

Please use the box below to make any further comments for consideration.

- **Answered: 186**
- **Skipped: 262**

is a former volunteer

12/14/2016 3:04 PM

Economics program could be improved. Less reliance on George Mason economics professors; more use of active and retired government economists. Less emphasis on economics or retirement planning, aging issues etc. More on current economic issues - e.g. U.S. economic growth, U.S. budget issues, labor economics, monetary economics. The program would benefit by getting a diversity of views before the membership rather than just the GM School of Economics views.

12/14/2016 3:02 PM

OLLI provides a useful way to spend time and learn new things for me.

11/21/2016 11:49 AM

The recent 20% increase in membership dues was excessive.

11/20/2016 8:04 AM

Some of the questions are skewed to your expectations of the answer. Here are my answers to some of the questions. Question 7: No dues increases and a reduction in staff. Question 8: If dues continue to increase I may discontinue my membership because the cost will exceed the value of the program to me. Question 9: I know that OLLI is a volunteer organization but I am not volunteering until I decide to continue my membership.

11/19/2016 11:19 PM

I think we should try to reduce expenditures, if possible, without hurting programs. Enhancing audio-visual services is not a good idea.

11/19/2016 8:37 PM

get a rain barrel for gardening use.

11/19/2016 9:49 AM

I enjoy interactive discussion groups, self led, news, concerns, etc.

11/19/2016 9:31 AM

I wish accommodations for hearing impaired folks (like me) could be improved.

11/18/2016 11:04 PM

Due to my circumstances I am unable to volunteer at this time. That does not mean I will not at some time in the future. I find it difficult to use sites too far from Tallwood. I find coffee and cookies an important part of the fellowship experience. I miss them when they are there.

11/18/2016 10:16 PM

Financial access to ALL retirees is important

11/18/2016 6:53 PM

The increase in the annual fee has caused me to reconsider whether I will continue to belong. Although I could afford it, I am not sure that the cost is worth the benefit.

11/18/2016 6:44 PM

The budget graph chart is very misleading. The important data to display is how dues go down as membership increases.

11/18/2016 5:21 PM

Some of the questions did not have enough choices. For example, 6 could have included "Do not pursue growth," and 9 could have included "I do not volunteer though I know OLLI is a largely volunteer organization."

11/18/2016 5:20 PM

We are experiencing the growing pains of a large organization. (I don't think we need to recruit so aggressively; people will find us) I would like to see the emphasis of OLLI to remain on the learning mission.

11/18/2016 4:49 PM

Just back to OLLI after few years absence. All is going well so far. Trying to branch out from my home campus but Fairfax sites are difficult.

11/18/2016 4:39 PM

Tallwood is difficult to get to-traffic/ construction. Isn't there a more convenient facility in the area. Could ride sharing options be provided?

11/18/2016 2:12 PM

Comment 1. I am neutral on No. 5, though the question is posed in such a way that I cannot indicate neutrality. So please ignore my response to 5, because I could not "undo" my initial response. Comment 2. Also, I have not answered No. 6 because it has underlying assumptions. Agreeing to expand outreach seems to be the main cause of the dues increases (I may be wrong in this assumption) in that it will entail either renting more locations, undertaking construction of an OLLI facility, or assuming a lease. So, again I may be wrong, the real issue is to establish to what extent GMU will agree to continue funding the Tallwood facility or another GMU facility for OLLI use, if OLLI membership decides "not" to assume additional debt associated with expansion. Comment 3. Regarding No. 8, which I have not answered for the same reason as in Comment 2, I'm happy with the current tuition level – I think the level is a bargain and would not be opposed to an increase. However, if expanded outreach results in "large" tuition increases without a corresponding increase or improvement in services, I might reconsider membership.

11/18/2016 1:54 PM

Is the Executive Director paid? Does OLLI still have the Osher endowment. If so where is the dues money and the endowment going? COGS is a terribly uncomfortable venue and should be discontinued. Need coffee at all venues.

11/18/2016 1:44 PM

“Pursue large corporate donors to fund facility needs.” I would be in favor of pursuing non-profit or county/city/state relationships. Can there please be something in this country, besides credit unions, that is not controlled by big business? Question 7 does not make sense. I don't see why we cannot continue to have some socially valuable small classes, which more senior members wish to return, and larger classes, which are getting literally 100s of people out of isolation and providing mental stimulation. I would be willing to contribute to a scholarship fund for those seniors who need assistance.

11/18/2016 1:32 PM

As I am a Snowbird and spend Nov-Apr in Florida, I can only attend the short Summer session and the first weeks of the Fall. I don't get my money's worth. OLLI-GMU should take us into consideration, perhaps with a reduced cost membership.

11/18/2016 1:18 PM

This survey is badly written. Questions 5 & 9 had no options for me to check off. I do not give extra to OLLI because if I want to give funds to GMU, I will and I don't think OLLI should give any funds away when the fee had to be increased and the budget was bad. In my 12 years as a mbr I have never understood this.

11/18/2016 1:14 PM

I am primarily interested in arts and literature in Reston.

11/18/2016 12:54 PM

Dues are nearing the maximum I will spend to continue at OLLI. I do not volunteer at OLLI (because there isn't anything I can really do) but greatly appreciate all the things that volunteers do to make OLLI a great program. I would go to LOL Clifton and Reston if the program was really enticing. I think OLLI needs to replace members who drop out, but not increase membership total.

11/18/2016 12:39 PM

Dues of \$425.00 are very expensive.

11/18/2016 12:35 PM

I thought the director was a paid position.

11/18/2016 12:30 PM

I was unable to get in my top 3 classes that I was most interested in. Investigation in expansion of these classes would be helpful.

11/18/2016 12:25 PM

Use more think tank speakers. Half the think tanks are in the DC metropolitan area!

11/18/2016 12:14 PM

I am 83 and have a time-consuming commute from Arlington, thus only take classes on one d, Thus, the cost is high for the single class I always take.

11/18/2016 12:11 PM

Social security and retired Federal employees got a .three tenths of a percent increase this year. The increase did not cover Medicare increases much less other increases. Olli is a "nice to have" and will be the first thing that goes from my budget. The January increase is totally insane. If we didn't have to drive all over the place, we wouldnt need such a big staff. We need to stop actively recruiting new members.....I know I have!

11/18/2016 12:09 PM

Unnecessary focus on increasng membership is costly re: locations

11/18/2016 12:08 PM

OLLI needs a way to let students rate courses and provide ratings to prospective students. Some of the courses I signed up for were very poorly presented or organized - and I went only once. My husband took a trial membership and will not be signing up for more.

11/16/2016 12:11 PM

Enhance programs at Loudoun.

11/16/2016 12:07 PM

My interest in subjects in general seems to be declining at OLLI. So there is a balance point with cost.

11/16/2016 12:03 PM

OLLI is a great program.

11/16/2016 11:55 AM

We will not sign up again because we would have to pay for a full year. We can't take advantage of that because we have to babysit a new grandchid beginning in August 2017. The dues are too high for us to only be able to take classes in the winter and spring of 2017 I wish you provided a one-term membership as an option for continuing enrollees.

11/16/2016 11:53 AM

A "part time" option with lower costs would be great. Tuition, especially for a husband and wife, is getting prohibitive.

11/16/2016 11:48 AM

I live in Loudoun city so am interested in maintaining the programs there. I also attend classes at REston. In understand that costs must rise, however, there will be a point at which I may not be able to continue if the cost rises too high. I have tried several times to travel to Fairfax for classes and have experienced difficulty getting there. As a result, I do not sign up for anything at Fairfax. I love taking OLLI classes and hope you will be able to continue offering classes in Loudoun/Reston for a resonable cost.

11/16/2016 10:05 AM

Greatly reduce social activities. Increase funding and human resources so as to develop the highest quality courses/classes and instructors.

11/16/2016 9:59 AM

Stop increasing size of membership at Tallwood. Let us get to know each other. Stop increasing dues. Would accept other off site venues if close to Tallwood.

11/15/2016 1:04 PM

The classes held at Lord of Life, Fairfax and Good Shepherd have been wonderful from my perspective--easier to access, good facilities with adequate parking, able to accommodate larger classes. .

11/14/2016 2:37 PM

OLLI is an excellent venue for retirees. The Friends of OLLI fund is very important to help sustain the institute. These funds must be used only for OLLI's direct benefit and not as a charitable foundation.

11/11/2016 5:19 PM

Answer to Question 8: Can afford dues increase but unsure if OLLI is worth it. Answer to question 9: I am aware of volunteer opportunities but have not taken part in any of them.

11/10/2016 7:52 PM

I am grateful to OLLI for providing this opportunity to keep abreast of new developments in technology and to enhance my academic experiences.

11/10/2016 12:09 PM

I sent one twice, and they did not go. DONE!

11/9/2016 5:46 PM

Cap membership to avoid dues increases and waitlists.

11/8/2016 9:53 AM

Speech classes to increase the comfort level so one can teach classes. GMU has speech classes at the Fairfax GMU location.

11/8/2016 9:47 AM

1) OLLI is a great opportunity for ROMEOS (retired old men eating out) and other people. 2) The variety of subjects is great. 3) The many venues for classes increases the chance to expand membership. 4) There is a lot of untapped speakers of various topics in our area.

11/8/2016 9:45 AM

Q8 &9 are not specific enough. Is it \$100 or \$1?

11/8/2016 8:14 AM

I see no obligation to pursue membership growth at Tallwood. Would prefer a smaller membership and more classes at Tallwood vs. off-site locations. Reston and Loudoun may need to actively recruit new members, but Tallwood should not, in my opinion.

11/7/2016 1:56 PM

I view OLLI as educational opportunity provider more than social opportunity organization or social club..

11/3/2016 3:40 PM

I believe we should be open to increased membership- what we offer is vital to many in the community. Also having Good Shepard so all who want to learn about a topic can do so is important.

11/3/2016 3:04 PM

The dues go up at least partly because we are giving more than ever to OTHER organizations. We are an educational organization, not a philanthropic one, and why we would give anything to an irrelevant organization like EIP is beyond me -- we get nothing for that money. If we think our generosity to Mason is paying off, we're delusional. They are obligated to keep Tallwood up to code and giving their students a few bucks is small potatoes -- look at THEIR budget! I no longer give to FOLLI because if I wanted to give money to Mason, I would do so.

11/3/2016 12:22 PM

What we get for what we pay, OLLI is one of the great bargains in the known universe!

11/2/2016 9:44 PM

re: dues increase: I would use the monthly payment system if dues are further increased.

11/2/2016 8:14 PM

OLLI should not donate funds but reinvest and expand the OLLI classes and facilities

11/2/2016 8:10 PM

Recommend you cap growth at Tallwood and consider using space west of TA-2 for one additional classroom that can accommodate 100 people. CGS is nice but the rent is too expensive.

11/2/2016 5:08 PM

The last question was one I hadn't considered. Yes. That would be great. I am upset by the large dues increase, and wonder why it's necessary. We really didn't need new chairs (in my opinion), and considering that the membership - at least at Tallwood - is bursting at the seams, do we really need to expand to more and more members at this location? Why not focus on Reston and Loudon?

11/2/2016 1:10 PM

Videoconferencing to Loudoun seems not to be working as so few people participate at Loudoun. AV problems at Tallwood seem to persist, begging the question as to whether updating AV equipment should be a priority. Big problem at OLLI: diminishing attendance in classes, late comers and early leavers are disruptive and embarrassing, to say nothing of rudeness to teachers. How can we get teachers to continue to volunteer if students don't attend classes regularly?

11/2/2016 12:33 PM

I don't attend classes at Tallwood....transportation challenge consider trial mini bus service between tallwood and reston

11/1/2016 7:42 PM

Offer a way to pay per semester instead of full year

11/1/2016 10:59 AM

The Board cannot continue to remain vague on growth. It must vote on all four parts of Question 6 above. Committees must get clear and definite guidance from the Board.

10/31/2016 10:07 PM

Seeking an expanded membership when there are already serious parking issues at many venues seems counterintuitive.

10/31/2016 7:24 PM

It appears that increasing enrollment produces diminishing returns to long time members. I miss seeing the many friends I have made over the fourteen years of membership. Now we are scattered. We need more social events to compensate.

10/31/2016 5:49 PM

I don't think bigger is necessarily better, regarding either the size of the membership or the number of courses. I think the staff is too large and that there could be volunteers doing some of the staff jobs. For example, using a volunteer to do the AV technical assistance in all classrooms. I would also like to know how much it is to rent the offsite locations. I don't think that we should be donating money to other causes/programs such as to the former military attending Mason or offering scholarships. I have the feeling there are enough cash-strapped seniors among us who don't register at OLLI or who apply for OLLI financial assistance because they cannot afford the OLLI registration fee. Any donations should be kept at OLLI. Would like to know how many applications for OLLI financial assistance have been made in the past year.

10/31/2016 12:34 PM

Current annual fee is very high and the jump was excessive.

10/30/2016 7:26 PM

Question 9 should have a fourth choice to cover all responses: "I do not volunteer at all."

10/30/2016 10:25 AM

What is the purpose of continually increasing membership? It only seems to increase the dues and as the dues reach closer to \$500.00 I think current members will have to think very carefully if they can afford to belong. Spending \$\$ for larger venues does not seem to me to be a good idea; smaller classes are usually better for interaction with the instructor.

10/29/2016 10:40 PM

I would like to help in the office.

10/29/2016 6:05 PM

clifton location difficult to access for me

10/29/2016 5:01 PM

For good or ill, some of the social aspect has been lost as more duties are assumed by paid staff and classes get larger. If such large classes are the future it would be nice if some of the alternate sites were closer to Loudoun and Reston.

10/29/2016 5:01 PM

I appreciate the work of volunteers and will plan to help out in the near future.

10/29/2016 3:26 PM

dedicated socializing space at Tallwood = prime import

10/29/2016 12:36 PM

Sorry but I am no longer able to do much volunteering. I cannot drive any longer distances--say more than about three miles). I do appreciate all that is being accomplished.

10/28/2016 9:25 PM

To me, participants should pay the cost unless there is hardship

10/28/2016 9:09 PM

Doing great. One of best in country. Not as warm and fuzzy as old days when we knew everyone but growth has meant strong courses, wide variety of programs and a solid financial base. Don't overreact to a few nostalgia complainers.

10/28/2016 4:29 PM

Weather-related--Cancel the 9:40-11:05 OLLI classes (in the affected counties) on days the schools (in the said affected counties) have a 2 hour delay. Likewise cancel the 2:15-3:40 OLLI classes when the affected counties close 2 hours early. Rationale: If it is not safe for the children, it probably is not safe for seniors. Other senior organizations in the immediate area cancel if there are any weather-related changes to the Fairfax schools. If this is considered impractical, then at a minimum OLLI should cancel the 9:40-11:05 classes when George Mason opens late. It happened several times in recent times that the weather caused George Mason to open at noon, but OLLI classes went on as scheduled at 9:40!!!! (Aren't Tallwood & Loudoun OLLIs located on George Mason property?)

10/28/2016 4:24 PM

Love OLLI!

10/28/2016 3:27 PM

Convert more parking for disabled at Tallwood

10/28/2016 3:27 PM

I believe OLLI over-reacted to a complaint about wait listing by deciding to eliminate wait listing at Tallwood by greatly expanding use of offsite venues, which require additional staffing. Most members have always accepted wait listing so that maximum centralization at the Tallwood campus could occur, with much greater opportunities for socialization and easy taking of alternate or additional classes there if space were available. Suggest that we go back to trying hard to do everything at Tallwood except for the occasion (not regular) offsite venue for truly mega classes.

10/28/2016 1:02 PM

I am disappointed in the limited selection of classes in Loudoun and Reston.

10/28/2016 12:09 PM

Our budget expenditures per member have accelerated but it is not clear how monies are enhancing OLLI. For example, because we can, we have increased the number of blasts about all the activities going on in the community and at Mason, in addition to OLLI perhaps to the point of decreasing returns. Not every member needs to know everything. Too much info about marginal things and people don't pay attention, just like long communicators read in class rooms. One or two important OLLI announcements geared to the location and audience in a class is enough.. Participation in our annual meetings and activities like Chili cook off seem to attract fewer and fewer participants. Perhaps members are turned off by irrelevant information overload and simply don't read emails. It would be nice to see more person to person and staff to member interactions....like sign up sheets in the social rooms and office for social events.

10/28/2016 11:05 AM

Great job of staff and volunteers. Good value for the money. Many thanks.

10/28/2016 10:15 AM

Far better to have a small increase in dues every couple years than to wait a long time and then impose a large increase.

10/28/2016 10:14 AM

I love the Clifton site even though its further than Tallwood.

10/28/2016 10:11 AM

None

10/28/2016 9:16 AM

This fall, the power point presentations have suffered, as the "projector" does not fill the screen. Folks in picture are always skinny - circles are oval. I've mentioned this to Bill while in TA-1 and TA-3. I'm sure it's a software adjustment. Thanks...

10/28/2016 9:10 AM

I think question 7 is incomplete. Before raising dues, costs should be looked at and see where they can be reduced.

10/28/2016 6:20 AM

Unintended consequences of corporate donors???

10/28/2016 4:43 AM

I am so glad a friend told me about OLLI. I have thoroughly enjoyed every class, especially my memoir class. The reason I do not volunteer as much as I should is that I live in Manassas, and it is hard to get here. Please keep asking though because I want to do all I can. AKM

10/27/2016 5:15 PM

Train facilitators -- we had a Silk Road facilitator last week who had no idea what he was doing.

10/27/2016 3:45 PM

I'm concerned re the push for growth in membership just for the sake of growing.... and without regard for the adverse impact on expenses. Do we really need to continue to grow? It doesn't make any sense to push for growth if it results in significantly higher fees for our members

10/27/2016 3:19 PM

Most of the programs are given at Tallwood. Need more programs at Reston and Louden.

10/27/2016 2:37 PM

Getting too large -- keep membership the same or lower.

10/27/2016 2:28 PM

Olli needs to live within its budget just like the rest of us. Social Security is getting a 3 tenths of a percent raise this year. Where does the Olli Board think the extra \$50 per year that is being assessed to renewals is coming from? I have friends who cannot afford to join Olli at its current rate. We are wasting money to procure audiovisual equipment for Loudoun. Generally 5 or less people participate in audiovisual classes. Why is Olli having fundraisers to give away money to GMU students when we aren't taking care of our own members???? It is recommended that the next time we vote for Board members, those running for office state where they stand on dues increases.

10/27/2016 11:52 AM

More sports-related programming

10/27/2016 11:14 AM

Website more user friendly. -- Workhouse location.

10/27/2016 10:14 AM

Thank you for all the work you do to make Olli a very successful organization.

10/27/2016 9:20 AM

Limit membership as necessary to avoid further dues increases

10/27/2016 9:07 AM

The cost of membership is important. I was shocked when the Board first asked for a \$50 increase in dues. I seriously considering not renewing my membership this fall. For some of the items above, I have no input/preference.

10/27/2016 7:06 AM

Question 6 should have had an option for "all of the above"

10/27/2016 6:49 AM

My answer to question 6 really is "all of the above" although that choice was not available.

10/27/2016 6:43 AM

The likelihood of OLLI finding funding for an owned facility with the ability to seat 200 plus in a single room is remote. Large facility rental off-site is the only reasonable solution to avoid waitlisting, unless electronic conferencing tools are used between smaller venues.

10/26/2016 11:45 PM

I've not been particularly impressed with my experience at OLLI

10/26/2016 11:39 PM

I'd recommend that the Board have have a. Handicap morning a.m. at the very least. Break out the canes, walkers, wheelchairs' low vision glasses and earmuffs and then have them negotiate classes at Tallwood. Record their findings and report to the memberahip. Darlings we are growing older and still need to use the facilities because we love Olli.

10/26/2016 11:10 PM

I would like an increase of classes at Reston location. Video conferencing needs refining and better equipment.

10/26/2016 10:45 PM

Dues are too high now, further increases are intolerable. Need to have more classes with limited number of students who can interact and fewer mass classes with no interaction. Definitely need to work on the recurring problems with the technology, but have seen some recent improvements. This will probably be my last enrollment with dues too high and quality of courses continuing to decline.

10/26/2016 9:17 PM

This survey is not going to answer the fundamental question: what is the purpose of growth for OLLI?

10/26/2016 9:08 PM

I have been a member for 3 years and have seen tuition go up fairly significantly in the last two of my three years. I'm worried that this is a trend that will cause me to leave OLLI.

10/26/2016 8:43 PM

1. Consider adding a Toastmasters club to the offerings. Many of our instructors have an "um" problem. They need to understand that it's all right to pause without vocalizing the pause with "um." Toastmasters will cure anyone of an "um" problem. Speakers sound unprofessional when they are filling every pause with an "um." That habit is very distracting to the audience. I will not take classes with instructors who have severe "um" problems (several ums per sentence). 2. Something needs to be done to encourage more interchange between members. OLLI is too cliquish, and its too (almost exclusively) white. Big parties are not the answer. I went to one holiday party and was trapped at a table between the same two people the whole time. There should be more opportunities for mingling in the course of a 2-hour party.

10/26/2016 8:42 PM

Exchanging resources (teaching, volunteering) with GMU

10/26/2016 8:38 PM

Fairfax County Hearing Center says that all classrooms are required by law to have running visual captions for whatever the speaker is saying. There are MANY Olli members who are not able to follow the speakers or hear questions from the back of the room. ALL films should have sub-titles. The class on The Dust Bowl was an excellent class, but neither film had sub-titles and I, among many others had no idea what the people filmed were saying! I am likely to drop out of OLLI at this point because of this hearing handicap. I do have hearing aids, but have severe hearing loss that cannot be totally corrected.

10/26/2016 8:29 PM

some of the questions were difficult to answer--for example: dues increase- for me it depends how much the dues are increased; another area that was difficult to answer: how much and what kinds of services would be decreased if there were no dues increase

10/26/2016 8:14 PM

You had a question about dues increases but nothing about reduction of budget expenditures.

10/26/2016 8:04 PM

Can't respond to item 9 -- aware but have not volunteered

10/26/2016 8:02 PM

In this survey, there were not enough options to provide an accurate answer for some items. For item 7 about dues increases - there should have been a way to recommend that a professional analysis of OLLI's current expenses vs revenue be done. There is no way to request a search for decreases in expenses that might have only minor impacts on services. There is also something wrong with the table. Dues shown are per member, but expenditures seem to be total expenditures, not per member. The graph, then, doesn't take into consideration the added revenue from increased membership.

10/26/2016 7:39 PM

Offer options- full year or Winter-Spring or Summer-Fall- half years charge exceeds 1/2 full year fee. Those with beach or FLA homes drop out. Also allows those who can't afford full year to choose half year. Works at other OLLI locations. Increases membership..

10/26/2016 7:28 PM

Provide more financial information to OLLI Members

10/26/2016 6:41 PM

-Consider other locations for Tallwood clubs and/or overcrowded classes, e.g., Green Acres School, Geo. Mason classroom space (we now have a good deal on parking) -Dial back on recruitment for Tallwood; consider Sat. AM classes; -RE: Q.5: classes held at a centralized location: this applies mostly to Tallwood., so this aspect needs to be considered; ck possibility of coffee and goodies at COGS.

10/26/2016 6:38 PM

Your forced response choices for the "cost of dues" is very poorly worded; I will CONSIDER remaining an OLLI member depending on the amount of the increase but I'm not sure if I'll stay - you need to make a choice for this otherwise your data will be very skewed as I know many people feel this way - they have no way to express this in this survey; video-conferencing has not worked well in any venue where I have

attended - increasing use of this would only be OK (albeit a very poor second choice) if you can overcome all of the problems that occur when the system is used.

10/26/2016 6:02 PM

I prefer classes at L/Life & GS over Tallwood. Parking, walking to class are safer & easier & finding a seat is also easier. Those who complain about having to go off-campus are misguided.

10/26/2016 5:49 PM

Increases in the membership dues are not welcome, but I understand they are necessary to maintain the quality and variety of OLLI's program.

10/26/2016 5:45 PM

More classes can be mounted at Tallwood if Friday is added as a normal class day, and simply used for special events.

10/26/2016 5:39 PM

I've had no classes at Tallwood this all. Miss the camaraderie.

10/26/2016 5:38 PM

#5 not an either/or question; surveys don't allow complete answers.

10/26/2016 5:34 PM

Due to physical limitations, I do not volunteer regularly.

10/26/2016 5:34 PM

Q 8. Depending on due increases, I might choose (not have to) no longer belong to OLLI. It depends how many classes you take. At some point, for light class takers, the fees might not be worth. Cost-benefit.

10/26/2016 5:26 PM

I think the instructors should be vetted to avoid instructors who are poor teachers - it's become clear to me that familiarity with a subject does not substitute for effective teaching skills.

10/26/2016 5:24 PM

I quit going to some of my classes (especially Church of the Good Shepherd) because I couldn't hear the speaker, who used a hand-held mike, or the movie audio.. The next time I hear a speaker say "I don't need a microphone. My voice projects," I'm getting up and going home. The fans in TA-1 are also a problem..

10/26/2016 5:19 PM

This big increase at one time is too large. \$400.00 would be better for January 2017. There have been too many increases in recent years.

10/26/2016 5:18 PM

I would volunteer more than once a year if I knew what I could do.

10/26/2016 5:17 PM

Tallwood has grown too large for the atmosphere I appreciated

10/26/2016 5:16 PM

Please explain why we constantly are asked to increase membership when it seems to increase cost and scattered venues.

10/26/2016 5:14 PM

The emphasis on growth is hurting the camaraderie at Tallwood. The Social Room and Annex which used to be filled with friends and acquaintances is now close to empty. A huge loss for OLLI members. Not only socially but also in the exchange of ideas that is important to learning something. The expense graph above does not include the sharp increase in dues planned for 2016.

10/26/2016 5:14 PM

Are there ways to economize without significantly impacting services. What accounts for the very significant growth in expenditures over the past 8 years - almost a doubling - and how can that curve be bent back? I really enjoy being a member of OLLI, but it sounds like from Q7 I can only look forward to further dues increases (unless services are trimmed).

10/26/2016 5:08 PM

I think we need a new facility to replace Tallwood.

10/26/2016 5:06 PM

Perhaps discounts for board members or big-time volunteers

10/26/2016 5:00 PM

need to be near public transportation

10/26/2016 4:58 PM

Don't close off OLLI to new retirees. Find more locations. I needed OLLI so much when I retired. It has kept me sane. The churches are wonderful for holding classes.

10/26/2016 4:47 PM

Consider ways to encourage/strengthen volunteerism. Might a member be asked specifically to provide a minimum numbers of hours as a volunteer?

10/26/2016 4:45 PM

OLLI needs to have more classes taught by GMU professors!

10/26/2016 4:36 PM

In recent years, I have noticed a dramatic shift towards more and more involvement with fund-raising for George Mason (ADDITIONAL scholarships, recent Veteran LARGE donation, etc). When I joined, such fund-raising was used for the members' use of facilities, programs, & equipment. It appears decisions are being made as "done deals" and then the membership is informed about the decisions at the monthly/quarterly/general membership meetings..Staff has increased dramatically of late and yet it seems as though the same 3 people/staff slots are still doing all the work. The staff increases almost appear to me

as "empire building" rather than concern for services being provided (at least what I see at Tallwood). I would rather see raised monies (as in Friends of OLLI & other fundraising efforts) go for defraying OLLI facilities, equipment, programs, events instead of George Mason. They are our OLLI sponsor and should be helping us, not the other way around.

10/26/2016 4:35 PM

Long term planning for single OLLI venue; seek funding assistance.

10/26/2016 4:35 PM

I am a new member but have found the programming so far to be of high quality.

10/26/2016 4:34 PM

Very grateful to the Board for their work and dedication

10/26/2016 4:33 PM

I do not take many classes. With the increase in dues, I will not renew my membership.

10/26/2016 4:33 PM

I live in Reston, and unfortunately, the drive to Tallwood and the venues near Fairfax is quite unpleasant due to traffic backups and construction. I rarely attend courses at Tallwood. Expansion of course offerings at Reston and Loudoun would be my priority.

10/26/2016 4:32 PM

Time and distance to travel to OLLI limits us to two mornings a week. If dues increase too much, we may drop OLLI

10/26/2016 4:29 PM

Our outreach is hindered by our inability to guarantee a large audience. A centrally located venue with an audience capacity of 40-50 would probably get us more speakers.

10/26/2016 4:25 PM

Right now OLLI is in a "chase your tail" mode: more members needed to pay costs of outside rentals to meet demand for more courses to satisfy all members. Perhaps a pause in membership (one in, one out) for a year would enable OLLI to catch its breath and plan strategically for the future., o

10/26/2016 4:20 PM

Stress the importance of courtesy to the presenter.

10/26/2016 4:19 PM

Really appreciate the new techs and of course Bill

10/26/2016 4:16 PM

Dues...re-evaluate the budget. Do not increase the dues. Willing to go to other venues for special classes

10/26/2016 4:16 PM

increasing the number and variety of classes at Loudoun/Reston campuses is paramount to my continued membership- even more important than tuition increases.u

10/26/2016 4:12 PM

In 201011 budget expenditures exceeded members dues and continued to rise. What was the cause? What is the forecast? OLLI is not Federal gov't and can print money and cannot continue to run a deficit. What wasn't depicted which may skew the situation is donations and Osher grants

10/26/2016 4:07 PM

Prefer smaller, seminar type classes, like Reston rather than large lectures; Loudon too far out.

10/26/2016 4:05 PM

Scheduling oversubscribed Tallwood classes closer to the Burke, Springfield, Eastern Fairfax makes it difficult for Reston/Loudon members to attend. Board should attempt to accommodate as many members as possible and find locations in central Fairfax County location(s).

10/26/2016 3:53 PM

Two "off the wall" comments: Would you consider a tiered membership? For instance having three levels of membership based upon the number of class hours per term, so a member that only attends two or three classes a term would pay less than one who attends six or so classes per term. Secondly, would any of the volunteer presenters agree to two separate sessions on different days. This would help limit class size to allow for better presenter/student interaction and would help scheduling situations where a "student" might have to choose between classes that are given at the same time, And could somewhat ease situations caused when two desired classes are different times, but in widely separated locations.

10/26/2016 3:49 PM

I am pleased to support OLLI in most of its endeavors. That said, I view Ray Beery's "Letter to OLLI Membership" (July 19, 2016) as virtually dictatorial in its tone. Whether a \$50 dues increase (13%) is appropriate - needed though it may be - it was tossed up without any intelligent justification or detail. Moreover, there was an implied threat of another dues increase further down the road. I presume the Board wishes to avoid an overly questioning membership. For my money, I appreciate the extensive efforts on the part of a few individuals to keep OLLI moving forward and keeping and attracting members. Special recognition goes to the Programming Committee and the Staff and Executive Director. John Meier October 26, 2016

10/26/2016 3:45 PM

The chairs at Tallwood are comfortable for me. The chairs at Church of Good Shepherd and Fairfax Lord of Life are not. I really do best with chairs with arms. I don't know if you have any influence over off site venues. Thank You

10/26/2016 3:39 PM

I feel alone when I attend Olli classes. I don't see the friends I had before joining Olli and I haven't made new friends. I don't like driving from location to location. I joined Olli to make new friends and that hasn't happened. Olli should stop the growth thing and take care of the members it has.

10/26/2016 3:30 PM

This is somewhat besides the point of the survey, but I have always wanted to see a curve showing the age range of OLLI's members. Besides being an interesting barometer It might help us decide how best to target certain types of programs.

10/26/2016 3:27 PM

Olli needs an older executive director. Things have gone downhill with the current one who seems to be more into enhancing her future career objectives and political connections than the needs of seniors. We do not volunteer in the office because we are seldom on the Tallwood campus any more. I joined Olli for social interactions. My career and mandatory training is over. I want to keep the brain stimulated but not at the expense of social interactions. I HATE driving all over the place for gigantic classes where we listen to a presenter and then get up and leave. I am not sure I will continue as an Olli member when my dues come up for renewal again. It isn't fun like it used to be.

10/26/2016 3:23 PM

We have been taking advantage of exploring and exposure to new areas and topics. My wife and I would particularly enjoy hearing Rabbi Aft give a class !

10/26/2016 3:14 PM

Thank you for being so welcoming to new members!

10/26/2016 3:14 PM

If the dues went up, I would continue for several years. But between that and the fact that I seem to be in my car a lot driving between classes, (not much socializing!!) I would seriously have to think about quitting - altho I have loved it!

10/26/2016 3:13 PM

The economic analysis is invalid. Volunteers substitute for staff thus reducing costs, promoting the organizational culture, and constraining the demand to increase dues. Dues increases or reducing services is a false dichotomy. thus reducing cost, promoting the organizational culture and

10/26/2016 3:06 PM

Reduce the need for mega size classrooms which reduces costs.

10/26/2016 2:56 PM

Give first time members a reduction in the new yearly fee.

10/26/2016 2:55 PM

Dues seem very high for a volunteer organization

10/26/2016 2:53 PM

I would hate to see Olli lose current members because of increased dues. If increasing membership means significantly increasing dues, maybe that's not the best goal - in that it seems you are saying new members are more important than long time members. And I say that as a relatively new member.

10/26/2016 2:52 PM

I will not continue in OLLI if it continues on this new course! Charity begins at home and if giving scholar ships require dues increases, then stop doing so!! We are self maintained AND USED TO BE RUN BY THE MEMBERS AND NOT THE HIRED STAFF!!!!

10/26/2016 2:51 PM

I love OLLI! The classes are great. I retired in January and have been a member since then. I try to take a class every day and I participate in two clubs. I have yet to find a class that I have not thoroughly enjoyed. The variety and quality are outstanding. The speakers are excellent. The Ollie experience has made my retirement experience thoroughly enjoyable. I feel that the cost of membership is an absolute bargain and would gladly pay double the fee to continue my membership.

10/26/2016 2:46 PM

I have enjoyed my OLLI classes and look forward to taking more in the future.

10/26/2016 2:44 PM

I enjoy the classes, but do not find it that easy to meet new people. Maybe add more low key opportunities outside of events . Also I have found the quality of classes diminishing over the last year. With all the experts and resources in area I find that surprising. I am considering joining a planning committee. Finally regarding due increases I found the latest one jarring, and explanation did not justify in my mind. I think budget could be more transparent, especially with what I assume is growing membership. More discussion of facts and options would be great, realizing hard to make everyone happy. I do appreciate the volunteers that take this on. Thanks for organizing the survey to get feedback and input.

10/26/2016 2:41 PM

Olli provides wonderful and varied opportunities in class offerings. Traffic discourages me from going to Reston or Loudoun classes, but video offerings from those locations would be a great addition to all that is already available at Tallwood. Thanks for your service to Olli.

10/26/2016 2:41 PM

Ask instructors to repeat questions or save questions until the end.

10/26/2016 2:40 PM

A more formal evaluation of teachers and classes. It appears that evaluations are done anecdotally and through word of mouth so we can improve classes instead of removing them. Also, more input from the members before the Board makes important decisions like raising tuition.

10/26/2016 2:37 PM

OLLI needs to decide how big it wants to get, especially in light of the cost of renting venues and parking lots, not to mention adding staff to support the larger membership. In my opinion, OLLI has reached its optimal number of members. Further growth, in my opinion, would make it more difficult to achieve the goal of meeting people and making friends. That is more easily done in smaller group settings than in larger venues.

10/26/2016 2:20 PM

As an aside your budget graph is pretty uninformative. I stopped participating because there doesn't seem to be much control over hiring staff and other expenditures. Good Luck and thanks.

10/26/2016 2:19 PM

I would consider traveling to Loudon if a class was very special, but my experience with the one class I did take there was not good.

10/26/2016 2:12 PM

I miss the ability to see friends and members who are no longer going to the same classes and therefore not at the same campus. I will not go to Reston or Loudon, and when I go to Clifton and have no classes at Tallwood, I miss the camaraderie that I used to enjoy during break times. I see no way to make this better because we are growing and the classes are spread out over a huge territory. Progress....?

10/26/2016 2:08 PM

Increase selection at non tall wood locations

10/26/2016 2:04 PM

The graph suggests OLLI experiences negative returns to scale; costs per member increase with size. Yet we keep trying to expand. Why in the world are we doing this to ourselves?

10/26/2016 2:00 PM

When expenditures exceeded income in 2010, why did it take six years to notice?

10/26/2016 2:00 PM

Need to offer more courses in Reston. Need to deal with annoying student behavior: people that constantly waste our time with stupid comments, personal stories, and idiotic questions. They just want folks to pay attention to them.

10/26/2016 1:55 PM

- **448** responses
- **55** days (10/26/2016 - now)
- **10** views

Need insights?

SurveyMonkey has dozens of expertly-designed survey templates.

[Sign up FREE](#) or [Learn more](#)