



## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The theme of my column this month is "transitions" because we have three stalwart members that are moving on after serving loyally, faithfully and dependably in critically important ElderStudy positions:

- Anne McGrath is stepping back in order to travel more. I first came to know Anne as our webmaster, but over the years she's served in multiple leadership and support capacities. Most recently, she's been the spark plug behind keeping our very complicated Policies & Procedures in order, a position that requires intimate knowledge of all the moving parts of our organization, as well as solid interpersonal and administrative skills. Whoever fills Anne's position has huge shoes to fill.
  - The Curriculum Committee is the heart and soul of ElderStudy and for many years Bill Wemmerus has been in charge of herding those "cats" with just the right touch. Somehow he ensures everyone is heard and that the very best ideas percolate up into the reality of our wonderfully diverse program. Bill felt it was time for change for over a year, and has finally successfully pried himself out of the position.
  - For many years Chuck Johnson has maintained our membership roster. Like both Anne and Bill, he previously served in a multitude of committee and Board positions, including as our President. Chuck was getting a bit burned out in his current position, but we are incredibly fortunate that he has agreed to accept a big chunk of Bill's job with the Curriculum Committee. He will run the meetings, handle the budget and interface with the Board, with Joe Alfred providing technical support and handling the course scheduling. That's a lot of moving deck chairs, and the final touch is that Jack Sulima has agreed to replace Chuck in managing the membership roster.
- Thanks to all of you who make ElderStudy what it is. And to whomever is willing to take over handling Policies & Procedures, you'll get to work with wonderful people, and it's not necessarily a lifetime commitment (though perhaps we can arrange that).

Best regards,

Chuck Watkins President

### **ElderStudy Administration Committee Meeting: February 24, 2015**

The next Administration Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 24 at 1 PM in the ElderStudy Classroom. Discussion topics will include: Treasurer's Report of the preliminary mid-year financial status, a kick-off of the 2015-2016 Budget Development process, a kick-off of the 2015 Policy & Procedure Document Review, and other topics as requested by Admin Committee members. The Preliminary Financial Reports will be updated on March 1 for presentation to the Board of Directors; following Board approval, the mid-year financial reports will be made available to the membership and to the University Representative. [John Thompson, Admin Committee Chair.]

### **General Membership Meeting March 18: Membership Decisions**

The next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday morning, March 18 at 10 AM. The Membership will be making decision on two very important matters:

- (a) **Election of 3 New Directors** to serve 3-year terms beginning September 1, 2015. Biographies of the candidates and ballots will be provided by the Board Secretary in advance of the meeting. Members may bring their ballots to the March 18 Meeting **OR** they may mail their ballots to: Mary Washington ElderStudy, Attn: Board Secretary, 1301 College Avenue, Fredericksburg VA 22401-5358. Mail-in ballots must be received by 3 PM on Tuesday, March 17. Ballots will be counted during a "break" in the Meeting agenda.
- (b) **Approval of Revisions to the ElderStudy Governing Documents** as stated in Chapter A of the Policy & Procedures Document. Board recommended revisions to the Constitution and to the By-Laws will be posted in advance of the meeting on the ElderStudy website ([www.ElderStudy.com](http://www.ElderStudy.com)) and will be mailed to those members who have elected to receive ElderStudy information via postal service. Voting on this matter will be done at the March 18 General Membership Meeting as part of the New Business agenda.

[submitted by the Administration Committee Chairman]

### **ElderStudy 2015-2016 Budget Call**

In accordance with ElderStudy Procedures, it is time to prepare a tentative operating budget for the 2015-2016 Program Year (September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016). Budget inputs are hereby requested from the President, the standing Committees, the Treasurer, the Board of Directors, and the membership.

**DUE DATE:** Budget information should be submitted in writing to the Administration Committee Chairperson **NOT LATER THAN April 28, 2015**. Subsequently, the members of the Administration Committee will review and consolidate the various inputs received. A Budget Recommendation will be prepared by the Committee at its May 26<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting for subsequent submittal to and approval by the Board of Directors at their Quarterly Meeting to be held on June 3, 2015.

{John Thompson, Administration Committee Chair, }

### **CALL FOR CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES Deadline for Submissions: May 1, 2015**

**The annual “Call for Changes” to the ElderStudy *Policies and Procedures* (P&P) is hereby announced to the Membership, to the Board of Directors, and to the Standing Committees.**

ElderStudy members are encouraged to participate in the annual review of the **Policies and Procedures** document. Proposed changes should be submitted to John Thompson for the Administration Committee to review. The Administration Committee will present the suggested/recommended changes to the Board at the Board Meeting on June 3 if Board approval is required. (Reference: *Policies and Procedures*, Section E, Administration Committee, p. E-1).

Please include a copy of the 2014 *P&P* page, and a copy of the proposed revised page (or section), or a new page if applicable. *Policy & Procedures* is on the website; individual pages can be printed out. A Reading Copy is also available in the Classroom.

You may send changes to John electronically ), or by hard copy (Mary Washington ElderStudy, Attn: Admin Committee, 1301 College Avenue, Fredericksburg VA 22401-5358).

## **KEY POINTS FROM GENERAL MEMBERSHIP (10/15/14) AND BOARD (12/03/14) MEETINGS**

*(Submitted by Randy Fennemore from the minutes to comply with a secretarial duty in the Policies and Procedure Manual)*

### **10/15/14 General Membership Meeting**

Officers for 2014-15 year are Chuck Watkins, President; Barbara Barrett, Vice President; Randy Fennemore, Secretary; John Thompson, Treasurer and Chair of Administration; Bill Wemmerus, Curriculum; and Patricia Parkinson, Membership.

Dr. Mark Safferstone is returning as the UMW Representative to Elderstudy. Excessive funds from 2013-14 budget were used to fund grants to UMW academic departments whose professors presented programs to Elderstudy. Policy and Procedures Manual except for Section A was completed and approved by Board.

Wendell Anderson volunteered to conduct annual audit.

Subcommittee chaired by Anne McGrath would be reviewing and revising the Policy and Procedures Manual Part A and would present recommendations to the Board at its December 3, 2014 meeting.

### **12/03/14 Board Meeting!**

Revenues are sufficient to cover the approved budget and additional revenues are anticipated from half-year new memberships.

John Parkinson is the new ElderStudy Webmaster.

Chuck Watkins activated the Nominating Committee for the March 2015 election.

Wendell Anderson conducted the annual audit and detected no errors. The ES Financial Program status remains excellent.

Because of rising costs from the caterer juice will no longer be ordered for the General Membership Meetings.

The following expenses were approved by the Board: Purchase of additional name tag lanyards; \$200 additional funds for the Curriculum Committee to cover speaker fees; \$75 for supplies for Prof. Kelli Slunt's presentation; and \$1,000 for the UMW BLS Scholarship.

Bill Wemmerus announced his retirement from the Curriculum Committee effective January 2015. Bill has been the Scheduler for the past 14 years and the Chair and Scheduler for the past few years.

## February 2015 Membership Committee

MC volunteers, Eugenia Jones and Carolyn Sulima ended the 2014 year with the Holiday season luncheon at Lake of the Woods and “Becky Y’ Slam” Music Styles and good food. Ninety-nine members attended, and “wow” Carolyn kept reservations straight. Both preformed a great job.

Happy 2015 New Year to everyone with an invitation to attend the next Membership Committee meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 11 AM in the CLL room. The Curriculum Committee has the New Year sessions ready. Spread the word! Membership has “Half Year”, or “One Year Plus” applications available online for New Members with sensible registration fees, and the “Road Scholar” survey is available for all members feedback.

The Membership committee is already being industrious. It is projecting plans for the next General Meeting for all to attend on March 18, 2015, as well as the Pot Luck in May. Membership Committee is still seeking volunteers to make a sub-committee to update Membership Committee Policy and Procedures by April, and a secretary for February Meeting. Everyone is welcome to join. If you have any interests or questions, call me.

Patricia Parkinson

## 2015 Board of Directors Election: General Information

At the March 18, 2015 General Membership Meeting, the membership will be electing 3 individuals to serve on the Board of Directors for three-year terms beginning September 1, 2015 and ending August 31, 2018. Information on the 5 candidates for this election is being provided by the Board Secretary to each member in this newsletter. Ballots will be mailed separately as most members receive this newsletter electronically. The ballots will be mailed the end of February.

All ballots must be returned in person at the meeting or by U. S. Postal Service by 10:00 a.m. on March 18 to be counted in this election. Blank Ballots will **NOT** be available at the meeting. E-mail submission will **NOT** be accepted since ballots will remain sealed until the meeting is called to order and the official counting begins. The address to use to mail the ballot will be provided with the ballot.

## MEET THE ELDERSTUDY CANDIDATES

### JACK ALLISON

Jack was born in Fredericksburg and spent his childhood in the area. He graduated from James Monroe High School and received an Associate Degree in Electronics Technology from Richmond Professional Institute (later VCU). After graduation he joined the U. S. Navy and served four years during the Vietnam War as an Aviation Electronics Technician at the Naval Air Station Kingsville TX and on the Franklin D. Roosevelt aircraft carrier. After completing his military obligation he was employed by an English medical company which produced ultrasound scanners. He was the Senior Technical Engineer for their U. S. division and traveled extensively. Next Jack moved into the area of medical x-ray equipment sales to stay closer to Fredericksburg, build his home in Spotsylvania and marry Mary Ann Stana. He enjoyed a varied career after marriage and finished his working years with a position at Giant Food. Jack's hobbies include reading, technology, cooking and gardening.

### JOAN D. BITELY

#### Education

- BA in English, State University of New York at Albany
- Master of Library Science, Syracuse University

#### Work Experience

- Elementary School Media Specialist in several states during a 30 year period

#### Personal

- Moved to Falls Run (a 55 and over community) in 2005
- Served 3 years on Falls Run Villa Board
- Have a full appreciation of the need to follow governing documents of any board as well as requirements from UMW and the state of VA.
- Served on a variety of committees on the Fall Run Community Board
- Chairperson for England Run Friends of the Library
- Chairperson for Falls Run Tennis Group
- Active participant in the University of Mary Washington Elder Study activities
- Member of a panel presentation on Africa travel for Elder Study
- Extensive travel to a variety of countries including Africa, France, Spain, The Netherlands, Peru, Australia, Costa Rica and Canada
- Interests include music, reading, tennis, travel and environmental issues
- Widowed after 50 years of marriage; 2 children

**CHARLES (CHUCK) JOHNSON**

In 2003, after 31 years on active duty with the United States Air Force and ten years as senior investigator for the Virginia Department of Health Professions, I retired with my wife Mary to the Fredericksburg area. We immediately joined ElderStudy and have been members since that time. I have previously served on the Board and served as Secretary to the Board and later as President of the Board. I currently serve on the Membership and Curriculum Committees. My view of the current status of ElderStudy is that it has never been functioning with greater efficiency and effectiveness than it is today. My view of what the focus of the Board should be is simply to ensure that we maintain the organization's current direction. The best way to accomplish this is focus on the activities of our three permanent committees and ensure they have all necessary resources and backing to do their job.

**DOROTHY MEYERS**

Dot is a graduate of Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, with a major in Biology and a minor in Math. She taught school for several years in Delaware and Pennsylvania before moving to Fredericksburg in 1986. She and her daughter bought the business, Frame Designs on College Avenue, and they are still going strong. Dot joined ElderStudy several years ago, is a member of the Book Group, and the Editor of the Newsletter.

**ROSE M. WESSON**

I would like to serve on the board of directors in an effort to apply my experiences as an educator from all levels of education, to assist in providing episodes of life long learning. I have enjoyed and learned much from those sessions I have attended during my 11 years of membership and would hope to be a positive influence to the organization as a member of its board of directors.

*Photos of the candidates are on the bulletin board in the classroom.*

*(This newsletter is prepared by Dorothy Meyers with the help of many of the members)*

December 15, 2014

Mr. Bill Toomey, President

Mary Washington ElderStudy Program

1301 College Avenue

Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Mr. Toomey,

I was the recipient of the Mary Washington ElderStudy Scholarship for a BLS Student for the fall 2014 semester. I cannot begin to thank you and the ElderStudy group enough for supporting my academic goals. When I received the call from Dr. Ana Chichester that I had been chosen for the scholarship, I was very humbled. Your assistance was also very timely as I had some unpaid medical bills from an unexpected hospital visit.

My academic path has not been the traditional one. I was accepted to the University of Virginia in 1988, and while I loved Mr. Jefferson's Academical Village, I had a terrible personal and academic experience there. For over 20 years, that failure haunted me until I decided to go back to school. As a single working dad, it has not been an easy path. It has meant a lot of sacrifices for my sons for the promise of a better future. I truly believe that I would not be achieving my level of success without their full support. I am very blessed to have two sons who have sold out to our goals as a family. My efforts have reinforced the importance of a higher education for them in their futures. It is something we discuss often.

In closing, I thank you again for your support, for investing in my education and my future success. It has made a big difference in my life and my ability to pursue a full-time academic schedule this semester. Your investment will pay off and I will pay it forward. I have been challenged academically this semester and I have risen to those challenges. I have undergone significant growth academically and professionally, and I fully expect 2015 to be my best year ever!

Best Regards,



**Christopher H. Snider**

Leadership and Management Student

University of Mary Washington

[CSnider@mail.umw.edu](mailto:CSnider@mail.umw.edu)

