Editor’s Message Doreen Giesfeldt
My name is Doreen Giesfeldt and I’ve taken over creating a digital newsletter for our Learning in Retirement of Waukesha County members. The picture in the corner is our past president, Deborah Nicely and me. During several meetings regarding the new digital newsletter we recognized a need to champion the people behind the scenes. When we examine who does what it is clear we have crafted a fine-tuned group of people. So this edition of the newsletter will highlight many of the people that work so hard to get it right. Perfect name for our newsletter—BYTES. Bytes shows we are digital, bytes—short paragraphs of happenings, share a byte, take a byte of something you’ve never tried. It is also short for Be Your True Educated Self.

Previously, the wonderful team of Christian and Barbara Nagy delighted you with all that happens in LIRWC. I face high standards in presenting a newsletter that reaches their caliber of reporting. Please thank them for their many contributions to keeping us informed.

President’s Message Claire Fowler
Exercise! Exercise! We hear it all the time. Well, Learning In Retirement of Waukesha County (LIRWC) offers a journey in brain exercise, AND, friendships. AND, great volunteer opportunities, being constructive and valued.

Thanks to all the dedicated, enthusiastic and hard working volunteers in LIRWC. With the active members and sixty-plus classes offered this semester LIRWC has further ambitions to increase our value to the community. All members can help LIRWC to become more diverse, and more inclusive by reaching out to friends, family and acquaintances. We are now a stand alone 501(c)(3), like a small nonprofit company. We are working on policies, bylaws and personnel policies to comply. Contact the office if you have expertise in this area and want to volunteer to help. If you know of a lawyer that would guide us gratis to help us on our way let us know. Your involvement makes LIRWC an outstanding organization.

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How to contact your LIRWC Delegates-at-Large:
LIRWcmembers@gmail.com
Your input will benefit the decision-making processes of the board. Send any comments/concerns/suggestions to the above email. Your name does not need to be disclosed at the meeting. You will receive a response after the Board meeting.

A Delegate-at-Large is a voting member of a governing board elected to represent the whole membership of the organization. - Diane McMahon and Alice Slusher

School Closings
WCTC—Local radio and TV stations will give updated notices of closings and cancellations. Also visit www.wctc.edu for closing information. If WCTC closes, ALL LIRWC events are also cancelled.
MISSION STATEMENT
Learning in Retirement of Waukesha County. (LIRWC) provides intellectual, cultural and social opportunities to foster life-long learning for adults. We are hosted by Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC) and individuals are welcome from all communities!

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WHO WE ARE AND HOW TO FIND US

MISSION STATEMENT
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Maintenance and Landscaping Jose (Tony) Esqueda
I started working here in February of 2012. I’m in charge of the maintenance of the building and the landscaping at the Waukesha Campus. I make sure everything is running properly with all building systems and when I have time, help our janitor to keep the building clean. I take great pride in my building and the flowers and plants around the school. I recently started a vegetable garden for students and staff. Everyone always looks forward to the bounty it brings. Over the years I started helping students with general questions about the school or technology issues and eventually became the go-to guy if anyone has problems with any of the technology in the classrooms.

A little about myself, before I started at WCTC I worked at Metavante, a data center, in the engineering department. I worked there for 10 years and when they merged with a larger corporation my position got eliminated. I enjoy cooking, gardening at home, taking trips to wineries, blueberry picking, and sometimes have some fun gambling at different casinos. I’ve often cooked for the staff, everyone loves my guacamole! I’ve been married for 31 years to my beautiful wife, Lora. We are cat parents to Carlito, a Bengal cat. He is incredibly active! He keeps me busy every day.

Treasurer’s Message Matthew Corby
AYCE or WHAT’S ON THE MENU?
It’s a buffet with lots of items from which to choose. Fill your plate with all you can stuff into your schedule. Among the menu items are: classroom courses offered by LIRWC instructors in a multitude of subject areas including classes in topic areas such as ‘Rosie the Riveter’ and ‘Climate Change in the Twenty-First Century.’ Special interest groups (SIG) for activities beyond the classroom. SIG emphasize and promote group activities outside of the traditional classroom setting and gives LIRWC members an opportunity to join with members with similar interests. A sampling of the menu items include a golf league, theater group, a hiking group, creative crafters and book lovers. Participating in these groups can keep an individual busy, involved and active all year long. Pick one, pick two or more groups. There are 12 available! Just fill your plate with one or more of these choices listed on page 53 of the catalog. Special event trips which focus on offering LIRWC members and guests the opportunity to take one or more of the 8 one-day bus trips and one overnight trip to various destinations around Wisconsin and surrounding states. These are bargain priced all-inclusive trips to a variety of venues including one to the Anderson Japanese Gardens in Rockford, IL and another to see ‘Oliver’ at the Marriott Theater in Lincolnshire, IL. There is no extra charge if you want to take a quick nap on the bus. See page 50 in the catalog for more information.

As with any buffet, you never know who you will bump into while going through the line. Being involved in LIRWC creates the chance that you will bump into an old acquaintance, make a new friend, have a simple conversation with someone you never met or just be a group of people whose companionship you enjoy.
LIRWC -The Early Years 1995-1996 Donna Bauer

On April 26, 1995 over 250 senior citizens filled the Waukesha County Technical College lecture hall to overflowing. They had been invited to attend an Elderhostel Institute Network informational meeting. The purpose was to organize an institute for lifelong learning available to senior citizens of the Waukesha County area. Donna Bauer, Community Education Department Manager at WCTC, had been meeting with community representatives of various senior agencies during the preceding months. Their goal had been to determine the educational/programming needs of senior citizens in Waukesha County. It was decided by this group to support the idea of WCTC sponsoring an on-site institute for learning in retirement according to the Elderhostel model. Then the Boston, Massachusetts based Elderhostel national office provided detailed information about the process required to organize an institute. The WCTC administration, being very supportive in sponsoring a group dedicated to lifelong learning, offered to provide staff, facilities and equipment necessary for classes to be held on the WCTC college campus.

That day in 1995 community members from Waukesha County and western Milwaukee County responded to the excitement of organizing such a group. Speakers from Wisconsin and Illinois attested to the value they experienced from membership in the local institute. A deadline date to be up and running was set for October 1995. During the following six months leaders and committees were organized. The initial membership of 150 nearly doubled within five months and reached 640 by the 10th year.

Good decisions by a strong and dedicated board laid the groundwork for a very successful organization. It remained true to its fundamental purpose of lifelong learning—classes which explore and expand ideas and skills to meet the educational needs of older adults in our community.
My name is Timothy D. Holloway. I am the Program Manager for the Center for Community & Personal Enrichment at Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC). In addition to managing several programs including the Cosmetology, Traffic Safety, Motorcycle, and Personal Enrichment Programs, I am also the liaison for Learning in Retirement of Waukesha County.

In my role as liaison, my purpose is to assist the organization in accomplishing its goals. I help facilitate classes, help provide technical support, operational support, and help coordinate interaction with other community organizations. I also work very closely with the LIRWC Board. I assist the Board with decision making and provide my expertise in business management. I help coordinate the organizations interaction with WCTC and provide them with guidance on the operational procedures of the school.

My availability varies from day to day. My office is located at the Waukesha Campus, however, I manage programs that operate out of both campuses. With that said, I am often traveling between both campuses and in meetings many days throughout the week. The best way to contact me is by phone, email or text. I am always willing to set up an appointment if a face-to-face meeting is desirable.

Timothy D. Holloway
Program Manager
The Center for Community & Personal Enrichment
Office: 262-695-6511
Cell: 262-336-2599

Learning in Retirement of Waukesha County (LIRWC) is extremely fortunate to have been blessed – twice, by the Lions Club Organizations of Waukesha County. Waukesha Noon Waukesha Lions Club donated $1,043.99 and Wisconsin Lions District 27-A1 granted LIRWC $1,003.99 for the purchase of two (2) PHONAK Rogers DigiMaster 5000 and Roger SoundField Touchscreen Mics for the benefit of our deaf and hard of hearing members. The Lions Club organization is known for its community service and LIRWC is proud to have been a partner with them on this project. A special thanks to Chris and Barb Nagy of LIRWC, and Robert Poff and Jeff Meyer of the Lions Clubs for their diligence in pursuing this request and pushing it through to completion.

We held a demonstration for a small group of instructors and a few of our deaf and hard of hearing members on Sept. 5, 2019, at the Waukesha campus. The reception was very positive and all remarked that the sound systems made a huge difference – even in the large double-rooms 102/104. They were amazed how the small unit could project things so clearly.

LIRWC is very grateful for the generosity of these two (2) Clubs and believe the PHONAK systems will be invaluable to our current members as well as future deaf and hard of hearing individuals in our community who become part of the LIRWC family.

(l to r) Barb Nagy, LIRWC; Lion Ron Lyon, Treasurer; Chris Nagy, LIRWC; Lion Shane Carlton, President.
Special Events Let’s See Who Keeps the Wheels Turning

Stars & Stripes Honor Flight
By Christian Nagy

Learning in Retirement of Waukesha County offers many wonderful opportunities for its members. Many members enjoy the day trips planned by the LIRWC Special Events Committee. Many of our day trip riders have had the pleasure of getting to know our bus driver, Lumpree Brown, personally. He has shared helpful advice with committee members for some of our trips. In May of 2019, six members of the Special Events Committee had the pleasure of being part of a welcoming crowd at Mitchell International Airport for the 50th Stars and Stripes Honor Flight.

Lumpree entered the United States Army at age 19 and was deployed to Vietnam from July 1967 to July 1968 during the height of U.S. presence in Vietnam and involved in the Tet offensive. He was stationed in Dau Tieng and Cu Chi Base Camp. Lumpree served with the fourth and twenty-fifth Infantry Division and participated in search and destroy missions and convoy operations between Cu Chi and Dau Tieng.

He remarked that participating on the Honor Flight was, “like no other experience in his life.” He felt both humbled and honored. The trip included an airport Fire Department water cannon salute, police escorts everywhere they went, visitation to the Lincoln Memorial, WW II Memorial, Iwo Jima Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, Air Force Memorial and Pentagon National 911 Memorial. There was an old fashioned Mail Call.

The overwhelming one-day experience ended with a late night arrival at Mitchell International Airport and welcome by hundreds of people. The festivities included a brass band playing patriotic tunes and a bagpipe brigade complete with kilts. He commented, “I felt like I had just arrived home to a hero’s welcome. Everything was done with so much thoughtfulness and precision that made it an unbelievable experience. It was inspiring to witness the scale of this event, the amount of organization and number of volunteers needed to pull off such a task.”

After his service to country, Lumpree became a professional truck driver, first over the road traveling to different cities, then for a local common carrier and retiring from Roundy’s Foods. He wanted to stay active after retirement so he decided to pursue something he had always wanted to do, drive a motor coach. He and his wife Sandy enjoy traveling around the country in their trailer and camping in Wisconsin State Parks. This December Lumpree and Sandy will celebrate their thirty-ninth wedding anniversary. We wish him and his family continued happiness in his retirement and hope to see him on many more LIRWC excursions getting us in and out of those many tight parking places.

On-Line Registration Update

LIRWC was so excited to launch our On-line Registration System for the 2019 fall semester. We started out well and had quite a few members take advantage of this new way to register. Then we ran into concerns regarding the security of the system and protection of individuals’ member numbers that we wanted everyone to use as their password. In addition, we were not able to connect to PayPal as quickly as we had hoped.

Therefore, we suspended the system while we create new password login protocols and finalize the PayPal connection. We are working to have the system back up and running as quickly as IT can complete everything, but by spring registrations at the latest.

After seven years in the office Mary Buechl is retiring. Thank you, Mary, for your exceptional attention to your work and the kindness you’ve shown to others. You will still see Mary enjoying bridge and sheepshead with fellow LIRWC members.

From Mary:
“I’m about to board a really long flight I’ve put my seatbelt on and clutched it tight. The flight is taking me to beautiful destinations, it’s called retirement, life’s longest vacation. Thanks for all the great memories.”

EDITOR’S PROFILE Doreen Giesfeldt

• Graduated from WCTC with 3 associate degrees: marketing, retailing and fashion merchandising (although it was WCTI when I attended).

• Graduated from Mount Mary University (although it was college then) in 2005 with a BA Liberal Arts with Fine Art emphasis

• Had five articles published in an international specialty magazine, The Pitchpipe for Sweet Adeline’s.

• My barbershop quartet, Blue Plate Special, sang Happy Birthday 77 times to 77 Sweet Adeline’s throughout one year.
LIRWC Digital BYTES Newsletter

The best reason to go digital and get your newsletter online is saving trees, AND being able to increase the font so you can read everything. AND a quicker turn-around time if you have a question. All the information you need to interact with the board, the president or anyone else in the organization is either on Page 1 or 2.

Our word this year is “Discover”. Discover places, thoughts, friends, and of course yourself.

Our acronym this year for “Bytes” — Be Your True Educated Self. Compliments of my daughter, Elise Waara. She teaches at MPS and sees the wonder of learning everyday. I always say no one is stupid just temporarily ignorant until they learn how to do things.

"TALK ABOUT INFLATION - WHAT WE CALLED A ’5 & 10’ IS NOW A DOLLAR STORE!!!  Thanks, Metty"