



President's Corner: Annual Meeting

Greetings to all members of ILR. If you attended our annual meeting you know that your organization is very healthy, both in respect to our finances and in the growth of our membership. As I write this message our membership hovers just below the 700 figure. This is not to say that we do not face some challenges. As most everyone else, we continue to face rising operational costs and are constantly being challenged to find more operational efficiency. As all of you know, the quality of our classroom experiences and our travel opportunities has never been higher. The growth of our membership and the high quality of class and travel options create additional challenges. In an endeavor to accommodate greater attendance at our more popular offerings, and avoid the necessity of a wait-list, we have arranged to hold several classes each period at the Virginia Beach Central Library, where larger class sizes are more comfortably handled. We will continue to utilize this facility in conjunction with classrooms at the Virginia Beach Higher Education Center in hope that no one is denied attendance in a class because of the lack of space. If you have attended a class at the Central Library, please let us know how it went and give us your thoughts if there are

ways you feel we can improve. We greatly appreciate your feedback, both positive as well as constructive.

Those of you who attended the annual meeting were treated to a most enjoyable and entertaining performance by Ryan Clemens, regarding a man near and dear to him – his ancestor Samuel Clemens, better known to most as Mark Twain. It was amazing to me to hear some of Mark Twain's quotes and realize that they are as meaningful today as they must have been 100 years ago. I have been a fan of Mark Twain for most of my life and particularly like his quote, "The two most important days in your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why." ILR can continue to be an important part of this life journey for us all.

It is a privilege for me to serve for the next year as your board president. Thank you for providing me this opportunity. I look forward to getting better acquainted with many of you and getting your feedback on how our organization can better serve your needs. Remember, we are a volunteer organization, thus our organization won't continue to be successful without the input and help from all.

~~ Mike McGraw



**Don't forget to renew your annual
ILR membership this summer.**

The Fiscal Year 2014 ILR Budget

The Board of Directors approved a budget for next year that does not change our annual dues, \$15, or our class fees of \$10 for a two-hour lecture. As in the past, all of our other activities, except Coffee & Conversation and the Art Show, are budgeted to cover only their direct expenses.

A budget is a plan, a guess about the future. There are no facts about the future. A budget is built upon assumptions and estimates: how many classes next year, what will be the average number of students in a class, how many members, what will Westminster-Canterbury charge us for next year's Annual Meeting. These assumptions are based upon last year's numbers, the trends in our numbers over the recent past, and our guesses about how future events will affect ILR.

The trick is to find the right combination of optimism and caution in putting together the budget. If we get the mix of caution and optimism right, the errors will balance out and we will be close to our budgeted bottom line at the end of next year. A primary objective of the Board is to charge only what is necessary to cover our expenses. While we are a not-for-profit organization with the goal of providing educational opportunities for our members at minimal cost, it is important that we make more than we spend in order to sustain the organization for the future. The Board will review budget progress at mid-year.

~~The Board of Directors

Board Members 2013-2014:

President, Mike McGraw
Vice President, Sandy Barczak
Secretary, Mary DeLaney
Treasurer, Robert Chapin
Historian, Carole Albero
Past President, Dave Patterson
At-large Board Members:
Robert Burns
Don Christensen

Committee Chairs:

Communications & Technology:
Robert Chapin
Curriculum:
Anne Blanchard
Judy Schooley
Membership:
Dorothy Wolfred
Nominating:
Shirley Barco
Social:
Susan Clarke
Nancy Pond
Travel:
DeeDee Rockefeller
Volunteer:
Trude Englund
Administrator:
Theo Rozdilsky
Interim Newsletter Editor:
Sandy Barczak

In Memoriam

Connie Horden

1928-2013

Carl John Stringer, Jr.

1922— 2013



Welcome to New Members

Feb. 13, 2013- May 15, 2013

Norfolk: Brian & Rebecca Hirschler

Virginia Beach: Linda Armistead, Brenda Barrett, Bob Battaglia, Randy & Diane Bolin, Elinor Dalton, Mary Fink, Thomas Grant & Andrea Kline, Joycelyn Guthrie, Harry Hann, Fay Kennedy, Nancy Parker, Richard Puchaty & Sharon Ryan, Peggy White, and Barbara Williams.

Splinters from the Board

The purpose of this article is to give the membership greater access to the issues discussed at the meetings of the Board of Directors. Our intent is to provide short, pithy, pointed descriptions of the more important issues that came before the Board in the previous quarter that affect our members.

March 15, Annual Meeting — Members elected:

Mike McGraw as President,
Sandy Barczak as Vice President,
Mary DeLaney as Secretary,
Robert Chapin as Treasurer,
Carole Alberio as Historian,
Don Christensen as Member-at-Large
Robert Burns as Member-at-Large

No meeting of the Board in March

April 10 Meeting of the Board

- **Membership:** 689 including 21 new members,
- **Curriculum:** Class sizes impressive: JoAnn Falletta's class was 127 and Bob Torgler's class has 130 signed up. First time classes are scheduled for the Central Library. Jane Martin and Diane Prince have signed up to be future Co-Chairs.
- **Social:** 112 attended the Annual Meeting.
- **Refinements** and a restatement of the wait-list policy were approved.
- **Treasurer** presented Proposed Budget for next year. After discussion, the Board tabled the Proposed Budget for discussion at the May meeting.

May 8 Meeting of the Board

- **Membership:** 692 members. Our burgeoning membership stretches our capacity to provide seating for all members that want to sign up for a given class and stretches our ability to provide assistance to our members.
- **Budget:** after spirited discussion of class fees and minor adjustments, Board adopted a budget for next year that keeps the class fees at \$10 and the annual fees at \$15. (see accompanying article)
- **Board** revisited the recently adopted wait-list policies and made minor modifications. (see accompanying article)



Wallops Island Trip

March 7, 2013 started out with adverse weather conditions but quickly turned into an exciting day. The tour provided much insight into what constitutes investigations of the atmosphere, solar system, our universe and the vehicles that explore and record the results.

First stop was the machine shop where the fabrication of all sounding rockets NASA launches each year is initiated. The Range Control Center gave us a behind the scenes overview of past, present and future launches to occur at Wallops Island. We moved on to meet the Assistant Chief of Aircraft for interesting videos taken by research aircraft. After lunch we enjoyed an Aircraft Hanger tour conducted by a NASA pilot. We had a glimpse

of runway testing, pilot flight practice and the planes which are based here for numerous scientific studies. We then boarded a bus for a short drive around the Island Base where launch pads are located. Our last stop was a self-guided tour of the Visitor Center to see displays of rockets, balloons, aircraft and other aspects of the Wallops Island facility. This included a moon rock brought back on Apollo 17 and a signed print of Neil Armstrong's footprint on the moon.

We may have missed the launch of an Antares Rocket which was supposed to take place that week (rescheduled for mid-April), but we had a grand day.

Up, Up and Away!!

~~Don Sullivan

So, who is Sandy Barczak, the new Vice President?

I was born and raised in Utica, New York but moved to the Washington, DC area to pursue a career as a government employee. I met my husband there and after his tour of duty in the Marine Corps, we decided to stay in the DC area. We moved to Manassas, Virginia, where I lived until 2010.

My husband died in 2007, so I decided to take the plunge when I retired and move to Virginia Beach in 2010 to be near my daughter, son-in-law, and grandson. My son and his family live

in Arizona so I get to visit the southwest area periodically.

I have found the ILR a wonderful organization for someone new to the area - so many things to learn, see, and do. I serve on the Travel Committee, Communications Committee, help with Coffee & Conversation, and on the Board. I am a member of St. Mark's Catholic Church and recently spoke to their senior group (Wisdom Seekers) about ILR. One of my favorite pastimes is watching and cheering for my New York Yankees.

New Board Procedures

WAIT-LIST AND CANCELLATIONS

A few months ago, the Board took some heat from members because of misunderstandings about how ILR handled overbooked classes and events. One perception was that Board members were given priority over other members for overbooked events. That complaint was reasonably easy to lay to rest. Board members are not given priority, ever. The broader concern was confusion on how members were "wait-listed" and how the wait-lists were managed. The Board concluded that the policies needed to be revised, updated and made much more explicit. Because wait-listing inevitably involves refunds, the Board also updated the policies governing refunds.

The Board adopted revised policies for cancellation refunds and wait-lists at the April meeting and made minor adjustments at the May meeting. The following paragraphs are copies of the relevant paragraphs from the Board Policy Handbook 2013 of the policies adopted by the Board.

CANCELLATIONS

When a member cancels (at least **4 days** in advance), after having registered for a class, social event or trip, \$2 of the fee will be retained by ILR as an administrative charge. The remainder of the fee will be returned to the member. Vouchers will be sent for any class cancellations. Refunds for other events for a single member or a couple that is more than \$25 will be issued as a check. Refunds for other events for a single member that is less than \$25 will usually be issued as a voucher. All vouchers are valid for one year. A member may request a check instead of a voucher for such events.

If the ILR cancels a program, no administrative charge will be collected. The full fee will be returned to the member either in the form of a check for trips and social events or vouchers for classes.

COURSE ENROLLMENTS AND REFUNDS

A waiting list is maintained for all classes and social/travel events. The wait-list is based on the principle of "first come, first served." The Administrator will enter each class/event registration in the order received at ILR. Each individual entry receives a sequence number and if a wait-list becomes necessary, that sequence number determines the order of the wait-list for that class/event. The Administrator or appropriate Committee will make every effort to accommodate all persons signing up for a class/event; however, sometimes a wait-list is unavoidable. If additional sessions are scheduled for an overbooked class/event, previously wait-listed members will be given preference for additional sessions. Members are encouraged to make their class selections and return their class/event registration forms promptly to prevent being "wait-listed." Members who are unable to attend an event because they were wait-listed will have their payments for that event refunded. Please see the paragraph on "Cancellations" for a description of the method of reimbursement.

JoAnn Falleta — "Role of the Conductor"



April 11th found those ILR members lucky enough to get a seat treated to a full two hours of intimate conversation with JoAnn Falleta, Music Director of the Virginia Symphony, the Buffalo Symphony, and most recently the Ulster Symphony. Uncharacteristically facing her audience, Maestro Falleta quickly put us at ease with her soft spoken, but highly articulate discussion of the "Role of the Conductor". Starting with a brief video clip of famous conductors at work – some of which were notoriously tyrannical at rehearsals – she then led us through how orchestra conducting has developed over the centuries and how she, herself, approaches conducting. She noted that, initially, conductors were simply "timekeepers", enabling all the players to stay in synchronization. The conductor's input to the development of "musical expression" came later.

In a nutshell, Maestro Falleta sees the goal of the modern conductor "to allow the players to bring out the best in themselves". Rather than being at the top, she sees the conductor as being at the bottom of an inverted pyramid, quietly guiding the presentation of the individual players.

She explained how most members of her orchestras have been playing their instruments since childhood. "Many were literally child prodigies". Their bodies and their instruments have developed together. "They are the absolute cream of the crop." She explained the competitive auditions required for a player to be chosen for a seat in the orchestra. Candidates come at their own expense from all over the country. Only one, the very best, is chosen.

One ILR member noted that, in those early video clips, all the orchestra members were male. "When did orchestras begin admitting females?" Falleta's answer:

when orchestras started using "blind auditions" for selections. "Judges sit behind a screen and evaluate the candidates strictly on their demonstrated playing ability." "There is even a carpeted walkway so judges can't detect the difference in the sound of a female candidate's footsteps".

When asked how it felt to have "broken the glass podium" and having been one of the first females to be named music director of a large city orchestra, Maestro Falleta was characteristically unassuming, instead answering that, in fact, there are a number of women conductors presently leading major orchestras. More importantly, there are many women now serving as associate conductors that we will see rise to top positions in the near future.

The two-hour session seemed to fly by. Promptly at noon, Maestro Falleta excused herself to head on to her next engagement. We were all left wishing and wondering if she might return another day.

— Edward Martin, ILR Member



HUMOR CORNER:

"Don't worry about avoiding temptation...
as you grow older, it will avoid you."

~~ Winston Churchill