

# MANKATO AREA LIFELONG LEARNERS

 MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

Promoting vitality in later life

Fall 2017

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

David Allan

As your new president I want you to know it is my joy and pleasure to work with each of you. Our new year is off to an excellent start as we seek new ways to improve our organization. Finding better funding sources and developing more variety in our programs are some of the present goals.

**Our theme, so important to all of us, is that lifelong learning continues to cultivate and promote a greater**

## A BRIEF LOOK AT JOANN ROM

Secretary

I was born in Grand Forks, North Dakota and raised in Towner, a small town in north central North Dakota the eldest of eight children. I graduated from Towner High school and attended the University of North Dakota. I have been married to my husband Wayne for 50 years and am the mother of a son and daughter. We moved frequently because of Wayne's employment in the corporate world. We had 13 major moves within seven states. While living in Des Moines, IA. I went back to school to become a travel agent. While we were "on the move" to various mid-west states, I found I was able to continue to serve my corporate clients as long as I had that famous 800 phone number. While I was working at AAA in Sioux Falls, I attained the status of Senior Travel Consultant. So many people have asked when they know of my employment "oh you must have traveled a great deal". While that is true, we traveled a great deal on our own. I was able to serve both the corporate and leisure clients. I enjoyed the group bookings and the wedding/honeymoon clients and the different needs of both. My favorite clients of all were the senior citizens. I found that those were the ones who had really researched their destinations and had the resources to finance those trips that they had long desired.

I had some interesting locales to work with. I enjoyed putting together some interesting itineraries for the different clients and their specific needs. I learned about some intriguing places in the world from my clients as well as

### vitality in our lives.

Attending just one activity is fine but if you really want to "stretch your wings", I encourage you to volunteer on a committee or in another capacity. It is volunteerism that makes our membership so special.

I look forward to meeting you at one of our presentations or activities.

Best regards

being a source of information for them. I took my three sisters with me on some various trips like a 3 week journey to Norway and Sweden, cruises and trips to the different areas of the US.

We recently moved to Mankato from Eau Claire, WI about two years ago. I finally retired about 8 years ago and my husband more recently. We have found Mankato a great place to serve us in our retirement. Lifelong Learners has been a wonderful resource to meet people and keep up with all the interesting topics offered. Since our adult children and seven grandchildren live in the twin cities, I find, between the 90 min drive to spoil them and the activities in Mankato, we are really enjoying the "busy retirement".

## GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decision presentations are held at 2 P.M. on the second Wednesday of the month at the Children's Museum.

Remaining meetings include:

**October 11:** TRADE and POLITICS  
Dick Virden

**November 8:** U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND PETROLEUM  
Bill Christ

Please contact Bruce or Elizabeth if interested in attending ONE meeting.

*Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old. Franz Kafka*

PARTNERING WITH MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO

## THANK YOU

Lifelong Learners is the recipient of several gifts from members. Al Berner and Ron Yezzi donated a new LG 55" LED TV and a Samsung Blue-ray Disc player.

These gifts provide greater convenience and flexibility for programs and events. The membership appreciates your generosity.

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Sue Howard/Anita Dittrich

The American Association of University Women will be awarding two \$500.00 scholarships to women undergraduate/graduate students attending Minnesota State University, Mankato. The deadline for the application is December 1, 2017. To receive an application form, please contact Anita Dittrich at 507-387-7180.



### NOBEL CONFERENCE 53

Joyce Sandry



Twenty-seven people took advantage of one of the great benefits of their Lifelong Learners' membership and purchased reduced-price tickets for this year's Nobel 53. The topic of this year's conference was "Reproductive Technology: How Far Do We Go?" which offered presentations on "how scientific and technological discoveries have assisted, managed, and transformed reproduction, and how might they contribute to age-old debates about motherhood and fatherhood and the role of reproduction in society."

Every year Gustavus Adolphus College, endorsed by The Nobel Foundation, brings leading researchers to campus "to explore an issue of crucial scientific importance so that we may all reflect together on its social and ethical implications." Local residents are so privileged to take advantage of this great opportunity. **As a member of Lifelong Learners, one is able to purchase reserved seating in the auditorium at a reduced cost of \$75, tickets which cost the general public \$125.** Be sure to "stay tuned" in the future for information on next year's **Nobel Conference 54, October 2-3, 2018: Living Soil: A Universe Underfoot**, which "invites participants to consider the vast diversity and complexity of soils and the challenges we face in protecting this most fundamental resource."

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Tricia Nienow

Perhaps you have a hobby or special interest. Maybe, it is coin collecting or saving heirloom seeds, or bread making. Consider sharing with other likeminded people by forming a special interest group. Lifelong Learners have several longstanding SIGs such as bridge, book club and the several of dining groups. Call the office with your ideas (389-2011)

## TIME FOR A CHANGE

Tricia Nienow

After five years of editing the newsletter for Mankato Area Lifelong Learners, I realize it is time to turn the keyboard over to someone else. It has been a pleasure being the newsletter editor. With the assistance of many people, positive changes have taken place with the format and content of the newsletter. These have served us well. And now it is time for someone with new, fresh ideas and enthusiasm to take the position. I am available to talk to interested people about the duties of the job and will work with the new editor on the next edition.

### Remembering

**Mary Catherine (Merikay) Stokman**

An enthusiastic member of the Lifelong Learner bridge group.

**Gail Gremel**

A Lifelong Learner member for several years.

*Beautiful young people are accidents of nature,  
but beautiful old people are works of art.*

*Eleanor Roosevelt*

# PONDERING GENEROSITY

Tricia Nienow

Have you ever pondered how you could express your generosity in a unique way that is a service to the community and speaks to your values? As a member of Lifelong Learners, learning opportunities are important to you. Consider expressing your generosity by supporting a special event or speaker that would otherwise not occur without a patron.

In recent years, our organization has been fortunate to sponsor retired diplomat and Foreign Service Officer Tom Hanson to the Mankato area without charge. The community looks forward to Tom's State of the World message in January. There is no longer a sponsor for this event. If one or several people underwrote Tom's presentation, or a completely different event, Lifelong Learners members, as well as the greater community, would benefit from this generous gift.

*Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**We extend a warm welcome to our new members.**

Trudy Boleen  
Leigh Cherry  
Jan Hagedorn

Susan Loechler  
Steve McCarney  
Lee Norgren  
Bonnie & Dick Swanson

Scott Thiem  
Jim & Laura Turk  
Sherryl & Walter Wolff

**We look forward to meeting you at our events and welcome your suggestions.**

## FALL SOCIAL NEW MEMBERS

Members, and Anyone interested in  
Mankato Area Lifelong Learners  
Join us for coffee/tea/ conversation  
(and maybe a sweet treat)

**Saturday, October 21, 2017  
9:00 – 10:30 A.M.**

Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota  
224 Lamm Street, Mankato

Hear a short presentation ...Meet new members...Bring your friends

For more information, please call the office (389-2011) or email ([LifelongLearners@mnsu.edu](mailto:LifelongLearners@mnsu.edu)).

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## SAVE THE DATE

Foreign Diplomat Tom Hanson will present his State of the World address to the Mankato Area Saturday, January 13, 2018 **Watch for details**

## LIFELONG LEARNERS – OUT AND ABOUT

Saturday, September 9

display at the Mankato Farmer's Market

Thursday - September 21

St. Peter Area Boomers and Beyond Senior EXPO  
St. Peter Community Center

*Thanks to those who participated and those who stopped by to say hello.*

*Life itself is the most wonderful fairy tale. ~Hans Christian Anderson*

Clip and Save

## Mankato Area Lifelong Learners Coupon

This coupon allows any prospective member to attend for free (a \$10.00 value) one presentation when accompanied by a current Mankato Area Lifelong Learner member.  
*(Excludes Great Decisions and Special Events)*

Limit one coupon per person. No duplicated coupons are accepted.

Coupon is valid October 1 – December 31, 2017

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**\$10 Value**

**\$10 Value**

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Mary Bliesmer

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Jan Rozeboom

#### Restaurant

Harriet Plotz

#### Soup Supper:

Kathryn Hanson

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To remove your name from our mailing list, call 507-389-2011

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