

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.

PRESIDENTS' CORNER

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

March can arrive either like a lion or a lamb, which will it be? In South Carolina, we think of March as a spring month, but it can be fickle. Spring begins on March 20th, and daylight savings time has us springing forward on March 12th. I enjoy that extra hour of daylight in the evening, but it takes me a week to adjust to the change. St. Patrick's Day, is often celebrated with large parades and celebrations. If you are of Irish heritage or just have an appreciation of Irish culture, you can enjoy green beer and corned beef and cabbage. Although not of Irish ancestry, I do love corned beef and cabbage, soda bread, and Irish folk music and folklore.

As we begin 2023, Newcomers has adjusted to several changes we experienced post-pandemic, plus continuing inflationary pressures. These are reflected in our budget and changes to some traditions. This year, we will be meeting for coffees in members' houses, area parks and clubhouses, plus the Leisure Center in Lexington on Park Road. We appreciate all that the Coffee chair, the hostesses and bakers do to ensure that we have a wonderful gathering every month. Luncheons will continue to be held at the country clubs, and we will have a number of exciting speakers this year. There will be some changes to the timing of the speaker and lunch service. A big thank you goes out to the first vice presidents for making these changes to ensure our continued enjoyment of luncheons. Check the newsletter for specifics each month.

Special Interest Groups provide us with a variety of fun and often educational experiences. We learn about different restaurants, art, history, culture, etc. in our metropolitan area. We also have groups that feature recreation activities. I want to thank all the chairs and co-chairs who organize these events. Take a Hike was one of the first Special Interest Groups that I joined when I came to Newcomers. I really appreciate the beauty of living in this area, plus a climate that enables us to enjoy it in the middle of winter. We generally go on urban hikes, often along the three rivers in our area; however, there are some hikes that take us further afield. The Take a Hike chairs ensure that the hikes are suitable for most skill levels. I appreciate enjoying wonderful scenery while hiking with the Take a Hike group without having to continually scan the path for "toe grabbers", which are rocks or exposed tree roots that can send an unaware hiker sprawling. This has happened to me more than once in the past, but never during the years of joining Take a Hike.

The co-presidents plan to attend many Special Interest Groups activities during 2023; and, we will write about our experiences in the Presidents' Corner. Also, check out Facebook for the many photos every month. I hope you all join us, and I would love to hear of your experiences and see your photos.

Your 2023 Co-Presidents,
Shirley & Janet

