



**LEARNING IN RETIREMENT
NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2009**

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Six years ago I was enthusiastically looking forward to becoming president of the Learning in Retirement group at the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh. In the previous year and one-half, I had met many new and interesting people and been exposed to excellent presentations on a variety of subjects. To be asked to serve as LIR's president was a great honor. The two years I was president were very rewarding as the organization grew and even the problems which surfaced were quantified and solved or at least teed up so the next administration could address them.



My thoughts today are somewhat different from six years ago. I am reassuming the president's position because no one else would accept the position. On the one hand, I will give you my word that in the upcoming year I will do my best to guide the organization in a positive direction and will work diligently to address problems as they arise. On the other hand, I also would like to find a person who will take the reins next year. For me this is a number one priority.

Keeping LIR running is not an extremely difficult task. It does obviously take a certain amount of time. I want to thank the present officers and committee chairs listed on this page for volunteering to keep our organization alive and healthy. In particular, thanks go to Jan Frazee who has stepped forward to chair the Administration/Finance Committee. Also, thank you to all the committee members and course presenters and others who help make LIR run. A special thanks to Judy Lloyd is certainly in order.

Inside you find that the committees are working to keep your LIR young and vibrant. Why not given them a hand and join one of the committees.

Hopefully when I next address you we will have identified your next president and we can spend our time talking about new and exciting things that are happening to *YOUR LIR*.

Cordially,
Bill Mattes

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Your curriculum committee meets once a month for three months each semester. Members run their ideas for sections past the committee for approval. Once approved, the coordinators do the legwork getting presenters. Judy Lloyd must then confirm the sites for the following semester. That is not an easy task.

Our scheduling concerns include beginning-of-the-year inclement weather, as well as a worsening parking situation due new academic building construction. We will try to find “smart classrooms” with public address for easier hearing. We are lucky to have Evergreen, Fox Valley Technical College, Coughlin Center and Park View Health Center as off campus sites. Next semester we will try to work UW Fox Valley and possibly the Oshkosh Convention Center into the mix.

The coming spring semester will have a session on the evolution of the campus from the very early years, a breast cancer talk and Chris Kneip will replay her “Who Gets Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate?” John Allen will present the “Orphan Train to Oshkosh.” Encore sessions, Reader’s Choice, Currently Speaking, Poetry & Prose will be on the

schedule. A retrospective on Walter Cronkite is in preparation and Michael Schaub is coming from Colorado to present “Frontier Life in the 1830’s.” The Garden Club has monthly meetings on Fridays at Coughlin. We will also have a multi session class on simplified statistics and probability. Civil War Armaments, Comparative Political Kidnapping, the Ethno history of Oshkosh and a session on Model Trains are scheduled. Evergreen’s two “Supper with the Chef” events are on the menu. Several PAC events, including *Legally Blonde* and *Red Violin*, are planned. In March we will have a tour to Hartford for *Wake Me When I’m Dead* (Irish theme).

This is what we have in the hopper for the 2010 spring semester, and we are planning to add our First Nighter suppers and UW Oshkosh music offerings. If you would like to present or have an idea for a class that would interest our members send it to me or to the office.

Finally, our minutes of each meeting are on our web site if you wish to keep abreast of our activities. LIR website is www.uwosh.edu/lir

Bernie Olejniczak, chair

MEMBERSHIP/PROMOTION COMMITTEE

Who are the “smiley faces”? This year, membership/promotion committee members will be wearing “smiley face” stickers on our name badges so we can be easily identified at LIR programs and events. Committee members will be attending as many LIR functions as possible to greet new and old members with a smile, to answer membership questions, to collect guest passes and to make available extra “Share the Experience” packets.

“Share the Experience” packets were mailed to all members this summer explaining the new promotional program we are initiating this year. (See article below.)

Membership numbers are down, largely due to a considerable number of members who did not renew their memberships this year. We currently have 266 members, as compared with a total of 312 members at the end of last year. The committee is following up on non-renewals, and we hope to increase our membership this year by attracting new members through the “Share the Experience” program and other activities.

Committee members staffed the LIR informational displays at the Winnebago County Senior Conference on October 3rd and will again at several indoor Appleton farm markets this winter.

The committee welcomed a new member, **Barbara Boudry**, at our first meeting of the new program year on September 3rd. Barbara has

agreed to serve as committee secretary this year. **Nikki Hoerig** has also joined us this year. **Barbara Carroll** will not continue on the committee due to other LIR obligations, but will continue to assist us as an AMP Peer. Thanks to Barbara for all her help in the past, especially for her assistance with welcoming new members and arranging for the new member reception last year.

We now have LIR magnets with basic LIR contact information. If you would like a magnet, they are available at the LIR office and from committee members. Don't forget about the LIR web site as a great source for updated information on LIR,

including current courses, member profiles, membership forms, minutes of committee meetings-- including the M/P committee--and other useful information. You can refer potential members to the site to check out LIR before joining. The web site address is www.uwosh.edu/lir

We are looking forward to greeting you and your guests at LIR events this year, wearing our smiley faces!

Mary Bayorgeon, chair

Share the Experience

A wonderful new program has been introduced to all Learning in Retirement members, making it easily possible to attract new members in a most enjoyable way. In early August each LIR member received an informative letter and materials to activate the program. The enclosed red envelope was labeled "Share the Experience." It included an LIR information brochure, a sampler of current semester courses offerings, membership application and a guest pass. (Guest passes are not valid for free tours/trips.)

All this is toward helping us invite a friend to an LIR event. In using the guest pass, of course, there is no charge. Share the Experience is a sub-

committee of the Membership/Promotion committee, Jerry Draws, chairman. It is responsible for keeping track of all members who bring guests. When used, guest passes will be collected at each session by either a committee member, program coordinator, or presenter. The guest pass includes the guest's name as well as that of the LIR host member. In turn, all members bringing guests will be eligible for valuable prizes at the annual meeting. Drawn lottery style, one prize will be a year's paid membership. "Share the Experience" is a great growth opportunity for Learning in Retirement.

Miriam Hasse

ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE COMMITTEE

The administration/finance committee continues to monitor expenses for the organization and is pleased to report that fiscal year 2009 ended with an operating balance of \$30,931. Because we have been able to reduce expenses we are pleased to maintain membership dues at \$75 for the third year. The Patricia Kohl Foundation account balance is \$7,025 and the Speakers Fund has a balance of \$3,094. LIR received several donations in honor of members who passed away this year. Anyone wishing to make a donation to either fund can send a check to the office. Speaker funds are used to pay for speakers for our fall luncheon and/or the annual meeting.

The web site transition to the new design is completed and is very informative to new and old

members. Please check it out at uwosh.edu/lir. There are a couple of technical issues to be worked out, but for the most part all work at this point is maintenance in nature to keep the information up to date.

A treasurer's handbook is in development to facilitate assumption of the role of treasurer. We hope that will encourage more members to consider accepting that role and responsibility in the future.

Since the work load of the committee is greatly reduced it will now meet every other month on the third Thursday of the month.

Jan Frazee, chair

MEMBERSHIP PROFILE - Burns and JoAnne Apfeld



When the history of Oshkosh's Learning in Retirement is written, the name of Burns Apfeld will have a prominent place. Serving as the first president in 1997, Burns and his wife JoAnne continue to be active members, attending many of the courses offered and planning and coordinating new ones. The newspaper article describing the formation of the group, and the request for volunteers to help organize it, came as Burns was retiring from his lifetime career as an executive in scrap iron brokerage. The couple was intrigued with the promise of more education offered on a less formal basis than a traditional classroom.

Burns admits that the road to creating LIR was not always smooth. It was, he recalls, his first introduction to the different approaches of business people and academics in achieving a goal. But he was impressed with the speed with which they could compromise once it became clear that the object was not to meet the needs of the board but those of "the customers." He is also quick to give credit to those who worked to wrestle the details into place: Marcia Rossiter, the liaison from the University, Pat Kohl, John Procknow, and Dick Branigan, to name just a few.

With the recognized goal of creating a group that gives members a chance to develop and demonstrate their own skills, sample classes were offered in both semesters of 1997. By the end of that year there were approximately 80 members; that number grew to 150 by the end of the second year. As president, Burns called every single member to welcome him or her to the group and to invite active participation and feedback. JoAnne recalls his new career became conversing on the phone as he accomplished this task.

Burns cites a proud moment for the group: in 1998 a celebratory dinner was held at the University between the semesters. When it was repeated the following year, he realized that those attending were not just there for a meeting but to greet friends. Success was further in evidence two years later when Burns and JoAnne attended a conference in Washington, D.C. and found that our LIR stacked up very well against others, offering a broader curriculum with less stringent requirements.

In addition to serving as president for three years, Burns has served on the steering committee and has offered several LIR sessions (he has more in the planning stage). He is always quick to point out that being actively involved can offer even greater rewards than just attending the classes.

LIR is not the only endeavor of this active couple. They've known each other since junior high school near Cincinnati, where both grew up. Married for 58 years, they have three married children and six grandchildren. In addition to relocations for work (Ohio, New York, Indiana, Illinois, and finally Oshkosh) travel has always been part of their life. Their first trip to Europe came in connection with their volunteer work with the Christian Family Movement, and they were able to explore Europe with Switzerland as their base when a son lived there for five years. They have spent 35 years in volunteer work preparing couples for marriage, first addressing large groups, then working with individual couples.

A list of his hobbies is indicative of Burns' wide ranging interests: sailing, woodworking, photography, and learning computer operations. He also recounts his two experiences at Antiques Road Show when it appeared in Milwaukee. The first time he describes as "utter chaos: lines stretching for blocks and people waiting hours to get in." The next time the show had issued timed tickets for admission, and in just over two hours the Apfeld's visit was complete: appraisal, an invitation to be on the show, a trip to the green room for makeup, and the filming of a spot that featured a tile painting done by Burns' great-grandfather.

Some of the couple's current activities revolve around the upkeep of their two acre lot; autumn finds them busy raking leaves from the many varieties of trees they have planted over the years. JoAnne shares many of Burns' interests; he credits her with saving many of his great-grandfather's paintings and drawings, done on Civil War battlefields, when their basement flooded. She also adds cooking and sewing to her list of accomplishments. Her background in drama has found her on stage with several theater groups and, at one time she was a radio announcer. She laughingly recalls doing the farm hour for an Ohio station in spite of her admitted fear of chickens and any large animals.

In response to the question "What is the most important point you would like to make for this article?" both Burns and JoAnne agree that LIR needs a constant inflow of new volunteers so there are always fresh new ideas, and, regardless of the organization, people are basically the same—moving forward depends on sharing and compromise. He adds, "We truly hope that our members appreciate all those whose dedication and hard work have brought LIR to this point. We urge all who have not participated in some kind of service to the group to volunteer now."

Marlene Herzing

Continued Parking Issues

This is no news to any of us who have circled the campus trying to find a parking spot. For years this has bedeviled us and put a nasty speed bump in our way to getting to class on time – or getting there at all. Some, frustrated by having bought a parking permit and unable to find a place to park have simply driven home. Apologies, as heartfelt as they are, do not solve this lingering problem. It is surely a deterrent to joining LIR, as well as to continue being a member.

This worsening situation will continue for some time, due razing of buildings and construction of new ones. The campus – and this impacts students, faculty and staff as well as us – has lost close to 300 parking spaces, with 100 due to evaporate next semester. A bleak scene. Future plans include the opening up of more parking. In the meantime we will attempt to schedule your sessions off campus when at all possible. Parking at these places (Park View Health Center, FVTC, Oshkosh Senior Center, Coughlin Building, Evergreen)

have their own parking issues, but it seems not as tight as the UW Oshkosh campus.

However, there are still many activities on campus this fall. Here are some suggestions:

- Try the new parking structure on High Street near the tennis courts. The LIR parking permit is good for all spaces on the ground floor. From there it's about a 1½ block walk to Reeve.
- Try using the city transit system. With a Titan Card the ride is free. Rate for seniors without Titan card is \$.50. Go to the LIR web site and click on Maps & Directions. A transit map is available there for the bus that goes through campus. At press time, the bus is stopping at the corner of Robin and Westfield until the frontage road is opened. Call the LIR office to be paired with another member knowledgeable about bus travel for your first trip.
- Try car pooling with others. Having additional eyes to look for parking in the lots and on the street helps

Reeve Union Sessions

We occasionally do not have Reeve classroom locations confirmed before publication of the semester's events. So the room location may not be included in the newsletter description nor on the calendar grid. Therefore, when you enter

Reeve Union check on their daily listing of events to find the room location for your session. It is doubly helpful to check this daily posting in case there has been a room change.

LIR Class Locations

- Reeve Union – Campus
- Coughlin Bldg County Extension – 625 E County Rd Y, across from Oshkosh fairgrounds
- Evergreen Retirement Community – 1130 N Westfield, Oshkosh
A shuttle bus from Sears Grand will be provided and will start running 45 minutes prior to the start of programs.
- Fox Valley Technical College – 150 Campbell Rd, Oshkosh
- Park View Health Center – 725 Butler Av, Winnebago



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