

Minutes June 11, 2025

CLUB BUSINESS

President Gary Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order, noting that some Newcomers members continue to receive emails claiming to be from him, soliciting the purchase of gift cards for worthy causes. "I'm not in the gift card business," he said. "The emails aren't from me and I don't have gift cards in the trunk of my car," he joked. He speculated that scammers are getting his name from the GJ Newcomers website and sending fake emails attributed to him.

President Gary asked for a motion to approve the May minutes. **Linda Ash** so moved, **Jerry Norton** seconded and the minutes were approved by acclamation.

He also commended **Tanya Davis**, hospitality committee head, for the array of delectable goodies. Tanya said that, as part of a spring-summer theme, she made strawberry sugar cookies for the first time. Numerous members raised their hands to indicate they had tried the strawberry-season cookies and found them delicious.

In the absence of **Treasurer Bill Gates**, President Gary reported that the club has \$3,992.32 in checking (with \$.32 interest) and \$5,296.33 in a CD. "We're rebuilding our accounts nicely, after covering significant end-of-year expenditures," he said.

The group applauded members with June birthdays -- including **Jerry Norton**, whose birthday is Tuesday, June 17. It happens to coincide with the next Music in the Grapevines concert, which takes place at Two Rivers Winery starting at 7 p.m., with all proceeds going to the Art Center of Western Colorado's many programs. The featured group will be Feeding Giants, which performs an eclectic mix of country, rock, folk and Americana. Tickets are \$20 when purchased in advance and \$25 when purchased at the concert. In addition, two tickets to the June 17 concert are included in the raffle at the end of the meeting.

Linda Ash, who sends greeting cards to Newcomers who have been hospitalized or have lost a loved one, said she sent two cards during the past month -- one to **Lorraine Stafford**, who recently had surgery, and the other to **Deane Drury**, who had shoulder surgery. Linda also will send cards to **Ruth Trowbridge** and her husband **Don**, who both have had health issues. Don was recently hospitalized and is currently at Larchwood Inns Rehabilitation Center in Grand Junction.

Jean Greenfield from the membership committee said five visitors came to the meeting -- **Elizabeth and Dave Amend** from Visalia, Calif.; **Melanie Gallegos** from Minnesota; **Marilyn Hill** from Grand Junction; **Garwen Jackson** from Chandler, Ariz., and **Nancy Reinbold** from Brighton, Colo. In addition,

three new members joined -- **Gail Carravetta** from Wisconsin and **Lynn and Steve Kubik** from West Virginia. They were welcomed by all.

Stacie Hawkins and **Molly Fitzpatrick** conducted the monthly raffle; proceeds cover the cost of the meeting coffee and treats. Stacie thanked everyone who brings in items to raffle -- especially **Larryne Zygmunt**, who puts together baskets filled with assorted goodies to raffle off.

CLUB EVENTS

Douglas Grodt, who organizes and leads less strenuous local hikes, said the next hike will be June 12. Since temperatures are soaring in the Grand Valley, it will be on the Grand Mesa, where it's cooler. Members will hike along the dam of "Waterdog," one of the Grand Mesa's many lakes, and through the nearby forest. Douglas sends detailed information about hikes to a large email distribution list of members. Anyone who wants to be added to the list should contact Douglas at jdgrodt@yahoo.com.

Lisa Seitz said the next Wine Club tasting event will be Thursday, July 17, from 4 to 6 pm at the Art Center of Western Colorado. On the menu will be tastes of wines from Italy's northern region, plus light appetizers. Cost is \$25 per person; the deadline for reserving a spot is July 10. Checks should be made out to Newcomers Club and mailed to Ken Seitz, 2675 Autumn Brook Ct., Grand Junction. Lisa also said that a registration form for the Labor Day picnic, set for Sept. 1 at Canyon View Park, will be in the next Newcomers newsletter. Cost for members is \$14; for non-members \$16. Food will be provided by Have Cooker Will Travel, the same caterer as in previous years. Chicken, pulled pork, potato salad, coleslaw and a vegetarian option will be served, plus a cookie. Non-alcoholic beverages also will be provided. Anyone who wants to bring an alcoholic beverage can do so, but it must be in a non-glass container.

NOTE: Several Newcomers activities -- among them Tour and Lunch Club, Dinner Club, Movie Club and Armchair Travelers -- are on hiatus for the summer but will resume in the fall.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Stan Zygmunt, who volunteers with New Dimensions Lifelong Learning Institute, said work continues on developing classes for the fall term. "We're aiming for 90 classes, and already have 66 in the pipeline," he said. Recently scheduled courses include a wide variety of topics -- from understanding bitcoin to how music paints a picture (by Grand Junction Symphony Music Director Charles Latshaw) to the history of Moon Farm to building interactive exhibits (by Eureka! McConnell Science Center founder John McConnell). The fall term course catalog will be available for online viewing beginning September 3; classes will run between September 29 and November 14. Until then, free one-hour Midday with New Dimensions lectures will be held at noon in June and August at the Mesa County Public Library's central

library. The June lecture will be on June 12, when John Larsen will discuss "Culture of Central Asia," based on his decade-long role as a public diplomatic officer in Central Asia.

GUEST SPEAKER

Allison Howe, Chief Health Strategist for Mesa County Public Health, gave a wide-ranging overview of MCPH's history and current public services. The organization was formed in 1948, she said, when Colorado legislation required that every county provide its residents with access to core basic health services. Since then, MCPH has grown to provide more than just rudimentary services, making it a full-service public health department with about 90 employees. It focuses on everything from tracking local infectious disease spread to monitoring air quality to testing water for contaminants to inspecting restaurant and food truck health conditions to issuing burn permits to providing programs for supporting first-time mothers with nursing assistance and preventing suicide, tobacco use and vaping. MCPH also has an accredited regional laboratory, (the only one between Denver and Salt Lake City) a stand-alone vaccine clinic, a disease surveillance unit and Grand Valley Connects, an enhanced resource navigation service designed to help people find the resources they need to address their health-related concerns. MCPH's services are so diverse, she concluded, that many people interact with the organization without realizing it.

-- Lois Leach, Secretary