

Lakeway Newcomers & Neighbors

January 2025 Newsletter

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Lakeway
Newcomers and Neighbors

Join us for fun and friendship

Presidents Message

Happy New Year! We finished 2024 with a bang! The GALA was a magnificent event and met everyone's expectations. Congratulations to MaryAnn Veregge and her social team for planning and executing this event! The band, Groove Knight, provided its usual excellent performance. Ninety-Five (95) members attended, many staying until the last song.

As we come to the end of 2024, it is appropriate to recognize this board's accomplishments. All board members provided some additional service beyond their normal duties:

- **Scott Westphal - served as the VP/ Treasurer.** Scott has kept a close eye on our finances all year, but in addition he has worked to improve our insurance coverage. Scott also plans and coordinates wine appreciation events.
- **MaryAnn Veregge - served as the Social Director.** She has planned and executed the majority of our social functions culminating with the GALA.
- **Chris Gross - served as the Communications Director.** Chris prepares the monthly newsletter and manages our communications. He has taken a good system and made it better.
- **Steve Guty - served as the Technical Director.** In addition to assisting with various technical matters, Steve is working on a new website.
- **Debbie Carver - served as the Membership Director.** She has managed our membership list and assisted in recruiting new members. **In 2024, LNN welcomed fifty-one (51) new members!**
- **Ellen Graybill has served as the Care & Concern Director.** In addition to her normal duties of corresponding with members, she has successfully planned and executed our new member's welcome event and has volunteered to sponsor Ladies Night Out.
- **Chris Covington has served as Corresponding Secretary.** Chris will be leaving the board and will be missed.

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Presidents Message

Overall, 2024 was a great year! In addition to providing high-quality social events, we also accomplished the following:

- **Planned and executed a successful GALA!**
- **Added fifty-one (51) new members! That's a 27% increase in membership!**
- **Added two new social activities:**
 - **Ladies Night Out**
 - **Trivia Night**

We intend to maintain the forward momentum in 2025!

Finally, three other reminders:

- **Dining Out** – registration for the winter season is now open until January 6th. Be sure to register for this!
- **Membership Renewal** – be sure to renew your membership for 2025! **DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR LNN MEMBERSHIP PROVIDES ACCESS TO OVER 50 SOCIAL ACTIVITIES DURING THE COURSE OF THE YEAR? LNN IS GREAT VALUE!**
- **The social committee** is working on a fun event for February; details will follow when the date and venue have been set. Look for an email coming out in January.

Once again, see the details shown below for all activities. I encourage everyone to review the calendar of events shown on the last page of the newsletter and participate in as many events as possible.

Wishing everyone a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year

Ed Hermann

Newcomers and Neighbors New Year Resolution

It's been said that "Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something."

Lakeway Newcomers and Neighbors is always looking for folks to lead the organization, plan activities, chair an existing or a brand new special interest group, open their homes for small or large events, or just help set up and clean up during an event.

We are looking for energetic people to work on the social committee, which needs members to help plan and execute monthly events.

Consider adding ***volunteering*** with Lakeway Newcomers and Neighbors to your own **2025 resolution list**. This is not just because volunteering helps our organization thrive but also because serving as a volunteer will help the members create new and deeper friendships and relationships within our community.

Let us know if you would like to play a more active role by being part of our volunteer team. Send an email note to lakewaysocials@gmail.com to let us know how you can help out as a Newcomers volunteer during the coming year.



Dining Out

Registration for the next Dining Out cycle is now open. **The next cycle begins in February and concludes at the end of June 2025.** If you are a participant in the current cycle and wish to continue in the next cycle, no action is necessary, and you will automatically be enrolled in the next cycle's pairings. If you dropped out during the current cycle, you must reenroll to participate in the next cycle.

If you are interested in joining the next cycle but are not currently registered for Dining Out, please email lakewaydiningout@gmail.com **by January 6th**. In your response, please indicate whether you are joining as a single or couple and whether you would like to be an active participant or a substitute.

If you are a participant in the current cycle and wish to discontinue participation in the next cycle or change your status to a substitute, please email lakewaydiningout@gmail.com to indicate your decision.

[Click Here to Join the Group](#)

Jim Filas

Men's Night Out

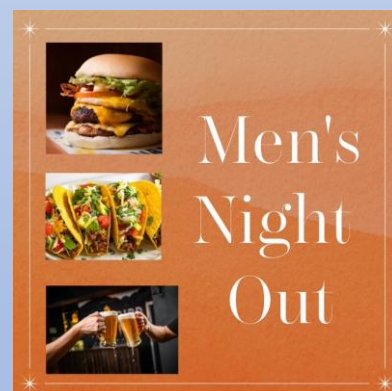
We had a wonderful time in December with 12 Men gathering for an evening of food and social time at the League Kitchen!

We are looking to hold the **January Men's Night Out** on **1/21/2025 from 5:30-7:00**. This month, we will gather at [Toss Pizzeria at 11905 Bee Caves Rd.](#) Toss offers a wide variety of pizza, sandwiches, and other Italian favorites. We have gathered here before and it's a fun atmosphere with room to accommodate our large group.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this fun night out. Please RSVP to johnberg3737@gmail.com **no later than 1/17/25** so I can make arrangements with the restaurant.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season and see you in the New year!

John



Cinema Group

The Cinema Group normally meets at a member's home on the fourth Friday of each month to discuss and rate two previously selected movies. Attendees can nominate films currently playing in theaters or films that are streaming online. Those who RSVP to attend the group discussion meeting will view the two selected films on their own prior to the group's next meeting.

The January meeting is back on schedule for January 24th.

Attendees bring an appetizer to share and their own beverage of choice. The host provides a dessert. The evening begins at 6:30 followed at 7:00 by a group discussion of the two movies, and the selection of the movies for the next month. The host of the current month's meeting will set the attendance capacity for their home. Once the host home's capacity has been reached, a waitlist will be started. Email Faith Stevens at faithstevens@gmail.com if you would like to be added to this group's mailing list.



[Click Here to
Join the Group](#)

A Gin Rummy Evening

Our next gin rummy night will be announced in early January, and Andy and Christie Kirmse will send out an email once the new date has been established.

It will be necessary for those who are still interested to re-sign up or those who have decided they would like to join to send their preferred contact information both text and email to Andy at wakirmse@flash.net.

We can accommodate up to 12 players and they must be in pairs. We meet on a Tuesday at the trophy room in the Flintrock CC from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM followed by dinner.



At Flintrock Country Club

[Click Here to
Join the Group](#)

Andy

Ladies Night Out

We had lots of fun at our first Ladies Night Out! Delicious food, lots of laughter, and great conversations made it a blast. It was the perfect chance to chat, and to make a few new friends!

Our next **Ladies Night Out** will be announced in early January. I can't wait to see you all again!



Ellen

Trivia Night

We are looking forward to our next Trivia Night on **Friday, February 21st, at 6:30 PM.** **Bruce and Nancy Bauman** will host it at [313 Sweet Grass Lane](#) in Serene Hills. We will have 20 people, divided into 4 teams of 5 people each.

Please email LNNtrivianight@gmail.com if you are interested in attending. Once we reach the limit of 20 people, we will place you on the waiting list.

All you need to bring is a beverage of choice; the hosts will provide dessert at intermission. We hope to see you there!



Juliet

Wine Education & Appreciation

Wine Appreciation Dinner - February 13th, 2025



Similar to the very well-received paired wine dinner held this past January for our members who appreciate high-quality wines, a very special wine tasting paired with a small group dinner will be held at multiple host homes at **6:00 PM on Thursday, February 13th, 2025.**

This year, we will feature six highly rated (93- to 98-point) wines, two of which were included on Wine Spectator's "Top 100 Wines." These wines have already been acquired at very favorable prices — resulting in this tasting event's low participation fee of just **\$40 per person**. A portion of the registration fee is being given to the host couple to defray the higher costs of preparing the main course. The dinner portion of the event will be a joint effort among all the registered participants at each host home.

Please note that each person who registers for this event will be assigned a specific recipe for a menu item that has been pre-selected to pair with a wine. Each participant will be required to buy the ingredients, prepare, and table-manage their menu item for the dinner. The host will be providing the meat-based main course and tableware. Each host home will be expected to host a total of 8–12 participants.

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Wine Education & Appreciation



About a week before the event, those who have successfully registered for the event via the Lakeway Newcomers' online payment process will be notified of their assigned host home and recipe.

You must register and make your payment before February 4th.

Registration/attendance will be limited to the total table capacity of the host homes. Once this table capacity has been reached, registration will be listed as Out of Stock; however, you will still be able to email a request to be placed on the waitlist in the event that additional slots open up.

To register, click [here](#).

Couples should register individually rather than selecting a quantity of 2 on the registration page.

Hosts:

The success of these types of events relies heavily on the willingness of people to volunteer to host. We have been fortunate in the past to have superb hosts to whom we owe a great deal of credit for the success of the event. Hosts are asked to prepare the main course and host between 8 and 12 guests. In addition to the pre-selected wines served during the event, hosts will be provided with complete instructions and detailed information about all of the wines being served. Please contact me if you have any questions about hosting or would like to volunteer to host this or future events.

If you have questions about the event or would like to be added to the waitlist, please contact Scott Westphal at westphalscottc@gmail.com.

*Cheers
Scott Westphal*

2024 Gala Event - Recap

2024 Gala



2024 Gala



2024 Gala





2024 Gala



2024 Gala



Membership

It's time to renew your membership for the 2025.

Ready for another year of fun and activities as a member of Lakeway Newcomers and Neighbors? We offer activities to fit everyone's interests - Dining Out groups, Cinema Group, Men's Night Out, Booze & Brews, Wine Appreciation group and now Trivia and Gin Rummy groups. So don't miss out on all the fun!

Your \$40 renewal application and payment for each member is due by December 31, 2024. If you are a single member who would like to take advantage of our guest membership provision, which enables single members to bring recurring guests to any Newcomers function, contact ***Director, Membership - Debbie Carver***

We now have a secure online renewal and payment system for using a credit or debit card to pay for your annual membership. **Click on the following link to renew your membership online:**

51 new members for 2024

239 total members overall

69 renewals for 2025

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN or Renew](#)

Welcome
our New
Members

Gretchen Light
Carolyn Epley
Kirby and Peggy Atwood



Member Support



Do you know a member who is seriously ill, hospitalized, injured, or has had a death in the family? If so, please contact Ellen Graybill by phone at 805-209-5449 or by email at eagraybill@msn.com so that Lakeway Newcomers and Neighbors can share support with a card, prayers, or other forms of caring.



For Lakeway Newcomers and Neighbors information, including the current and archived newsletters, go to our website at: Lakewaynewcomers.com

The protected areas of the website include the membership directory. To access the protected areas, use your assigned password. If you do not remember your login information, please email Steve Gutty at: ctl-alt-del@msn.com



Your 2024 Lakeway Newcomers and Neighbors Board

President - [Ed Hermann](#)

VP & Treasurer - [Scott Westphal](#)

Secretary - [Christie Covington](#)

Director, Socials & Special Events - [MaryAnn Veregge](#)

Social Committee: *Christie Kirmse, Debbie Carver, Jan Rouse, Joy Maytnier, Leslee Minahan, Linda London, Lisa Fredrick, Loraine Dantone Werner, Pam Filas, Robin Hermann, Sydney Berman*

Director, Membership - [Debbie Carver](#)

Director, Technology - [Steve Gutty](#)

Director, Newsletter & Communications - [Chris Gross](#)

Director, Welcoming Care & Concern - [Ellen Graybill](#)

Parliamentarian - [Jim Filas](#)



Lakeway Newcomers & Neighbors

Upcoming Events and Registration Deadlines

31	DEC, TUE	●	All day	Membership Renewal Due
6	JAN, MON	●	All day	Last Day to Register for Dining Out
17	JAN, FRI	●	All day	Last day to respond for MNO
21	JAN, TUE	●	All day	Mens Night Out
24	JAN, FRI	●	6:30 – 9pm	Cinema Group
25	JAN, SAT	●	All day	Newsletter Published
4	FEB, TUE	●	All day	Last day to register for Wine Appreciation Dinner
13	FEB, THU	●	6 – 9pm	Wine Appreciation Dinner
21	FEB, FRI	●	6:30 – 9pm	Trivia Night