

## MINUTES - MARCH 11, 2026

### CLUB BUSINESS

**President Gary Fitzpatrick** called the meeting to order promptly at 10 am. "We'll move right along, since we have a lot to cover today," he said. He called for a motion to approve the February meeting minutes and **Gail Brown** so moved. **Susan Norton** seconded, and the minutes were approved by acclamation.

There was a round of applause for **Tanya Davis** after President Gary thanked her for the extraordinary treats -- including deviled strawberries and lemon blossoms. Tanya acknowledged **Dale Gates, Marilyn Drury** and **Ginny Baikewicz**, her Hospitality Committee helpers this month. There was also a round of applause for March birthdays, with only **Wayne Westerson** and **President Gary** admitting to one.

In Karen Dreher's absence, **Jean Greenfield** announced that the We Care program had sent a get-well card to **Becky Chesnut**, who had pneumonia. She also offered a correction to the February We Care report, indicating that **Linda Ash** doesn't have memory issues, but she is being treated for anxiety and depression.

On behalf of the Membership Committee, **Jean Greenfield** also said there were no new members this month.

**President Gary** announced that, since there are no new candidates for any of the three executive board positions now up for election, the three incumbents agreed to run for additional two-year terms. The incumbents are: **Gary Fitzpatrick** for President, **Stacie Hawkins** for Second Vice President and **Lois Leach** for Secretary (also known as Notes Nazi). **Ruth Anna** made a motion to approve all three and **Tanya Davis** seconded. With a voice vote, club members who were present elected all three incumbents. The other two executive board positions -- First Vice President and Treasurer -- will come up for election in March 2027.

At the meeting's end, **Molly Fitzpatrick** and **Stacie Hawkins** conducted the monthly raffle. They thanked club members who brought in lots of donated items, following last month's announcement that the raffle was running low. **President Gary** also announced that because raffle ticket sales have been doing exceptionally well, conducting raffles year-round isn't necessary to generate funds. Raffles will now be suspended over the summer -- June, July and August -- when people often travel and meeting attendance is light.

## **CLUB EVENTS**

**Jean Greenfield** announced that there are still three openings left for the Tour and Lunch Club event on Friday, March 20, at the new Hilltop headquarters office at 359 Main Street (site of the former downtown Wells Fargo Bank). The group will meet at 9:45 am at "Chrome on the Range," the buffalo sculpture in front of Hilltop, tour the facility for about an hour and 15 minutes and then lunch at the Rockslide Brewery. She added that a tour of the behind-the-scenes downtown Grand Junction flower and shrub planting operation is under development for Thursday, April 22, with more information to follow. Because of last month's appeal for more Tour and Lunch volunteers, **Nile and Lois Leach** have agreed to split a volunteer spot on the planning team, which also includes **Bill Gates** and **Steve Likovich**.

In Ken Seitz' absence, **Tom Politzer** reminded the group that the next Wine Club tasting event will be Thursday, March 26, from 4-6 pm at the Art Center of Western Colorado. It will feature wines from Portugal. The payment deadline for those who sign up is March 19. Checks should be made payable to Newcomers Club of Grand Junction, *not* to Ken or Lisa Seitz personally. Once payment is received, Lisa will send a confirmation email.

**Doug Grodt**, who leads easy Newcomer hikes on Thursdays, will lead a group on March 12 on the Devil's Canyon Trail System near Fruita, along the canyon rim. Anyone who doesn't already get Douglas' emails about planned hikes can email [newcomerhikers@gmail.com](mailto:newcomerhikers@gmail.com) to be added to his extensive distribution list.

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**Stan Zygmunt**, who volunteers with New Dimensions Lifelong Learning Institute, said the spring class session is winding down, but free one-hour noontime Middy with New Dimensions classes continue. The next will be April 9 at the Mesa County Central Library and will feature "Ute Talks with Roland McCook," an Uncompahgre Ute member of the Northern Ute Tribe. He was born on a reservation in northeast Utah and has served in a wide range of roles with the Bureau of Land Management, Fire Management, and Smithsonian Institute.

**President Gary** noted that Stan has been nominated by New Dimensions for Volunteer of the Year at Beaconfest, the BEACON's annual Boomer and Senior Expo on April 16 at the convention center. While outstanding volunteers are nominated by the organization they serve, they are selected by voters who go to [beaconfest.com](http://beaconfest.com). Go vote for Stan!

**Susan Fournier** and **Carla Sherrick** have been representing Newcomers Club as volunteers for the Armchair Travel program, a partnership between Mesa County Libraries and Newcomers. Susan announced that Carla and her family are moving to Montrose, leaving an opening for a Newcomers volunteer to take up Carla's role -- primarily sending email announcements about upcoming events. Before she leaves, Carla will do a presentation on her family's three-generation trip to Italy and Austria on Thursday, March 19, at 6:30 pm at the Clifton Branch Library, 3270 D-1/2 Rd. Christine Gallagher, food and travel writer/columnist for the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, will do a presentation on the Baltic countries on April 2 at 6:30 pm at the Central Library.

**Susan Norton**, who volunteers for the Art Center of Western Colorado, said that the final concert of its center stage series will take place on Saturday, April 11, and will feature the Marc Allen Band. It previously played during the Art Center's 2024 Music in the Grapevines summer concert series. Tickets are available on [gjartcenter.org](http://gjartcenter.org) or at the gift shop.

## **GUEST SPEAKER**

**Charles Latshaw**, music director and conductor for the Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra, noted that this is a busy time of year, with performances by the jazz orchestra, string quartet, chamber players, Prokofiev piano concerto by concertmaster Brian Krinke,

the genre-defying Sinners and Saint Patrick -- plus an April 28-29 performance by the full symphony orchestra and the Western Colorado Chorale. While Latshaw started out with piano lessons at six and originally wanted to be a band director, eventually he found "the world of symphonic music was so big and so varied," and he became very passionate about it. He compared the job of a conductor to "an air traffic controller bringing all the musicians' performances safely home." He also said that in some instances -- such as the first eight notes of Beethoven's Fifth Concerto -- the conductor does make a difference by paying attention to the teeny tiny details of how it's played. "I have to decide how to handle those eight notes before the symphony's very first rehearsal because the musicians would never agree," he said. "You can't do it by committee, even though the musicians know very well what they're doing." On the other hand, he noted that sometimes he doesn't use his baton because he wants the musicians to look at one another, not at him. It all depends upon the music.

*Lois Leach*

*Secretary*