The Prez Sez…….

Greetings Everyone, I hope you are recovering from our very cold, very snowy winter. I am sure we are all looking forward to a beautiful spring and a comfortable summer.

LIR is booming, with new members registering almost every month. Classes are progressing nicely. A few are so popular that we had to ask some instructors to teach more than one section. Thankfully, they agreed. This is a good time to remind members of our course “lottery” policy that comes into play when a course fills up by the priority registration deadline.

According to the LIR By-Laws and Policies:

“LIR courses are open to all LIR members. If registration exceeds a declared course capacity and to the extent that space permits, an instructor may voluntarily increase course enrollment. However, if there are still more students wishing to take a course than space permits, a lottery will be held to determine course participants. The course coordinator will not be included in the lottery.

When a lottery has been necessary for a particular course, preference will be given to students who "lose out" (in a drawing for enrollment) in any course offered in the future. These students will be given a certificate for future enrollment that will give them such preference provided that the students themselves assume responsibility for proper registration for the course.”

Vouchers are good for a period of 2 years. This information is listed in each course catalog.

I hope to see you on June 12, 2014, at the LIR Annual General Membership Meeting.

Marci Lanois       LIR President
History of LIR - Part Two
A Step Back in History

by AUGIE REVOY

This is the second in a series of three articles to review the establishment and accomplishments of the LIR program in Waukesha County.

Under the direction of President Donna Dollase (1996-1997), LIR got underway with approximately 150 members. Jim Karius planned the class schedules and recruited some outstanding coordinators. Pat Tyler and Joyce Reiss arranged for tours. Arline Orlovsky and Dorris Harrison managed to assign everyone in the right room at the right time. Joan Berger provided us with an outstanding newsletter to keep us on top of all of the events and Cliff George kept the treasury books and budget in order.

Jim Karius (1997-1999) was next in line as President. Class choices and volunteer instructors continued to grow during his tenure. Membership also grew from the original 150 members to nearly 500.

Doris Harrison (1999-2002) came on deck for a very productive three-year term as President. Membership remained over 500 and the newsletter grew with the assistance of Norma Osterndorf along with Joan Bergner. Members were provided with up-to-date professional-quality brochures thanks to Helen Gambon and the late Allan Osterndorf. Class coordinators were provided to assist instructors and office procedures were streamlined to accommodate increasing requests from members, coordinators and WCTC employees. In Spring, 2001, LIR moved from an office on Morris Street to comfortable quarters in the new College Center building on the main campus, thanks to Donna Bauer and Dr. Marlena Mackie of WCTC.

The by-laws were revised to allow the election of two delegates-at-large instead of one. The Board approved an annual donation to the WCTC Foundation for a WCTC/ LIR scholarship, and LIR continued to participate in the Elderhostel Institute Network (EIN), where Board members and committee chairs served as forum leaders. Liz Bednar assumed the chair position of the Curriculum Committee held by Jim Karius the previous five years. The Special Events Committee owed its initial success to Pat Tyler and Joyce Reiss.

Norma Osterndorf (2002-2003) continued a very active one-year term as President. Joan Dehnel, chair of the Special Events Committee, expanded the program with scheduled trips throughout the state. Long-range planning, member recruitment, and goal setting were major emphases of the LIR Board. A first annual board retreat in January provided a forum for ideas. An extra newsletter was published in March extolling the benefits of teaching and taking leadership roles for LIR members. Pat Tyler initiated a golf league, “The LIR Swingers”, to add to the bridge and singers in the Special Interest Group. At the end of the school year, it was announced that Donna Bauer, the WCTC staff liaison to LIR was retiring. Donna was the leading force behind the establishment of LIR and played a key role in the implementation of the 10th Anniversary LIR Program.

Skip Oldenburg (2003-2005) took over for a two-year term as President. Membership remained over 550 and even exceeded 600 during his second year. LIR started out with a book discussion group and gradually added sheepshead and genealogy to those already mentioned under previous presidents. Hiking was added to this list with a list of 30 enthusiasts meeting monthly. Two special projects were added during Skip’s term. The first was “Tiny Tech”, which was a daycare center sponsored by WCTC. They requested our assistance in providing software for children through the age of 12, as well as children’s books, tapes and crayons. The LIR Board approved sponsoring this special project during our tenth anniversary year. Another project was beneficial to many home bound seniors in Waukesha County who did not have the necessary resources to purchase small items we take for granted.
In fall, 2014, the third and final series will bring you up to date under the direction of Presidents, who have served during the past ten years.

**Model Railroading: What a Hobby!**

by CHUCK GEVAERT

I have been a model railroader since I was a small boy and my Dad bought a Lionel train, a story told by many model railroaders. The layout began around the Christmas tree and eventually expanded to a large layout in our basement. When I became a teenager and my interests turned to other pursuits, my Dad sold all the equipment to a father with a young son.

After starting my teaching career, I returned to the hobby and built my first layout in HO scale. When I married Linda, we built our first house and paid extra to convert a crawl space into a full basement, which gave me a room for a layout. As I developed my modeling skills, the first layout was disassembled, redesigned and rebuilt. I repeated this process one more time before we built our second home. A layout is never considered completed—it is continuously enhanced and revised. In our new home I am building a new, bigger and better layout.

Since joining LIR my modeling skills have continued to improve. Our wonderful LIR President talked me into teaching a course on Model Railroading. Since teaching this first course, I have taught 3 additional courses for LIR. I volunteer with a group of modelers at the Oconomowoc Historical Society Museum, where we get together once a week to maintain and improve a model railroad layout built in the 1950’s. I have also organized a group of modelers who gather once a month to visit a train-prototype or model. All these activities have broadened my knowledge, skill and enjoyment of the hobby and are a result, in many ways, of having joined LIR.

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**LIR Trips & Events**

**West Bend/Regal Ware Museum and the new Museum of Wisconsin Art**

by JUDITH OSBORNE

On a bright, sunny February morning, LIR members gathered at the Meadowbrook Park and Ride wondering what to expect from our little adventure to West Bend and visit to the West Bend/Regal Ware Museum and the new Museum of Wisconsin Art. Our first stop was the West Bend/Regal Ware Museum.

The West Bend/Regal Ware Museum depicts the aluminum industry from its beginnings in 1911 and shows how its products were interwoven into everyday life. The museum perpetuates the legacy and history of two Washington County pioneers—both producing innovative products that found themselves in kitchens across the world. In addition to innovative products, the Museum showcases how the West Bend Company and Regal Ware were instrumental in American efforts during World War II. Test kitchens were an integral component of product development for the West Bend Company and Regal Ware. As society changed, the industry shaped American consumerism and literally changed women’s history. Time-saving products gave women...
more opportunity to pursue interests outside of the home. Museum exhibits include popular as well as imaginative products from every decade. “My grandmother had that, my mother used that, I have that,” were comments made by everyone as we walked through the displays.

The next stop was lunch at the Riverside Brewery Restaurant on Main Street. Everyone was impressed with the quality of food, attentiveness of the wait staff, and comfort of the restaurant. It was a time to relax and share conversation with LIR friends.

After lunch, we visited the Museum of Wisconsin Art (MOWA), which is now housed in a spectacular new building on the Milwaukee River. It is one of the top regional art museums in the country and is the primary venue nationally for the exhibition of historic and contemporary Wisconsin art. The Museum divided us into two groups and provided a docent-led tour. The docents provided a general overview of the galleries with time after to wander the galleries on our own. The Museum featured the Wisconsin Artists Biennial (January 17-March 9, 2014). The Biennial is a competitive exhibition open to artists statewide with a single judge who selects works for the show. Of the 262 artists that applied, 53 were selected for this year’s exhibition. The show included well-known artists as well as emerging artists. In addition to the Biennial exhibit, the Museum currently welcomes the Wisconsin Pastel Artists in the State Gallery (January 17-April 13, 2014). Finally, the One Gallery features an exhibit by Beth Lipman, one of the preeminent artists working in glass today. Her “Sideboard with Blue China” measures almost 25 feet wide and ten feet high and is made almost entirely of glass. It pays homage to an ultra-extravagant, historic sideboard from 1853 by noted designers Bulkley and Herter. Lipman raises issues of growth and decay, wants versus needs, and how our possessions define us.

At 3:30 PM we began our journey back. Again, we were all touched by the beauty, history, and many types of products and artwork represented in the museums. We all learned a lot and had fun along the way. Thanks to Special Events for introducing us to another one of Wisconsin’s “hidden jewels.” I look forward to a return visit with family and friends to enjoy these wonderful museums.

Polish, Italian, & Yesteryear Trip

by MARGIE WILHELM

On Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013, we started the day off at the majestic, elegant St. Josaphat’s Basilica. The docent told us the history and gave a tour of this beautiful Polish church. Lunch was at Buca di Beppo for authentic Italian cuisine, including their famous cheese cake. Mmmmmm!. Last stop was the Chudnow Museum of Yesteryear. That was a trip back in time to the 1920’s and 30’s in Milwaukee. Docents took us to various rooms set up as shops, theaters, train depot and more. A surprise at the end was a hidden speak easy--but don’t tell anyone. A wonderful bunch of people, as always, made the trip even better.
The Sanfilippo ‘Place de la Musique’ – March 19, 2014

by BARBARA NAGY

LIR members traveled to Barrington, Illinois to see the Sanfilippo ‘Place de la Musique’, which is famous worldwide for the largest collection of beautifully restored automatic musical instruments. What made this trip so spectacular was not only did we visually enjoy the beauty of the machines, but we also heard them. Overheard comments from LIR members included “Awesome, exceeded my expectations, magnificent, and let’s do this again.”

The Sanfilippo Estate included a 44,000 square foot French styled building that was nestled away on 57 picturesque wooded acres. This magnificent building included the owners’ residence, the world’s largest restored 8,000 pipe theater organ, 30 dance organs, 60 coin-operated piano based music machines, and over 300 music boxes and phonographs. The Music Theater was 4 stories tall with a cage elevator or spiral staircase to gain access to the balcony. The Sanfilippo Foundation’s Executive Director demonstrated how many of these antique orchestrians, phonographs, and pianos operated and sounded. Downstairs was a Victorian Bar, Arcade, Ice Cream Parlor, and collection of smaller antique steam engines.

The second building on the property was the Carousel Pavilion. LIR members were stunned at the beauty of the restored, massive 1890 European salon carousel. When the carousel was turned on, it was breathtaking to watch. LIR members were able to climb into an elegantly decorated Victorian Pullman Palace train car. There was also a Grant locomotive and tender, horse drawn steam pumper, and steam engine gallery on display in this building. LIR members stood in awe when viewing the intricately designed 32 foot Victorian clock tower in the center of the building.

The Sanfilippo Estate is not open to the public, because it is located in a residential area. Charitable functions, private concerts, and educational tours are the only ways to gain entrance. LIR members were truly fortunate to experience this awesome trip.

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection Presentation – March 21, 2014

by BARBARA NAGY

Researchers have recorded 13 million cases of identity theft and fraud nationally in 2013, which is almost 1 victim every 2 seconds. LIR offered a free presentation titled “Consumer Protection for Wisconsin Senior Citizens” at the WCTC Pewaukee Campus on March 21, 2014. There were over 70 people in attendance. The very informative and invaluable presentation was given by Shawn Diaz. Topics discussed were identity theft, grandparent scams, and charitable solicitations. There was time for audience discussion and questions. There were 17 handouts available to take home and read. Identity theft can occur with any combination of the following: name, address, phone number, email address, ATM Pin, date of birth, social security number, mother’s maiden name, and financial account numbers. It is impossible to include all of the critical tips for seniors that Ms. Diaz discussed, but a few do stand out:

1. Shred all items with your name, social security number, address, date of birth, birth certificate information, passport number, bank or credit card numbers, passwords, phone numbers, and biometric data.

2. The average person cannot remember everything in a wallet, so make a photocopy of everything. This will enable you to contact everyone and agencies quickly.

3. Do not carry your Medicare card unless necessary. Make a colored copy of the front and back of your card with the last 4 digits blacked out.
4. Be aware of skimming devices at ATM machines.

5. Credit cards offer greater security against fraud than a debit card. A debit card gives 2 business days to report fraud. The credit card gives 60 days, and once reported you are not held liable.

6. Only use US post office mail boxes (blue) when mailing checks.

7. Obtain a FREE credit report from each of the three major credit reporting agencies each year (Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion).

8. Wifi passwords provided by a hotel, airport, restaurants, etc. are not secure sites. Avoid any free wifi when doing finances. Only use secure sites.

9. Ask receptionists and clerks to verify personal information by showing it to you, rather than saying it aloud.

10. Remove labels on prescription bottles. A black marker does not adequately cover it.

11. Passwords for financial institutions and for social media need to be different. Avoid birthdates and names of parents, middle names, and even pets.

If you have missed this wonderful presentation and would like more information, contact: Bureau of Consumer Protection, Office of Privacy Protection, 2811 Agriculture Drive, PO Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911. Phone number: 800-422-7128. Website information: www.privacy.wi.gov

Get Involved in Our Groups

LIR Singers meet on Mondays from 10am until noon to rehearse and socialize. [Contact Person: Rita Arnold, rita.arnold@att.net]

Genealogy Group meets the first Friday of each month. [Contact Person: Cindy Richter, darcr@sbcglobal.net]

Book Lovers Group meets at the Pewaukee city Library on the third Wednesday of the month. [Contact Person: Norma Jane Demeyer, demeyernj@gmail.com]

Theater-Goers have been attending the 4pm performance of the Waukesha Civic Theater on the second Saturday of each production. [Contact Person: Sandy Zingler, sandbarb@execpc.com]

Bridge Group meets every Tuesday afternoon from 1:30-3:30pm. [Contact Person: Jan Oberg, Obergabc@gmail.com]

Sheepshead Group [Contact Person: Elaine Jensen, 414-425-6952]

Hiking Club [Contact Person: Ron Wegner, Ronald.wegner@yahoo.com]

Mahjongg Players [Contact Person: Carmen Periquet, cperiquet@wi.rr.com]

Call the LIR Office (262-695-3473) to obtain phone numbers for any of these contact people.

Wanted: Instructors to Teach Courses

If you are willing to teach a course for LIR using many of our DVD’s, or have an idea for a course you could teach, please contact the office by phone at 262-695-651, or email at lir@wctc.edu

Adventures in Reading for Men

If joining a men's special interest group to share opinions about a book read by the group appeals to you, please leave your name with the LIR office by phone at 262-695-6511 or email lir@wctc.edu. If there is enough interest, you will be contacted with more information.
LIR 2013-2014

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Monday 9:30am - 4:00pm
Tuesday 9:30am - 4:00pm
Wednesday 9:30am - 3:30pm
Thursday 9:30am - 4:00pm
Friday Closed

Mission Statement
Learning in Retirement (LIR) provides intellectual, cultural and social opportunities to foster life-long learning for adults in association with Waukesha County Technical College.