

**MARY WASHINGTON ELDERSTUDY  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (GMM)  
UMW STAFFORD CAMPUS, SOUTH BUILDING  
ROOM 210 (SC201S - LIFE LONG LEARNING CENTER)  
March 15, 2017**

The Mary Washington ElderStudy (ES) General Membership Meeting was held in the UMW Stafford Campus South Building, Room 210, on March 15, 2017. There were 29 people in attendance. President Jack Allison called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. after John Thompson announced a quorum present. Jack welcomed attendees, guests and new members.

Chuck Johnson moved that the October 16, 2017 GMM minutes be adopted as posted on the ES Website. Peggy Vedine seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Administration Committee (AC) Barbara Barrett's report.

Discussion of the occupancy of our ElderStudy classroom. Some suggestions about removing the cubicles to enlarge the room.

Curriculum Committee (CC), Chuck Johnson, Chair. See Attachment A

Membership Committee (MC), Donna Lewis, Chair.

Membership is now at 291.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Bryn Pavek.

The mid-year financial reports review show that ElderStudy has sufficient funds from Membership Fees to cover the approved 2016-2017 budget and for consideration of Year End Grants to University Departments whose faculty presented curriculum programs during the 2016-2017 year. A recommendation regarding the grants will be addressed at the May Administrative Committee meeting and the June Board of Directors meeting. The required Capital Reserve is intact.

In January 2017, John Thompson officially stepped down from the Treasurers position after 8 years of service. ElderStudy recognized John at the Fall Luncheon and in the President's letter for good reason. The transition he provided to me was outstanding. Records were organized, clear and property reconciled. He has created excellent, easy to use spreadsheets and templates. And he even filed the 2015-2016 Federal Tax returns before leaving! We owe John a big thank you for his leadership and stewardship of these accounts and records. I cannot imagine that it could have been done any better I would also like to thank Dottie Meyers for agreeing to continue to be the "second set of eyes" for the monthly reconciliation.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Ballots were counted, the results are:

Joe Alfred, Michelle Esbershade and Dottie Meyers. Their terms are from September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2020.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Administration Chairperson Vacancy. Barbara Barrett will be stepping down and a replacement will be needed by May 4, 2017.

## **OPEN FORUM:**

Suggestions for enlarging the ElderStudy classroom. Chuck Watkins suggested getting rid of some of the tables. Majority want to keep the tables. Alan Zirkle thought that people would still come even if the tables were gone. Everything in the classroom is owned by UMW, except the mic, we would need to ask for help in rearranging the cubicles.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Next General Membership Meeting, October 18, 2017.

Adjournment: 10:58 a.m.

Peggy A Verdine, Secretary

Date Approves: 18 October 2017

## ATTACHMENT A

The Curriculum Committee (CC) would suggest that we are having another successful semester. The programs have been especially informative, and attendance has been outstanding. We are probably averaging over 50 attendees at each of our sessions, and the attendance at the session on ISIS was approximately 110. We have had two recent cancellations effecting this week's schedule. We will attempt to reschedule the classes for the fall 2017.

The CC is working hard on the fall 2017 schedule, and, in fact, we will have our last formal planning session tomorrow from 1:00 to 3:00. This is an especially critical meeting in that we should have our final fall program nearly complete at the time of the meeting. When we finalize our schedule we hope to have about 40 programs (not counting book club). I can't emphasize enough how much work the CC members do in finding programs and speakers and managing the various aspects in setting up the programs.

We have attempted a new concept in finding speakers to talk on topics of interest, but for which the CC does not know of a potential speaker. When we determine a topic of interest, we have Jack Allison coordinated with our UMW point of contact (Kevin Caffrey), provide him the topic, and ask that he circulate the request to the UMW faculty. We have also had Kevin query the faculty and ask if anyone had a topic that they would willing to present to ElderStudy. We have identified four professors who have initially indicated that they are willing to talk to ElderStudy. The process we are currently using is once we receive the names of possible speakers, I will alert CC members of the topic and potential speaker and request a CC volunteer to coordinate with the professor. This remains a work in progress, but our initial thoughts are that this may be a good technique to use in the future.

Recently, Allan Zirkle took the initiative and queried our membership on how often they used the telephone system, either to seek information about our organization or to determine if there has been a schedule change. He noted that there were very few messages received requesting information and only one person indicated that she checked the phone system to determine if there were any schedule changes. I think the reason for this non-use of the phone system is that we have an excellent web site, an up to date schedule posted in the classroom, excellent use of email to alert members of changes, and a volunteer who alerts those few members who do not have email access of any changes. I do not believe we should continue to use the phone system to alert our membership of schedule changes, and I will request the Board of Directors to change the Policy and Procedures Manual to reflect. It is simply one of those tasks that takes time but has limited utility.

Finally, it is noted the attendance at the General Membership Meetings is low, and we and the Membership Committee are looking for ways to increase attendance. I would request that if anyone has some ideas as to how to increase the attendance, please let me or Donna Lewis know.

Chuck Johnson  
Curriculum Committee Chairperson