LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As some of you are aware, Barbara and I attended a Midwest Lifelong Learning conference at Schaumberg, Illinois. There were 150 participants from over 70 LLI programs in the Midwest and a few from the southern and western U. S. There were many variations in the organization, offerings, administration, and relationship with the higher education institution with which the LLI program was affiliated. But the commitment to lifelong learning was paramount. There was total agreement with the concept that the lifelong learning principle has the potential to produce the most significant impact on educational programs in this country in many years. Of course, the recent retirement of the first Boomer reflects this potential.

We, as an organization, need to be aware of the expanding population of those who can profit from lifelong learning and continue to offer programs to meet their needs. The recent survey conducted by Dave Janovy’s committee offers some possible directions. In addition, we should all consider the motto “each one recruit one” which I believe was formulated by Dena Fischer. As an organization, we have had strong leadership, a high level of involvement by our members, and outstanding presentations. Perhaps the time is approaching when we can begin to look seriously on how to build on this firm foundation and offer what we do best to a larger audience.

Remember: Each one recruit one.

Keep in touch. Share your ideas with the Board.
Joe Hogan, President

COUNCIL NOTES

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Several years ago Kay and I sampled some MSUS offerings and enjoyed them. So I decided to go to an annual meeting to find out where my money was going. An annual deficit in the treasurer’s report was minimized by the fact that it was more than covered by the Special Account which, however, was not reported. It seemed that MSUS wanted to keep the existence of a separate account hidden from the University. Me and my big mouth. I expressed my discomfort with this state of affairs and soon found myself in the Treasurer job. Balancing the books at the end of my first year, it became apparent that repeated annual deficits in our account with the University were about to leave us in debt to them at the end of the next fiscal year. That would be a violation of our agreement to be self supporting. Fortunately, Council was persuaded to institute the annual $10 membership dues and that has kept us solvent.

Treasurer is a meticulous and demanding job. Payments must be deposited and checks written. All income and expenses must be recorded, allocated to respective accounts (University or Special), and summarized monthly for Council and the Department of Extended Learning. As the end of the fiscal year approaches (June 30), the Finance Committee must be called together to prepare a budget for the coming year, which is submitted to the University. Then the year’s financial records must be assembled and submitted for audit to Clint Kind, Mankato Tax Service, who insists on performing this chore gratis. I have enjoyed several years of participating in the Council. I have also learned a lot in the job, particularly the importance of making back up
records of accounts in case of a computer crash.
Chuck VanBuskirk, Treasurer

CURRICULUM
A primary strength of the curriculum committee is represented by the diverse interests of its members. This leads to the broad variety of program topics that we are able to offer. Additional committee members are always needed (and welcomed) to maintain this diversity. If you are not already a committee member, please consider becoming one. We meet twice each quarter.
Bob Utermohlen, Curriculum

PUBLIC RELATIONS
My husband, Paul, and I joined MSUS about three years ago. We had looked at the course offerings as they appeared in the newspaper for a few years before then, thinking that they sounded very interesting, but we weren’t in a position to attend because of jobs and other commitments. Paul worked for over 30 years for IRS in Mankato, and I worked about that long as a social worker. He retired a few years before I officially did; I have been retired for a bit over a year. We have lived in Mankato for the past 17 years, having previously lived in Janesville for 20 years. We have two grown children and four grandchildren, and to quote Garrison Keillor, “all the women are strong, all the men are good-looking and all the children are above average.”

We joined MSUS because we wanted to attend some of the courses. And they have been educational, entertaining, informative, and stimulating, in addition to being interesting. We have renewed old friendships and have made new friends through MSUS. The special events that we’ve attended have been great, and we hope to attend more as time permits.

I joined the board about a year ago, following the resignation of the previous Promotions Chairperson, Dorothy Lindsay. That makes me a relative newcomer to the board; and, like everyone else associated with MSUS, I’m still learning. Some of my responsibilities include putting the course listing in the Free Press and Home Magazine at the beginning of each quarter and “promoting” MSUS as directed by the board. With the help of other board members, I designed a new ad for the MSU theatre program this summer to replace one that had been used for some time. I hope as you attend the plays this season that you will take the time to look at our new ad. I think you will find that it’s attractive and “theatre friendly.”

If any of you have suggestions as to how to promote our very worthwhile organization, please feel free to contact me or Anita.
Gloria Kennedy, Promotions

MSU-S NOTES

REGIONAL FOCUS
Why have I attended MSU for Seniors since 1997? Someone invited me to attend the programs. Having been a high school history/social problems teacher for many years, learning continues to be exciting for me. Through the years the programs on Tuesday and/or Thursday are informative, enrich my daily living, and also give one the opportunity to meet interesting people. I look forward to each session, and I am grateful to the University for presenting these programs to everyone in the Mankato area.
Sister M. Margareta Bertrand

MSUS SURVEY RESULTS
A few months ago, members of MSUS received a questionnaire asking for their views on possible additional formats for our courses. There was an excellent response with over half the members returning the survey. Here is a snapshot of responses to the survey questions. (For a full report of the survey results, call Dave Janovy at 387-3508).

Members were asked to express their interests on a five-point scale with 5 being “Definitely Interested” and 1 being “Not Interested.” Any score above 3 indicates substantial interest. The average ranking of interest in the different formats is as follows:
Educational tour, one-day, in, for example, Twin Cities, Rochester…3.80
Course meeting once a week for 1-2 hours for several weeks…3.55
Friday or Saturday course, full-day but only one day…3.20
Multiple-session courses in general…3.20
Courses offered around and including a luncheon or dinner…3.10
Educational tour of several days, even out-of-state…2.60
A course meeting once a week for 1-2 hours for 10-12 weeks…2.44
Courses meeting out of town, e.g., Fairmont, St. Peter, etc.…2.28
A course meeting two or more times a week for 1-2 hours for several weeks…2.22
A weekend retreat in town, meeting on Saturday and Sunday…2.16
Evening courses, for example, 6-8 p.m.…2.14
On-line courses via the internet…1.80
A weekend retreat, out of town, including an overnight…1.61

Respondents were also asked to indicate their possible interest in specific topics for courses. The most frequently chosen topic was “World Religions.” Second most interesting was “Vital Productive Aging.” The others of the top ten, in order are: “Memorable Musicals; Early American History; 100 Best Novels; First Ladies of the U. S.; Mental Health and Illness; Basic and Advanced Computers; Local Hot Topics; Current Events.”

Thanks to all who responded. The survey is being used by the Curriculum Committee in their planning, and we look forward to even more options as MSUS continues to work to serve the learning interests of area seniors.

Dave Janovy, Curriculum Committee

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who joined during the Fall Quarter, 2007: Helen Balcome, Lake Crystal; Barbara Bassett, Plymouth; Marilyn Berg, Mankato; Thomas Bliese, Mankato, Andrea & Fred Gengler, Lake Crystal; Linda Good, Cleveland; Reinita Goodrich, Mankato; Jane Griffiths, Mankato; Barbara Hanson, N. Mankato; LorJean Hauser, N. Mankato; Lance Leipold, Mankato; Marilyn & Richard Lott, Mankato; Bruce & Gael Mericle, Mankato; Marsha Natvig, Mankato; Diane Nesvig, N. Mankato; Bonnie Otopalik, N. Mankato; Marcia Richards, Mankato; Phyllis Senska, Madison Lake; Anne K. Smith, Mankato; Marilyn Stall, N. Mankato; Jodie & Joe Wallschlag, Mankato.

Please continue to send names of people you think would be interested in MSUS so that we can contact them as prospective members. You may call a person on our Membership Committee listed below or call the office. If this person would like to attend a class with you, you may obtain a BLUE GUEST SLIP at the MSUS office in Wiecking Center 115. Thank you for your help. Karen and Merrill Frydendall (388-7249), and Donna and Dale Hanke (625-6528).

MEMBERS – Please remember to pick up your name tag when entering a class. It is our record of attendance. The number of attendees is important to the MSU Center of Extended Learning. Besides, it helps us to get to know one another.

MSU FOR SRS MAILING LIST will be ‘downsized’ in early 2008 – names of ‘inactives’ will be removed. If you miss receiving our mailings after 1/08, call the office at 507-389-2011 and become ACTIVE!!

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

MSU for Seniors Council wants the membership to know that it has authorized the offering of scholarships to members who are of limited income and in need of financial assistance in order to participate in MSU for Seniors classes. Interested individuals need to contact Anita at the office on Tuesday or Friday mornings and complete a brief application form.

MSU FOR SRS SWEATSHIRT/T-SHIRTS

We have ONE sweatshirt (size Medium, $16) and ONE t-shirt (size Small, $11) available in the office, Wiecking B115. Call first – 389-2011 – and come and get them. It is okay to park on Ellis St. “No Parking” zone for 15 minutes.
COMMUNITY AND CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

MSU FOR SENIORS SPECIAL EVENTS

In the Works for 2008:

-- Minneapolis Art Institute January 16 for Absolutely Famous Highlights of the Institutional Collection. Leave at 9 a.m., Guided Tour 11 a.m. – 12 noon, lunch on own, leave for home at 2:30 p.m. Home by 4 p.m.
-- MSU Basketball Game in February.
-- Old Log Theater Incorruptible by Hollinger, March 12.
-- Minnesota Orchestra Vanska conducting Mahler’s First Symphony April 10.
-- The St. Paul Chamber Orchestra Coffee Concert at Wooddale Church – already scheduled – May 2.
-- Walker Art Institute (guided tour in small groups) on June 11 or 18.
-- Coke Museum near Montgomery with maybe a German restaurant in July or August.
-- Explore Celtic Festival on Harriet Island in August, 2008. (It was August 12 last year – mostly outdoor events)
-- Owatonna Bank Architecture, Old Orphanage, Masonic Home in August.
-- Fairmont Movie reprise and tour Fairmont Historical Society in September.
-- Explore Macy’s 8th Floor Display for November and Local Nutcracker in early December, 2008.

“DRESS FOR SUCCESS” OUTREACH PROGRAM

The MSU Corrections Club will be hosting a program to collect both male and female professional clothing items. The items will be donated to MN correctional facility offenders who will be re-entering into the job market. We will be selling Corrections Club shirts, candy bars, and accepting clothing donations beginning on Monday, November 26, and ending Friday, December 7. A table will be set up on campus in the CSU Monday, November 26 - Wednesday, November 28 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Clothing drop boxes will also be placed in the CSU and in the Sociology and Corrections office located in AH 113.

More information contact:
Kalin.riesgraf@mnsu.edu (club secretary) or
Cassandra.bechen@mnsu.edu (club vice-pres.)

Call the MSU for Seniors office (389-2011) if you want your name removed from our mailing list.

MSUS Officers:
President: Joe Hogan
Vice President: Donna Hanke
Treasurer: Chas. VanBuskirk
V. Treasurer: Al Berner
Secretary: Sally Burdick
V. Secretary: Eddice Barber
Past President: Helen Peterson
MSU Liaison/Ext. C.: Jean Clarke
Past President: Pat Lipetzky
Ex-officio: Anita Dittrich

Committee Chairs:
Admin & Finance: C. VanBuskirk
Curriculum: Bob Utermohlen
Martha Auger
Membership:
Public Relations: Gloria Kennedy
Special Events: Dwain Petersen
Anita Dittrich

Nominating Committee:
Bill Bernhagen
Kelton Gage
Bea Moosally

Pot Luck
Chair: Al Berner

Bridge Group
Chair: Marion Woie

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