

## Neighbors and Newcomers Minutes February 26, 2026

Opening: Vice-President Vickie Hajny opened the meeting at the Fairfield Glade Community Church at 11:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

63 members were present, 5 guests plus one speaker.

Carolyn Spencer introduced 5 guests: John Eaton, Bonnie and John Kudia, and Cathy and Gary Tipton. Gary won the door prize.

Old Business: Sue Wilson made a motion to accept the January Treasurer's report and Jessie Kent seconded. Motion passed. Brenda LaVigne made a motion to accept the secretary's report and Pat Richmond seconded. Motion passed.

Brenda LaVigne, our new temporary Nominations Committee chairman, asked the four who had not gotten her email to see her afterward to get on the roster. She reiterated the plea from yesterday's email to fill the open positions. We need one more greeter, a publicity chair and assistant, an invocation co-chair, a guest committee chair, an auction/fundraising chair and assistant, a nominations chair and co-chair, an assistant secretary, a programs assistant, and mostly a vice president and assistant treasurer. If those two positions are not filled the club will be forced to close due to our inability to fulfill the requirements of our 50104 status. Brenda would also like someone to take over the admin responsibility of our Facebook page. Contact Brenda, Vickie or Muriel Smith to volunteer. You will make new friends and shore up our 43-year-old club. Thank you to those who volunteered today.

Committee Reports: Fundraising thanked everyone who donated cookies and reported that they would go on sale after lunch. Karen reported that the Caring Committee sent one card to Dorothy McKenzie. Shirley Butka reported that the February trip had to be canceled due to weather. Only one person signed up for the Brushy Mountain trip so it was canceled. The Nissan trip has been changed to May 21. It is a 1 h hr. motor tour. No walking is required. The tour will begin at 10 a.m. with the bus leaving about 7:30 a.m. The bus will hold 13.

New Business; Mary Ann Webb read a poem about becoming an active member rather than just belonging. There were two February birthdays. Marcia O'Connor won the prize.

We collected \$300 for the Youth Achievement Foundation.

Shirley Butka explained what Neighbors and Newcomers is about. It started as a Welcome Wagon but the members didn't want to leave, as is required for that club, so Neighbors and Newcomers of Cumberland County was formed. We meet eight times per year from

September — May with no meeting in November and the December meeting on the first Thursday of the month. It is rewarding to donate to 12 or 13 organizations and to meet new friends.

Terri Curran explained this month's cause, the Youth Achievement Foundation. Junior Achievement here is offered in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The high school teacher has retired. It began with two years of sponsorship by the Chamber of Commerce in two schools. Now it is in all nine schools in Cumberland County. Our donations pay for the \$200+ kits for each classroom and buses to BizTown in Clinton. That is a day-long event putting to use the practical skills learned in the classrooms.

Some door prizes were awarded by Shirley Butka before she gave the invocation. Lunch was provided by Flying Pig.

Brenda introduced Ken Patton, President of the Cumberland Mountain Civil War Round Table. They meet monthly at the Lutheran church in FFG at 6 p.m. Membership is \$25 each or \$35 for a family. It is a historical organization dedicated to creating interest in, sharing knowledge of, and promoting a deeper understanding of the American Civil War. There are 80 Roundtables in the U.S. and we are the largest with 200 members. Generally, meetings host 100. Women make up 35% of the membership. Ken thinks that it is the best adult education experience in the Upper Cumberland. The club features speakers such as Dr. Curt Fields, the leading U.S. living historian. There are ticketed events at the Palace Theater such as Leslie Goddard as Clara Barton on July 15. All are invited to attend a meeting for free in hopes that you will join.

Shirley presented more door prizes. Today they totaled \$390 in value. Donors were: two from Cumberland County Playhouse, Hair Connection, Mayberry's, four from Captain D's, Rene Burt at Fairfield Beauty Shoppe, two from Dave Kirk Automotive, 5<sup>th</sup> Street Marketplace, two from Regions Bank, Flying Pig, Sandbaggers Steakhouse, and Poppies Florist. We thank them and remind you to thank them when visiting their business.

We made \$165 in cookie sales today.

Next meeting is March 26 at Cumberland Medical Center in the conference rooms. Wear green and bring donations for the May auction. Mandy Perhay will update us on the new YMCA. We will collect money for Hospice of Cumberland County.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 1:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Wieczorek

Assistant Secretary