



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As 2017 wanes and we look forward to another year of informative and entertaining ElderStudy presentations and events, I would like to thank all our Board members, committee chairs/members and presenters/sponsors for making the past year even more successful than previous years. ES continues to prosper and grow and I am proud to have been a part of this.

I would like to include a reprinting of the dedication of our new classroom flag since it is a symbol of ES optimism for the future:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to present this symbol of our country to our organization as we commemorate our 25th Anniversary. As a child, my days in the classroom started with the Pledge of Allegiance. The flag hung in those classrooms as we studied topics such as science and nutrition, music and math, great American leaders, wars both home and abroad and major events influencing our history. As an organization, we have not strayed far from those same topics, but we now look through a lens that is more sophisticated and experienced. Let this flag link us to our past and remind us of our quest to continue learning and growing in a country where we are free to do so.

The Nominating Committee composed of Jack Allison, Joan Bitely and Chuck Johnson (retiring Board members) was activated at the December 5th Board meeting. Anyone who would like to volunteer for a Board of Directors position please contact one of these members. Remember, our organization depends on your contributing efforts to keep ElderStudy functioning.

Happy Holidays! Jack Allison, President

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

With the submission deadline for the December Newsletter four days before the Committee's November 29 Quarterly Meeting, a different approach is being used to communicate Committee activities to the membership. As a start, the Admin Committee would like to wish all ElderStudy members and their families "**Happy Holidays**" and "**Happy New Year**".

At its November meeting, the Committee will review a preliminary financial report by the Treasurer for the first quarter of the 2017-2018 Program Year. No surprises other than a bountiful membership enrollment are anticipated.

Under Old Business, it will be reported that the 2017 revisions to the Policy & Procedures Document have been completed via a new cover-page and several page-revision insertions; no revisions were made to Document Sections which required General Membership Approvals. It will also be reported that the Board-assigned task to create a "Class Room Key Registration Sheet" has been accomplished; there are 7 ElderStudy members with keys to the Classroom and ES office.

Under New Business, the Committee will receive a status report on the 2016-2017 Annual Financial Audit performed by Commie Block; many thanks to Connie (auditor) and Bryn (treasurer) for a GREAT JOB !! The Committee will be developing a recommendation to be presented to the Board on December 6 regarding funding for the Annual Bachelor of Liberal Studies Scholarship; the discussions will consider both the budgeted funding amount and a potential one-time increase related to the 25th Anniversary Celebration. Other anticipated topics will address an inquiry regarding additional filing space in the ElderStudy Office and the initiation of a search for a candidate to be the next Admin Committee Chairperson following John's intended retirement in August 2018.

The next Admin Committee Meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2018 at 1 PM. Questions and comments regarding this report should be addressed to John Thompson.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT

Our fall 2017 schedule is quickly drawing to a close, and we all should be looking forward to the educational/learning opportunities that we will encounter this upcoming spring. The spring 2018 schedule is attached.

Joe Alfred has done some statistical reviews of both our fall 2017 schedule and our upcoming spring 2018 schedule. I think he has done an excellent job in developing some interesting data.

Average attendance for fall 2017 was approximately 48 members and guests. For the spring 2018 schedule, we have planned 46 programs. The number of programs by month is shown below:

Month	Number of Programs
January	13
February	8
March	7
April	10
May	8
TOTAL	46

The number of programs for each topic is shown below:

Topic	Number of Programs
History & Politics	11
Tours & Offsite Programs	6
Medicine & Health Care	6
Book Group	5
UMW, Fredericksburg & Virginia	4
Literature & the Arts	3
Education	2
Entertainment	2
STEM	2
Government & Economics	1
Invention & Innovation	1
General Topics	3
TOTAL	46

Mary Washington ElderStudy has planned 1,824 programs over 50 semesters from the fall of 1993 to the spring of 2018, for an average of nearly 37 programs per semester.

As I mentioned previously, this is my last semester as the Curriculum Committee Chairperson. It has been a great experience working with the many members of the committee. I have two ending comments: First, please get involved and volunteer your time in assisting the organization as it focuses on its mission of lifelong learning opportunities. Second, assist Joe Alfred as he assumes the role of committee chairperson and continues to manage the schedule data base.

Chuck Johnson

Curriculum Committee Chairperson (Retired)

TREASURER'S REPORT (11/15/2017)

Thank you for joining ElderStudy for the 2016-2017 Program Year. Based on the memberships to date 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. 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 6th.

Respectfully Submitted, Bryn Pavek

[www:elderstudy.com](http://www.elderstudy.com) what you need to know, when you need to know it!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Our enthusiastic membership has settled into another informative fall semester. We are happy to have 288 members as we celebrate this 25th Anniversary year. In recognition of our anniversary we have received a proclamation from Governor Terry McAuliffe attesting to our efforts to maintain a vibrant opportunity to foster lifelong learning. The proclamation will be shared at the March General Membership meeting and will then hang in our classroom.

As we approach the holiday season we would like to remind everyone that we offer the opportunity 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. See the online registration form to complete this transaction.

Remember to keep your membership information up to date by sending any corrections to membership@elderstudy.info. If you are currently receiving your newsletters by mail but would be willing to switch to our electronic version, please send a note to Jack Sulima at jsulima@yahoo.com. Remember to pick up your name tags in the back office of our classroom if you have not yet done so.

By the time you read this newsletter, we will have celebrated this anniversary season together with our holiday luncheon at Gari Melcher’s Pavilion. We were excited with the enthusiastic response to attend and regretted that we sold out before the registration deadline. Our next social opportunity will be our end-of-the-year potluck luncheon May 24 at the Spotswood Baptist Church. Save the date! We will provide additional information in the spring. Our next Membership Committee meeting will be February 28, at 10 am in the CLL. Please join us!

Donna Lewis, Chairperson

Membership Committee

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.