



Door County...

Learning in Retirement

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President's Observations: More on What Makes DCLIR Function



Recently I had the pleasure to again work with a really wonderful group of volunteers comprising another facet of DCLIR. This time my focus is on the Steering Committee. It is comprised of the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, past president, two members at large, committee chairs, NWTC Dean or Liaison and our administrative assistant. Others attending are the Volunteer Coordinator and interested LIR members.

Becoming one of the members at large is a good way to get involved in LIR. You will have a vote in the proceedings and it may be a good way to get further involved in decision

making and further leadership roles. This is one example of how we can continue to have new ideas and fresh input in the organization. All of this goes back to our Mission as stated in a 2005 Vol. # 1, Issue # 3 that I just reviewed: Door County Learning In Retirement is dedicated to facilitating quality lifelong learning in an open, ongoing forum for older adults in Northeastern Wisconsin. The Steering Committee then and now is charged with: Coordinating, Facilitating and Supervising the program.

Now by 2011 some of our policies have become outdated and require modifications to remain relevant. At present a policy change can only be done with a one month notice to the membership at large prior to the annual meeting. Randy Kenny and Jan Ziemann, past officers, formed an ad hoc committee to explore recommendations for policy changes for discussion at the March meeting. Voting on any changes would take place at the May annual meeting. Notice the continued dedication, contribution and involvement of our experienced members, which is one of the strengths of our organization.

In further preparation for our next meeting, ideas were communicated via email. It was beautiful to watch the group with the aid of our secretary operating the computer and using our modern technology to come to a consensus with everyone participating and all done in a reasonable amount of time. There was considerable give and take, opinion sharing and compromise. A good conclusion was reached to share with membership for vote at the May 25th annual meeting.

Elroy Rasmussen

Membership participation in the LIR Newsletter is encouraged and welcomed. Please submit ideas for articles, written articles, photos, or comments to <dclir@nwtc.edu>.





How Does LIR Find Such Fabulous Presenters?

This question has been asked by many “newer” members of LIR, so I will attempt to answer that question. Read on!

Our Curriculum Committee has eyes and ears throughout Door County and sometimes “beyond”! Through the people they meet, suggestions from YOU, articles they read, etc., committee members formulate a list. They then meet to discuss topics and presenters. The prospective presenter is contacted to make arrangements. A brief course description is written and the idea

becomes a reality. Often a presenter will share ideas for future courses. Then the committee enlists coordinators to assist in a successful presentation by welcoming, attendance-taking, assisting with distribution of hand-outs, evaluation forms, etc. to allow the presenter to concentrate on “presenting”.

We invite you to participate in this process. You can see why we appreciate our presenters and coordinators and members of the Curriculum Committee. They are all volunteers! They enjoy

sharing their knowledge and experience with such eager, attentive and interested peers. Without them, we couldn’t go on. Please keep YOUR eyes and ears open in our community for people and ideas for future programming...and please consider jumping in and taking on one of these roles. Mike Egan, Chairman of Curriculum Committee, will look forward to hearing from you.

Jan Ziemann

Write Your Memoirs



Have you imagined yourself as a writer? For the past 12 semesters, many LIR members did just that, recording their life memories through “Write Your Memoirs” class taught by Linda Berns. Attending this class has spurred many of them into recording long-past events. Some have written only a few stories, several have written hundreds of pages even recording them on special disks or in booklet form. They have become topics of family conversations as well as Christmas presents.

Class members were urged to develop a theme such as family vacations, the birth of children, stories of their favorite memories, events circling around hobbies, anything that threads these stories together for coherence. The old adage a picture is worth a thousand words is true as writers embellished their tales with engaging photos.

“Everyone has his or her story,” comments Linda. “Over these past six years, the wonderful stories crafted

by our members revealed exciting adventures, family interaction, heartbreak and mistakes, victories and accomplishments. Along the way another wonderful thing happened: we built new friendships. I cherished the opportunity and appreciate everything that was returned to me tenfold.”

[The Curriculum Committee is so grateful for LIR members such as Linda who have offered their quality programming semester after semester.]

Linda Berns

Bonsai

This is my first experience in teaching Bonsai. I was pleased to be asked, and confess that it has been a bit of a challenge to assemble the needed information. Bonsai has been a hobby for me for about ten years and I currently have about 23 trees in the works. That is just about the number of trees I seem able to manage. The drawback to an interesting hobby is that I still like to shop for more trees, always looking for the perfect one, or better yet, finding the one lonely misshapen reject that has great potential for becoming a beautiful living work of art.

I have been a member of Bay area Bonsai Association (BABS) in Green Bay. The club is a great resource for information, mainly from guest speakers and other club members, plus has a wonderful lending library. Some meetings are hands-on and we work on trees, providing another opportunity to see more trees and techniques that work, or mistakes made to be avoided. We often car-pool to the Chicago Botanical Garden for the annual Bonsai Exhibition. The trees on display are truly awesome plus it is a great opportunity



to meet the vendors and purchase more books, tools, pots, and of course, trees. There are also demonstrations, some free, and some you pay a fee to get a tree and the lessons for working on it.

Teaching the class has been fun, and I am surprised at the new or forgotten information I have in my files that has again come to the forefront. It seems to be creating a renewed enthusiasm and I am getting anxious to dig my trees out of winter storage and get working on them.

Wait, wait, they have to finish their winter hibernation and start their juices flowing in their own time. Perhaps this is the time to reorganize my files, and make my check lists for the busy spring season.

I love this LIR group and feel very lucky and pleased to have found out about it and, well I pretty much jumped in with both feet. I have been a coordinator and now a presenter. Who knew I would be asked to write about it too? Every course I have taken has been interesting, fun, or informative. There are so many courses offered that one cannot possibly sign up for all of interest due to conflicts in scheduling. I am thankful for the people that have developed this organization and work so diligently on keeping it functioning so well. Thank you for this wonderful journey.

New presenter & LIR member;
Eileen Koelpien



Boating Safety

John Hermann of the Door County Sail and Power Squadron recently presented an interesting history of the organization's activities including benefits for boaters who take its detailed courses or two-hour seminars. The advantage to taking these classes is boaters may save up to 23% on boating insurance, may become certified, may avoid an accident, and may survive an accident. Spending time at Saturday morning classes offered at the Sturgeon Bay Yacht Club or various other marinas in June, July, and August can make you a fun skipper to be with;;; instead of a target for the Coast Guard. It's possible to take classes in a classroom, from a DVD, or to get on-the-water training from John and some of his guests including expert sailors Bill Galligan and Joanne and Jeff Rosenfield. Jeff is the education director of the local squadron.

The Door County Sail and Power Squadron is a local affiliate of the nation's largest non-profit boating organization, the US Power Squadron, which began in New York in 1914 and now has 440 squads in 33 districts with a membership of 40,000. As a recreational and fraternal boating club, it specializes in self-education and civic service. For example, you may request members to perform an on-board safety check for about 45 minutes to an hour which will make sure your vessel conforms to Coast Guard regulations.

Wisconsin has the fifth-highest population of boats in the U.S., 626,000 in 2009, and while 28 mph is not fast on land, it is high speed on the water. John reported that most accidents involve collisions on a beautiful day-nice sun, waves of less than 6 inches, light wind-and fatal ones usually involve alcohol. If the skipper knows the boat, has safety and emergency equipment on board, and takes the time to learn navigation and the rules of the road, it can make all the difference. And by the way, skippers of powerboats ARE responsible for damage caused by the boat's wake to swimmers, canoes, kayaks, and other personal property.

A humorous note in John's presentation was a video clip of a powerboat emergency drill which turned into a Marx Brother's search for life jackets and very creative ways to wear them. John modeled a new horseshoe-shaped life vest which is no more trouble than wearing a scarf and inflates in an emergency. The skipper must provide a flotation device for each passenger, and children up to age 13 must wear them at all times. Flares, flags, air horns, and whistles are all useful in an emergency and if all else fails stand up and use the universal signal for distress: flap your arms up and down at your sides.

Carolyn Kellogg

Excerpts from a Power Squadron quiz on boating knowledge:

1. Are gasoline fumes lighter than air?
2. Do sailboats always have the right of way over powerboats?
3. Is the port running light red?
4. Should you treat hypothermia by warming the victim's extremities?
5. Is a fathom equal to six feet?

Answers:

1. Gasoline fumes are heavier than air which is why you don't want to be sitting in a low part of the boat while it is fueling.
2. Sailboats have the right of way unless they are over taking a powerboat.
3. Yup. Red light on the port (left) side, green light on the starboard.
4. No. Cold blood may circulate to the core of the body making it even harder for the person to survive.
5. You betcha!



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