

Sorensen Oldest Mexican Train Competitor at 96

She already competed this year in the 60-meter track, bowling and cribbage.

Five women sit around a table at Goodwin House at Bailey's Crossroads on Thursday, Sept. 19 concentrating on their pile of white domino tiles. Four other competitors sit at a nearby table.

Eva Sorensen from Alexandria says, "I have been playing in Northern Virginia Senior Olympics (NVSO) since 2011. I've got a box this big of medals." At 96-years-old she is oldest competitor in this year's Mexican train dominoes competition. Sorensen has already competed this year in the 60-meter track event, bowling and cribbage.

Meredith Raine from Springfield says this is her first year competing. "I didn't even know it existed." But she plays with her old college friends a couple of times a year. "We didn't use these rules at all. We played that everyone could start a Mexican train."

"No," Ruth Krulfeld who lives at The Jefferson in Arlington, assures her. "Just one Mexican train." She says the rules really sound a little complicated at first but you get used to it. Sorensen asks to see a copy of the rules to refresh her memory.

Virginia Biafore, who also lives in Arlington at The Jefferson, says she plays in a weekly group there, "and I really enjoy it."

Riley Geary, the events coordinator, tells the group to draw 14 dominoes each instead of the usual 15 since there are five players at the table. "Otherwise there are not enough dominoes left for the bone pile. Who is going to be the scorekeeper?"

Julia Jeffries who also lives in Arlington says, "I guess I'll do it. I do it a lot." Jeffries is in her second year of competing at Mexican train dominoes. "It's fun. There's always someone better than you."

Raine replies, "That's what I'm afraid of."

Each lady draws 14 dominoes and sets them up in a row so none of the other players can see them.



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Ninety six-year-old Eva Sorensen from Alexandria is the oldest competitor in Mexican train dominos in this year's Northern Virginia Senior Olympics held at Goodwin House.

Krulfeld says, "it's partly a game of strategy but a lot is the luck of the draw. O.K. we go clockwise." She says she plays Mexican dominoes for fun. "I say it has to be fun or don't do it."

Each woman has drawn a double twelve and begins her own domino train in the center of the table. The game has begun.

SEE SORENSEN, PAGE 11