

LRI news

VOL. 2, NO. 3

OCTOBER 1992

CALENDAR

November

Fri., Nov.6, 10:00 a.m., Volunteer training session

Fri., Nov.6, 8:30 p.m., Virginia Opera Co. production of "Carmen" at the Center for the Arts, GMU

Fri., Nov.13, 2:00 p.m., Forum with Alice Rivlin, GMU Hirst Professor of Public Policy and former head of the Congressional Budget Office, Rm. 306, Fairfax City Hall 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax Sign up at the LRI office.

Tues., Nov.17, 1:30 p.m., Board meeting

Fri., Nov.20, 2:00 p.m., End-of-Semester Party, Rm. 306, Fairfax City Hall

December

Tues., Dec.15, 10:00 a.m., Board meeting

Tues., Dec.15, 1:30 p.m., Finance Committee meeting

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

First, a special welcome to our many new members. We hope you are enjoying your classes and have already made new friends. We will be having an "end of the semester" party in November where you will have a chance to meet those not in the classes you are taking.

The Institute has been working with the administration of George Mason University over the past month to clarify our relationship, resolve the parking problem and discuss space allocation. We hope to sign an agreement shortly that will strengthen our ties with the University.

The University has granted library privileges to all LRI members this semester. Your names are now in a "Special Borrowers Notebook" at the library check-out desk.

I hope that members of LRI will support the University in the coming bond referendum on November 3 by becoming informed about the issues and volunteering to distribute literature at the polls. (See the items on page 2.)

The winter semester will start January 18, so plan to spend a busy four weeks beginning 1993.

ARF

President	Shirley Fox
Vice President	Audrey Markham
Treasurer	Don Simpson
Secretary	Martha Poling

Board of Directors

Vincent Boylan	Martha Ford	Aldo Scalzilli
Kathryn Brooks	Frank McMahon	Henry Shenker
William Cooley	Dorothy Millner	Lilyan Spero
Edna Derrick	Alix Naff	Ed Swoboda
George Felton	Garrett Ruhl	Ellis Woody

Editor, LRI News: Marjorie White

A PACKED OPEN HOUSE

The Open House held on September 18 to kick off the fall semester drew a record crowd, overflowing the council meeting room at City Hall. President Shirley Fox introduced the Board of Directors and Committee chairpersons and told of the progress LRI has made in the last year. She then introduced Dr. Marjorie Haley, Special Assistant to the President of George Mason University, who gave an informative talk about the bond referenda that will be on the ballot November 3.

Dr. Haley explained that the three general obligation bonds to be voted on are for higher education, mental health, and parks and natural resources. The funds will go entirely for capital improvements, and none of the proceeds will be used for operating expenses of state government. She pointed out that there will be immediate economic benefit because the \$600 million in construction projects will ripple through the state's economy as well as increase tax revenues and reduce outlays for unemployment, welfare and other social services. With interest rates at a two-decade low, she said this is a cost-effective way to pay for the much-needed facilities.

Knowing how interested LRI is in education, she told us that enrollment in Virginia's higher education institutions will increase by 65,000 students by the year 2000. The bond issue has funds for 95 projects, and \$57 million will be targeted for Northern Virginia. GMU is slated to get \$47 million, the largest outlay in the state. Dr. Haley said that no tax increase is associated with these bonds because the money has been appropriated already. She also said that these bonds will not harm Virginia's AAA bond rating.

A VISITOR FROM JAPAN

Hiriko Malott, President of Iwami International, visited the Institute on September 30 to learn more about how our LRI developed. She is interested in starting similar programs in Japan, where lifelong learning is provided in the Hyogo prefect, where her mother lives, at a four-year senior citizen college.

LRI HELPS "FLOAT THE BONDS"

The lake at NOVA's Annandale campus was the site for a rally in support of the three bond referenda that will be on the ballot November 3. Four LRI Board members--Shirley Fox, Audrey Markham, Bill Cooley and Ellis Woody--were among those carrying signs urging a "yes" vote. The ability of LRI to expand at George Mason is related to the availability of space on or near campus. You can pick up literature at the LRI office about the bonds and the specific projects they are meant to finance, as well as information on how you can volunteer to assist in publicizing these bonds.

A BIG "THANK YOU"

Martha Poling, who has taken on the important job of recruiting volunteers to help staff the office, says the following people were of great assistance in answering the phone and doing various chores at the desk during the summer months: Laura Cambern, Betty Carlson, Virginia Darr, Pat Frix, Flora Hedblom, Alice Herbert, Barbara Lynch, Frank McMahon, Ida Mello, Jim O'Keefe, Maureen Rumford, Mary Shea, Ruth Shields and Haidi Sternberg. One of these staff volunteers was heard to say that she enjoyed it so much she thought she'd missed her calling.

Helping Vince Boylan get the fall catalog and LRI News ready for mailing were Dolly Gilliam, Flora Hedblom, Bella Leftoff, Ida Mello, John and Madeline Ryan, and Ruth Shields.

The mammoth job of registering everyone for the fall classes was handled by Henry Shenker. A special thanks to him and to Garrett Ruhl, who provided name tags for everyone.

You can join what Martha calls her "happy band of staffers" by coming to the Volunteer Staffer Workshop, Friday, November 6 from 10 to 12 at the office. New LRI members are especially urged to come.

THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE IS LINING UP COURSES FOR THE WINTER AND SPRING TERMS. IT WANTS YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR TOPICS AND INSTRUCTORS. LEAVE A NOTE IN AUDREY MARKHAM'S FILE OR CALL HER (620-4216).

The Volunteer Corner

Madelon Meekings

New LRI member Madelon (Maddie) Meekings has somehow managed to find time to take two courses and still keep up with her volunteer activities. One morning each week she holds a class in English conversation at the McLean Baptist Church. Her 15 students come from five different countries. Maddie says she focuses on discussions of American culture. This is her fifth year of working in the International English Conversation Classes.

For two years Maddie has also been Treasurer of the Widowed Persons Service in Northern Virginia and trains volunteers in its outreach program.

Maddie has another name: "Moonbeam." That's who she is when she performs as a clown at schools, churches, community centers, nursing homes and parades. She says she is primarily a story teller but also paints faces and otherwise entertains her audiences. Six years ago she took three months of clown training, and since then has traveled as far as Maine and Florida putting on performances. Maddie says everyone seems to respond enthusiastically to clowns.

WE'RE EXEMPLARY!

Our LRI has been cited as an "exemplary institute" by the North Carolina Center for Creative Retirement, which is conducting a study of older-adult educational programs. The study is sponsored by the AARP Andrus Foundation. The Center was particularly interested in hearing of the orientation provided to our course leaders at the beginning of each semester. The first two sessions were led by professors in the Education Department of GMU: Dr. Arthur Chickering, now Dean of the Graduate School of Education, and Dr. Ed Jones, Director of the Office of Adult Learning and Professional Development of the Graduate School.

A SPECIAL FORUM NOV. 16

LRI is privileged to have Alice Rivlin as a speaker at a Friday Forum on November 16 at 2 p.m. in Room 306 of Fairfax City Hall. Her timely topic will be "The Economy After the Election." Dr. Rivlin is Hirst Professor of Public Policy at George Mason University and on leave as a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institute, where she was Director of the Economic Studies Program from 1983 to 1987. Prior to that she spent eight years at the Congressional Budget Office. Among her many books is "Reviving the American Dream: The Economy, the States and the Federal Government," published in 1992.

NEWS FROM THE ELDERHOSTEL INSTITUTE NETWORK

You are invited to attend a Midwest Conference of Institutes for Learning in Retirement--"A Celebration of Uncommon Schools," from November 15 to 17, 1992, on the Chicago campus of Northwestern University. Register before November 2 for \$99, after November 2 for \$120.

Our LRI plans to offer two pre-study courses in the spring semester for the trips to Costa Rica and to Rome sponsored by the Network. Henry Zoller will be the instructor for "The Tropical Ecosystems of Costa Rica" and Glenn Markus for "The Roman Way."

If you want to participate in one of these Network trips, mail your \$250 deposit to our office now, payable to "Elderhostel, Inc." Reservations will be accepted in order of postmark. See the enclosed flyer for more information.

To find out more about any Elderhostel Institute Network activity, call Dorothy Payne (860-2733).

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Enclosed is my check for \$250 payable to "Elderhostel, Inc." for deposit on:

____ June 20-July 3, 1993 trip to Rome

____ June 12-26, 1993 trip to Costa Rica

(Mail to LRI, 4085 University Dr.,
Fairfax, Va. 22030-4444)

ATTENTION COFFEE DRINKERS

Those who are stopping for coffee and cookies before or after classes are asked to contribute \$5 per semester to help defray the costs. You can give your contribution (cash or check made out to Learning in Retirement Institute) to Carol or whoever is on the desk. Mark it "Coffee."

COMPANIES ARE HELPING LRI

LRI has received a gift of \$200 from the Mitre Corporation, which also displays the LRI catalog at its office.

IBM is donating a computer. Ken Oates helped arrange this very needed donation.

Our thanks to both of these companies for their support and encouragement of lifetime learning.

WINTER ALERT: LRI will be closed whenever Fairfax County schools are closed or opening late, as reported by local media.

SEE HOW WE GROW!

The Learning in Retirement Institute started the fall semester with 59 new members, thanks largely to recruitment work done by Frank McMahon's Membership Committee and some excellent publicity obtained by Judith Lieberman's Publicity Committee. It seems that a lot of people out there are interested in the kind of learning and socializing opportunities that LRI offers. If you know of potential members, tell Frank so he can get information to them before the winter session starts.

Speaking of publicity, we now have a photographer recording some of our events. You may see LRI member Wilfred Palmer snapping pictures at parties and in classrooms.

LEARNING IN RETIREMENT INSTITUTE
George Mason University
4085 University Drive
Fairfax, Va. 22030-4444

Telephone: (703) 385-1593

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MERRIFIELD, VA.
PERMIT NO. 6309