

Opportunities and Privileges of Membership

The objective of the Newcomers Club of New Bern is to help newcomers integrate into their community by providing opportunities to meet other newcomers, engage in fun activities, to learn about local and regional resources and history; and to identify ways of contributing to its life, vitality and organizations, both charitable and civic. The Club provides these opportunities in a variety of ways identified below.

- Monthly General Meetings provide an opportunity to meet many others who are also recent arrivals in the area. The meetings are a mix of socializing, listening to guest speakers, learning about upcoming events, and signing up for activities.
- Our monthly newsletter is emailed to each member and provides information about the Club, its activities, and special seasonal events. Our website, www.newbernnewcomers.org, also provides a wealth of information and useful links to the community.
- Our annual Membership Directory lists members who have paid dues for the upcoming year. A copy is available for each dues-paid household. They are distributed as soon as available, usually in January and updates are printed periodically and distributed at meetings or with the newsletter.
- Activity Groups provide the primary opportunity to meet and get to know fellow newcomers who share similar interests. The groups are co-ed and are open to all, unless otherwise noted. Groups are always open to new participants; however, a few have limited capacity (for example, some restaurants and day trips). We are open to new opportunities and we welcome new Activity Groups – all it takes is a Board-approved suggestion to the Activity Chair and a willingness to become (or recruit) an Activity Leader to coordinate that group.

Responsibilities of Membership

With opportunities come responsibilities. One primary responsibility is to remember that we are a member-run club. Having lots of activities, making the newest newcomers feel welcome, even having refreshments at meetings only happen when people pitch in. Please don't hesitate to help out, or to volunteer for a leadership or supportive role. The Club By-Laws found in this Directory provide guidance on Club administration.

Secondly, it is important that we protect and respect the members' privacy. The Membership Directory is strictly for the personal use of our members and is not for commercial use.

Lastly, prompt payment of dues is necessary for the Club to publish the Directory, pay for some refreshments at meetings, and other administrative costs associated with a not-for-profit organization. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Activity Guidelines

Although specifics vary, Club activities have some shared guidelines:

- When an activity can only accommodate a fixed number, please sign up only if you are sure you will attend. If you must cancel, notify the activity leader as soon as possible.
- When activities are held in a member's home, it is the participant's responsibility to inform the host of any change of plans as soon as possible.
- Activities are self-supporting – participants share any costs and must be paid at the time specified by the activity leader. Some may involve a monetary commitment, in which case the fee may not be refunded if you do not attend.

Life After Newcomers

Club membership is open to all newcomers within their first year in the community and is limited to three fiscal years. However, the fun does not end then! After completing three years as a member of the Newcomers Club, members are eligible to join the Alumni Group of Newcomers. The Alumni Group has many similar activities as the Newcomers Club and, in some cases, cross-group participation in activities is permitted. Membership in the Alumni Group is also open to newcomers who did not join the Newcomers Club during their first year of residence.