Lifelong Learning Institute
At
Waubonsee Community College

Annual Report

to the

LLI Membership

July 2025 – June 2026

June 12, 2026

Table of Contents

Reports	Pages
President	3 – 4
Vice-President	5
Secretary	6
Treasurer	7
Curriculum Council	8-9
Member Communications Manager	10
Social and Community Outreach Manager	11 - 12
Technology Manager	13 - 14

Report of the President

It has been an honor and rewarding experience to serve as Lifelong Learning's president for the 2025-2026 year. The opportunity to work with all the volunteers and members is a highlight of being in a leadership position. Thank you to all of you for sharing your expertise and talents. You are what makes LLI a thriving organization.

In November 2025 LLI received the Distinguished Contributor Award for 2025. LLI was recognized at the WCC Board meeting and received a plaque which is on display in the LLI office. Our $25,000 endowment and member contributions toward the scholarship fund ensure that LLI will continue to have an impact by providing yearly scholarships to Waubonsee students. Your continued support through direct donations to the scholarship fund is appreciated, in this way we can further our impact. The Board has also approved $3000 in funds to support Adult Education graduates.

Varied activities throughout the year have been held which allowed the community and the membership to enjoy learning and the companionship of others. These include the Fall Kickoff, Holiday luncheon, and the Spring/Business Luncheon. One of the most positive developments has been the continued success of the Special Interests Groups. Currently there are twelve SIGs which are thriving and providing for the social needs of our members.

Our positive relationship with WCC strengthens LLI by providing support and ways to engage our members. We have enjoyed Crafting Conversations, Banned Books to Movies and Artists Talks. LLI has been privileged to be able to have WCC professors present courses in their area of expertise.

The Curriculum Council continues to develop ways to enhance learning opportunities for members. The Council successfully provides a diverse, balanced curriculum, including courses, outside and guest speakers, and day trips. Our excellent facilitators collaborate closely with council members to engage members in a variety of learning experiences. This dedicated group is a true asset to LLI.

Our Social & Community Outreach Committee brings awareness of LLI within the community. Various marketing strategies are used to communicate, including speaking to community groups, fliers, attending events, and Facebook. Communication within our organization is managed by the Member Communication Committee through the quarterly newsletters and eblasts.

Technology is becoming a key to Lifelong Learnings' future. CourseStorm has streamlined the registration process. Analysis of the data generated impacts all areas of LLI. The data analysis is

assisting in making decisions at the Board level and the Curriculum Council. This analysis will help LLI as it moves into the future.

Thirty years of providing intellectual and social activities is a powerful achievement. Let us continue to work together to strengthen LLI and ensure its growth into the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann White
President

Report of the Vice-President

The position of the VP includes chairing a Board meeting in the absence of the President, appoint LLI members to form an Ad Hoc committee to study an issue and chair the first meeting, and, third, always be available for assignments from the President.

During the current term year, 2025-2026, I did chair one Board meeting, managed two Ad Hoc committees and managed one standing committee (N&RC) on the following subjects:

1. Research better ways to recruit from the membership to fill open positions on both the CC and Board.
2. Managed the Nominating and Recruiting Committee for the 2026-2027/2028 term.
3. Research ways to increase member retention which has been a challenge for quite a while.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent Hayward
Vice-President

Report of the Secretary

During the current LLI fiscal year, I recorded the official minutes of all LLI Board meetings held to date, and anticipate recording the minutes of the May 19, 2026, Annual Business meeting.
A copy of the official minutes with attachments will be filed in the LLI office.
An electronic copy of those same documents will be maintained in a secure manner on the X Drive in the LLI office.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Carew
Secretary

Report of the Treasurer

We finished 2024-2025 Fiscal year with a surplus of $107,881.17. The Board decided in after much discussion to open a scholarship endowment of $25,000 with Waubonsee. This endowment will support awarding scholarships to deserving students of from $3000 to $5000 per year. This will provide a legacy for LLI going forward.

Through April 2026, our Revenues are $47,702.92. Expenses YTD are $64,483.27. Included in the expenses is $25,000 for the Endowment. Without that amount, our expenses would be $39,483.27. We are on track to stay within our yearly budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Hastert
Treasurer

Report of the Curriculum Council

Council Members

Bobbie Brown – Class Attendance
Karen Christensen - Facilitator Assistance, Board member
Susan Foody - Curriculum Review, Course Sites
Jessica Guglielmi - Waubonsee Liaison and Site Coordinator
Mary Hauge - Outings and Trip Coordinator
Carolyn Hopkins – Recorder
Beth Johnson - Scheduled and Managed Approved Courses, Board Member
Jerry King - Processed Course Proposals
Evelyn Porter - Presiding Member, Technology Support, Board Member
Amy Stewart - Facilitator Working Group

The Curriculum Council remained committed to providing a balanced and diverse curriculum of educational offerings, outings and trips designed to appeal to the varied interests of our chapter's membership. Working closely with facilitators and Waubonsee staff, the Council reviewed course proposals, coordinated scheduling, managed course information for entry into CourseStorm, participated at the annual Open House, hosted two Roundtables, and actively recruited prospective facilitators to ensure a successful academic year.

During the academic year, the Council reviewed and recommended for Board consideration 67 courses, 20 outings, and 2 trips across the fall, spring, and summer terms. In addition, the Curriculum Council continued to strengthen administrative processes through updated forms, facilitator resources, website enhancements, and regular communications with current facilitators, helping to bolster each semester's content.

Responsibilities

- Communicate regularly with facilitators
- Mentor current and prospective facilitators
- Host Roundtables
- Review course proposals for content and clarity
- Prepare course schedules and spreadsheets
- Coordinate room assignments and technology needs
- and technology needs
- Forward necessary information to our WCC contact
- Enter approved courses into CourseStorm
- Assess outside venues
- Review course attendance data
- Collaborate with the LLI Technology Manager and WCC Technology staff

Accomplishments

- Processed and recommended for Board consideration:
    - Fall 2025 - 23 courses, 9 outings, 1 trip
    - Spring 2026 - 28 courses, 8 outings, no trips
    - Summer 2026 - 16 courses, 3 outings, 1 trip
- Provided a balanced and diverse curriculum
- Scheduled and entered all courses into CourseStorm
- Tracked Honorariums
- Hosted a Fall Roundtable on October 24, 2025
- Hosted a Spring Roundtable on March 20, 2026
- Provided monthly email updates to facilitators
- Updated monthly facilitator checklists
- Reviewed and revised the Facilitator Guide
- Coordinated website updates with WCC Technology staff
- Updated the online fillable form for Outings/Trips with instructions
- Purchased 2 portable amplifier units for presenter use
- Prepared quarterly articles for the LLI newsletter
- Developed and coordinated an Art Exhibition at the Sugar Grove Library to showcase members' artwork creations celebrating the 30th anniversary of our LLI chapter
- Collaborated with WCC to provide joint offerings for community participation

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Porter
Curriculum Council Chair

Report of the Member Communications Committee

This Committee includes two standing committees: Membership Relations, chaired by Carol Putnum, and the Newsletter Committee, chaired by Mary Maiers.

Members are continuing to receive timely eblasts that inform them of opportunities of interest provided within our LLI community, and in partnership with WCC. Additional eblasts announce class browsing and registration dates and any LLI business that members need to be aware of.

The Membership Relations Committee also continues to mail Welcome packets to new members.

The Newsletter Committee produces four very informative and entertaining newsletters per year. The volunteers who work on these newsletters make sure there is a variety of interesting content as well as important information to keep our members up-to-date.

This spring I held two meetings that began the discussion of member retention. We have gained many new members from our fall open houses, yet many of those who join do not renew the following year. Our discussion centered around possible reasons as well as possible solutions. It was determined that a strategic member retention plan should be developed which will consider data and personal interactions with new and existing members. An initial meeting of an ad hoc committee, chaired by V.P. Kent Hayward, and tasked with the development of said plan has been scheduled. We look forward to reviewing and implementing the recommendations from this ad hoc committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Andi Danis,
Member Communications Manager

Report of the Social and Community Outreach Manager

The members of the Social-Community Outreach Committee work as a cohesive unit. However, team focus consists of myself and Laura King working as the Social Committee Co-chairs, Gary Krueger and Ceil Carey as the Community Outreach Co-chairs with Donna Wawrzyniakowski representing LLI at community events, and Jennifer Beck focusing on marketing strategy and demographic analysis. Each committee member contributes to all areas of our responsibilities, with meeting monthly to discuss our projects and vision for LLI.

Our committee has been actively working on creating and implementing a marketing strategy with the goal of growing membership. We continue to modify this plan to be in concert with our supply and demand objective (curriculum and membership). Emily Rollins, Community Engagement Manager, is invaluable in her assistance with working toward this goal. We advertise in senior center newsletters, news media and display posters in numerous local libraries, coffee shops and senior centers. Under the leadership of Susan Foody, we implement Facebook campaigns to coincide with our academic semesters and to add another dimension to our presence in the community.

Under the leadership of the Special Interest Group Committee (Chair Karen Christensen and members Bill Doeden and Donna Monti), we have added another social opportunity for our members. SIGs are open to LLI members only and are self-governing. Groups range from book discussions, current events, health and fitness, dining, art, volunteering and more. Guidelines and open SIGs are posted on our LLI website.

Following is a summary of our projects and accomplishments during this past year, all of which are possible only with the enthusiastic participation of members and volunteers. We would also like to extend a special note of gratitude to the college for their ongoing support and belief in lifelong learning.

<u>Social Events</u>

1. Fall Kickoff Open House held on August 4, 2025 on the WCC Sugar Grove Campus. With 149 in attendance, 58 new members were recruited. This event was open to both members and non-members, providing an opportunity to learn about LLI and socialize!
2. Holiday Luncheon held on December 2, 2025 at the Stonebridge Country Club in Aurora. Attendance of 123 set a record! Entertainment was provided by vocalist David Fraccaro, who sang popular Elvis songs. Volunteers and new members were recognized.

3. Annual Volunteer Brunch was held on April 7, 2026 on the Waubonsee Community College campus, Bodie Hall. Invitations were extended to 62 volunteers (38 in attendance), a time to honor their dedication and creativity. A delicious brunch was catered by Reuland's, followed by sharing, an interactive activity and a game to test our knowledge of LLI in commemoration of our 30th anniversary.

4. Spring Luncheon/Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2026 at the Stonebridge Country Club in Aurora. We look forward to another fun event with great participation!

Community Outreach

1. We are thrilled to partner with WCC in hosting speaker and community events, open to LLI members, WCC students and staff and those in the community.

    a. Crafting Conversations: *Kindness Rocks* on November 13, 2025 and *Planting Seeds of Change* on April 21, 2026.
    b. Banned Book to Movie Club: *Captain Underpants* on October 8, 2025 and *Lorax* on April 23, 2026.

2. Our Outreach team has worked hard to get the word out about LLI! We continue to pursue opportunities to speak to organizations and attend community events:

    a. Stonebridge Social at Stonebridge Country Club on October 8, 2025
    b. Medicare Social in Elburn on October 12, 2025
    c. Kiwanis Club of Geneva/Batavia on October 16, 2025
    d. Sugar Grove Senior Center on October 28, 2025
    e. Aurora Kiwanis on November 25, 2025
    f. MLK Service Day in Yorkville on January 19, 2026
    g. Oswego Hometown Expo on February 28, 2026
    h. Little Rock Township Senior Spring Fling in Plano on March 31, 2026
    i. Batavia Volunteer Fair on April 28, 2026
    j. Senior Expo at Aurora Prisco Center on May 26, 2026

I would like to personally thank the committee members for their amazing enthusiasm, vision and teamwork!

Respectively submitted,

Mary Maiers
Social-Community Outreach Manager

Report of the Technology Committee

- Ongoing maintenance and management of the site was conducted by Bill Doeden and Kim Carew. The site was set up for luncheon registrations and for browsing and registration of the Fall 2025, Spring 2026 and Summer 2026 catalogs prepared by Beth Johnson and Jerry King. At the end of the Spring 2026 term, nearly all of that terms available seats were registered.

- Waitlisting was an issue in the Spring 2026 term when approximately 300 seats were waitlisted. That exceeded any waitlisting number previously experienced. Some possible contributors were: limits haven't been set on the number of classes that can be taken, members can over-register and then withdraw from classes later, the appropriate balance between the number of classes offered and the number of seats to make available needs to be defined. Steps will be taken to address this issue.

- CS is changing to a new pricing structure based on the features offered rather than the registration volume. At present, LLI will remain on their current plan based on registration volume.

  The new pricing structure has four levels

Starter	Core	Pro	All Access
$99/mo	$169/mo	$269/mo	$399/mo

  We're comparing our existing pricing with the new pricing structure.
  Both include a 3% credit card charge and $2.49 per registration fee.

  The most significant feature of the new structure is that it provides artificial intelligence (AI), which is included at the "All Access" level. This capability can only be applied to existing LLI data and would simplify its analysis. We are currently determining the types of analyses needed, any security concerns and if the price point is justified by the advantage that it offers.

- At the request of Dr Tejada, we worked with WCC and CC members to provide LLI members with access to the fitness center. A course proposal was submitted for two eight-week fitness class sessions that were incorporated into the Spring 2026 catalog. Emily Rollins assumed the role of facilitator. The two sessions filled to capacity on the first day of registration.

- Kim Carew and Nancy Modery managed various aspects of the registration process. They also maintained the phone log and responded to questions/issues that were raised by members.

- Bill Knudsen, Mary Hauge and Anders Lindell finalized development of the Trip and Outings proposal form which incorporated the automatic calculation of charges used to determine the breakeven amount.

  Bill is also reviewing CS's "Member Purchase" which could eliminate the time - consuming effort to confirm that a registrant is an LLI member. CS has been asked to build "pre-requisite" capability into their platform.

- Nancy Weatherup has joined the Tech Committee. She will play a role, along with others, in the analysis of LLI's data. We anticipate this will enable us to better understand Member Retention, Member Curriculum interests, and the role Summer classes play in membership.

MEMBERSHIP	
2022 – 2023	257
2023 – 2024	301
2024 – 2025	360
2025 – 2026	379

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Doeden,
Technology Manager