

Nevada County Newcomers Club

April 2020

President's Message

It is always a good idea to show kindness to others, and it is the random acts of kindness that have the most impact. Let's share our kindness and friendship to our fellow Newcomers in as many ways as we can during this trying time.

Your Newcomers board deliberated on whether to cancel the March meeting. Initially it appeared that we could continue, but as time wore on and with recommendations of needing to be more careful, especially with our club population, the board was polled and overwhelmingly decided to cancel the March meeting.

The April Fashion Show Committee has been meeting since last September to plan a spectacular fashion show. But, like other events, it has been postponed until further notice. There will be no April meeting.

Newcomers still has work to be done. The board is proposing that we change our IRS recognition from our current 501(c)(7) status to that of non-profit charitable organization 501(c)(3). We have been working on this concept for many months and the board has agreed to move forward. There will be no change to our normal operations. We will continue having our interesting monthly programs, as well as our many activity groups, and build upon the unique friendship opportunities we have in our active and engaged club.

This important change reflects what we are already doing and will allow our hard-working Christmas Families Project committees to more easily raise the needed funds to support underprivileged children and their families. More than two-thirds of our members participate by serving on committees, shopping for or wrapping gifts, or financially supporting these needy families. Others who choose not to participate are not obligated to change.

Look for the necessary Bylaws and Standing Rules amendments at the end of the newsletter. We will consider this newsletter information delivered to all members as the "first reading." If you have questions, please feel free to call me. I am happy to hear from you.

We are sorry to tell you that our Membership Chair has resigned her position. We truly appreciate the energy and special efforts that she made to build our membership and engage new members. We thank her from the bottom of our hearts! The board will be acting on her resignation at the next board meeting. Meanwhile, we have assigned an interim Membership Chair to step up to help.

April Luncheon Meeting – **Canceled**

COLOR ME SPRING, our April 22 Fashion Show, is postponed until a future date. We will present our day of fashion when it is again safe to get together as a group. Please support our five local stores that are such a big part of this show: La Te Da, Beautiful *boutique*, and JCPenney of Grass Valley, Whim *be beautiful* of Penn Valley and Marilyn's Fashion-a-tions of Auburn. Our fabulous Fashion Committee is ready to reinvent this show whenever it becomes possible. Thank you to all who have sent in your reservations. The checks will be shredded. In all respects, we are hoping to have good news by this fall. Until then, stay safe and well.

May Luncheon Meeting

May 27, 2020 at 11:30 am
Alta Sierra Country Club
Cost: \$23.00 per person

May Program: Sierra Stages Presents Music from "Sweeney Todd"

This popular theater group will introduce us to music from their 2020 summer show "Sweeney Todd," a musical thriller that was a winner of eight Tony awards including Best Musical. They will also delight us with other Broadway show tunes. Come join the fun and the music from Newcomers' very own "Broadway Musical"!

May Luncheon Menu

Choice of

One Half Bay Shrimp (or Chicken) Louie Salad

Iceberg lettuce, bay shrimp (or chicken), tomatoes, cucumbers, and deviled eggs,
served with Thousand Island dressing

or

One Half Pesto Chicken Wrap

chicken, blended cheese, pesto, lettuce and tomato in a flour tortilla

or

Tomato Neapolitan with sliced tomatoes, nut pesto, and sliced avocado

served with an olive oil and reduced balsamic vinegar dressing

All entrées include coffee and tea

Rainbow Sherbet with a cookie for dessert

To make reservations for **May 27, 2020**, please make your **\$23.00** check payable to **NEWCOMERS CLUB** and write **May-Louie Shrimp OR Chicken**, or **May-Chicken wrap** or **May-Veggie-Neapolitan** on the bottom of your check and mail it to the Reservation Chair for May.

Checks must be received by **Monday, May 18**. Cancellations will be accepted before 5:00 pm on **Tuesday, May 19**. After **Tuesday, May 19**, to see if there is a cancellation or to have your name added to the waiting list, call the Reservation Chair for May.

More Program Highlights

June 24, 2020 – To be announced.

Activities

Connecting new members with activity groups is a major focus of Newcomers. Having recently contacted the chair of every group, it is apparent that the groups are doing a very good job of keeping their own substitute lists. Groups that require a specific number of participants are reaching out to new members and making a sincere effort to accommodate them. Examples are cooking and game groups. Groups which don't require, or are not limited by, a specific number rely on new members to contact them regarding participation. Examples are **Short Walkers** and **Monthly Movie Group**. Assistance with forming a new group is always available by contacting the Activities Coordinator.

The Bridge Group has made arrangements to have beginning and transitional bridge lessons available. Anyone interested should contact the Programs Chair for additional information. She has also graciously offered to start a new bridge group with new members and/or subs.

Bunco and Bridge groups are looking for subs and new members. This will vary depending on the needs of each group. If you're interested, please contact the activity group leaders as listed in the roster.

Mysteries & More, Writing Group and Yarn Art have space available.

Please note: Flyers for each group are available for you to take at the monthly luncheons. These provide more detailed information about the groups including when they meet and all contact information.

If you have any questions, ideas or are interested in forming a new group, please contact the Activities Chair.

Sunshine

If you know of anyone in need of a comfort or condolence card or contact from the Newcomers Club, please contact either of the Secretaries.

Membership

E-Mail Changes, Membership Questions: If you know someone who would be interested in joining Newcomers, contact our interim Membership chair or direct her to our website, NewcomersNC.org, where she can find and print a Membership application.

Please continue reading for some important information. On the next two pages you will find

- Email Safety Tips
- "First reading" of the revised Newcomers Bylaws and Standing Rules

EMAIL SAFETY TIPS

As Newcomers Club becomes more digital in our communications, we want to share with you some email safety tips.

DO:

- Only open emails from someone you know. Common scams can look like official sites (phishing). See note below for more information.
- Always confirm that the incoming email address is truly official.
Newcomers Club publishes email addresses in the Roster. If you are unsure of an incoming email but you think it may be a member, you can double check an email address by checking the Roster.
- Use an anti-virus software and/or a spam filter.
- Remember to sign out, especially if you are using a public computer.
- Change your password frequently and do not share it with anyone. Use strong passwords.

DON'T:

- Never open an attachment within an email from an unfamiliar person or company.
- Do not reply to or click on links or attachments inside unexpected (spam) emails. Instead, on a separate browser tab, enter the official URL for the site you intend to visit.
- Never send sensitive information such as passwords, social security number, or bank account numbers via email.

Phishing /fishing/ noun

DEFINITION: a scam by which an Internet user is duped (as by a deceptive e-mail message) into revealing personal or confidential information which the scammer can use illicitly

HOW TO RECOGNIZE PHISHING ATTEMPTS:

- Messages that contain threats to shut your account down
- Requests for personal information such as Passwords or Social Security numbers
- Words like “Urgent” – false sense of urgency
- Forged email addresses
- Poor writing or bad grammar

MAKE SURE YOU IDENTIFY THE “REAL” SENDER ADDRESS:

Although most email programs (like Yahoo, Gmail, and Apple Mail) now do reveal the sender's actual email address, some still do not. To find out how to see your email carrier header, click <https://whatismyipaddress.com/find-headers> for more information.

Information about proposed changes to club structure:

Newcomers of Nevada County was originally established in 1954 and registered as a social club in 2004. Monthly luncheon meetings were held with interesting programs, and members developed activity groups. None of this will change if we change our IRS designation to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization.

In 2002 Newcomers began our Christmas Families Project to assure that underprivileged children and their families could celebrate Christmas with age-appropriate gifts and practical gifts for their parents. This project has grown to the largest annual expenditure that we have. On average, it helps about 50 families and about 150 children.

In our quest to raise funds for the Christmas Families Project, donors and businesses often ask if we are a non-profit organization. This change will allow us to say “yes,” and all donations made to our club will be tax-deductible. Donations will be more desirable, thus supporting our fundraising efforts. This benefits not only the children, but individual donors and businesses as well.

We already file taxes on the same forms required of all 501(c) organizations – this will not change. Once we change our 501(c) status, we will be able to provide proof of donations to all donors that they can use for tax deductions.

The board has been talking about this change and working diligently for about a year. In order to move forward with this recommended change, we have to submit a long IRS application that requires that our Bylaws include our charitable purpose. Therefore, the board recommends that the amendments on the next page be adopted.

Amendments to our Bylaws require two readings. Since we did not hold our meeting in March, we missed an opportunity for the first reading of the proposed amendments. Therefore, we are using the April newsletter distribution of the proposed amendments as the “first reading.”

Since we are also cancelling our April meeting, we will include the proposed amendment again in the May newsletter and consider it to be the “second reading.” If no objections are raised, we will be able to consider them adopted.

Please call me if you have any questions. I am pleased to discuss the proposed amendments and process to convert from a 501(c)(7) to a 501(c)(3) with all members who want to discuss it. We think that you will agree that it is timely, reflects what we are already doing, and will garner benefits to all donors. In the end, it will help us work together to bring a special Christmas experience to the underprivileged children and their families.

Newcomers Proposed Bylaws Amendments (related to change in status to 501(c)(3)):

Article II Purpose –

The purpose of this organization shall be as stated in its Articles of Incorporation to welcome and bring together women who reside in Nevada County and to stimulate their interest in social activities.

Proposed amendment:

Add at end – engage members and the general public for the charitable purpose of providing gifts and support for underprivileged children and their families in collaboration with other public charities.

Article III – Policies

This organization is a tax-exempt social club and shall be nonprofit, nonsectarian and nonpolitical in all of its policies and activities. It is organized exclusively within the meaning of Section 501(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code. The organization shall sponsor special interest groups, each having its own chair and rules, which are in accordance with the laws and policies of the Newcomers Club.

Proposed amendment:

This organization is a nonprofit, nonsectarian and nonpolitical public benefit charitable organization. It is organized exclusively within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The organization shall encourage member participation in the activities in accordance with the laws and policies of the Newcomers Club and engage club members and the general public in support of underprivileged children and their families.

B. Appointive Standing Committees (*Move Christmas Families Project Chair from Standing Rules Special Events Chairs to the Appointive Standing Committees*)
Add Christmas Families Project Chair as the first one

Article VIII Elected Officers, Appointive Committees and Duties

B. Appointive Standing Committees

Section 1 – Christmas Families Project Chair

The Christmas Families Project Chair shall manage the club's major charitable project involving club members, the general public and community at large, to coordinate and advance services and support for the annual Christmas gifts for underprivileged children and their families.

Renumber all other Standing Committees

Proposed Amendment to the Standing Rules

Board of Directors

Special Events Chairs – *remove Christmas Families Project and insert under Article VIII, B. Section 1 Appointive Standing Committees*

Board Job Descriptions – *Remove Christmas Families Project from the line Special Events Chair because it has been given higher stature by adding it to the Bylaws.*