

LRI Times



Broadening Horizons Together

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From the President

Mark your calendars and come on out to the LRI Annual Meeting and Meet The Candidates event at 10:00 on May 7 at Tallwood. It is a chance to ask any and all questions of your Board members and of the eight nominees who are candidates for six vacancies on the Board. My annual report will alert you to some of the challenges we face, and I look forward to our discussions.

The LRI Board of Directors has served you well this year. Retiring Director Art Cook has ably led an effective Hospitality Committee. Michael Coyne has continued the success of the LRI Website and regularly contributes to LRI publications. Ray Solomon's leadership and energy results in (Continued on page 3.)

What's With the Dumpster?

If you have been at Tallwood any time in the last three weeks, you undoubtedly noticed the dumpster sitting behind Tallwood House. GMU is fixing problems that have caused the house to be partially cordoned off this past year. They are correcting structural damage and making other repairs so that the house will soon be habitable.

The next question is what will the university do with the building? LRI has made it clear to GMU that we could put the building to good use. Unfortunately, we are not the only members of the university community with ambitions for the space. No decisions have yet been made by GMU.

In the meantime, LRI has begun talks with GMU about constructing two additional rest rooms across from the two at the patio entrance of the house. The university is positively disposed to this idea but has made it clear that LRI would have to bear some of the costs. LRI is exploring cost estimates and will soon decide on how to proceed.

Charles Duggan

Ice Cream Social

Members who attended the LRI Ice Cream Social on February 13 got an unexpected Valentine surprise. Friday the 13th turned out to be very lucky for attendees. It wasn't just the prodigious variety of ice cream or the scrumptious hot fudge sauce. Nor was it that Membership and Hospitality Committee members as well as Board members were dressed in cheery red Valentine sweaters, scarves, ties and suits. It wasn't even the great opportunity new members got to figure out where their talents or interests best fit into LRI's volunteer structure. All of that was terrific, thanks to organizer Cloe Ingram and members of both committees chaired by Susanne Zumbro and Art Cook. The truly unexpected surprise was the entrance part way through the event of four very handsome gentlemen in formal tails and red bow ties. They broke into a beautiful barbershop quartet rendition of *Let Me Call You*



Sweetheart, followed by the *Story of the Rose* (also known as *Heart of My Heart*). Who were these vocal sweethearts? John Blanchard, George Ewing, Roger Arnold and Palmer McGrew (from left in the photo by Rod Zumbro), all members of the Fairfax Jubil-Aires. Palmer and George are LRI members; other Jubil-Aires who are or were LRI members

include Bruce Corbin and Paul Grano. For Valentine's Day the group holds a fundraiser in which each quartet hires out to provide lucky Valentines with a serenade and a rose delivered to home or workplace.

LRI Board members Palmer and Ceda McGrew explained that all the roses for this event were delivered to their house, and their garage was literally overflowing with blooms. When Palmer and his quartet finished their round of Valentine serenades, they stopped by the LRI Ice Cream Social. In the true volunteer spirit of LRI they sang a free mini-concert and were even persuaded to provide an encore of *My Wild Irish Rose*. So don't pass up the next LRI social event—you never know what nice surprise you may be missing!

Carol Henderson

Montecino Leaving LRI

For an example of industrial strength volunteering at LRI you have to go back seven years to the afternoon a truck delivered the two halves of TA-3, the first building purchased by LRI. Allen Montecino and the LRI team struggled to guide the truck through the narrow space at the end of TA-1. As night came, a hard rain began. Because the protective covering for the structure had been torn and the interior was getting wet, Allen and Carol Ferrara dashed off to Hechingers to buy rolls of plastic tarp



to rewrap the building. Marjorie White, part of the LRI team that night, remembers seeing Allen again the next day down on the floor tacking down the center metal strip over the carpet seam.

Allen has been helping LRI in many ways since it started. His decision to move to Maryland soon means

his years of helping LRI will come to a close. He first joined LRI in 1992 and taught his first two courses in the fall term: *America's Frontier Cities* and *The Virginia Presidents*. Every year since Allen has taught two courses, except 1995 when he did three. His current course, *History and Tales of the Mississippi*, is his 26th.

Teaching is only one example of Allen's help. He has contributed enormously to the smooth and efficient working of the management as well. He has been on the LRI Board a total of 10 years. At various times he has been Chair of the Facilities Committee, the University Liaison Committee and the Administration Committee and has been an official or unofficial member of many others, including Planning, Nominating, and Publications.

Allen brought the office staff into the computer age. He was responsible for getting computers, obtaining appropriate software and training the staff on both hardware and software. He has updated the software as needed and extended staff training as well. In fact, Allen developed the contract documents used when staff is hired and helped interview new staff. He has been very conscientious and always considered the impact on the staff of any proposed policy or procedure. Carol Ferrara said "Allen has always been at our side."

Allen's career before LRI is too long to summarize here. He served many years as a pilot, including two combat tours in Vietnam. He was an intelligence officer in Greece and Germany. His last assignment was as a Wing Commander and as Air Force liaison to the National Security Agency.

Jan Dewire said "Ask Allen to tell you how his plane happened to hit a cow." LRI members have only a short time left to ask that question of him.

Michael Coyne (Contributors: Jan Dewire, Carol Ferrara, Carol Henderson, Michael Styles and Marjorie White.)

LRI Poets Publish, Plan Reading

The poems of five members of the LRI Poetry Workshop appear in Volume XX of *The Poet's Domain*, an anthology of work by poets in the Mid-Atlantic states, published annually by the Live Wire Press of Charlottesville, VA. Fifteen of the poems in the book are by LRI poets Barbara Achilles, Jan Bohall, Joseph Fulton, Dagmar Lending and Jack Underhill. Copies of the anthology are available from local bookstores. Copies of *The Poets of Tallwood*, Vol. III, 2003, which contain work by all Poetry Workshop members are available in the Tallwood office for a donation of \$5 to LRI. Also, the Workshop will present its eighth reading of poetry and other writings on Wednesday, May 19, at 2:00 in Room TA-1 at Tallwood. This free special event is open to the public.

Barbara H. Achilles

From the President (continued)

attractive landscaping all around Tallwood. Regretfully, Allen Montecino is leaving the area and resigning from the Board. His contributions to LRI are numerous (see page 2), and we all will miss him and his outstanding classes. The LRI Executive Committee has functioned well as a team. Vice President Kathryn Russell has provided effective leadership and coordinated efforts to resolve Board issues. Eileen Duggan has been an outstanding Secretary and leader of the productive Development Committee. Don Yesukaitus has professionally and capably brought about significant improvements as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee.

Appreciation goes to Florence Adler and the Special Events Committee for a great job, to Gordon Canyock for duty above and beyond the call as Chair of the Facilities Committee, to Jan Dewire for heading the Administration Committee during the winter transition and recruiting our new Assistant Administrator and to Abbie Edwards for bringing new ideas as Chair of the Reston Support Committee.

Kudos go to Carol Henderson for yeoman efforts in developing an effective Publications Committee, which has provided clear guidelines for our communications; to Ceda McGrew for coordinating the liaisons so well; to Palmer McGrew for leadership on LRI planning and to Susanne Zumbro for innovative leadership and for effectively energizing the Membership Committee.

Thank you to RoseMary Gustin and Charles Duggan, and earlier in the year to Carlyn Elder, Art Hill and Don Igo for their interest, ideas and contributions. Special recognition has to go to Michael Styles for his hard work, ideas, authorship and continuing support of the Board as University Liaison with a sense of perspective and history of LRI. Your Board has effectively dealt with a lot of issues this past year. On behalf of all the membership, let me say "THANK YOU."

Last year LRI offered 196 courses, 29 special events and eight ongoing clubs and activities. We all owe a debt to our dedicated instructors, event managers and club/activity organizers. My appreciation to all the committee members for their interest and service, special praise for the folks who contribute to our publications and catalogs, and kudos for all the unsung heroes of LRI, as well as my apologies for not including you specifically in this list.

GMU leadership and staff deserve our appreciation for maintenance of Tallwood and for making available the time and talent of faculty and staff.

Thank you to LRI staffers Carol, Jennifer, Ashleigh and Mathilde for your dedication and effective service. Best wishes to Joanne Lingerfelt. My sincere thank you and appreciation to all LRI members for your enthusiasm, time, talents and friendship and for making LRI a fun organization. It has been a pleasure to serve as your president these past two years.

Bob Bohall

Lifelong Learning Celebration Lunch

LRI hosted its third annual Lifelong Learning Celebration Luncheon on March 15 at the Johnson Center to honor and recognize our teachers, LRI



Clair Poulin, recipient of the 2004 Abe Spero scholarship, talks with Lilyan Spero after the luncheon.

program planners and those who actively support the close relationship between LRI and GMU. Among the latter were LRI members who participate in the "Be a Mason Mentor" program and leaders from New Century College and College of Visual and Performing Arts, with which LRI has established partnerships. GMU President Allen Merten gave a report on the future of

the University, the need for adequate State funding of higher education in Virginia, and GMU's own fund-raising activities. New Century College and the College of Visual and Performing Arts awarded LRI memorial scholarships to three GMU students, and students and faculty in the Music Department performed violin and piano pieces to the delight of the audience.

Michael Styles

Friends of LRI Campaign

By the time you read this article, you will most likely have received a letter requesting your financial support of the Friends of LRI. The generous support given by contributors to the campaign is crucial to the financial viability of LRI. Without it we would not be able to balance our

annual budget and acquire needed equipment. Additionally, we are facing an even greater financial challenge in the coming year as we are exploring the possibility of adding sorely needed rest rooms in Tallwood House. So, whatever you can give will be put to good use.

Acknowledgement of donations is made by publication of the donors' names in the *LRI Times*. In the past this has been done either quarterly or semi-annually. Starting this year it will be done only once at the end of the year. Therefore, all who make donations in 2004, whether in reply to the spring campaign or with your periodic class registration, will be acknowledged in the January 2005 edition of the *LRI Times*. Of course, anyone who wishes that their donation not be made public will remain anonymous.

Eileen Duggan

New Board Election Procedure

New voting procedures are in use this year. The 2003 experience showed that further changes were needed in the handling of ballots. Signatures of many members on ballot envelopes were illegible, and some members objected to any association of names with ballots. Accordingly, the LRI Board approved amendments in the procedures.

In 2004 the ballots will be enclosed in envelopes addressed to each member and marked "LRI Ballot." The envelope contains a single ballot with names of the eight candidates in random order. The envelope also contains a return envelope addressed to LRI.

Voting begins at the Annual Meeting on May 7 and continues until May 19. At the Annual Meeting, the nominees are introduced to the membership and asked to say a few words about their qualifications and interest in becoming a Board member. A Meet-the-Candidates period will follow. Each member attending the meeting will then pick up a ballot, mark six choices, place it in the return envelope and put it in the ballot box.

Immediately following the Annual Meeting, the LRI office will mail ballot letters by first class mail to members not attending the meeting. A locked ballot box at Tallwood will be used by the LRI staff to collect and store the mailed-in ballots until the count. Locked ballot boxes at both Tallwood and Lake Anne will be available throughout the voting period for members who receive mailed ballots but do not wish to return them by mail.

Your name is associated with your ballot only at the beginning of this process, in order to identify you as an LRI member eligible to vote. Once you discard the outer envelope, mark your ballot, and seal it in the inner envelope, you are ensured of confidentiality because your ballot is anonymous. If you mail your ballot or return it in person to Tallwood or Reston, do not put your name or address on the official return envelope. Remember, *No member who loses or misplaces his or her ballot will receive a second ballot.*

Harold Davey

Welcome, New Members

Ralph Allen
Bill Borghesani
William Campbell
Susan Deporte
Bill Edwards, Jr.
Dan Feighery
Kathleen Fitzgerald
Paul Hoeprich

Muriel Hoeprich
Jim Jordan
Marjorie Kavanaugh
Eleanor Knott
Luci Martel
Karen Metzfield
Susan Miller

Sue Morgan
Lillian Naar
Carolyn O'Connell
Martha Reese
Sue Reinhard
Sue Rooks
Carol Rosenhoch

Jean Seelig
Elaine Sellman
Lorree Smith
Jane Tombes
Phil True
Fern True
Jim Wilks

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