

Adventures In Lifelong Learning est. 1993	<i>MARY WASHINGTON</i> <i>ELDERSTUDY</i>
	Affiliated with UMW and the Elderhostel Institute Network

October 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another year of learning has begun and the Curriculum Committee has a schedule of interesting classes/events lined up for us. The Membership Committee has arranged for the Winter Luncheon with great entertainment and great food.

All three committees have been busy with their assigned responsibilities. Read about what they do in their reports. As you are aware, ElderStudy is an organization run by volunteers. All committee chairs invite you to participate in committee work. We are always looking for new ideas to meet the needs of our members and keep our program growing.

The Board of Directors met on September 7th and had a full agenda. The Board confirmed my requested appointments for Treasurer and all committee Chairpersons. The minutes are posted on our website.

I look forward to another productive year as your President. Feel free to contact me with any concerns you have regarding our program. All Board of Directors' meetings are open to all members. Come join us.

I met with the University President's Chief of Staff, Dr. Martin A. Wilder Jr. and we discussed ways that ElderStudy could help the University. We will be looking into this and reporting to the Membership. Do you have any ideas/suggestions?

Parking update! In May I sent a letter to the City Manager (Beverly R. Cameron) asking for a limited waiver for on street parking (as described in Sec 58-203 of the Fredericksburg City Code) within the College Heights area for ElderStudy members that may find it difficult to walk greater distances yet do not qualify for handicapped parking. These are the streets that currently have restricted "Resident Only" parking. Our proposal was to be implemented and managed by us at no cost to the City. In a letter dated September 2nd, the City Manager stated in part ***"Given the past history of the on-street parking issue in College Heights and the College Heights Civic Association's (CHCA) strong opposition to your proposal, I must deny the requested permission. To***

act otherwise would invite continued debate about the merits of the proposal, potentially in a context that none of the parties to the matter would consider to be productive.” FYI, Phil Hall represented ElderStudy at a CHCA meeting in June 2009 and reported in part – *“I represented ElderStudy at last evening’s College Heights Homeowners Association Board Meeting where our parking issue was on the agenda. Those in attendance were agreeable and sympathetic.”* Copies of both letters will be posted on our bulletin board in Chandler 102.

Hope to see you at the General Membership Meeting on October 8th and at our luncheon on December 2nd. Both of these events give you the opportunity to meet your colleagues outside the classroom.

Carole Hanus

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

At the Committee’s September 1st meeting, we discussed end of year reporting requirements, funds on hand, review and publication of the *Procedures Manual*, our obligations for filing tax information with the Internal Revenue Service, the availability of excess funds in the current financial environment, discussed approved budget and spending responsibilities, and financial reporting in the October newsletter. (The Treasurer’s end of year financial statement for the 12-month period ending August 31, 2010 is included with this newsletter.)

The Committee discussed its review and publication of the *Procedures Manual*. Each committee is encouraged to keep its section of the *Procedures Manual* updated. Committees should submit any proposed additions or changes to the Administration Committee by the end of April. As part of the annual process, the February newsletter will have an article asking the membership for any suggested changes to also be submitted by the end of April. The objective of this timetable is to ensure that any new members joining the organization at the start of the ElderStudy fiscal year will have the most current organization operational procedures to review.

We reviewed our obligations for filing tax information with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and are satisfied that we are complying with all requirements as specified in the IRS exemption letter dated July 16, 2002 and subsequent guidance. In that letter, the IRS stated that unless our sources of support, our purposes, character or method of operation change, ElderStudy is not required to file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax. However, the IRS now requires notification of our status annually. We are in full compliance with IRS requirements.

The Committee does not anticipate that any excess funds will be distributed to the various UMW departments supporting the program during 2009-2010. However, we plan on revisiting this in December once we look at membership for the current year and other factors.

The Committee reviewed the approved budget and spending responsibilities as discussed in our governing documents. If the Committee and the Treasurer are to insure financial integrity and manage our limited resources, it is essential that our governing documents be complied with.

Pursuant to our governing documents, the Committee requested that the Vice-President arrange for an annual audit of the ElderStudy financial records.

The Administrative Committee will meet in Woodard on Wednesday, December 1st. Interested members are welcome to attend all meetings.

Questions: Bob Hanus, Chairperson

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee met on September 1st. We currently have 31 new members joining us for the 2010 – 2011 academic year. To all of you – WELCOME. Your contact sheet lists members who contribute to the various functions that fall within the responsibilities of the Membership Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

This year's luncheon will be held at the Lake of the Woods Clubhouse on Thursday, December 2nd. One of the most attractive aspects of ElderStudy is the opportunity it affords to become acquainted with new colleagues with varied backgrounds and interests. Take the opportunity to meet your colleagues in a social atmosphere and relax. Guests are always welcome. Carolyn and Joe Spero have agreed to sponsor this event. RoseMarie Schlemm will take reservations and collect payments. Eugenia Jones will arrange for entertainment. Further information is contained in the enclosed flyer.

As noted in a separate article, we are in need of a backup to help maintain our website. All that is required is reasonable computer experience and a willingness to learn. This may be your opportunity to help.

The Committee will meet in Woodard on Wednesday, November 3rd. Interested members are welcome to attend all meetings.

Questions: Carole Hanus, Chairperson

MEETING MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

Copies of the minutes of the General Membership Meetings and Board meetings (which also contain committee minutes) are available for your review on our website. *(If you use a dial-up connection, be patient as these are pdf files and take longer to download.)*

Questions: Anne McGrath

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Mark your calendar! The fall General Membership Meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 8th in the Woodard Red Room from 1000 – 1200.

To accomplish anything, we need a quorum! Please plan on attending or request a Proxy as discussed in the *Procedures Manual* to help ensure that we have a quorum for this meeting. Remember, ElderStudy is a membership organization, so take the opportunity to get better acquainted your colleagues and share your views of the ElderStudy program.

Questions: Members of the Board of Directors

AN OPPORTUNITY – HELP MAINTAIN OUR WEBSITE

Our website is designed to keep members informed. Our goal is to update the website within 24 hours of receiving new information. The website also serves as a source of information for individuals who are looking for a Learning in Retirement group in our area.

So - the website is a critical link for the membership. We believe every critical position needs a backup - so we are looking for someone with a reasonable computer background and preferably some web page experience that can help with this task and back up our Webmaster. Updating the site is a pretty simple task - the company that hosts our site has made it easy. If you are interested in learning about maintaining a website and making this one of your ways of contributing to ElderStudy, please contact Anne McGrath at amcgrath08@gmail.com

KEEPING THE MEMBERSHIP LIST CURRENT

Helping us keep the ElderStudy membership list current is important for you. The membership list is the only means that ElderStudy has of contacting you and providing you information such as newsletter mailings, curriculum schedules, updated membership lists, e-mails or telephone calls concerning class changes/cancellations or other timely information. Sure, you can go online to our website for some of this information if you initiate the action, but we may not be able to contact you! Help us by providing any changes to your e-mail address, telephone number or if you move, your home address.

IS YOUR INFORMATION CORRECT?

If you need to update your information or want a copy of the membership list, contact Chuck Johnson who is maintaining the 2010 – 2011 membership list.

Questions: Carole Hanus

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Enclosed is the ElderStudy end of year financial statements for the 12-month period ending August 31, 2010. (The ElderStudy fiscal/membership year is September 1 thru August 31) The Year-End Operations Report provides a summary of our annual income and expenditures for the 2009—2010 period while the Year End Balance Sheet Report describes the financial status of the organization including our projected expenditures for the current year.

Questions: John Thompson, Treasurer

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities and duties of the Curriculum Committee as summarized here are stated in the Memorandum of Understanding and the ElderStudy Constitution and Bylaws.

- Provide diverse, interesting, stimulating academic and cultural classes to the ElderStudy membership using all resources available
- Determine the curriculum, and schedule classes in appropriate facilities
- Encourage continuous contributions and participation from all members
- Maintain the current curriculum offerings and any schedule changes on the ElderStudy web site
- Keep the membership informed of any changes in the curriculum schedule
- Provide updated committee information for the *Procedures Manual* to the Administration Committee
- Develop policies and plans to achieve the above

Questions: Janet Wishner (Chairperson)

ELDERSTUDY RELATED COMMUNITY INFORMATION

For the convenience and protection of its members, ElderStudy has a policy that the membership list, newsletter and e-mail list be used for only the conduct of official business.

We occasionally get requests from outside organizations asking that we publicize events they are sponsoring. Examples are UMW professors holding special functions open to the public or National Park Service special one-time tours and events. In addition, many members wish to be notified of the occasional passing of one of their fellow colleagues or UMW faculty.

To accommodate these special cases, a separate e-mail list is maintained. You must request that you be added to the list by e-mailing Stew Engel at stew@infionline.net with "ES Xtra Info" as the Subject. You may request removal at any time.

NAMETAGS

Each new member receives a permanent nametag as part of his or her initial membership fee. If you need to replace a lost or damaged nametag, the replacement nametags are to be paid for when you request the replacement.

Questions: Miriam Gerard

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

There are two documents, which form the basis for the ElderStudy program at the University of Mary Washington. The first document is the *Memorandum of Understanding* with the University that defines the responsibilities and commitments of both parties. The second is the *Constitution* and *Bylaws*, which defines the purpose of Mary Washington ElderStudy as an outreach program of the University of Mary Washington and provides the organization and structure to facilitate learning through joint study and interaction among interested elder members of the community.

Questions: Bob Hanus

MISPLACED YOUR CLASS SCHEDULE?

You can always check with a friend, but there are other options available to you. You can check our bulletin board located in Chandler 102 or better yet, if you can go online, go to the our website from your residence or the library. If you cannot find the answer on our website, you can even ask questions (and get answers!)

www.ElderStudy.com

what you need to know – when you need to know it!

Questions: Anne McGrath

REMEMBRANCES

Please notify Kay Pearce or a member of the Board of Directors if you become aware that one of our colleagues is ill, in the hospital, or loses a family member.

EXPLORITAS PROGRAMS ARE NO MORE – ANOTHER NEW NAME!

Elderhostel Inc. Programs is now ROAD SCHOLAR. “ROAD” connotes a journey and real-world experience, and “SCHOLAR” reflects a deep appreciation for learning. Together the words capture the heart of the Lifelong Learning program. The organization name remains as Elderhostel and the new name applies to just the Programs. There is also a new website: www.roadscholar.org. Program mailings are placed on the table in

Chandler 102 when they are received. Discover more than 8,000 learning adventures in all 50 states and more than 90 countries abroad. ROAD SCHOLAR offers in-depth and behind-the-scenes learning experiences for almost every interest and ability: history, culture, nature, music, outdoor activities such as walking and biking, individual skills, crafts, study cruises: Enjoy these and many more with the not-for-profit leader in educational travel.

THE CORNERSTONE OF ELDERSTUDY

ElderStudy membership means more than just attending the classes of your choice. Membership means active participation. Active participation means not only attending sessions, but serving on committees as well. Being an involved member is important to assure a wide variety of interesting classes and achieving a smooth functioning organization. By serving on various committees you can help develop the curriculum, assist with administrative tasks, help with membership responsibilities or plan social events. *Active participation is the cornerstone of our “all volunteer” program.*

Questions: Carole Hanus

This newsletter is published by the Membership Committee (Carole Hanus – Chairperson) for the members of the University of Mary Washington Lifelong Learning Institute, Fredericksburg, Virginia. For additional information, visit our website at www.ElderStudy.com or contact our voice mail at (540) 654-1769.