

Newcomers and Old Friends



L A K E M O N T I C E L L O

January - February 2026

Board Members

Denise Maier, President

Diane Allen, Vice President

Jean Shore, Secretary

Jennifer Aldag, Treasurer

Patty Marcinkowski, Activities Coordinator

Jeanne Lynch, Hospitality Coordinator

lmofofboard@gmail.com

Membership and Money Matters

Current Balance (as of 1.25.26):

\$6692.00

Current Paid Members 410

January meeting attendance: 63

Facebook

"Newcomers and Old Friends Of Lake Monticello"

Please Note: Our FB page is limited to posts from the board and to pictures and posts about small group activities. We encourage small group leaders to post their activities/information/photos regularly to share the fun we are having!

We are at a record number of users to our page. You can join any time after dues are paid. Thank you to our small group members and leaders for continuing to post pictures of your activities.

February Meeting

Sunday, February 1st

3:30-5:30 pm

Please join us (note change of date):

We will be hosting **MUSIC BINGO** with the incomparable Sara Davenport. Music Bingo requires no skill, no advanced knowledge of music or artists, etc...

Each player will receive a card with songs and artists from the good ole' days. Songs we all recognize from the 60's 70's and early 80's. If you don't know a song, your neighbor or our host will be happy to tell you. This is more about fun and fellowship than competition and skill. Bring your best singing voice (whether it is good or not because no one will really hear you over the music) and be ready to have some fun!

We will play two games and have small first, second, and third place prizes for each game.

Because of winter storm Fern and the ongoing need in our county, we will be hosting another food drive for the Fluvanna Food Pantry. Please bring non-perishable food if you are able.

Raffle prizes awarded for donations!

The only Small Group sign-ups at this meeting will be Sunset Sails. Sunset Sails is led by Cherie Eyre and will run monthly from May – September. Please consider being a boat captain for this fun event just once over the summer. More info at the meeting!

Many thanks!

Many thanks to Janet Girton, Carolyn Stenger, and Peggy Shanklin for their assistance with our January meeting, as well as the many that stacked chairs and aided with room clean up! As always, we are very thankful for the many hands that make light work!

Some housekeeping issues:

Please remember that participation in open active small groups requires members to stay active by paying their \$10 dues each year. Our membership runs 350-450 each year, but we have over 700 in active small groups. Many are not renewing their membership each year. Please consider paying your dues soon!

All Small Groups without a leader have been closed for the remainder of the board year as of the January meeting.

If you no longer wish to be part of a small group, please do not ignore emails, but respond to the leader that you no longer wish to be included. This will enable leaders to remove you from their active rolls and make room for others! We encourage leaders to remove those that have not responded in more than 6 months.

Join Us! Anytime throughout the year. We are open to any resident of LMOA.

Sign up at monthly meetings or mail a check made out to LMNOF for \$10 per person to:

Jennifer Aldag, Treasurer
38 Riverside Drive
Palmyra, VA 22963

Please include name, address, email address, and phone numbers for each person so Jennifer can include you on our active roster. She will send you a confirmation of your payment by email.

Our roster is private (only accessible by the Board and not shared outside of our group).

Come join the fun!

Schedule of Activities/Meetings At Ashlawn Clubhouse unless stated 3:30-5:00 (3:30 social, 4:00 meeting time)

September 21

Annual Activities Sign-Up Meeting

*****October 19*****

Aqua Presentation by Steve Smith
"How Working Together/We Can All Save Money"

****November 16****

Fire Dangers/Disaster Preparedness
Maple Room of LMVFR Building
Fall Trivia/Door Prizes
Raffle prizes for donations

December

Break - Happy Holidays

January 11

Barbara VornDick and the story of Eliza,
James Monroe's eldest daughter

February 1 (change of date)

Extended time (3:30-5:30)

Music Bingo with Sara Davenport

March 15

Program TBD

April 19

Program TBD

May 17

Program TBD

June 7

5:00-8:00 pm (you will get home before dark)

**End of Year Party, 60's Hippie Theme
Hardware Hills Vineyard**

The Boomerangs will be back to perform

We would love to hear from our membership on any topics and/or presenters you all might like to experience. Please send an email to the board email at lmnofboard@gmail.com with ideas!

Seriously, send ideas!

If you missed our last meeting, you missed a great presentation. Many thanks to Barbara VornDick for her fascinating presentation on her efforts to correct the historical record of Eliza, James Monroe's eldest daughter.

Barbara is our neighbor, a retired teacher, and a historical interpreter at James Monroe's Highland Home. When she couldn't find much public information on Eliza, the eldest daughter of Monroe, she began a quest to find out more. This led her to discover very interesting and unknown facts about Eliza. It also led her to find that Eliza was buried penniless in Paris, having never been able to secure her inheritance, and a quest to bring Eliza home to be reinterred with her family at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond this past October.

Barbara's story of how she was able to secure the help of so many along the way is as fascinating as Eliza's story. You can read about it in Barbara's book called Eliza's True Story: The First Biography of President Monroe's Eldest Daughter available on Barnes and Noble. Barbara also shared that she has contracted with a documentary film group to bring this story to the screen. Be looking for that. We will try to stay in-the-know and keep you informed.

WE WANT YOU!!!!

The time has come to think about officers for the next board year. The Board is looking for two or three members that might be willing to serve on a nominating committee for February and March.

Timeline is as follows:

February/March – Nominating committee identifies new officers for next board year

April – Candidates are announced for consideration to the membership at April meeting

May – Candidates are voted on by the membership for the next year (nominations will also be opened from the floor)

Being an officer in this organization is very rewarding and allows for the opportunity to meet many new neighbors and friends. Please consider serving in a capacity for this important lake organization. The outgoing board will provide training and ongoing support.

Activity Corner

Thank you to new leaders that have volunteered to start/lead a small group this year so far:

American Sign Language - MJ Lightbody

Book Club #2 - Jayne Donohue

Bunco - Jan Williams

Cribbage/Double Deck Pinochle/Wine Club 9 - Mike Shurack

Day Trippers 2/Playing with Joy - Robyn Jacobs

Diamond Painting - Priscilla Scherrah

Easy Hiking - Susan Hannifan/Tina Siebold

Fun with Food 9 - Jeff Bruskin

Mens Poker - Matt Schafer

Neighborhood Walking - Kat Roth

Singles Group - Melissa Jordan (looking for a new leader)

Sip and Savor 8 - Sharon McLaughlin

Spanish Conversation - John Wilkinson

Beginner Majhong - Carol Sorber

The following groups never secured a leader this year and will be closed for the remainder of the year: Birdwatching #2, Book Club 8, Community Services, History Group 16, Let's Go to the Movies, Out to Lunch Bunch #5, Singles Club, Theater Goers #2.

Please contact Patty Marcinkowski with any new ideas for small groups, for assistance with your current groups, or for any type of help or guidance with your group at the board email at lmnofboard@gmail.com!

Photos to Share

Please send or post (to FB page) photos of your small groups having fun to share with the group!



We took our show on the road to the Maple Room of the Lake Monticello Volunteer Fire and Rescue for the November meeting.



Fire Chief Richie Constantino presented on the “Fire Dangers That Lurk in Residential Garages” and the Red Cross gave a presentation on “Being Storm Ready”. Our members gave generously to the Fluvanna Food Pantry to help our neighbors. We donated 411 pounds to help our county neighbors. Thank you all so much!



The Gardening Group enjoyed a fun meeting in January painting



Eliza: The True Story of the Eldest Daughter of James Monroe was the topic of our presenter, Barbara Vorn Dick, our neighbor, retired teacher, and part-time interpreter at James Monroe's Highland Home. Barbara mesmerized our audience with her amazing story of trying to correct the historical record of Eliza.



Barbara's own story of how she accomplished this and bringing Eliza home to be reinterred with her family in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond is as captivating. We received unsurpassed positive feedback from members on this presentation.



The Singles Group shared a fun evening in December at Friday night Bingo at the LMVFR. Bingo is open to everyone each Friday evening at the Maple Room.





Let's
Roll
the
Dice!!!



WHAT IS YOUR SMALL GROUP DOING LATELY? POST YOUR PHOTOS TO THE FACEBOOK PAGE OR SEND THEM TO THE BOARD EMAIL AT LMNOFBOARD@GMAIL.COM. SHARE THE FUN YOU ARE HAVING OUT THERE.



The Bunco Group met at Ashlawn for their first meeting in November complete with a handmade "ghost" used for absent members and a pink boa for those that roll a bunco. Second Thurs. of each moth



The Hiking Group enjoyed a beautiful fall day of sunshine and gorgeous views while hiking in the Shenandoah in November.

Fun with Food #2 knows how to cook and eat! Look at the scrumptious dishes they enjoyed at the home of Tim and Robyn Consroe in November. Meatloaf with tasty Bolognese sauce, roasted “fresh from the garden” veggies, and Limoncello Ricotta Almond Cake (not pictured Cacio de Pepe pasta). Yum!



The Photography Group shared photos of an interesting demonstration of lighting for still life subjects playing with different background colors.

They were lucky to have the arrangement donated by Oh My Daisies- a new local florist at 68 Heritage Drive, Suite 6, Palmyra.





Fun with Food #6 enjoyed a January Sunday lunch at Fiorano's for Mediterranean food. Company and food was fabulous. We highly recommend this restaurant.



Wine Club 5 shared a fun Friday evening at Hardware Hills sipping wonderful wine, listening to the music of Rick Hollowell, and saying goodbye to Roger and Susan Horst. We wish them the best on their move to TN!

The Board has held two small new-to-newcomers member events so far this board year. The first in November at the home of Jeanne Lynch and the second in January at the home of Denise Maier. We would like to thank all the "newbies" that came and enjoyed a getting to know you snack and happy hour with the board and other new members. Most are new to the neighborhood, but some have been here many years and are just now getting plugged into our community due to change in life circumstances. It was a great time of connections and merriment. We were able to answer questions from new members about NOF, about LMOA, and about the local area.

We hope to have at least one more before the end of the board year. If you are a new member this year and have not been able to attend, we have plans to hold at least one more before June. Please stay tuned to for more information coming soon. You will be notified of a future event in an email from the board.

A very hearty welcome to our new members. We are glad you are part of our organization and look forward to many fun adventures and connections ahead!