



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It must be getting close to Christmas since the decorations, which have been up for at least a month, are showing dust! All of this points to the fact that we are about to complete the fall semester of Elderstudy and celebrate with our holiday luncheon. I understand that Carolyn Sulima has a great meal in store for us. (written 11/17)

The people that deserve accolades are legion. John Thompson has carried a big load with both the Treasurer's job and running the Admin Committee, at least until recently. He needs a big shout-out! Chuck Johnson's Curriculum Committee has put together a great line of programs this fall and the spring semester appears just as good. Donna Lewis and her group with the Membership Committee have done a wonderful job this year. I would also like to thank Barbara Barrett for stepping up to run the Admin Committee and Bryn Pavek for being our Treasurer beginning in December. These are the people and faces out front but it is also the many members behind them that make it all work.

Elderstudy is an organization of volunteers. How effectively it operates is dependent on the collective efforts of all. Get involved! Join a committee! Come to some of the business meetings. It is a great way to meet people, socialize, and if you are not careful, you might learn something.

In closing, Lynn and I have enjoyed the eight years we have been members and will miss Elderstudy when we move to the Richmond area. But I feel confident that we are leaving the organization in good hands. Our best to all of you.

Mel Wright, President

www.elderstudy.com

What you need to know - when you need to know it!

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Administration Committee met November 30 at 1 p.m. This report is based on the agenda for that meeting and anticipated actions, not the actual proceedings, because the newsletter went to print prior to the meeting. However, members may read the meeting minutes and Administration Committee's report to the Board on our website by mid-December.

Treasurer John Thompson will provide preliminary financial reports for the period September 1-November 29, 2016. After these reports are approved by the Board, they will be posted on the website and provided to our University Representative, in accordance with our Memorandum of Understanding with the University.

The Committee will review the 2015-2016 Audit conducted by Connie Block. She found "no errors, inconsistencies or exceptions. The outstanding organization of the financial record notebook and monthly document files made auditing a straightforward process. The Treasurer should be commended." The Audit report is expected to be approved by the Board of Directors at its December 7 meeting. The Treasurer then will file our Federal Tax Return for the period September 1, 2015-August 31, 2016 (ElderStudy's fiscal year).

Under New Business, the Committee will recommend to the Board an amount for the Bachelor of Liberal Studies (BLS) Scholarship for the 2017-2018 academic year. In addition, a recommendation is expected to be forwarded to the Board to purchase a wireless microphone for use by (1) sponsors to introduce their speakers and (2) members who pose questions to the speakers. Only speakers are "miked" and members of the audience have difficulty hearing others who are not.

The next meeting of the Administration Committee is February 28, 2017 (Tuesday) at 1 PM in the Center for Lifelong Learning classroom. All ElderStudy members are welcome to attend.

Barbara Barrett, Chairman

TREASURER'S REPORT (11/15/2016)

Thank you for joining ElderStudy for the 2016-2017 Program Year. Based on the memberships to date (258 including 11 retired UMW faculty), income from membership fees is sufficient to cover the approved budget and should be sufficient to consider typical year-end grants to the University's departments whose faculty participated in this year's programs. At this point, ElderStudy has already received 4 half-year membership registration forms (to become effective December 1st) which are awaiting processing by the Treasurer after Thanksgiving. A formal Treasurer's Report in the form of the First Quarter Operations Report (September-November 2016) will not be available until after the Board of Directors Meeting to be held on December 7th.

This is the last Treasurer's Report which I will be submitting. I am resigning as Treasurer during the first week in January 2017, after the 2015-2016 Federal Income Tax Return has been submitted (and hopefully accepted) by the IRS. Bryn Pavek will be replacing me as the ElderStudy Treasurer; please give Bryn the same support and cooperation that I have enjoyed for the past 8-1/2 years. I am planning to continue my ElderStudy membership after my retirement.

Respectfully, John Thompson

This Newsletter is prepared by me, Dot Meyers, with the help of many members of ElderStudy. If you have any questions or suggestions for the newsletter, please feel free to let me know. You can leave a message on the phone, 540-654-1769, or call me at 540-760-1533.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT

We are in the final phases of our fall semester, and based on verbal feedback and on attendance at our sessions and on our tours, it appears we are meeting the educational interests of our membership.

Attached is the spring 2017 schedule, and it continues the curriculum committee's goal of providing interesting and educational programs for the ElderStudy membership. Again we have scheduled approximately 40 programs. Putting together any spring schedule is always a challenge in that we have only three months to decide on topics and arrange speakers with time and dates that match their availability. ElderStudy is indeed fortunate that we have a number of members who, semester after semester, work hard to find speakers and arrange for them to speak to our membership. We are also fortunate that we see that ElderStudy members are willing to provide sessions on their areas of expertise. In addition to a thanks to every program sponsor, a special thanks to Joe Alfred and Alan Zirkle, who manage the committee's data base and schedule.

On rare occasions we have a speaker who, at the last minute, cannot make his/her scheduled program, and because of this unforeseen situation, we do not have time to alert the ElderStudy membership of the cancellation. Thus we have members arriving for a session only to learn that there has been a last minute cancellation. As a backup to such an occurrence, we have a folder stored in the speaker's podium that contains some websites which we can access and which allows us to provide a program that can be watched on the screen. We currently list the website for The Great Lives program and a website for PBS. The PBS site has numerous education programs that can be accessed, e.g., Frontline, POV, and American Experience. It is likely we would be able to find a program that relates to the topic the speaker had planned to present. Hopefully we won't have to use the website, but it is there if attendees want to see an educational program and not find their trip to the CLL as totally unproductive.

Also a continuing reminder that for those cancellations for which we have advanced notifications, we will alert the membership via email and via our telephone service (540 654-1769 -Option 2).

Chuck Johnson

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The fall is a busy time as we welcome everyone back to ElderStudy. While our membership is strong, we always encourage you to reach out to others who might enjoy joining our organization. You may notice that our registration form has been revised to give “the gift of membership” to a friend or family member. A half-year membership, for new members beginning December 1 or later, is \$40 per person.

When you come to the classroom, please notice our efforts to provide clear and current information at your fingertips. Both the white board and the bulletin board contain up-to-date information about our members, sessions and other activities of interest. The table in front of the bulletin board also offers various opportunities for continued learning and travel beyond our planned programs. When you need ready information at home or away from the classroom our website (www.ElderStudy.com) has everything you need to know in great detail.

If you are a new member and have received your temporary name tag, your permanent one will eventually arrive in the classroom for your pick-up. (Allow a few weeks for order and delivery.) Check the table in the back room or contact Carolyn Sulima for more information.

By the time you are reading this we will have celebrated the season together with our holiday luncheon at Lake of the Woods. Our next social opportunity will be our end-of-the-year potluck luncheon May 16 at the Spotswood Baptist Church. Save the date! We will have additional information in the spring. Meanwhile, our next membership committee meeting will be January 18, at 10 am in the CLL. Please join us!

Donna Lewis, Chairperson, Membership Committee