

Lifelong Learning Institute

at Waubonsee Community College



Member Handbook

Revised September 2025

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome

We are pleased to welcome you as a member of Lifelong Learning Institute at Waubensee Community College, a dynamic group of lifelong learners. This handbook was prepared to provide you with information about LLI: its history, goals, structure, policies and benefits. We hope you find it helpful!

LLI at WCC

Previously known as Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR), our chapter was organized by five Founding Members and four Charter Members, offering its first four courses in September 1996.

We are a totally volunteer organization, which allows us to keep our fees quite low. Therefore, we rely on our members to offer their passions and talents in the various volunteer opportunities. A modest honorarium is offered to guest presenters and outside speakers. More detail is provided on page 10.

To meet the diverse needs and interests of a growing organization, the Curriculum Council strives to present a diverse offering of courses, outings and trips for LLI members. Diversity is manifested in the offerings' varied subject matter, style of delivery and depth of inquiry. In our LLI curriculum, the challenges of aging present themselves in our participants and facilitators, giving each of us another opportunity to learn and understand more about ourselves and others.

Affiliation with Road Scholar

Road Scholar (previously called Elderhostel) is an American not-for-profit organization that provides educational tours geared toward adults 50 and older. It was founded in 1975 by Marty Knowlton and longtime friend David Bianco to extend the youth hostel experience to adults. Road Scholar currently offers programs in the United States and 150 other countries.

More information can be found on their website: <https://www.roadscholar.org>

Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) chapters are affiliates of Road Scholar and must be approved for membership into their network. Each LLI chapter is sponsored by a college or university, with the goal of fostering lifelong learning through courses and programs that engage the learner, provide social interaction, and enrich lives. LLI members are challenged to understand the cultural forces of today, to interact socially and intellectually with one another and to live empowered lives.

GOVERNANCE

LLI's Guiding Principles

These principles guide leaders and members in the foundation and growth of LLI:

LLI Values Statement

Our Values include continued learning, intellectual inquiry, social interaction and active member participation in lifelong learning.

LLI Mission Statement

Our Mission is to provide our membership with a defined and member-generated framework for life-enriching, dynamic, educational experiences through lifelong learning programs.

LLI Vision Statement

Our Vision is to be a self-sustaining and self-governing community of active mature adults offering a diverse and intellectually stimulating array of noncredit educational offerings in a wide variety of academic disciplines.

Governing Documents and Bodies

LLI at WCC is governed by a Constitution (primary governing document) and Bylaws (intended to support and implement the LLI Constitution). Amendments to the Bylaws may be adopted by a majority vote of the Board after written notification to the membership and a specified discussion interval (as outlined in Bylaws Section K).

The Board consists of four (4) officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and additional elected members as determined necessary to carry out Board responsibilities.

Each office is an elective two-year term, with the exception of President and Vice President, which are one-year terms. The Waubensee Community College staff member designated as the LLI liaison is an ex-officio member of the Board, without voting privileges.

The Curriculum Council is composed of as many members as the Board determines is necessary to conduct its business. The LLI liaison is a non-voting member of the Council. At least two, but not more than 1/3 of the total Board membership are representatives from the Council.

The Council oversees proposals for courses, outings and trips; develops and implements policies related to curriculum; recruits and mentors facilitators; and works to enlarge the quantity of offerings, while maintaining the quality to fulfill LLI's values, mission and vision.

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Membership

- LLI is an open-membership organization for adults 50 and older.
- The membership year is from September 1 – August 31.
- The annual membership fee is \$25. Each course is \$10; outings and trips vary.

An outing is an activity where the member provides his/her own transportation and is typically a partial day in length. A trip varies in length and includes provided transportation and other amenities which vary based on destination (lodging, meals, admission fees, etc.).

In addition to being a totally volunteer organization, LLI's low membership fee and course fees are made possible to a large degree by the support provided by Waubonsee Community College, including use of classrooms, office space, technical and staff support, all at no cost to LLI.

Terms

LLI follows Waubonsee's academic schedule, which includes three academic terms:

- Fall – September through December
- Spring – February through May
- Summer – June through August

Online registration is open for browsing and registration, typically as follows:

- Fall - August
- Spring - January
- Summer - May

Listings of the respective offerings are found on the online platform:

www.lliwcc.coursestorm.com

Course Locations

Many courses are scheduled on Waubonsee's main Sugar Grove campus. Others are held at WCC's other campus sites (Aurora, Plano) and at satellite locations. These are typically libraries, senior centers or municipal buildings and are determined based on availability and resources. Sites vary from term to term, but are always identified in the curriculum offering listings.

Course Length

Courses can vary from one to eight sessions. The course length varies by course content and is determined by the facilitator. Each session is typically two hours but can vary based on the specific course.

Closures

LLI follows WCC's severe weather policy. Any changes to normal college operations will be announced on major radio and television stations. Off-campus LLI courses are automatically canceled when the facility where they meet closes. If WCC's campus is not closed, it is up to the facilitator to determine if the course will meet.

If you are unsure whether a course will meet, you may also contact the facilitator. Please use your discretion regarding the weather as your safety is our primary concern.

The following resources can be used to check closing status:

- The college's website: www.waubonsee.edu
- The Emergency Closing Center website: www.emergencyclosingcenter.com
- Local radio and TV stations
- Your email and voice mail, as your facilitator may have left a message

Handicap Accessibility

All selected course sites are handicap-accessible and include handicap parking spaces. We understand this is an important consideration to our members when scheduling courses.

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Compliance

In October 2015 the Board appointed an ad hoc committee to investigate all aspects of LLI's compliance with ADA. (A disability is defined as anything that impairs learning or impacts major life functions.)

LLI is covered under WCC's policies for ADA. As an organization sponsored by WCC, LLI follows WCC's guidelines published in its Student Handbook.

We Welcome Facilitators

All members are encouraged to share their passion by being a facilitator! You do not need to be a teacher, just an avid learner and can start by being a co-facilitator. The Curriculum Council assigns mentors and provides a myriad of resources. Seasoned facilitators are always available to share their ideas and experience. You are not alone in this experience.

Proposals for all offerings must be submitted to the Curriculum Council by specific due dates to allow adequate time for proposal review, course scheduling and catalog creation. The specific dates for the fall, spring and summer terms are published in the *Facilitator Guide* (posted on the LLI website) or can be obtained through the Curriculum Council.

REGISTRATION AND COMMUNICATION

Procedures

- Registration is offered online at: www.lliwcc.coursestorm.com
- Instructional steps and video can be found at: www.waubonsee.edu/lli
- Courses do fill quickly; however, you may register for an open course up until the night prior to the first session of class.
- If a class is full, you may place yourself on the waitlist; no payment is made at that time.
- Payments are accepted by credit card and check. Checks must be made out to Waubonsee Community College and include a copy of your registration email confirmation and mailed to: Student Accounts and Cashier Office, Rt. 47 at Waubonsee Drive, Sugar Grove, IL 60554.
- Each member will receive a registration confirmation email at the time of registration to use as a class schedule of dates/times/places, as well as a reminder email two days prior to the start of class.

Points to consider:

- Give careful thought to your selections based on your interests and schedules. As a courtesy to other members, do not overbook or over-register! Please remember that your selection may prevent another member from attending.
- Be open to trying new subjects and facilitators. You may be pleasantly surprised!
- At LLI we encourage our members to be open to new possibilities, expanding our interests and minds.
- Regularly check your email, as ebasts are sent informing members of openings in classes and various other information throughout the year.
- Remember that this organization is 100 percent volunteer-operated, and the more courses we can offer, the more likely you'll get into those you request.

Filled Courses

In the case of a filled course, the member may place himself/herself on the waitlist for that class. The Registration Committee will notify the member if an opening occurs. Payment will be handled at that time. Facilitators have the option to increase the course size or to offer that course in a future semester.

Cancellations

A course, outing or trip may be canceled if it fails to meet a minimum enrollment number. In that case, efforts will be made to notify participants a week before course start date. If a course session needs to be canceled, course members will be notified as soon as possible. If time permits, email notifications will be sent. If there is a short notice, course members will be notified by phone.

Refunds

Membership Dues Refunds

Because full membership includes access to a wide variety of LLI courses and an array of benefits, the membership fee is non-refundable. Membership in LLI is nontransferable to another LLI or another member.

Activity Refunds

- If a check is used to pay for an outing or trip which has been canceled, the member may receive a refund from WCC after completing a vendor form and W9 form, provided the cancellation is made prior to the deadline date. This policy also applies to withdrawal from an outing or trip if made prior to the deadline date.
- If a credit card is used to pay for an outing or trip, a credit to the credit card used will be given in the event of a cancellation, closure or withdrawal if made prior to the deadline date.
- Trip refunds requested after the deadline date will be made in amounts reflecting any expenses not actually incurred.

Note: private trip cancellation insurance is encouraged through your private carrier.

Course Refunds

In the event of an LLI course cancellation, only those course payments made by credit card are refundable and will be credited to the card used. **If a check was used for payment of a canceled class, there will be no refund.**

Withdrawals

If you withdraw from a course, there will be no refund of the course fee.

To withdraw from a class call: (630) 466-2593 and leave a message.

Name Badges

Member Communications is responsible for issuing name badges to new members, with the goal of mailing them in a timely manner. Members are encouraged to wear name badges at all courses and functions to build community and to assist facilitators in identifying participants. If lost, contact the LLI office at (630) 466-2593 to request a duplicate.

Communication

Communication is of great importance to our members. Member Communications attempts to share critical information through:

- Quarterly newsletters (most recent posted on our website)
- Eblasts sharing important timely news

Also, we like to hear about any member needing support or recognition (get well, sympathy, congratulations). We send cards to these members on behalf of LLI. If you have such news to share, contact the Member Communications Manager. (All updated contact information is listed on the last page of each newsletter.)

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

General

As a member of LLI, you receive many benefits and privileges:

- Opportunity to experience the joy of learning without grades, tests or papers to write
- Stimulating courses
- Engaging facilitators
- Enrichment through course-related outings and trips
- New friendships
- Semi-annual luncheons
- Participation in Special Interest Groups
- LLI Newsletters
- Access to LLI Board and Curriculum Council meetings, which convene on the second and first Friday morning of each month, respectively.
- Participation in the development of LLI through Board or Curriculum Council positions or by membership on committees.
- Use of the Todd Library located on the Waubonsee Community College main campus and the Aurora Campus Library.

Social Events

The LLI community comes together as a whole multiple times throughout the year: in December for the Holiday Luncheon, in spring (late May/early June) for the Annual LLI Membership Meeting and Spring Luncheon. Online registration is used for luncheon events.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

The purpose is to offer opportunities for LLI members to get to know one another outside of the classroom, through sharing a common interest. There are no fees, registration or administrative rules. SIGs are totally self-governing. For more information, see our website: www.waubonsee.edu/lli (see More Information/Special Interest Groups).

Waubonsee Community College (WCC) Todd Library

After you are a confirmed LLI member and have your LLI name tag, you may borrow from the WCC Library. The loan period is 28 days. Materials may be renewed in person if they have not been requested by someone else, but they cannot be renewed online or over the phone.

MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Friendly Reminders

We value you as members and wish to share a few ways you can help our growing organization operate more smoothly:

- When registering for offerings, give thoughtful consideration to the type and number of courses workable in your schedule. Remember that over-booking may take the seat of another interested member.
- As soon as you receive online registration confirmation, mark your calendars with the appropriate dates and times.
- If you find that you have a conflict and will not be able to participate in a course series, please contact the registration office at (630) 466-2593 promptly. You can leave a message if a volunteer is not in the office. There may be a waitlist for the course and someone on that waitlist will be delighted to fill your vacated spot.
- It is thoughtful to contact the course facilitator if you know ahead of time that you will miss an individual session.
- Allow enough time to get to your course as arriving late is disruptive. We understand there are times when this is unavoidable.
- Remember to bring and wear your name badge to build member community through name recognition.

Code of Conduct

To ensure that all members feel welcome and respected and are able to learn and participate in a positive environment, we adhere to the standards of behavior as stated in the Waubensee Community Student Handbook (as stated in our Bylaws (Section B.5.)).

Specific to our LLI activities, the following behaviors (among others listed in the Handbook) are unacceptable:

- Actions or language that disrupt or obstruct any operation within LLI, including classes, outings, social gatherings and other activities.
- Behavior that could be interpreted as threatening or violent, including physical aggression, threats, intimidation and harassment. Harassment can include verbal expressions such as disparaging comments, slurs, or insults that are directed at a particular person or group, and which creates a hostile environment as perceived by other participants.

It is an expectation that our adult members will govern themselves in terms of appropriate behavior with an emphasis on self-respect, integrity, and respect for others. When there is a failure to abide by these standards, action may be taken to remove a member as stated in our Bylaws.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. What are the qualifications for membership?

LLI is an open membership organization for adults 50 and older.

2. What is the membership year?

The membership year is from September 1 – August 31.

3. What is the cost of membership?

The annual membership fee is \$25. Each course is \$10; trips and outings vary.

4. What is the length of the courses?

Courses vary from one to eight sessions.

5. Where are the courses held?

Courses are held on Waubensee's main Sugar Grove campus and its Aurora and Plano campuses. Other sites are used based on availability and facilitators' requirements (e.g., libraries, senior centers).

6. What happens if a course is canceled?

If a course is canceled, you will receive an email of notification; credit will be applied to the credit card used. If paid by check, no refund is given.

7. What happens if the course is filled to capacity?

If a course is filled, the member may place himself/herself on a waitlist and will be notified by email of openings.

8. What is the refund policy?

Membership and course fees are non-refundable. Outings and trips are refundable if cancellation occurs before the postmark deadline.

9. Are the scheduled facilities handicap accessible?

Sites are chosen which are handicap accessible, including handicap parking.

10. Where can I find additional information about LLI?

Additional information can be obtained by calling the LLI office at (630) 466-2593 or accessing the LLI website at www.waubensee.edu/lli



Volunteer Opportunities

There are many volunteer opportunities within our organization, and we encourage you to consider those which match your interests, time and talent:

Social Committee - assist with greeting and sign-in at various social functions

Speakers Bureau - present LLI overview to venues expressing interest in LLI

Newsletter Committee – write articles for quarterly newsletters

Mailing Committee - assist with various member mailings (limited in number)

Registration Committee - assist with registration-related tasks associated with online registration

Technology Committee – assist with technology-related issues and projects

Other Committees: The Board and Curriculum Council appoint ad hoc and standing committees to address specific or ongoing issues. Recommendations are then made to the Board or Curriculum Council.

“Learning is not a product of schooling but the lifelong attempt to acquire it.”

Albert Einstein

Waubonsee Community College
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Route 47 at Waubonsee Drive
Collins Hall, Room 174
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(630) 466-2593
www.waubonsee.edu/lli