



LIVING AND
LEARNING IN
RETIREMENT

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Look for us at: www.llir.ca

Fall
2014
Edition

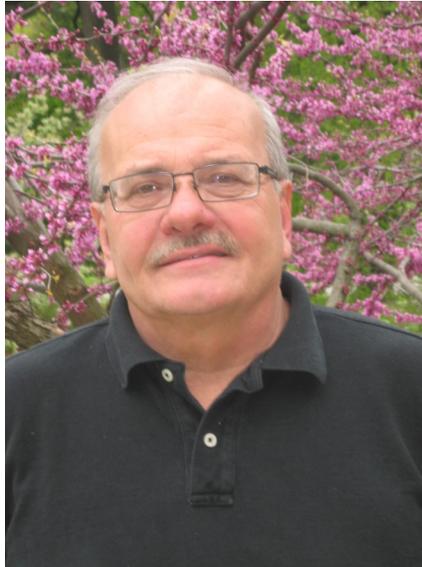
The President's Message - Norbert Hartmann

President's Message

LLIR is a healthy, vibrant and exciting community of learners. We are now over 1,000 members strong and the demand for what we offer continues to grow. Our waiting list of 300 would be even larger if we were to open it up further.

Coping with growth and pent-up demand has spurred us on to new practices and procedures. Your embrace of technology to replace many of the manual paper-based processes of the past has helped us immensely in responding to your needs. Whether it is our user-friendly, simple-to-navigate and highly informative website, the ability to download forms to offer course suggestions and course evaluation, our web-based newsletter or our new process for electronic registration and payment, it is a medium which allows us to serve you better in a more effective manner, as we continue to grow. None of this would have been possible without the work of a dedicated group of volunteers led by Gaylen Racine. Molly Greenwood and Bruce McCallum. Look for exciting developments in this area over the next year.

We have also formalized a new category of service to LLIR – the



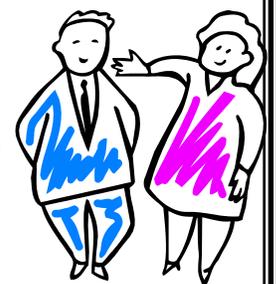
volunteer committee member. It will allow us to harness the talents of our members in specific areas of expertise by having them sit on the working committees of our Board without the requirement of two years membership, full duties of a director or the long term commitment asked of full Board members. And these are positions for which we will be formally recruiting. So this year we are welcoming not only three new directors – Alan Boulton, Bob Clapp and Gary Schlee – but also three persons – Bill Goodings, Del Milbrandt and Dianne Hare who have volunteered to act in this capacity should committees need assistance. This too is a process that is in its infancy and will be further developed by our Past President Carole Langford. I would like to thank Carole, not

only for her work as your President over the past year, but for also taking on this important task in the coming year.

Finally I would like to thank the following long-serving members of the Board -- Madeleine Nevins, Dick Cousland, Anne Gilbert, Peter Stille and Bill Rosenitsch – for their outstanding contributions to our success. They will be missed.

Goodbye Attendance-Takers. Hello Greeters!

It is the most visible change at LLIR this year -- no more attendance taking. But we still need volunteers to pass out identification badges at the start of term. -- and to help distribute course evaluation forms and newsletters. But most importantly to welcome everyone with a friendly smile. So say hello to the new classroom assistants – aka the greeters! And help them out by wearing your name tag when you arrive for class each week.



Going Digital

From Paper to Pixels: What it means for you.

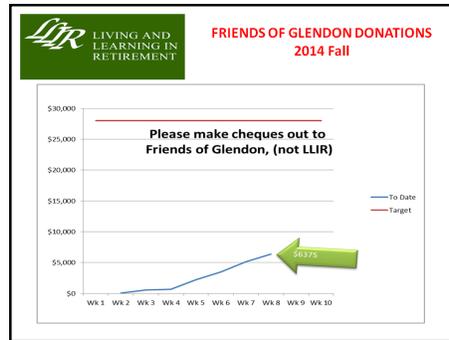
In the past three years, LLIR has been moving steadily into the digital age. The changes have taken place in a variety of ways and the Board has been working hard to ensure that members are comfortable with the evolution. The reasons for the changes are simple. Online communication makes it possible to connect more quickly, efficiently and cost-effectively. Those benefits have grown in importance when you consider that LLIR has more 1,000 members. Here are some of the ways we're embracing the new technology:

1. The new, independent website was launched in 2011. Before that, LLIR piggy-backed on the Glendon website. Now we have the ability to update the site regularly. At 'llir.ca' you not only



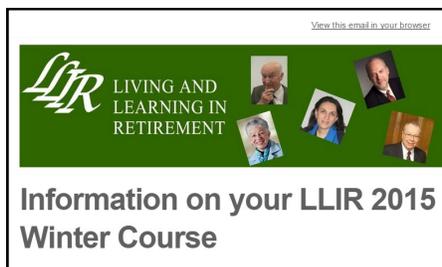
have access to up-to-date information about the organization – including this newsletter – you can also read or print your course outlines and find out quickly if the winter storm outside might mean cancelled classes. The guru behind the new website – and many other online changes – is Board member/webmaster Gaylen Racine.

2. Screen slides before class began appearing in 2012. Using PowerPoint, we're able to share important information with you while you wait for the class to



start. It also takes some pressure off the course co-chairs when it comes to announcements at the beginning of class.

3. By emailing information to members – something that began in 2013 – LLIR has been able to reduce the need for postal mailouts by about 70%. The cost savings have been significant, as has the sigh of relief from volunteers formerly faced with a pile of more than 800 envelopes that needed to be stuffed, licked, and stamped each term. We're using a web-based program called MailChimp to handle our email blasts.



One difficulty we're encountering is that some LLIR members (eg. spouses) share the same email address. Because Mailchimp rejects duplicate addresses, it becomes necessary to send out messages twice – particularly targeted emails like course confirmations. If you share an email address and have a second, separate address, using it would make it easier for

us ensure you get your information quickly and efficiently.

4. People joining our waitlist in early 2014 were able to do it online. This saved the membership/registrar team countless hours that would have otherwise been spent on the phone to make

Please note. By providing your email address, you are giving LLIR explicit permission to send you electronic communications related to our organization. We are using email addresses to send notifications and materials to members. Applicants **must** have an email address that can accommodate this. If you cannot, or do not wish to receive electronic communications, please do not apply.

Submit one application per person.

FIRST NAME*

LAST NAME*

STREET*

CITY AND PROVINCE* Include province e.g. Toronto, ON

POSTAL CODE*

it happen. Incidentally, all new members are now required to have an email address.

5. Our biggest change has been the move to online course registration this year. Associate Registrar Molly Greenwood has put in many hours working with a professional developer to build the system and link it to our FileMaker Pro database. As a result, LLIR has been able to eliminate the tedious manual input of about 1,600 pieces of data into the database, as well as save the considerable time formerly taken in the handling and banking cheques. The results for our first year of online registration were pretty impressive. More than 80% of our members registered online, and three-quarters of that group used PayPal to pay for their courses. Our hope is to build on that trend by encouraging the remaining members to take advantage of signing up online. We know that



some people aren't online and that others with email are reluctant to commit to signing up digitally. That's why we're exploring ways of providing tutorial sheets and workshops for members looking for help. Watch for details about these.

Lots of changes. What it means for you is a quick, reliable way to interact with LLIR. The rapid growth of our organization in the past few years means it simply isn't feasible to fill courses manually anymore. Nor is it affordable to rely on mail for all of our communication (something that will be even less attractive when home delivery disappears). By avoiding soaring mail costs, we'll be able to control course fees more effectively.

Face-to-face communication will remain an important part of what we do, but our journey into the brave new digital frontier moves us beyond Fridays.

Gary Schlee

Fiction and Fact from Sam's Almanac

Sophocles was 89 when he wrote Oedipus at Colonus, one of his dramatic masterpieces.

Mary Baker Eddy was 86 when she founded the Christian Science Monitor newspaper.

Volunteering

As past president of LLIR I head the nominating committee and my job is to recruit that precious resource at LLIR – volunteers.

With our expanded membership, now more than ever we need your help. I know that you all have busy lives and like to travel and have other commitments but we are searching for volunteers. The depth of commitment can vary from serving on a committee that only meets a few times a year, or helping to collate course suggestions and evaluations.

Perhaps you would consider becoming a back-up co-chair in the class you have already chosen, and filling in for 2 or 3 weeks when a co-chair has to be away. We would like to establish a cadre of volunteers that we can call on when needed, not for a huge commitment, but whatever you feel you can contribute. We value your time and do much of our work by email.

Volunteering benefits both LLIR and the volunteer by strengthening trust, solidarity, and reciprocity among members. We offer you this opportunity to participate and become more closely involved with LLIR - it's fun and you get to know some terrific people.

Volunteering is one of the beautiful compensations in life - to be able to give back to an organization that you take pride in. Remember that some of the richest people in the world are not millionaires - they are volunteers.

There is no "I" in team but there is a "U" in volunteer.

Please consider helping LLIR by offering your time and talents. Contact volunteering@llir.ca.

Carole Langford

Friends of Glendon Report

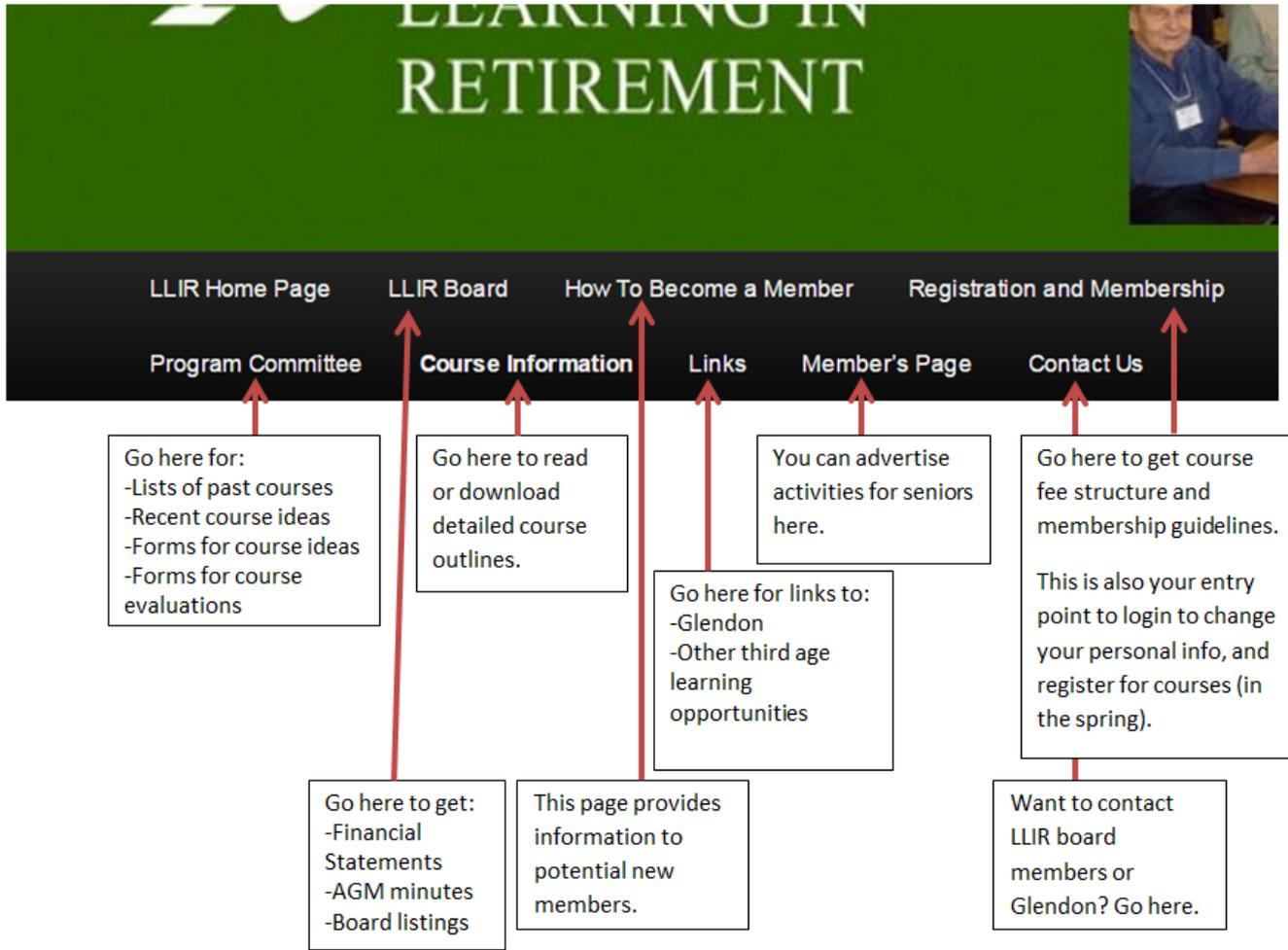
The FoG Board of Directors has asked me to extend a big thank you to all LLIR Members for their generous contributions during the 2013/14 academic year. Our goal was \$26,000 however we contributed \$31,000! This is an impressive achievement and I am extremely proud of our membership.

These donations were over and above the \$25,000 contribution made to FoG, in September 2013, celebrating LLIR's 40th anniversary. Our community is clearly a generous one that is concerned, not only about its own ongoing learning, but also wanting to contribute to the learning opportunities for the coming generations.

LLIR members have contributed more than \$ 600,000 to FoG during the 40 years since the first course began at Glendon. Several Bursaries and Scholarships were developed with these funds as well as the ongoing general assistance program. Your generosity has helped many students complete their studies at Glendon. The Goal for the 2014/15 academic year has been set at \$28,000. Lets all work together to at least meet this goal and if possible surpass it again!

Berit Dullerud

WHAT'S WHERE ON OUR WEBSITE, LLIR.ca.



An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen. The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, "Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great. I would recommend it highly." The other man said, "What is the name of the restaurant?"

The first man thought and thought and finally said, "What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know... The one that's red and has thorns." "Do you mean a rose?" "Yes, that's the one," replied the man.

He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, "Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?"

New Snow Day Protocol.
Our past practice of calling 900 members on the morning of a snow day cancellation has become too onerous. In the future, a cancellation notice will be posted on the home page of our website by 7:15 AM.



Those without web access can call 416-787-7333 and listen to the message.

A warning heard in Iain Scott's opera course.



"Run for your lives! It's the full 'Ring' cycle!"

"Run for your lives. It's the full Ring Cycle"