



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We've just suffered our first hard freeze of the season, the stores are clogged with shoppers, the interstates are clogged with travelers, so ready-or-not, the Holiday Season is upon us—enjoy!

Eugenia Jones and Carolyn Sulima are finalizing plans for our Winter Luncheon as I write this, but based on their proven record of working with the staff at Lake of the Woods clubhouse, I'm confident as you read this, that's now another fondly remembered ElderStudy experience. Thanks to them, and to all who so willingly support the outreach efforts of our Membership Committee.

The highlight of this Newsletter edition is the enclosed schedule of lectures and tours for next semester. Our Curriculum Committee has developed another wonderfully eclectic line-up of lectures and tours. Many thanks to Chuck Johnson and Joe Alfred for their leadership and to each of the sponsors for coming up with the ideas, selecting the best of the best, developing course descriptions, and for shepherding and introducing our guest speakers.

Congratulations to Treasurer John Thompson for again scoring a "clean" financial audit. Our thanks to Wendell Anderson who volunteered his time and expertise in conducting the audit, thus ensuring the ElderStudy Financial Program remains in outstanding shape.

December is the month in our annual operations cycle when we seek the general membership's nominations for election of three members to serve three-year terms on the Board of Directors. Retiring Board members Randy Fennemore, John Thompson and myself constitute the Nominating Committee. We will consider all names submitted to us by you, and will also solicit other nominees as needed to sustain our organization. No one will be nominated without his/her prior consent. We need your nominations no later than Friday, January 22nd in order to allow time to gather a short biographical sketch and photo so that Dottie Meyers can publish those in the February ElderStudy newsletter. Nominees will be voted on at our March 16th General Membership Meeting.

After several years of dedicated service, both Pat Parkinson and John Thompson have asked that we find replacements for them next year as Chairs of Membership and Administration Committee. As President, I have the responsibility to identify and present for the Board's approval their replacements, and am still in need of a capable volunteer to replace John. This is a rewarding, yet demanding position and we need to find someone willing to get involved in learning how our organization operates. Subject to the Board's approval, John's willing to serve a bit longer as Treasurer, but is also willing to "turn over the books" if someone capable is interested. You must be able to balance a checkbook and keep records of receipts and expenditures. Your assistance in finding the right person would be greatly appreciated, and self-nominations are great too.

Chuck Watkins

Administration Committee and Treasurer's Reports

The Administration Committee held its most recent quarterly meeting on November 24th in the Center For Lifelong Learning. A Tentative Agenda was issued about two weeks in advance of the meeting; this agenda was also posted on the ElderStudy website.

The Treasurer provided preliminary financial reports for the period from September 1 to November 23. Income from membership fees slightly exceeds the amount necessary to fully fund the approved 2015-2016 budget. Additional new memberships are anticipated in December and January. When the First Quarter Financial Reports are approved by the Board of Directors at its December 2 Quarterly Meeting, they will be posted on the ElderStudy website and will be provided to our University Representative in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding with the University.

Under New Business, the Committee received a preliminary report regarding the 2014-2015 Annual Audit conducted by Member Wendell Anderson. This audit did not reveal any deficiencies in the ElderStudy financial system. Upon approval of the Audit Report by the Board, the Treasurer will file the ElderStudy Federal Tax Return for the period September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015.

Also under New Business, the Committee developed a recommendation regarding the BLS Scholarship to be provided to the University for the 2016-2017 academic year. The recommended amount is consistent with the approved budget. Approval of the recommendation will be requested at the December 2 Board Meeting.

The next meeting of the Administration Committee is scheduled for February 23, 2016 at 1 PM in the Center for Lifelong Learning. ElderStudy Members are welcome to participate.

Respectfully, John Thompson, Committee Chair

Preparations for the ElderStudy 2016-2017 year are underway. There is an urgent need for member involvement in the planning and operation of the organization. **NEED #1** is for members to volunteer as candidates for the 3 Director vacancies (3-year terms beginning September 1); elections will be held at the March 2016 General Membership Meeting. **NEED #2** is for a member to volunteer to become chairperson of the Administration Committee; the Board will fill this position at its June 2016 meeting. **NEED #3** is for a member to volunteer to become the Treasurer beginning in August 2016; the Board desires to approve this appointment at its June 2016 meeting. Members interested in any of these positions should contact the Nominating Committee (Chuck Watkins, Randy Fennemore, or John Thompson) at your earliest opportunity in consideration of the decision dates listed in the **NEEDS** statements.

Membership Committee Report

ElderStudy is 6very eventful this year. During preparation for the Fall Membership General Meeting Carolyn Sulima received Dr. Mark Safferstone's offer to provide the catering services for the October 2015 General Meeting. Chuck Watkins provided appreciation to Dr. Safferstone who contributed the refreshments and for all of his help making improvements to the ElderStudy LifeLong Learning Center. Dr. Safferstone expressed that since ElderStudy is a complete volunteer organization, designing a curriculum to continuing learning , the organization enriches the University of Mary Washington's major purpose of education.

Our November meeting confirmed the Lake of the Wood's Season Greetings Luncheon is arranged and ready for all reservations. Five MC volunteers allotted their time have a future subcommittee meeting to upgrade the Membership committee policy and procedure Section G Appendix. The Section G was noted that it did not need further editing.

Peggy Gratz is providing her time and effort providing remembrances, or get-well recovery cards to current ElderStudy members. In the past errors with like named individuals were noted in Fredericksburg area, so if you know of any members with illness and such please call or email Peggy. She greatly appreciates your assistance in her duty.

Patricia Parkinson , Membership Chair

Peggy Gratz can be contacted by phone, 540-654-1769, leave a message. She can be reached by email also. Check your membership list for her information.

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.

Curriculum Committee Report

Based on the feedback we have received, it appears there is enough interest to proceed with a session on learning and playing pickle ball. We have arranged time with the Smith Station Road YMCA to conduct this session. The date is Feb 16, 2016 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. For more details on pickle ball, please see the Curriculum Committee's comments in the October 2015 newsletter. Please note that those of you who previously indicated an interest in learning about pickle ball still need to provide a final input that you will be attending the session. Note that attendance will be limited to 24 players. To sign up please email or call Bill Wemmerus (borswemmerus@verizon.net - 540 972-9673) or Chuck Johnson (cjeagle@verizon.net - 540 891-1219).

Directions to the YMCA, 5700 Smith Station Road, 540 735-9622, are as follows:

Directions are for using Route 1 starting from Exit 126 off of I-95.

Go south on Route 1 for approximately 1 mile

Turn right onto Spotsylvania Parkway (CVS Pharmacy is on corner)

At second traffic light (approximately 2 miles), turn left onto Smith Station Road.

YMCA is located 1.2 miles on right.

Once at the YMCA, check in at the front desk and get directions to the gymnasium.

Now that the spring 2016 schedule has been finalized, the Curriculum Committee has already started to contemplate topics for fall 2016 and will begin focusing on the fall schedule in January 2016. As part of this process, the Curriculum Committee is always seeking ElderStudy members who would be willing to help in developing our schedule and be willing to join the committee. We would especially like to encourage our newer members who have joined us in the past few years to become more involved. In this regard, Alan Zirkle and Joe Alfred have done an excellent job in retrieving data relating to previous ElderStudy sessions dating back to 1996 and in entering the information into a data base. Since we have so many new members that have joined in recent years, many of the programs from years gone by would be appropriate to present again. In this regard, we are encouraging our new members to review the class schedule archives and to assess whether some of the previous sessions can be reprised. If you feel you would like to become involved, be willing to sponsor a program, and be willing to contact a previous speaker to see if they would be willing to again talk to ElderStudy, feel free to contact any Curriculum Committee member for any assistance in setting up a program or simply attend a future Curriculum Committee meeting which are listed in the schedule. The archives has been entered onto the ElderStudy website and can be found by clicking on Curriculum, then on Schedule, and then on Look Through Summary of Sessions. If you have any questions you can also contact me via email or telephone (cjeagle@verizon.net - 540 891-1219).

Please note we have a number of offsite programs during the spring semester, and many have space limitations and require a formal sign up. I would encourage members to sign up early, and if they determine at a later date they cannot make the session, to let the sponsor know as soon as possible as there are most likely individuals on a waiting list.

Chuck Johnson, Chairperson, Curriculum Committee

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.

MISSION STATEMENT

The objective of the Lifelong Learning of Mary Washington ElderStudy is to design and execute an academic program to suit the interests of retirement-age people who share a love of learning and to be a positive influence in the community. It is an **all volunteer** organization and welcomes input and new ideas from all the members. If you like to get involved with good learning, good people and a friendly atmosphere, then ElderStudy is the place for you. Please volunteer when ever you can and help make this organization the best it can be.

HAPPY HOLIDAY TO ALL.

[www .http//elderstudy.com](http://elderstudy.com)

What you need to know- when you need to know it!

