

MINUTES - June 10, 2026

CLUB BUSINESS

President Gary Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 10 am. He asked if there were any changes to the May meeting minutes. Since there were none, **Scott Vandusen** moved to approve the minutes as is; **Sharon Lindsey** seconded, and the minutes were approved.

President Gary said that, while there would not be a regular monthly raffle, this month's meeting featured a special door prize of two tickets to an upcoming concert in the Music in the Grapevines series, held at Two Rivers Winery and Chateau, with the proceeds going to support The Art Center of Western Colorado's programs. The tickets are good for any of the upcoming concerts this summer. **Molly Fitzpatrick** circulated among the meeting attendees, handing out numbered tickets for the door prize drawing, and **Marjorie Demel Maynard** won. Have fun, **Marjorie and Danny!** **President Gary** noted that at the July meeting there would be a raffle for the beautiful decorated gourd donated by **Wayne and Linda Ash**.

President Gary thanked the Hospitality Committee's **Tanya Davis** for the line-up of tasty treats. Delivering them to the meeting involved a little extra work this month, he said, since Tanya had to make two trips to the Masonic Center. He also congratulated members with June birthdays, including **Dave Austin**.

In **Treasurer Bill Gates'** absence, there was no club treasurers report. "We still have money," **President Gary** commented.

In **Karen Dreher's** absence, **Jean Greenfield** announced that Karen sent two get-well cards during the past month -- one to **Greg McCarty**, who had eye surgery, and the other to **Russ Rollins**, who had knee replacement. In her role on the Membership Committee, **Jean** also announced that **Jenni Dixon** from Denver has joined the club and **Sue Rankin** visited and plans to join.

Following comments from the guest speaker, **President Gary** adjourned the meeting early, at 10:40 am.

CLUB EVENTS

Ken Seitz announced that the June 18 wine tasting event at the Art Center of Western Colorado is sold out. "Basically, we're out of room, since 55 people have signed up," he said. "That's the biggest crowd we've ever had." **Ken and Lisa Seitz** also reminded the group that more information about the Labor

Day barbeque on Monday, September 7, is available on the Newcomers Club website, gjnewcomers.org. A reservation form is also available there. The same information will also be included in the July club newsletter. As usual, the barbeque will take place at Canyon View Park's Grand Shelter. The menu will include pulled pork and chicken, roasted potatoes, coleslaw and a cookie. Cost will be \$13 per person for members and \$20 per person for non-members.

Douglas Grodt, who leads the club's hiking group, said that this week's Thursday hike will be at the James Robb Park in Fruita, with a course along the Colorado River. He added that, if anyone wants to be added to his email distribution list of members interested in hikes, contact him at newcomershikers@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Stan Zygmunt, who volunteers with New Dimensions Lifelong Learning Institute, said that major progress has been made in lining up classes for the upcoming fall term. "At this point in the summer, we're usually just getting started, but this year there are already more than 60 classes on the calendar," he said. Among them is a class by Newcomers member **Lynne O'Connell** on How to Use Your Device Without Asking Your Grandchildren. He added that two Midday with New Dimensions classes are coming up. On June 11 at Mesa County Library's Central Branch, software engineer Tom Sawyer will give a presentation on Bitcoin -- Origins and Ethos. Also, on July 11 at the Clifton Branch Library, Dr. Holly Oberle, assistant professor-International Relations at Colorado Mesa University, will discuss Lessons from Other Developing Democracies.

Ruth Anna said that "Americans," a Smithsonian traveling exhibition, is now appearing at the White River Museum in Meeker, Colorado, about 100 miles north and east of Grand Junction. The exhibition explores the complex history of American Indians, including the devastating impacts of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, which authorized then-President Andrew Jackson to negotiate with Southern Native American tribes for their ancestral lands. More than 60,000 Native Americans were displaced as a result. Admission to the exhibit is free.

GUEST SPEAKER

Brittney Bade, executive director of The Gift of Love, Inc., explained the programs of the non-profit she founded in 2022. The overarching mission is to provide compassionate services to Mesa County residents who need help the most, including those living in poverty, victims of domestic violence, nursing home residents, disabled and elderly people who are homebound, veterans and disadvantaged D51 students. Within that framework, The Gift of Love focuses primarily on grocery drop-offs, care packages of personal care items, and visits with seniors who are isolated and lonely. By partnering with the Food Bank of the Rockies, the non-profit has been able to deliver more than 30,000 meals, plus about 5,000 pet food drop-offs. The deliveries are distributed through several local churches, veteran apartment buildings, Hilltop Community Resources, and trailer parks with central office facilities. Snacks also are

delivered to students in selected D51 schools and GED classes -- some of whom are unhoused or living in their cars. The non-profit relies on community donations and fund-raisers such as a spring bowling event at Freeway Bowl and a downtown Ghost Walk and haunted house at Halloween. Anyone who would like to donate to the organization or volunteer to support its services, go to thegiftoflove22@gmail.com website and click the donate/volunteer button or email thegiftoflove22@gmail.com.

-- *Lois Leach, Secretary*