

Newcomers club makes transition a bit easier

Your Turn

Rachel Siddall Guest columnist

I am a Houstonian, but we chose Scottsdale to make our forever home. I'm an avid orchid grower with a greenhouse full of them. I just love working in there with my parrot, Ivan. Put those two together and you have a transplanted Arizona resident who is the PR/marketing manager for an organization designed to help you find lots of new friends and activities.

Moving far from my home of Houston, I needed a way to make new friends. That's when I learned about the Newcomers and Neighbors of the Scottsdale Area. It was the best find I've ever had.

I am going to tell you two secrets about the Newcomers and Neighbors of the Scottsdale Area you would never guess from our name: It's not just for new residents, and you don't need a Scottsdale address to belong.

Our club is certainly designed to assist new residents, but it is also for longtime residents seeking new friends and activities, and anyone having a recent life change, such as an empty nest, retirement, change of neighborhood, divorce, marriage or loss of a spouse.

Members includes men, women, singles, couples, retired, working, full-time residents and snowbirds. There is no limit on how long you may remain a member. Your address matters only regarding where you want to drive as we are unable to provide any transportation services.

In 2015, we become totally updated and are proud of our new online system, which provides instant access to all of our club activities. Thanks to the hard work of our tech-savvy members of course.

What it's all about

We are a non-profit organization that has been in the area for years. We are primarily social in nature, but also have a dedication to charitable involvement by encouraging volunteerism and sponsoring fundraising events.

We have activities that include luncheons with and without programs, coffees, lots of food and beverage opportunities, in-home gatherings, wine tastings, cultural outings, educational and reading groups, games, cooking for men and women and outdoor treks. If we don't have it we encourage members to start it. No activity requires a long-term commitment. We even have one-time events, such as an afternoon at a car show.

Our purpose is to provide opportunities for residents to meet new people and develop friendships through social, cultural, educational, charitable and area-specific activities. We have several events to which a prospective member is invited to see what we have to offer (these do require an online registration).

Now here is the really easy part: www.newcomersclubofscottsdale has everything you need. The homepage is full of information for non-members and provides a very easy process to sign up for a visit or register and pay \$25 to join. Once you become a member, you set up your password and receive access to the calendar and club information. You can take part in one single event or every event — it is up to you.

Guaranteed: You will never be bored! We look forward to meeting you.

Rachel Siddall is a Scottsdale resident and a part of the Newcomers and Neighbors of the Scottsdale Area.