



# Lifelong Learners

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO

# Newsletter

Spring 2012

*“Lifelong Learning for Age 55 and Over”*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK . . . .

What a winter!!! It’s almost nice enough to make me happy to be here and not in Florida! Actually we are very happy to be spending the winter here. For one thing, we did not have to pack our suitcases and the car for a two-month stay. That’s gotten harder and harder every year. I’ve also had a chance to attend a couple of the MALL classes that were great. RECYCLING, LGBT DEVELOPMENT, and ARAB SPRING were all super worthwhile!

Now a few news items. **Item 1:** Patrice Hundstad is our new MALL office manager. She joined us shortly after January 1, taking over from Barbara Jackman. Barb decided to spend more time in her chosen vocation and return to her ministerial-related responsibilities. Barb was with us a year and made a significant contribution to the organization. We wish her well in her chosen field and we’re pleased to have her continue as a MALL volunteer.

Patrice brings us a bundle of office and computer experience. It includes computer consulting work, office support work in a number of positions and in customer service. She currently serves as a volunteer at BE County Historical Society. In the short time she has been with us she has had a significant impact in the computer area and in stream-lining some of our office procedures. I feel we were extremely lucky to connect with her and have her accept our offer. Her current plans are to work in the MALL office Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 to 1 P.M. Office phone number: 389-2011. Her office email: patrice.hundstad@mnsu.edu. Got a MALL question? Call her and she’ll get you the answer!

**Item 2:** Our current financial situation leaves something to be desired. We’re currently in the hole. Limited

resources put us in a bind in how we operate. We can’t communicate with you in the manner we should. It limits our ability to advertise our programs and attract new members. It impacts our ability to conduct our day-to-day business. A partial solution is to increase our membership base and thus our income. Our goal is to add 50 new members in 2012. We are looking for ways to make that happen. So far this year we have added one new member. UGH! Our total membership currently is 194.

One tool we want to use is recognition of current members who are successful in recruiting new members. Every organization that I talk to that is similar to ours says their best source of new members is “Word of mouth.” We’re no different. So tell your friends about us. Give their name and address to Patrice, and she’ll send them a personal letter naming you as the source and extending an invitation to them to join MALL. She’ll also send out current program information and a free pass to attend one of our classes.

A second incentive that Harriet and I are offering to the **first** member (and spouse or guest) who brings in seven new members is a dinner at the Kent house with all the trimmings. (She’s an excellent cook, and I ain’t bad.) Bring in 10 new members and you can bring another couple with you! We’d really like to see this “prize” collected!

**Item 3:** The MALL Computer Club, while a thing of interest to a few folks, did not generate enough participation to warrant its continuation. Attendees numbered in the range of 15 to 20, and while that number might have grown in the future, no one came forth to accept a leadership role. So we will not be promoting the formation of a computer “club.” In the future we will sponsor computer-related classes in our regular class offerings.

**Item 4:** Another one of our goals for 2012 is to develop a MALL Marketing Plan to foster the MALL mission by identifying and offering members programs and services to broaden their educational and social opportunities. We will utilize these programs and services to attract new members to our organization from our service area. The Department of Integrated Marketing at Minnesota State Mankato is developing the plan in part based on information we provide to them. The first step in developing this information is to survey our members and some potential members as to the types of programs and services they would like us to provide. This survey will be distributed in the next few weeks, and we hope to get a quick response from a broad base of our members. YOUR INPUT/ OPINION is important. It'll help us identify and plan for our future activities. If there are two members in your household, please complete two surveys. The broader the response, the better we'll be able to meet your needs.

*Jack Kent*

### **Great Decisions KICK OFF in April**

*by Carlienne Frisch, Program Co-Chair,  
cafrisch@hickorytech.net*

As program co-chairs for Great Decisions, Elizabeth Peters and I welcome all of you who have registered. We'll meet 2-4 P.M., the second Wednesday of the month, April through November, at the United Church of Christ, on the corner of Stoltzman and Stadium Roads.

Thank you to those who have already committed to leading a topic, either as the presenter or as the discussion facilitator. Bruce Birkemeyer has committed to our April 11th topic – Middle East realignment. Elizabeth Peters will lead the May 9th discussion on Indonesia. The session about Mexico will be led by Dave Janovy on June 13th. On September 12th, Gayle Anderson will discuss the state of the oceans.

Other topics to be discussed are the U.S. exit from Afghanistan and Iraq, cyber security, and energy geopolitics. The persons who volunteer to lead these topic discussions may choose July 11th, August 8th, October 10th or November 14th as their date. I plan to get a speaker for the topic of promoting democracy, but will choose the month after others have chosen theirs.

## ***CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT***

*by Carlienne Frisch, cafrisch@hickorytech.net*

While enjoying our mild, nearly snowless winter, the committee has begun arranging classes for Spring Quarter. We will again have our spring mainstay – bird walks led by Merrill Frydendall on the first four Thursday mornings of May. Other spring classes include weather/climate/global warming, roundabouts and other traffic concerns, what happens when you call an ambulance, the U.S.-Dakota treaties, sports injuries, who am I and how did I get here, history and tour of Good Counsel, organ restoration (musical, not medical), Minnesota State Mankato and the future in higher education, and one or two more.

**Next Curriculum Committee meetings:  
10 A.M. on Wednesday,  
April 4 and May 2,  
North Mankato Taylor Library.**

### ***“REMINISCING” PROJECT***

Copies of “Reminiscing” — a book of short stories written by members of Lifelong Learners — are still available. They may be obtained by contacting Harold Burch, 507-387-2439 (hdeeburch@gmail.com) or Bob Utermohlen, 507-387-7774 (mbuter2@charter.net) or the MALL office.

Cost: \$18 per copy. Checks should be made payable to MALL.

### ***MORE NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .***

*. . . Jack Kent, jackk1931@gmail.com*

### **A New Data Base**

The MALL membership numbers about 200 and it changes a little each year. Each member has a number of pieces of information about their activity in the organization: classes they attend, special events, pot lucks, Great Decisions and more. And then there is the personal data. Name, address, phone number,

volunteer status, email information and financial data (dues and fees paid). It'd also be nice to have a central source of organizational information to track MALL activity over time: When was the last time we offered a class on Ethics? Who was the speaker on The Arab Spring? How many attended The Art Walk class? This type of information would be helpful in developing new classes and activities.

For 200 members and 100 plus classes and activities a year, that's a lot of information. Unfortunately we don't have all of that information, and what we do have is not in one place. Patrice, our new Office Manager is, going to be developing a data base system that will provide a "home" for all of that information. Then she will collect data from new members as they join MALL. The gap in our personal data base will be the lack of information on our current members. The plan, sometime in the near future, is to contact each of our members...by mail initially...to develop this information. It's a lot of data, but we do need it to best serve you. We'll be in touch with each member. Please respond to the first inquiry.

Patrice will also be developing the database for all of our organizational activity so information is readily available within a short time frame. This will enhance access to our records significantly.

## **So You Wanna Take a Minnesota State Mankato Class?**

You can ..... and virtually free! A number of years ago the State of Minnesota instituted a program that permits senior citizens to take classes at state-funded schools, colleges and universities with no charge for tuition and fees. So what's their definition of a senior citizen? Anyone 62 years or older. The normal charge for tuition currently is \$285 per credit. Classes typically are 3 or 4 credits, so the normal fee would be a little over \$1100 for a semester-long four-credit class... your cost: "ZERO," except for books or class supplies. It pays to be a Senior!! If you take the class for credit, there is a fee of \$20 per credit. Still cheap! Want to complete your degree work or just learn?

Here are some details of how to apply. The Registrar's Office in the Wigley Administration Center is the starting point. To qualify as a senior citizen, you have to see Carla Carlson (389-5259). She'll need to verify

your age with a driver's license, birth certificate, or passport. She'll handle all the paperwork to get you into the Minnesota State Mankato system and help you get a student ID. Then you register for a class either on line or through the Registrar's Office. There is a Registrar's HELP line to keep it simple: 389-6260.

Minnesota State Mankato has **no** printed course catalogs, it's all on line. I had a difficult time trying to get course info, so if I were signing up for a class...say an Art class...I'd do it in person at least the first time. After all the paperwork is complete, you'll be issued a "MavCard" which is your student ID for access to the computer center and the Library.

When your class starts, you just buy your book and attend. To the instructor you are just another student, and you will be treated accordingly, with the same homework requirements and class participation.

Parking at Minnesota State Mankato is a challenge, but not in the summer. All lots except GOLD and the "sunken" hourly lot are free in the summer. The latter lot is \$3 for the first hour and \$2 each additional the year around. Based on other lot location, the fees vary. The closer PURPLE lot is \$134/yr, and the more distant ORANGE lot is \$96. Half that for just one semester. There is good bus service to the campus.

Questions? Call Carla or the Registrar's HELP line. Patrice in the MALL office knows all the "ins and outs" of the system and can aid you in the registration process. As she gains experience, Patrice will be our house expert on taking classes, but you'll still have to follow the above procedures.

See you in class!!

PS: Just found out that there is free parking at Minnesota State Mankato in the lot across the street from CVS.

## ***Email Addresses Needed***

If you have an email address, please send a 'Friendly Hello' to MALL Office Manager Patrice at patrice.hundstad@mnsu.edu so she can start communicating with us in a more timely manner. Your address will be safe, it will NOT be shared or sold.

## MALL POTLUCK NEWS

by Harriet Plotz, [hmplozt@hickorytech.net](mailto:hmplozt@hickorytech.net)

We would like to invite all MALL members to attend our semi-annual large group potluck on **Thursday, March 29, at 5:30 P.M.** This potluck will be held at the First Congregational UCC, 150 Stadium Court. Please bring a dish to pass that would serve 8-10 people. Silverware, dishes, beverages, and a dessert prepared by the committee members will be provided. At this dinner we would like to present the options available for potluck members. Now you can continue with the regular home potluck groups or have the option of joining the restaurant groups, or you can also join both groups. Sign-ups will take place at this dinner. We hope to see many people there!

If you are interested in being a part of the potluck group but can't attend this gathering, please contact:

Jo Schultz - 243-3333

Kay Van Buskirk – 388-6188

Harriet Plotz – 387-3990

## SPECIAL EVENTS

by co-chair Anita Dittrich, [anitadittrich@gmail.com](mailto:anitadittrich@gmail.com)

**SORRY** we had to cancel our January trip to Old Log due to low enrollment. We CANNOT afford to hire a bus for less than 30 participants. We hope you will like what we have to offer in the next few months and that you will **SIGN UP!** Suggestions for events are always welcomed by Special Events Committee: Jack Auger, Jan Cole, Anita Dittrich, Lance Leipold, Dwain Petersen, and Al Wortman.

**Friday, March 16** — St. Paul Chamber Orchestra at Wooddale Church in Edina  
Haydn's 'Drumroll Symphony'

**Thursday, April 26** — St. Paul's History Theatre to see "CAPITAL CRIMES, The St. Paul Gangster Musical," plus lunch at Macy's River Room

**Thursday, May 17** — MN Orchestra Piano Concert

**Wednesday, June 6** — tentative plan to go to American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis

**NEED IDEAS  
for July and August !!!!!!!**

Call the Mankato Area Lifelong Learners office (389-2011) if you want your name removed from our mailing list.

### Officers:

President: Jack Kent  
Vice President: Karen Frydendall  
Treasurer: Al Berner  
Vice Treasurer: Curt Martinson  
Secretary: Donna Hanke  
V. Secretary: Sandy Parks  
Past President: David Popowski  
Ex-officio: Patrice Hundstad,  
[patrice.hundstad@mnsu.edu](mailto:patrice.hundstad@mnsu.edu)

### Committee Chairs:

Admin & Finance: Al Berner  
Curriculum: Carlienne Frisch  
Membership: Vacant  
Publicity: Anita Dittrich  
Special Events: Anita Dittrich  
Al Wortman  
  
University Relations Coordinator: Dwain Petersen  
University Liaison/Ext. C: Jean Clarke and Becky Copper

### Pot Luck

Co-Chairs: Harriet Plotz  
Jo Schultz  
Kay VanBuskirk

### Bridge Group

Chair: Marion Woie

### Great Decisions Group

Co-Chairs: Carlienne Frisch  
Elizabeth Peters

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