m.** at the Hickory Regional Airport. She'll keep us up to date on the changes and let us know where they need help. We will also be doing a drive for food, clothing, etc that night. If you would like to contribute, please bring items to the meeting, or get them to a

board member.

Also, I thought you might be interested in the amount of money we gave to various charities in 2023... \$2,442.00! Along with of course: clothes, household goods, food, diapers, toys and volunteer man hours. I appreciate the generosity of the people in our club! You all rock!

Wish List:		
Personal Hygiene ITEMS FOR THE HOMELESS SHOWER MINISTRY	Sample size:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Men and Women Shampoo• Toothpaste• Toothbrush	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Razor• Shaving Cream• Soap / Body Wash• Deodorant• Wash Cloth / Towels• Comb / Brush
HEALTHY FOODS FOR A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canned meats, salmon and tuna packed in water (not oil)• Canned vegetables and soups with low/no sodium, no salt added• Canned fruits with low or no sugar added• Low or no carbohydrate food items (i.e. brown rice, quinoa in small packages, precooked)• Low or no sugar packaged foods/snacks (i.e. sugar free cookies, no sugar jello/pudding)• Almond flour, Monk Fruit in the raw (sugar alternative), sugar free cake mixes• Healthy condiments (i.e. no sugar ketchup, salt free seasonings)	
PHARMACY NEEDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collect medication bottles with safety caps (labels removed)	

HOMELESS LAUNDRY MINISTRY NEEDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low suds detergent (High Efficiency preferred) • Spot/soil remover spray • Dryer sheets
CLEANING SUPPLIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilet Bowl Cleaner • Disinfectant cleaner • Window cleaner • Vinegar • Clorox/Clorox for colors
CRISIS CLOSET NEEDS FOR MEN AND WOMEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rain Gear & Waterproof Items • Sturdy/large Backpacks & Blankets • Socks, Bras & Underwears (new) • T-shirts (long and short sleeves) • Shirts • Shorts for Men and Women • Shoes (wearable condition) <p>PLEASE REMEMBER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No damaged clothing or clothing with strong odors. • Practical clothes needed, no party attire.

Dinner Out Chair: Denise Hogestyn denise14526@gmail.com

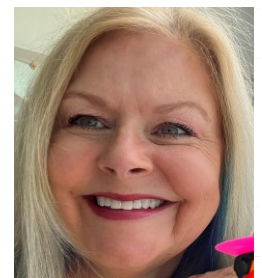
Greetings and Happiest Holidays. We are having dinner on January 11th, a Thursday at 5:30p.m. at The Hickory Social House . The address is 2039 N Center Street, (Highway 127) Hickory. Hope you can make it.



Games Day Chair: Debbie Hindman Debbiehindman2022@gmail.com

My Last Games DAY is Sunday January 14th at 2pm at Bob Evans. Located at 2330 15th Ave SE. Hickory, NC 28602. This will be the last games day that I host for Newcomers. Most of you know that I have moved to Concord and so I will not be hosting any more Games play.

It would be Awesome if someone else would step up to be Host and continue this wonderful activity. Since there is a minimum price to use the airport, I thought using Bob Evans as an alternative would be nice. Come and play games and eat and drink at your discretion. Come early or stay late, your choice. Please R.S.V.P. by Friday, January 12th with the choice of game, so that I can make sure it is there. Or you can bring your own. Any game EXCEPT Samba and Canasta. (they have their own designated time).



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 any illness, surgery, hospitalization, death, etc. We can schedule meals for a group of people as well.



This is a serious request for those who can and will help others. Can you drive someone to the doctor? Can you walk someone's pet? Could you pick up some groceries for someone? Are you good with a computer? Would you be able to help someone on the phone with a computer issue? Could you type up a letter for someone? Would you be willing to be part of a phone tree to locate help for someone? Your help is greatly appreciated.

Samba Day Chair: Shari Kidd Kidd915sl@gmail.com



PLEASE NOTICE THE LOCATION CHANGE!!!

Samba Day is **Tuesday, January 9th**. Lunch at 11:30a.m. and Samba begins at noon. There 'Will Not' be a learning table.

Second Tuesday Day Samba

It seems like everyone who played in December enjoyed being at Bob Evans. So, we will continue meeting there, with one change. Everyone playing will pay \$1.00 which will be used as a tip for us using their facility (This is separate from your tip for any food/drink you buy.) Also, the Kitty will be \$2.00 for anyone who wants to chip in for prizes. As always, the kitty is optional.

We are playing in the back room at Bob Evans Restaurant at 2330 15th Ave SE, Hickory, 28602. They are located near Sam's Club. PLEASE R.S.V.P. to me by Sunday, December 9th at 6:00p.m. so that I can make the reservations for the room.

Because they are allowing us to play for free, everyone should buy at least a drink or dessert from the restaurant. There will be no other fee involved; however, there will still be a kitty for those who wish to chip in.



Samba Night Chair: Kathy Rozea 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, January 25th** is Samba night. 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 their skills. All Newcomers are welcome. Please contact Kathy Rozea at krr510@yahoo.com, if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Shooting Chair: Vince LeGrand 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) 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.

Welcome our newest members:

Deb McKeel from PA
Raffaella Carriero from Italy
Debby Beck from IL
Heather Brooke from SC
Kay & Terry Wynter from FL

January Birthdays

Date Name

1.01	Lee Wagoner	1.19	Janet Groner
1.01	Donna Cline	1.21	Patrick Travis
1.02	Becky Thomas	1.21	Barb Beck
1.02	John Montgomery	1.22	Bryan Wood
1.04	Patsy Lang	1.22	Maureen Morgan
1.04	Carol Stites	1.23	Royce Dunn
1.05	William Nunn	1.23	Betty Stone
1.06	Patricia Hudson	1.23	Patti Ramsey
1.07	Wil Mullins	1.23	Sue Bumgarner
1.07	Hedy Paussa	1.25	Linda Eyre
1.07	Laura Moran	1.26	Deborah Nielsen
1.10	Jason Giorgio	1.26	Amy Rudd
1.12	Colleen Eshleman	1.28	Bob Connor
1.15	Tim Knobloch	1.29	Ginny Heinrich
1.16	David Martin	1.29	Steve Womack
1.16	Kevin McCutcheon	1.30	Mary Ellen Glover
1.16	Jan Foush��	1.30	Carolyn Eanes
		1.30	Edie Ashman

Officers, Directors, Activity Chairs and Committees 2023 - 2024

Officers	Position as of December 25, 2023
Amy Chizen	President
Paul Nielsen	Vice President
Sonya Reid	Treasurer
Sharon Snellings	Secretary
Adra Kryszczuk	Past President
Directors	Nancy Geiger, Roxanne Hibbs, Patti Ramsey, Michelle Tompkins
Activity	Chair
Book Club	Laura Moran
Bowling	Vince LeGrand
Bridge	Pett Brands
Canasta and Games Daytime	***** Position Available *****
Canasta and Games Night	***** Position Available *****
Charity Coordinator	***** Position Available *****
Chatty Crafters	Millie Kaufman
Coffee & Conversation	Sheri Binning
Dominoes	***** Position Available *****
Events Committee	Cindy Zook (chair) Amy Chizen, Evie Gibson, Kathy Eichelberger, Jon Kiser, Adra Kryszczuk, Cathi Montgomery, Karlene Patrick, Kathy Patrick, Patti Ramsey, Sonya Reid, Judy Ward
Items of Interest	Bob Jones
Hospitality	Linda DeGraw (mornings), Susan Dingle (evenings)
Lunch/Dinner Out	Denise Hogestyn
Mahjongg	***** Position Available *****
Membership	Paul Nielsen
Members Helping Members	Sandi Shear Johnson
Newsletter Editor	***** Position Available *****
Programs	***** Position Available *****
Publicity	***** Position Available *****
Rummikub	***** Position Available *****
Samba Day	Shari Kidd
Samba and Games Night	Kathy Rozea
Shooting	Vince LeGrand
Sponsors	Kevin McCutcheon
Team Cuisine	Jon Kiser
Webmaster Team	Adra Kryszczuk (calendar & members), Greg Gervasio (site advisor)

Newcomers of Catawba Valley Sponsors

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development manager

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Newcomers of Catawba Valley Sponsors (continued)

		<p>Edward Jones MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING Chad Burel Financial Advisor</p>
		 <p>2117 HWY 70 SE Hickory NC 28602 brogers@hughsq.com (828) 979-3638</p>
		

PLEASE
Help the club by
supporting these
sponsors!

Newcomers of Catawba Valley Sponsor Spotlight



Kiser Eye Care
Dr. Melanie S. Kiser
Optometrist
In Valley Hills Mall

A healthier new year starts with healthy eyes, and there's no better time to schedule your yearly eye exam with Kiser Eye Care. Owned and operated by Dr. Melanie Kiser, Kiser Eye Care is the local eye doctor to see for all your eye care needs in Hickory, NC. As your

local Hickory optometrist, Kiser Eye Care can help diagnose, treat, and detect subtle changes in your eyes year over year. A native of Charlotte, Dr. Kiser has been a practicing Optometrist for over 30 years, starting her first practice in 1992. She moved to Hickory in 2007 and opened her business adjacent to Lens Crafters in the mall. Come visit her offices at 1960 Highway 70 Southeast Hickory, NC 28602 and let her help you see and look your best. Her doctors are here to provide professional eye care near you, to guarantee you have the clearest vision. As Melanie touts, "we deliver the latest innovation for a precise picture of your eye health. You can trust us to provide expert eye exams with personalized care all year long.

Become a client of Kiser Eye Care and thank Dr. Kiser for her sponsorship.

