



This is from John Glenn, Membership Chair of FVNN, to provide helpful info and tips about our club.

As you attend events, by asking questions you'll get the swing of things quickly. We're very friendly and welcoming. If you're having trouble figuring things out, please reach out to me. The role of the Membership Committee is to get you quickly feeling at home.

The club communicates to the membership by email, in 3 main ways:

1. NEWSLETTER – by MailChimp e-blasts, with a direct link to the newsletter

Our newsletter is published most months, around the 25th of the prior month, for September through May, with no newsletters for June, July, and August, as we all take our summer breaks, and many monthly events take a break too (though some do continue so e-blasts continue as needed).

Unless you opted for mailed delivery, the newsletter comes to you by an e-blast to all members using MailChimp. Our newsletters are quite long, so please read them online and only print the page(s) you need (info pages repeat monthly but may update from time to time). Note: although we produce the newsletter, it's your job to read it and act on it. You need to reach out and express interest in the activities you want to try, and mark your calendar. Jump right in, don't wait, is my advice. The latest newsletter will be emailed to you.

2. GENERAL CLUB E-BLASTS by MailChimp

In between newsletters, informational e-blasts are sent to the full membership, also using MailChimp. Mark any special events you want to attend in your calendar, and follow instructions to book your place.

3. SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP LEADER PERSONAL EMAILS -- to their interest group

To keep groups up to date on their upcoming activities, the leader often uses their personal email to send a group email to the group's members. When you join a group, they add you to their group email list (and if you later decide a group is not for you, you can ask to be removed from their list.) Carefully follow the instructions in each email as to who to respond to, and add events to your calendar.

How to correctly RSVP to e-blasts from MailChimp

To RSVP for an event (IF an RSVP is requested), please DO NOT simply hit "REPLY" to reply back to the FVNN email address -- because it will go into email "limbo" and NOT to the person who needs to know, so you may not get a response. Instead, when RSVPing for an event, follow the instructions in the invite as to who to respond to, by FORWARDING then copying/pasting or typing THEIR email address into your email browser's address bar, to send them your email directly, adding your note to them. Or call, if so indicated.

NAME BADGES

To help our new members feel welcome, we use name badges. New Members have temporary GREEN dots, so that existing and other new members can greet and welcome you. You can remove the dot whenever you feel ready. Board members have RED dots, so you know who to approach with questions.

CLUB ACTIVITIES (managed by our Special Interest Groups - SIGs)

Our activities are varied and organized by enthusiastic volunteers called Special Interest Group Leaders. As noted above, some activities require an RSVP if attending -- especially if space is limited, for example, at in-home events -- though some events don't request a reply, in which case, not needed.

Most in-home events are cost free (just "BYOBeverage"), but events at venues are usually "pay-if-you-go" with each paying your own tab. Exceptions include luncheons which must be paid to the club ahead, and are non-refundable, as we have to commit to a headcount. Many events fill up fast, so don't wait too long in deciding.

Historically FVNN was formed as a club for women, but a few years ago there was a desire to let "significant others" join as "Household" members -- and we also have few men as Primary members. Our co-ed activities include Luncheons, 500 Cards, and most Special Events. To specifically manage our men's activities, a new SIG was set up (to which all men are automatically added), called "Active Men-Plus" (AMP) -- meaning, we serve our male members' interests, sometimes with significant others attending too.

So, we have activities appealing to varying interests (whether for ladies, men, or all members), and we urge you to try many of them as time goes on. If something doesn't work out for you, try another! Don't hang back -- dive in, so the club comes alive for you. If you don't see an activity that you think would be great, suggest it and, just maybe, you'll decide to set it up and become its leader!

WEBSITE -- www.foxvalleynewcomers.com

You've probably seen the public side of our website, but I encourage you to enroll for the Members Only section. The website's URL is www.foxvalleynewcomers.com and here's how to get your Member Only access:

On our website, click the "Login/Signup" link in the main navigation, enter your email address (the same email you used when joining FVNN) and select a password in the "Sign up" box. You will be notified within a few days when your access to the Members Only area has been approved. You then need to again click the "Login/Signup" button, but then click the "Log-in" link at the bottom of the next page ("I'm already a user, log in"). If you experience trouble, reach out directly by email to our IT Director, Trent Nanke, to request help -- his email is: tnanke@yahoo.com

In the Members Only section, you'll find useful info, such as the Board and Committees, Special Interest Group Contacts, Calendar, Social Pictures, Luncheon, Social Calendar, Newsletters, Membership Directory (updated when new members are added), and Forms. Under Membership Directory you will also find our Constitution and Policies, which I urge you to look over, so you can follow our norms.

PAYMENTS - BY ZELLE or CHECK

Though checks (made out to FVNN) are of course acceptable, our much-preferred method of payment for all club expenses (luncheons, special events, future annual dues, etc.) is the new, secure banking method called ZELLE. Most banks support it (in fact, the major banks developed it). So, if you're not familiar with it, ask your bank how to sign up and use it via their website or app. Many people already use ZELLE, as it's easy, free, safe, and very useful for sending money for many other purposes. It's VERY easy for us to receive your funds via ZELLE, rather than by processing checks, so as a volunteer organization, we'll appreciate your cooperation. But checks remain OK, if you're still averse to online banking or just not very techy.

ZELLE payments should be made using YOUR bank's app or website, by sending money direct from your bank account to our account using our email: fvnn@foxvalleynewcomers.com (TRENT NANKE, who is also our treasurer, will show as the account holder). From there, it will go straight into our bank account. No muss, no fuss, no fees.

When sending via Zelle, add the amount in dollars/cents and type a brief note in the memo field describing the purpose of the payment and from whom (just like you would for a check). Be sure it's all correct before hitting send. We don't want it going to the wrong place, or for the wrong amount. Make sure the name TRENT shows.

You should then automatically and promptly receive a confirmation from ZELLE and/or your bank, sent to the email address or text number you registered with your bank. You can also verify in your bank transactions.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership is paid annually, due by September 30 each year. We'll let you know when to renew.

WELCOME ABOARD! AND PLEASE PRINT THIS OUT FOR REFERENCE!

Feel free to contact me by email, text, or phone if you have any questions. Should you know of anyone in your circle who may also like to join, please let them know about our great club -- and point them to our website so they can kick the tires. They can join any time of year (though, being so inexpensive, we do not prorate dues).

Cordially,

John Glenn
Membership Chair
Fox Valley Newcomers and Neighbors (FVNN)

email: john@glennconnection.com
website: www.foxvalleynewcomers.com
mobile/text: 630.330.7843

email for Zelle: fvnn@foxvalleynewcomers.com