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President's Corner: Another Great Learning Year

Our 2012/2013 fiscal year ended in May and it was another excellent year for your ILR organization. Our expenses were less than our revenues, making the Board's decision to adopt an operating budget for fiscal year 2013/2014, keeping membership and class charges at the same level as the previous year, a correct one. Our scholarship recipient is in his last full year of study (and last year of ILR support) and is on schedule to receive his PhD degree in the spring of 2014. The Curriculum Committee did another outstanding job of bringing us quality classes on a wide variety of subject matter. Our Travel Committee provided us with some excellent opportunities to expand our knowledge through visits to several interesting destinations. There were numerous offerings from our Social Committee for us to gather together, to get to know one another better, and to share our life experiences. We were able to move several of our more popular class offerings to the Virginia Beach Central Library to utilize the auditorium space it provides. I believe this was a very good move, and I hope all of you concur. This year we will explore the possible use of the new joint TCC-City Public Library that just opened on Rosemont.

ILR does not stop operating during the summer as evidenced by the fine schedule of classes and activities for July and August. All committees are hard at work preparing the schedule of activities and classes for the fall that will soon be in the mail and on the way to you.

It is important to the continued success of our

organization that we not slow down in getting out the word about ILR. Each of us needs to let our friends, neighbors, and others know about ILR and what it has to offer. The best endorsement of any organization is a personal one from someone who has experienced the benefit of being a member. Our membership is constantly changing, and it is important that we continue to bring in new members to replace those that leave. Membership fees constitute a significant portion of our revenue, and the more members we have the easier it is to hold the line on fees for the continuing educational experiences we offer. But increasing revenue is not the only reason for bringing in new members. As you have already experienced as a member of ILR, we each bring a great deal to the organization. We all had "previous lives" with interesting occupations and experiences. All of this diversity makes us a richer organization. New members will bring to the organization these same qualities of experience and ideas that will permit the continued growth and improvement of our organization.

Many of you have already sent in your membership renewals, and we have received many new memberships. If you have not yet renewed your membership for this year, please try to do so soon.

I hope all of you had a wonderful summer, filled with good health, exciting travels, and new experiences.

Keep on Learning!

~~Mike McGraw



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:

Jane Martin

Diane Prince

Membership:

Dorothy Wolfred

Nominating:

Shirley Barco

Social:

Susan Clarke

Nancy Pond

Travel:

DeeDee Rockefeller

Volunteer:

Trude Engelund

Administrator:

Theo Rozdilsky

Interim Newsletter Editor:

Sandy Barczak



Some members prefer to have the Newsletters sent to them in the mail. If you'd like to receive the next three issues in the mail, we'll be glad to send them to you...there is a \$6. fee per three issues.

ILR Members Are Active Seniors Both Physically and Mentally!

We want to know what great things you are doing. If you are too shy to brag; it is time for your friends to speak up about your accomplishments. The following is the first of many (we hope) brief articles about what a great group this is. The following was shared in dinner table conversation after the Spring Kayak trip.

Two of our members, **Sarah McKown and Connie Owen**, who are members of the United States Tennis Association 7.0 Senior Ladies Team placed 4th in the nation at the April National Championships in Surprise, Arizona. There were 18 teams representing the various sections of the country plus the Caribbean and Puerto Rico. The ladies do most of their "practicing" at the Virginia Beach Tennis and Country Club.

Destination Imagination

Creativity is fun and you can be a part of it! Continuing to learn in retirement is wonderful and continuing to volunteer - and to enjoy the younger generation's creativity - can be even MORE fun.



You're invited to join our team at Destination Imagination (DI), an

international educational program that encourages students to solve open-ended, creative Challenges and to present their solutions at tournaments. Everyone is a volunteer. There are a variety of roles that you can fill and a variety of fun ways to enjoy the kids' creativity.

You can learn more at <http://www.destinationimagination.org/what-we-do/challenge-program>.

The new DI season begins now, with the return of the students to their schools. Would you like to help at the DI regional tournament in February? We'd love to have you. You can begin to learn more now!

To talk to one of our committed volunteers, please contact Sandy Whitney at bgiftedabc@verizon.net or Leslie Law (an ILR member) at Leslie.law@cox.net. Or, to check it out, just visit <http://www.tidewaterdi.org/volunteer>. Come see what all the fun is about!!!

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.

June 12 Meeting of the Board

- With the start of the new fiscal year, the office has received in the first 12 days of the year 202 membership applications, including 32 new members. Welcome aboard!
- The Board approved a motion that all new members' dues received in the last fiscal quarter (March, April and May) be credited to carry over into the next fiscal year, giving the new members a 13 month to 15 month membership.
- A guest attending the Board meeting suggested that the Board create a Finance Committee that would include an Assistant Treasurer to provide a backup for the Treasurer. The proposal was tabled to be brought up at the next meeting.
- The Board approved a motion to increase the hours for Diane Johnson up to 30 hours a month as needed. The reason for increasing Diane's hours was to address the increased workload caused by the improved services to the members, the large number of members, and the increased turnouts for ILR activities.

ILR Committee Chairperson

The Institute for Learning in Retirement is seeking an ILR member to Chair the Communications and Technology Committee.

The successful candidate will be a member of the ILR Board of Directors and is responsible for preparing meeting agendas, maintain effective liaison between the Board and the Committee, and approving the content of the quarterly newsletter: Class Notes. Hours are negotiable and self-regulated -- usually about 5 to 6 hours a month, mostly in the last month of the quarter when panic sets in the face of approaching deadlines.

The minimum qualifications include:

- A current email address
- A personal computer, and
- Access to the Internet.

Compensation will be at the high end of the pay scale offered to all ILR Volunteers. Contact Robert Chapin at k4ybz@cox.net for more information.

The Rappahannock River Cruise Trip

The Rappahannock River Cruise hosted by the Travel Committee in early June was one of the most delightful and peaceful trips we have had thus far. We shared this trip with a group from Hanover County, Virginia and thoroughly enjoyed their company.

The cruise down the Rappahannock River was beautiful and serene as we watched eagles and ospreys flying about in a natural habitat. There were sights of nests and young eaglets along with eagles and ospreys soaring above and diving for food. A great many *OOHS* and *AAHS* were heard from our fellow travelers on the way to the Ingleside Winery. Our Captain brought various landmarks to our attention as we made our way through the countryside.

At the winery, we were treated to a buffet style barbeque lunch on a lovely patio prior to taking a tour of the winery and sampling of their wares. Ingleside Winery is a small and recent edition to the Virginia wineries and the tour was quite educational and fun.



Inside Ingleside Winery

The boat ride back was quite entertaining as the wind had picked up and the water was a bit choppy .

The Travel Committee tries to offer a variety of educational, informative and fun trips four times a year. We hope to see you December 13th on our next trip to Edenton, North Carolina for the Annual Christmas Tour and dinner.

~~DeeDee Rockefeller



ILR Biography - Don Christensen, Board Member

I heard about the ILR from a good friend, John Ingram, when I retired in January 2011. I liked the idea of going to a variety of classes, taught by quality lecturers, but minus the long-term commitment of an actual course. So I gave it a try and got hooked. I've particularly enjoyed the history-oriented classes. Must be something about enjoying history as one ages.

Besides involvement with ILR, my retirement is filled with lots of other activities. My wife Joyce and I enjoy **traveling**. We just came back from an amazing adventure that included Istanbul, Egypt and a South African safari. We were glad to have had the opportunity of visiting a country like Egypt (there's the history connection again); given what's happening in that country, we probably will never get another chance to do so.

We've taken up **kayaking**, and go 2 or 3 times a week to First Landing State Park off 64th Street to enjoy the beauty of the park and the fun of exercise. I am also a member of the VB Recreation Center and work out there 3-4 times per week.

Cooking. I've come to really like puttering in the kitchen and find cooking satisfying on many levels. My latest culinary accomplishments include rhubarb and blueberry pies. Mmmm...yummy.

I've tried **teaching** since retirement. I taught

one class at TCC a couple of semesters back, on Human Resource Management, and liked it. Unfortunately, the school has limited openings for adjunct professors to teach courses, so this year I offered to teach a course on personal financial management at the Adult Learning Center in Virginia Beach. This is a course that I think is really needed, since I see a lack of financial savvy in the general population. We'll see if there is any interest in such a course. If so, I begin in September.

I'm an avid **reader**. I've vowed to myself that I would alternate between quality reads and junk reads. International espionage, a la Daniel Silva or terroristic action a la Brad Taylor, are particular favorites and I've convinced myself that they warrant the "quality read" label. But I still like biographies and historical fiction.

We have a pet parrot, **Tikal**, a 13 year old cacique. I fancy that one day I will find a mate for him and raise parrots. Joyce insists that if I do so, I will do so without her help — something about 24/7 feedings of the chicks when mom and dad abandon them.

Now, back to ILR. Attending the wide variety of classes is quite satisfying, but so is getting more involved in the organization via my Member-at—Large status. It is an exceptionally well-run organization, and fills an important role in the life of this retiree.



HUMOR CORNER

Q: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?

A: There is not enough time to get everything done!

What Does the Communications And Technology Committee (CTC) Do?

The five members of the committee perform three important, related tasks: publish the newsletter, *Class Notes*; advise the Board of Directors on how to improve communications between the Board and our members and the outside world; and identify technologies needed to support the ILR mission. ILR cannot exist without effective communications. As an example of our need to communicate well, the Quarterly Schedule tells us what, where, when, and at what cost. Without the Quarterly Schedule, there would be no ILR. The schedule is made up of many bits and pieces from the Curriculum, Social and Travel Committees. Theo assembles the schedule on the office computer, adding her own touches, and sends it off to the printer as a digital file.

Even though the Quarterly Schedule is essential, it does not meet all our communications needs: it is unidirectional, its intended focus is too narrow, and it does not reach outside ILR. The *Class Notes* is intended to cover more topics and to promote a conversation between the members and the Board. *Class Notes* attempts to entertain and inform the members about the challenges facing ILR. The newsletter is assembled from articles submitted by members over the Internet. Editor, Sandy Barczak, uses Microsoft Publisher to assemble & format the newsletter and uses her email system to send the finished newsletter off to the printer and website.

The ILR website, www.oduilr.com, not only improves communications between the ILR management and the members, the website is a link to the rest of the world. During July, our website had over 1500 visitors. Although North America provided 87% of the visitors, Asia accounted for 106 visits (9%), Europe accounted for 48 visits (4%) and South America accounted for 2 visits. The most frequently visited pages were the ILR schedules: 440 "hits." The newsletters accounted for 318 hits going as far back as the Winter 2011 newsletter. The membership and registration pages accounted for 172 hits. Our 1567 visitors accessed a grand total of 2,304 pages. When we count the visits from specific, identifiable cities,

only 16% of our visits come from Hampton Roads. We believe the main reason that our website attracts so much attention outside Hampton Roads is the fact that ILR offers a \$3,000 a year scholarship to an ODU graduate student.

Although the outreach capabilities of the website are an important reason why we have the website, its primary purpose is to serve its members. The website offers schedules, newsletters, membership information, parking information, the ILR history, a Q&A page, and links to other sites such as Road Scholar (Elderhostel), ODU, other ILRs, local city governments, and an email link to the office:

oduilr@juno.com. The ILR site is evolving; it is a work in progress. The committee plans to "hang out" the Board's Policy Handbook, the past minutes, and the Treasurer's reports. None of this would have happened without the skill and hard work of Dave Netherton. Dave completely rebuilt the website about two years ago and is our Webmaster.

ILR uses a relational database to keep track of its members and the activities they have signed up for. Among other outputs, the data base produces reports of the numbers that have signed up for each class and the list of members that have signed up for a specific class. This is the list you use to check in for class. The ILR computer also hosts the bookkeeping system that we use to keep track of our income and expenses. Just these two applications, not including MSOffice or the operating system, are based upon millions of lines of source code.

ILR's communications, its management, and its success are based upon a digital backbone. ILR would be far less effective if we had to rely on manual methods or even computer technologies of 40 years ago. The CTC is not only actively involved in communicating with the membership but also is actively looking for better, more efficient, cheaper ways to serve our members.

~~~Robert Chapin

# **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

**Feb. 14, 2013 - Aug. 2, 2013**

**Chesapeake:** Vivian Duke, Grace Hopkins, Ann Marie Layton, Stan & Dolores Schnell, Betty Snellenberg.

**Corolla, NC:** Strode Brockman.

**Edenton, NC:** Paul & Lynda Metzger.

**Norfolk:** Lee Babb, Susan Duffee, R.L. Frost, Mark Luey, Gray & Sharon Puryear, Gisela Schoenbach, Ann Wolff.

**Portsmouth:** Edwina Ricks.

**Virginia Beach:** Nancy Allan, Jon Bischel, Reesa Bloom, Patricia Bocock, Carolyn Breeden, Ed & Nancy Brickell, Pamela Brown, Helen Clendenin, Douglas Dockey, Mary Donnelly, Lynda Elliott, Devorah Ben-David Elstein, Beverly Engelbrecht, Molly Firey, Karen Gillikin, Bruce & Jo Ann Given, Marlene Goldsticker, Mary Ellen Guilfoyle, Bob & Grace Hagerty, Zena Herod, Rosemarie Hughes, Terrance & Eileen Keenan, Kay Laws, Judith Magee, Catalina Mantel, Mary Ann Matika & Robert Manning, Eva Melatti, Nancy Miller, Betty Mitchell, Jean Morgan, Joan Nesbit, Sally Niewoehner, Gail Patterson, Jeannie Petre, Victor & Margaret Pisone, Kathy Potts, Helen Preti, Romaine Rice, Janet Roberts, William Robison, Tracy Rogers, Lilibeth Rose, Tina Rowan, Tim & Sharon Ryan, David & Garnett Shores, Martin Silfen, Linda Thompson, Carole Weinstein, Virginia Woodward, and Jill Zimmermann.

## **In Memoriam**

**CDR Raymond James Grinnell, Jr. (USN (Ret.))**

June 1, 2013

**Maryann B. Walsh**

July 12, 2013

## ***Relatives of ILR Members***

**Alexandrine Mary Schutte**

July 15, 2013

**Jeffrey Norman Pond**

July 20, 2013

## Kudos Korner

ILR is a non-profit organization that serves 700 members with two paid part-time employees and a stash of countless volunteers who provide manpower for all the “behind the scenes” tasks. Let’s take a peek behind the scenes to see the layers of teamwork it takes to get the Program Schedules sent every quarter to a membership who anxiously awaits these treats of knowledge to appear in their mailboxes:

**Typists:** type the pages from the data sent by Curriculum; they get electronically sent to a typist, who has not only done her share of the typing, but sets up the layout, fine-tunes, proofs, and adds some clipart. Then, all the pages, from the committees get electronically sent to the office, where there’s a final proofing, and where the Registration form is created; then the completed program is ‘off to the printers.’ When the finished packets get delivered to ILR, they’re ready for mailing.

**Mailing team:** (pass by the classroom with this working team, you’ll hear lots of laughing and talking)

...here is a great example of collaboration and teamwork - this group, of about 8-10 members, is responsible for getting out the Program Schedules. Within 3 hours, they put the mailing labels onto the envelopes, stuff the envelopes, and the sealed envelopes are put in order by zip code (for bulk mailing purposes) ready for the ODU mailman to pick up.

**Office crew:** fill in when the administrator goes on vacation - they answer phones, greet visitors, and help with tasks on an ‘as needed’ basis, like opening the high volume of mail that comes pouring into the office at the beginning of each quarter, from members signing up for classes, activities and trips.

**Webmaster:** our techy, long-time member, Dave Netherton, puts each Program Schedule and Newsletter onto our website, and basically maintains and updates the site, as needed.

Just saying “thank you very much” doesn’t seem to cover our sincere appreciation for all these the “behind the scenes” folks. **ILR membership benefits because of these members who donate their time -- KUDOS to all!!!**

### The ILR seeks a member to be Editor of the ILR quarterly newsletter: *Class Notes*.

The successful candidate will be a member of the ILR Communications and Technology Committee and is responsible for attending committee meetings, collecting articles from other members of the committee and the ILR membership, putting together the newsletter: *Class Notes*, and forwarding the completed newsletter to the ILR office for distribution. Hours are negotiable and self-regulated but usually about 8-12 hours a month, in the last month of the quarter when panic sets in the face of approaching deadlines.

The minimum qualifications include: (1) current email address, (2) personal computer, and (3) access to the Internet.

Some knowledge of Microsoft Publisher would be useful. Sandy Barczak and Dave Netherton will help getting started with Publisher. ILR owns the necessary software. The finished product is challenging but very rewarding when all is said and done!!

**Contact Sandy Barczak at [sbarczak@cox.net](mailto:sbarczak@cox.net) for more information.**