

The goal of this organization shall be to extend to newcomers of Greater Columbia assistance in beginning a social life in a new community and promoting interest in Greater Columbia and its civic and cultural affairs.

Serving the Greater Columbia Area -- www.newcomersofgreatercolumbia.com

PRESIDENTS' CORNER

In recent years, the Executive Board meeting/coffees were held in local parks during the summer, and they have been cool and comfortable. In August, we will be meeting at Gibson Pond Park in Lexington. It is a lovely wooded area next to the pond, and it has a loop trail and restrooms. Also, we will be under cover at the Pavilion, protected from sun or raindrops during our meeting. Hope to see you there.

Several sub-committees began the work that will take our Club into 2024. As the Co-President of Newcomers, the past year and a half seems to have flown by. During that time, the Newcomers Club survived the hardships of the pandemic and began to recover during the post-COVID era. We have a nearly full calendar of Special Interest Group activities, coffees, luncheons and special events. This was made possible by the volunteer efforts of many members. We also had to accept that some activities and traditions were discontinued or modified. Over time, we have grown to appreciate some of these changes; such as, meeting for Coffees at a variety of sites, including members' homes, parks, and a leisure center. Restaurants are still struggling, and organizing large events such as Couples Night Out became too difficult to manage. However, the Spring Social and Out and About's Blowfish outing included spouses and plus ones. It is wonderful that we are able to meet and socialize with the people in your lives.

Newcomers had a challenge as the Spring Valley Country Club struggled with management and staffing problems that went on for several months. We are so pleased that the Country Club has largely addressed these problems, and this year's Spring Social and recent luncheons were excellent. Many thanks go to the Newcomer members who worked closely with the Spring Valley Country Club as they went through this difficult time. Continuing to meet in the Northeast has always been critical to the inclusiveness of the Newcomers Club, so continuing support by our members is important.

The work of sub-committees is critical as we transition into 2024. We are inviting you to participate in our continuing successes. It is time to nominate Charities that Newcomers will consider supporting in 2024-2025. Please notify Janet or Cam if you would like to nominate a charity, and they can describe the process to you. We are fortunate to live in an area with many deserving charities. The by-law review committee is finalizing their work reviewing existing by-laws, and you will receive information on any proposed changes in the near future. If you are interested in proposing a new by-law, that is a separate process, and it can be submitted to the parliamentarian at any time, but be aware of the deadline for inclusion in the 2024 directory.

Many fun volunteer activities will be available soon. Planning for the December Coffee and the Holiday Luncheon is beginning. The Nominating Committee will be working to fill Executive Board positions that will be becoming vacant at the end of 2023. These positions provide the best opportunity for participating in the continued success of Newcomers. Please consider accepting an Executive Board position. These positions provide opportunities to work with others and share your talents, skills and ideas with the Club.



Your 2023 Co-Presidents,
Shirley & Janet