

LIR NEWSLETTER

LEARNING IN RETIREMENT, INC., AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Volume 3, No. 6

May 2006



Learning in Retirement, Inc.
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Athens, GA 30604-9182

Telephone: 706/549-7350
Please leave a message, and someone
will return your call.

NEW LIR Website Address:
www.athenslir.org

LIR Email Address:
lir_ga@yahoo.com
Be sure we have your current email address!

LIR Officers 2005-2006
Albert Ike, President
Jim Jacobson, Vice President
Peggy Cole, Secretary
Stephani Foss, Treasurer

LIR Board of Directors
Ronald Cerwonka
Louis DeVorse
Gerald Firth
Joseph B. Harris
Leo Jensen
Sandy Jordan
Mary Munnell
David Rosenzweig
Janet Stratton
Inge Whittle

LIR Committees
Activity Groups: Ron Cerwonka
Curriculum: Jeani Goodwin
and Sue Speir
Finance: Jim Jacobson
History: Kip Brown
Liaison: Albert Ike
Membership: Sandy Jordan
Public Relations: Roland Brooks
Publications: Inge Whittle
Social: Phyllis Lane
Travel/Study: Pat Thomas

SUMMARY OF LIR ANNUAL MEETING

LIR held a successful annual meeting at the Holiday Inn Express on April 28. Included in the business portion were the reports of the committees and officers, recognition of retiring and incumbent board members and officers, and the presentation and approval of the 2006-2007 budget. Nominations and elections of new officers and board members were held.

Effective July 1, the officers will be:	Board members for 2006-2008 are:
Jim Jacobson President	Ann Crowley
Janet Stratton Vice President	Tony Cushenberry
Peggy Cole Secretary	James Kissane
Clarissa Finco Treasurer	Jay Shinn
	Natalie Wellman

Because of higher postage costs, two changes to the bylaws were approved. In the event of the call for a special meeting or changes concerning the annual meeting, those members who have email addresses will be notified electronically. NOTE: if you prefer receiving notification by mail even though you have email, please let the membership chair know and you will be mailed the information.

In further business, John Rudy discussed the new development fund which will be explained in depth in a future issue, and Sandy Jordan received well-deserved special recognition for her commitment and work as a board member and chairman of the membership committee these last two years. After adjournment of the meeting, members moved easily into social mode as they visited and enjoyed refreshments.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS AT THE 12TH ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 28, 2006

We have now completed twelve years of operation. I am happy to report to you that we are a pretty healthy 12-year-old. We started this past year with a full head of steam and good momentum provided by our predecessors, and we are grateful for that. For this very productive year, we owe a sincere vote of thanks to several very strong committee chairs, whose leaders we will recognize in a few minutes.

Here are some of the year's accomplishments. Athens has been spotlighted in two national magazines as a good place to retire, which has generated several inquiries about our program. We have a new and improved website. We have fitness programs designed to help us live longer, as well as mentally stimulating programs to make those "extra" years even more interesting and enjoyable. We have an LIR Development Fund, which John Rudy will describe here today and discuss further in a later newsletter. Clearly, whether you look back to our accomplishments or forward to our new opportunities, things look good either way.

(continued)

As we look toward the future, we need to be prepared for some challenges. Here is my *top ten* list of suggestions and admonitions.

1. Our ranks will increase. We might easily reach 400 or 500 members next year.
2. Our members will continue to demand more and better classes and activities.
3. The emphasis on quality will not subside
4. We will probably continue to be pestered by agents and merchants who want to access seniors as customers through LIR.
5. We need to continue to search our ranks for new talent to take on new volunteer opportunities
6. We need to strive to keep our good committee chairs from burning out.
7. There are talented people out there who are willing and capable of giving exciting classes. Not all of them are university faculty. We need to work harder to discover them and encourage them to teach classes for us.
8. We need to find new and creative ways to thank these talented people who serve as our instructors
9. We need to find appropriate ways to thank and reward those members who go that extra mile to make LIR work well by serving on committees or as officers.
10. Finally, we need to stimulate and encourage the creative ones among us who come up with such good and timely suggestions that make our programs both fresh and interesting.

And FINALLY, thank you again for giving me the opportunity to serve such a solid organization full of such curious and interesting people.

Al Ike

Parking Tag Reminder

Please return any parking hang tags that you haven't used to Jim Jacobson, any board member or coordinator of a summer event, or hold on to them and bring them to the fall registration. We do pay for them, so don't throw them away. Thanks.

LIR FIVE-YEAR PLAN

The LIR planners are off and running with the first of three initial phases of the LIR Five-Year Plan, designed to assure LIR a calm and prosperous voyage into its future.

Phase I is essentially a consultation with LIR members through a questionnaire addressing member preferences, expectations, and ideas for development beyond our current course and activity programs. This is to help us answer the question "Where are we?" Each member will receive a copy in the mail and by email, if accessible, with a request that answers be returned promptly. (A stamped envelope will be enclosed.) The questionnaire will come from the Department of Adult Education, which is working closely with us on this project through Janet Truluck, generously providing the technical support for a professional survey. Our committee will analyze the results together with Adult Ed, duly reporting them to the board and to the membership in the LIR fall newsletter.

Phase II, "Where do we want to be?" with respect to desirable direction and expansion or change of academic and social programs, should evolve from our questionnaire findings and conclusions. Organization development and recommendations to achieve our aspirations over the next five years or "How do we get there?" will follow as **Phase III**. Ron Cervero, Janet Truluck, and their associates will advise and help us to assure a plan that is grounded in our research and practical in its implementation. Member comments will be requested during both phases II and III in order to assure a plan thoroughly responsive to all of our insights, appetites, and needs. Target completion of these three phases is year-end 2006.

At the same time, the committee is exploring two opportunities for LIR that require study now if we are to seize them. The first is examining with our friends at the Athens Community Council on Aging (ACCA) whether together we can provide services to LIR members at home, such as quality meals from restaurants, transportation either individual or in a group, and repair and maintenance services by licensed specialists. These would be paid benefits at prices below market negotiated by us for members only. ACCA wants to expand its mission beyond its present services largely funded by government money, and we can offer this extension, so the fit is a good one – with their resources and expertise on the one hand and our membership on the other.

The second is exploring with the staff at a new resort/residence community under construction on land next to Chateau Elan, off Interstate 85, whether we can welcome their residents into our programs as members, primarily for our course offerings. It appears that several communities operated by the Del Webb group across the nation have active education programs that have proven popular. Resolution here will undoubtedly be many months ahead, whereas the home services initiative is much closer at hand. Both fit our five-year time frame.

These LIR extension possibilities will of course be woven into our plans as we develop them, based on your guidance through the LIR/Adult Ed questionnaire and our resulting mutual conversations.

(John Rudy)

SUMMER EVENTS

TRAVEL/STUDY

A Trip to Atlanta and the Georgia Aquarium Monday, August 21

The world class Georgia Aquarium in the heart of Atlanta is a truly extraordinary experience. Although this is the largest aquarium in the world, its design allows visitors to enjoy each section at their own pace. Of particular note are the beluga whales that appear to interact with the visitors. The whale sharks glide through the water with their own entourage of fish that are “along for the ride,” and the African penguins peer out and view humans as a curiosity.

The aquarium visit is the afternoon portion of the trip. The morning includes a general bus tour through downtown Atlanta to Centennial Park and a short stop at the new Atlantic Station. We will eat lunch at the Twin Towers Cafeteria in the Sloppy Floyd Building.

The motor coach will leave the upper parking lot of Home Depot, Epps Bridge Road, at 8:15 sharp and will return around 6:30. Total cost for the trip is \$76 per person and \$59 per person for those who already have season passes to the aquarium. (NOTE: season pass holders must call 404-581-4444 in order to get into the aquarium. The time to call will be announced closer to the date.)

Reservations are taken on a first-come basis. Make your check payable to *American Coach Tours* and mail the check and reservation form to Pat Thomas, 3018 Springhouse Circle, Stone Mountain, GA 30087. Reservations are due by July 1, 2006.

SOCIAL

Coffee at Jittery Joe's Wednesday, June 7, 10:00

Plan to come to the Jittery Joe's at Alps Shopping Center, next to Schlotzsky's, to kick off the first summer activity. Parking is ample.

Ballroom Dancing Sundays: June 11, 18, 25, July 9 Lessons, 2:30-3:30; practice, 3:30-4:00

Are you in the mood to recapture the fun of ballroom dancing or game to learn? If so, sign up for Introduction to Ballroom Dancing, taught by accredited dance instructors Trevor Cordial and Derrick Ritter at the Freedom of Movement Ballroom Dance Academy in Watkinsville. The red brick building is located on the Macon Highway (Route 441)—on the right side about ¾ of a mile beyond Friendship Presbyterian Church if you are coming from Athens and on the left side very shortly beyond the Macon Highway and Hog Mountain Road intersection if you are traveling from Watkinsville.

A minimum of 10 people is needed to hold the class; maximum class size is 40. No partner is necessary and guests are welcome.

The cost of \$40 is to be paid at the studio. To make a reservation, call Phyllis Lane at 706-548-1606. Reservations are due by June 5.

Dinner at the Five and Ten Tuesday, June 27, 5:30

Join your LIR friends for a relaxed meal and visit at the Five and Ten, located in Five Points on South Lumpkin Street, across from The Deli. Three-course meals cost \$24, not including beverage and gratuity. We will pay individually at the restaurant but need to make a reservation to ensure seating together. Call Mary Ready at 706-552-0508. Reservations are due by June 22.

Lunch at Café Trumps The State Botanical Garden of Georgia Tuesday, July 11, noon

Meander among lush plants inside the building before lunch and walk off the calories afterwards as you take in the various gardens outside the restaurant patio. Café Trumps is situated on the bottom level of the Visitor's Center of the Botanical Garden on South Milledge Avenue. Although we will pay individually for our meal, reservations are necessary. Call Phyllis Lane at 706-548-1606. Reservations are due by July 6.

Morning Coffee at Cups Tuesday, July 25, 10:00

This is a great location at the end of July when many of the students are gone. Cups Coffee Cafe offers a cozy and restful ambience under its art studded walls and a wide selection of baked goods to accompany your latte or cappuccino. Cups is located on Barnett Shoals Road, near the Peking Restaurant in the Greenacres shopping plaza.

Coffee at Panera's August 1, 10:00

If you couldn't make the coffee at Cups the week before, plan to come to this last coffee of the summer. The Panera Bread Company on the Atlanta Highway also has a tempting selection of goodies, and you can pick up a fresh loaf of bread on your way out.

Dinner at Carrabba's Italian Grill Tuesday, August 15, 7:00

This is our last chance LIR summer social. Come to Carrabba's, the restaurant with the roof garden, for a taste of Italy. The eatery is situated on the Atlanta Highway in front of the Ingles Shopping Center right before the Honda dealership if you are traveling from downtown. The grill offers varieties of antipasta, wood-fired pizza, *insalate* and *zuppe* (salad and soup), pasta, and Italian classics. Entrees range from \$15.99 to \$19.99, pasta and spaghetti meals begin lower. Pay individually at the restaurant, but call Phyllis Lane at 706-548-1606 to secure a seat with the group. Reservations are due by August 11.

A Moment in History – LIR Goes Inc.!

The year 2001 was an eventful one for Learning in Retirement (LIR). After seven years of being a program sponsored by the University of Georgia Center of Continuing Education, LIR was spun off to be on its own. The previous year's membership and the Board of Directors had undertaken extensive preparations for independence. A separate LIR checking account had been created, a committee had researched the community in an effort to locate classroom space, and new university sponsors had been located.

The regular elections for officers and board members to begin serving in July 2001 were held in the spring. On that date, LIR became independent, with only an advisory relationship with the new sponsors: The Institute of Higher Education and the Gerontology Center. There were no classroom spaces available, there was no formal and legal structure in which to operate, and no means by which to communicate with the members other than by mail or phone. Naturally members needed to renew their memberships, learn what programs would be offered and where classes would be held. Fortunately, the LIR committees – curriculum, travel-study, and social – worked hard and went right on making plans as if everything would come together as expected.

In midsummer a stroke of good fortune, aided by enterprising members, made it possible for LIR to use two classrooms in the recently remodeled River's Crossing building. In addition, an LIR answering service was established and arrangements made for Windsor Press to manage the setup, printing, and mailing of the newsletter. With these essentials in place, programming could be implemented and registration for classes and activities could be held.

The first newsletter was mailed about the end of August 2001, announcing Fall Registration to be held at River's Crossing on September 12, 2001. Approximately eight classes and three travel study events were scheduled, based on the membership of about 140. Since few of these members were familiar with the River's Crossing building, registration would include a tour of the building. The social committee prepared refreshments, the curriculum committee was ready to complete registration, and parking arrangements were set up. The only thing left was to hope that the previous members would show up to register and join the newly independent LIR!

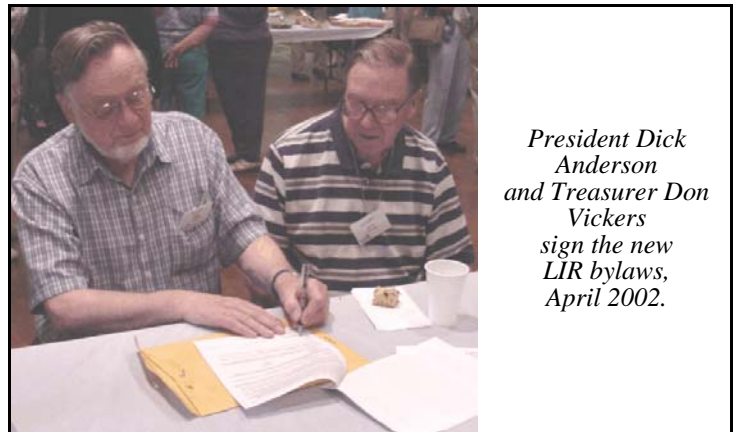
On September 11, 2001, terrorist tragedy struck the United States. Businesses, public schools, and colleges all over the United States were closing due to fear and uncertainty. That evening University of Georgia President Michael Adams announced through the media that the university would be open for classes the next day. LIR registration could take place as planned. But, with the country in a state of shock, would the members attend registration? To the relief of all the participating

committees who had worked so hard to prepare for this event, the members came, paid their dues, and registered for classes and other events. They also approved of the new LIR classroom facilities.

The turnout was large. The conversation understandably revolved around the tragic events of the previous day since registration was the first opportunity for many to talk about them with others. But registration was a success and classes were filled. LIR could continue.

The following almost five years have seen expanded programming, membership growth, and phenomenal volunteer participation by our members. It should be noted that all the instructors for LIR are also volunteers; they have provided the key ingredient of our organization's success: excellent instruction.

The first year the Board of Directors worked hard to produce new bylaws and appropriate policies while completing plans for the organization to become a legal entity, a Not-for-Profit Organization under the laws of Georgia. At the Annual Meeting in April 2002, the membership voted to become *Learning in Retirement, Inc.*, of Georgia. More recently, as the organization has continued to grow in size and complexity, the board worked to attain 501(c)3 status under the Federal Internal Revenue Code. This step, a difficult one to accomplish, completed LIR's journey to becoming a fully fledged independent organization.



President Dick Anderson and Treasurer Don Vickers sign the new LIR bylaws, April 2002.

Programming has been of prime importance. In the last year, with 300 plus members, more than two dozen courses per semester have been offered, travel study has expanded, social activities have continued, and more variety and quality is evident. In 2001 there were four "activity groups," informal small groups of members with a common hobby or interest. In 2005 there are eight of these groups under the LIR umbrella, each planning its own activities.

Out of sight of Athens, but not out of mind, is a group of members and friends in Washington, Georgia. They affiliated with the university and LIR while all were part

of the Georgia Center programming. This group operates independently, maintains its affiliation with LIR, Inc., and offers comparable educational programs to members and friends. The group has become an important part of the life of senior citizens in the Washington area.

Classes continue at River's Crossing with several additional instructional programs held at the Athens Community Council on Aging. A new sponsor, the Department of Adult Education of the College of Education, has been very helpful and supportive, as has the college administration.

LIR members are a busy group of people, continuing their own development while contributing to the community. In the five years since 2001, LIR has changed from a wobbly but independent organization to a strong and growing one. With its rich programming and active participants, it is enhancing the lives of its members, the university community, and the region.

Richard Anderson
(Dick served as president of LIR from 2001 to 2003.)

It's time to renew your LIR membership (July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007) Please fill out and return the enclosed form, make your check payable Learning in Retirement, Inc. and mail to Sharon Tate, 101 Trillium Lane, Athens, GA 30605-4972. If you need extra forms, print out from the LIR website www.athenslir.org – click on the Membership Form link for the PDF file.

LIR SUMMER EVENTS SCHEDULE

June 7, 10:00	Coffee at Jittery Joe's
June 11 – July 9, 2:30	Ballroom Dancing
June 27, 5:30	Dinner at Five and Ten
July 11, noon	Lunch at Café Trumps, Botanical Garden
July 25, 10:00	Coffee at Cups
August 1, 10:00	Coffee at Panera's
August 15, 7:00	Dinner at Carrabba's Italian Grill

Clip and mail to Pat Thomas with your check

SUMMER TRAVEL/STUDY RESERVATION FORM

A Trip to Atlanta and the Georgia Aquarium, Monday, August 21

Reservations due by July 1

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

_____ No. of reservations @ \$76 per person = _____ enclosed.

_____ No. of reservations @ \$59 per person = _____ enclosed. (*Aquarium season pass holders*)

NOTE: Aquarium season pass holders must call 404-581-4444 in order to get into the aquarium. The time to call will be announced closer to the date.

Make your check payable to *American Coach Tours* (NOT to LIR) and mail to Pat Thomas, 3018 Springhouse Circle, Stone Mountain, GA 30087.

A Revolutionary Battle Revisited

A group of venturesome members of the class on the Battle of Kettle Creek got together on an overcast day in April and set out for Rayle, Georgia, to take a step back in history. They were visiting the actual battle site in Wilkes County, where colonial Patriots favoring separation fought against the Loyalists. Participants had already learned about the battle itself from Dr. Marion Rice and about the political and social climate of the times from Dr. Louis DeVorse, the leader of this expedition.

They climbed the hill surrounding the battlefield and stood in gentle rain as they surveyed the 20-foot Federal monument and other markers in memory of those who fought at the site, as well as other local men who fought in the war elsewhere, for freedom of the colonies from British rule. This is where "... the severest check and chastisement the Tories ever received in Georgia or South Carolina. . ." was delivered on February 14, 1779, to Gen. Andrew Pickens in a letter to Gen. Henry "Light Horse

Harry" Lee in 1811. The memorial lies in deep woods commemorating unique past conditions for "... the British seized all of Georgia except Wilkes County," according to *World Book*.

Despite the weather conditions, group consensus was that the trip was well worth the effort. For others interested in visiting the historic battle site, it is always open and an easy drive from Washington, Georgia. Take US 78 east to Rayle. At the town center, turn right onto Philomath Road and travel for 0.8 mile, then turn left onto Courtground Road and continue for 7.6 miles to War Hill Road (dirt). At this intersection, you will see an inconspicuous Kettle Creek Battle sign on the left. Turn right. The site is 1.1 miles further, but you will need to watch carefully for this last road sign.

Or take a "virtual tour" at the Wilkes County RootsWeb site online at http://www.rootsweb.com/~gawilkes/virtual_tours.htm.

PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAMETAG TO CLASSES AND OTHER LIR EVENTS!



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

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