



Lifelong Learners

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO

Newsletter

Winter 2012

“Lifelong Learning for Age 55 and Over”

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

Since I neglected to provide a biography last fall when I first became a member of the Lifelong Learners council, I will do so now.

Born in west-central Kansas on an oil lease two miles northwest of Hays, I grew up a prairie girl, with six older siblings to keep me away from rattlesnakes and show me the wonderful world of nature. We moved to Hays (population about 10,000) when I was two, where I grew up and married that eye catching graduate student (also a farm and prairie boy) who was a graduate student in the Biology Department at Fort Hays Kansas State College. After his two years of teaching Biology at Hays High School and after our son and daughter were born, we moved to Logan, Utah where Merrill earned his Ph.D. in Vertebrate Ecology and I worked as Departmental Secretary. We moved to Mankato in 1966 when he obtained a position teaching in the Department of Biology at Mankato State University. Secretary, media generalist and daycare provider, I was primarily a housewife and mother, now also grandmother of four lovely girls, ages 24 to 14. We joined Lifelong Learners shortly after Merrill retired in 1998. After so many years, it’s obvious that we feel our membership is a good value.

Having never served on a committee in Lifelong Learners I came to the Council a year ago as Vice President and talk about learning – I had a lot of it to do! Jack Kent was President, very forward-looking and ambitious for our organization to grow in more ways than just numbers. He instituted a new way of looking at ourselves and we all began to look toward an organization that is gaining in numbers, that is nursing an ever-growing relationship with Minnesota State Mankato (to our great benefit), that is welcoming the new blood of Baby Boomers, and that is hoping to widen its offerings in new and exciting ways, without forgetting the people and programming that have brought us this far. It was something of a giddy and confusing year for me. I had said I was ready for a challenge—and I found it!

My self-assigned mission as President is to continue what has been started and to nurture ideas, activities and procedures. An article in the Fall newsletter described the progress we have made so far in 2012. I hope when Fall of 2013 rolls around we can point to even more progress. With the very capable, enthusiastic people that sit on our Council, I have every confidence that it will be so!

Karen Frydendall

LOOKING FOR A GIFT IDEA ?

give a year long experience

Consider giving a one of a kind gift, a MALL membership to your parent, or senior friend. Whether it is Birthday Christmas or special occasion, a MALL gift provides opportunities for yearlong experiences and adventures.

For information,
contact Patrice at 507 389-2011

In addition to being a member of Mankato Area Lifelong Learners, there is a separate registration for Great Decisions, which includes a briefing book. To learn more, visit the website: www.mnsu.edu/mall. Or call Elizabeth Peters at 385-1685 or Jack Kent at 625-7847.

BRIDGE IS BACK

Lifelong Learners has had a thriving bridge group for many years. That ended last spring when the members of the group decided they no longer wished to be a part of Mankato Area Lifelong Learners and removed their group from our umbrella.

Since that time, there have been inquiries about Bridge from a few of our members. With the prospect of four players, Mary Bliesmer has undertaken to form a new group and it is looking for interested people.

If you would like to become a member of our newly-formed bridge group, contact Mary at (507) 380-4308 or by email: mary.bliesmer@mndu.edu

HAPPY BIDDING!



GREAT DECISIONS Elizabeth Peters

Great Decisions, the discussion of international topics based on essays from the National Foreign Policy Association, successfully ended the 2012 year with the topic of CYBERSECURITY, lead by Chris Veltsos, Ph.D., Department of Computer Information Science at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Approximately 25 participants attended each of the eight session of this new program, which is held monthly April through November.

Topics for 2013 are: Future of the Euro, Egypt, NATO, Iran, China in Africa, Threat Assessment, Humanitarian Intervention, and Myanmar and Southeast Asia. Meetings will continue to be held on the second Wednesday of each month, April. The new meeting place will be Eide Bailly LLP building, 1911 Excel Drive, Mankato.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT

Carlienne Frisch



The Curriculum Committee has been busy arranging a variety of classes and programs for winter quarter. (BRRR...I don't even want to think about January yet, but the classes will be interesting enough to warm our minds, if not our feet.) The list of January through March classes is enclosed, along with a registration form.

The Committee also has begun looking forward to spring quarter, an on-so-much nicer time of year weather-wise. We have a promise from Merrill Frydendall to lead four bird walks next spring, as he has done in past years. And "Retro Ron," who recently presented Retro Ron's Roadshow to us (a fun, local version of Antiques Roadshow), has agreed to return in May, so get those collectibles dusted off for his commentary and appraisal.

PEACE It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart. (unknown)

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The next Curriculum Committee meetings are at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 9 and Wednesday, February 6, at the North Mankato Taylor Library. Anyone who would like to join us on this committee is encouraged to attend. We always need new ideas and fresh energy. Meetings seldom last more than one hour, and we try to meet only twice per quarter. As the old homily goes -Many hands (and ideas) make light work.

SENIOR LINKAGE LINE

The free call that does it all
1-800-333-2433

With a single call, seniors will get connected to the services available in your community as well as providing actual assistance to help you get the information and personalized help you need to make informed decisions. The MALL newsletter will provide additional information in coming issues.

MEMBERSHIP

Elizabeth Peters

Individuals from the Membership Committee are willing to meet with organizations interested in learning more about Mankato Lifelong Learners. If you belong to an organization whose members might be interested in knowing more about us, please call Elizabeth Peters, (507) 385-1685

The best way to gain new members is through personal contact, or an invitation to attend a presentation as a guest. Look for the new Mankato Area Lifelong Learners posters around town. If you know of a place to display one, please call the office at (507) 389-2011.

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

Officers:

President: Karen Frydendall
Vice President: Rallah Madison
Treasurer: Curt Martinson
Vice Treasurer: Rosemary Kinne
Secretary: Kay VanBuskirk
V. Secretary: David Janovy
Past President: Jack Kent
Ex-officio: Patrice Hundstad,
patrice.hundstad@mnsu.edu

Committee Chairs:

Admin & Finance: Curt Martinson
Curriculum: Carlienne Frisch
Membership: Elizabeth Peters
Publicity: Joe Hogan
Special Events: Anita Dittrich
Al Wortman

University Relations Coordinator: Dwain Petersen
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Pot Luck

Co-Chairs: Jan Rozeboom
Rallah Madison
Kay VanBuskirk

Great Decisions Group

Elizabeth Peters

Bridge:

Mary Bliesmer

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Email and Website Addresses: mall@mnsu.edu , www.mnsu.edu/mall

Senior LinkAge Line: 1-800-333-2433



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Mankato Area Lifelong Learners at 507-389-2011 (V), 800-627-3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY). MA1102NE_11/12

