

CELEBRATE 20 COMMITTEE REPORT

JUNE 4, 2013

Prepared by Mary Ann Stana, Committee Co-Chair

Preparations:

Invitations

Suzanne Willis did an excellent job researching contact information for our founders. With input from Peg, Ann and John, Suzanne made many calls and composed a list of 30 members.

I found several styles of invitation wording and the group chose the less formal example. I will submit the copy to Alan and he will print the invitations on ES certificate paper. Eugenia and I have split the list and will address the envelopes.

Eugenia will receive the RSVP phone calls from founding members. (Current members will use the reservation sheet enclosed in the newsletter to sign up to attend and bring a dish.)

Entertainment

After lunch, Larry Turner will read an original poem composed for this occasion. Founding members will be introduced and welcome to share brief memories. Birthday cake will be served. We will sing "Happy Birthday" led by our musical guest, Bob Pfile. Bill Wemmerus contacted Bob Pfile and will assist with transport and set up of equipment.

Birthday Cake

I visited Costco and received a list of cake flavors, sizes, and design options. The committee members chose a white and a chocolate sheet cake, one with Happy Birthday and the other with roses. A third cake will be ordered if attendance numbers warrant it.

Mementos

Sara Fartro suggested an ES lanyard is presented to all attendees. We discussed the budget, and Sara stated she would pay for them if the money was not available. (We feel fairly confident the ES budget will be able to pay this expense.) Sara is going to research styles and prices. Alan will create a name tag to designate founding members.

To celebrate our founding members and the 20th year of ElderStudy, a check for \$200.00 was given to the Chappell Great Lives Lecture Series. Many thanks to John Thompson for composing a letter, writing the check, and mailing it during a cold rain storm.

Decorations

Dot is preparing table runners. They feature the learning tree pictured on the early newsletters, "Plant the seed, Watch it grow, Bear fruit" and names of the 101 ES charter members. A copy of the first ES newsletter will be placed at each table setting.

Eugenia priced helium balloons. Several will be placed near the birthday cake table. Eugenia is looking for crepe paper to add color to the tables, and colorful paper plates will also be used.

Margareta will create a poster on which members may place a slip of paper listing a favorite ES class or memory.

The Luncheon:

The Celebrate 20 and Membership Committees worked together to mark ElderStudy's 20th Birthday and recognize its founders at the Spring Potluck Luncheon on May 16, 2013.

President Phil Hall welcomed the 80+ attendees to the fete and asked founder and current member Peg Johnson to introduce the 9 founders who were able to attend. (The founders in attendance were are Patricia Drake, Larry Glassco, Bobbie Gordon, Ann and John Massaro, Winifred Relyea, Rose Marie Schlemm, Larry Valade, and Peg. Lucy Heartwell had planned to attend, but was unable to be there due to health concerns.)

Larry Glassco shared interesting and humorous insights into the beginnings of Mary Washington ES. Peg also read a letter send by Dr. Stanley L. Groppe, former Dean of Graduate Education at MWC and current Dean Emeritus, who was instrumental in the founding of ES.

Mary Johnson offered a beautiful prayer of gratitude before lunch.

Member Dennis VanDerlaske led us in singing Happy Birthday before our dessert of birthday cake was served. Margaret Williamson encouraged members to record their favorite ES classes, and she and Suzanne Willis read them to our group. Bob Pfile entertained us with wonderful selections. Bob plays the dulcimer and Bill Wemmerus joined him for a song.

ElderStudy and the Celebrate 20 and Membership Committees would like to thank the many members who helped to make this a wonderful "Celebrate 20 Celebration."

As ElderStudy marks 20 years of learning in retirement, we remember and recognize the importance and dedication of our volunteers.

On behalf of Celebrate 20 Committee co-chairs Eugenia Jones and Mary Ann Stana and the Membership Committee and its chair Suzanne Willis and their members, respectfully submitted, Mary Ann Stana