

# LiR Annual Report 2019-2020

## President's/Vice-President Report



It began as another enormously successful year for LiR at QVCC. A total of approximately 350 registered members took part in learning opportunities provided by a group of dedicated volunteers working together to facilitate an exciting and informative Fall 2019 session, and an entertaining Winter session. Our usual methods of communicating with all our members through newsletters, brochures, flyers, ads, and our website were supplemented last year by the addition of a Facebook page.

Led by an Ad hoc committee, the Executive Council has been diligently working on significant changes proposed for our organization's fee structure to make it more cost effective for our members. We anticipate implementing this plan beginning with the Fall 2021 session.

We had planned, prepared, and were about to begin the Spring session when the situation completely changed causing a halt to all activities here at QVCC. We were advised that QVCC had already required any function for 100+ to be canceled through the end of April. We were required to cancel our April 17<sup>th</sup> Social. As the global COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak continued to intensify, QVCC made the decision to cancel all LiR activities for the Spring 2020 semester. An email was sent out and volunteers from the Executive Council made calls to our membership with the latest updates on the situation. It probably came as no surprise to you in the challenging times restricting public gatherings and practicing social distancing that the extraordinary circumstances warranted safety first measures since a large percentage of LiR members were in the highest risk categories.

The process of returning to some kind of normalcy was taking much longer than anticipated, and because the health and safety of our membership remained our highest priority, the Annual Meeting scheduled for May 2020 had to be canceled.

The Executive Council continues to work preparing for a future time when we can gather together again safely for additional exciting and informative learning opportunities. We are also attempting to communicate online suggested opportunities to our members in the meantime.

We continue to be grateful for the partnership we have with QVCC and appreciate the generous staff support and the benefits of this outstanding facility.

*Mary Saad, President  
Barbara Schreier, Vice President*

## Refreshment Committee



In my report for the Annual Meeting in May 2019, I was looking forward to "another exciting year of programs and fellowship." Sadly, we had only three chances for sharing fellowship and "goodies" - the fall Open House on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Social on October 4<sup>th</sup>, and the Spring Open House on February 21, 2020.

As always, EASTCONN Catering provided us with wonderful food. We can now look forward to new programs, open houses and socials in 2021. Stay safe and stay well until we meet again.

*Judith Swayze, Chairperson*

## Membership & Promotion Committee



In this year like no other, it's hard to even remember autumn one year ago, when the Membership and Promotion committee was very active. Senior expos went on as usual at St. Mary's in Putnam and at Ellis Tech school. We went on air at WINY to promote LiR and the upcoming spring Open House. Our guest speaker last February was author Martin Podskoch, who introduced us to his latest book, *Connecticut 169 Club*. Marty shared very entertaining stories with us about exploring all 169 towns in Connecticut. He engaged the audience completely, and many shared their own experiences. Marty autographed and sold copies of the book after his presentation and sold out! We didn't know it at the time, but soon we would all be restricted to armchair traveling, and only be able to dream which of the 169 towns we would visit first. Unfortunately, our next

Open House is postponed, and we are on hiatus. Until we are able to reconvene safely, we encourage you to visit the LiR page on Facebook and see what fellow members have been up to.

*Lee Felpel & James Hamel, Co-Chair*

## Program Committee



Fall 2019 featured many great presenters. One of our most popular topics was History, and the programs ranged from English princes to local architecture. As we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment (Women's Right to Vote), speakers and movies reinforced the many obstacles that had to be overcome to attain this goal. Area doctors and wellness experts shed light on common problems for seniors and answered many questions. Music, nature and travel rounded out the semester. The Winter programs covered birds, Einstein, movies and music—highlighted by the Joyful Praise Handbell Choir.

It's too bad we didn't invite a fortune teller to come in with her crystal ball. She might have been able to prepare us for the pandemic, the cancellation of the 2020

Spring and Fall semesters, and a complete reinvention of life as we knew it. Please be assured that the Program Committee is eagerly awaiting a green light to start searching for speakers as soon as we know when we will be able to resume classes. We will do our best to make sure future programs are better than ever and worth the wait. We appreciate your understanding and patience and look forward to seeing you when it is safe.

*Barbara Laliberte, Chairperson*

## Scholarship Committee



Five years ago, our original LiR Endowed Scholarship Fund reached our goal of \$50,000. The *interest* on this fund, has provided two \$1,500 scholarships this year (May 2020) to degree program students.

Our newer LiR Endowment Fund was started six years ago to help students attending the *Continuing Education* (non-credit courses such as Certified Nursing Assistant, Pharmacy Technician and Veterinary Assistant to name a few) department. With the addition of over \$3,000 in donations from our November 2019 letter, this fund now stands at \$45,483.08. From the *interest*

earned on this fund, \$1,000 will be awarded to non-credit students to help offset the cost of the programs.

Your amazing generosity, LiR members, is changing lives here in the Quiet Corner.

*Bill Brower, Chairperson*

## Facebook Group



The LiR Facebook group membership now numbers 76. Over the past pandemic months, there have been more and more people posting and commenting. Posts have covered a great variety of subjects, have made members aware of various online events and videos available to them, and have provided a place for people to catch up with their LiR friends. Thank you, everyone for your participation.

Everyone who presently belongs to LiR is invited to join the Facebook group. Our goal is to provide a place for communication and information among LiR members. To join our Facebook group, search for *LiR Adult Learners at QVCC*.

*Barbara Scalise*

## Finance Committee

Although the virus caused cancellation of LiR's 2020 spring semester and the present year's activity, after spring course tuition/QVCC admin fees refund to members and to LiR itself, our end of year financial picture shows well-being. Our membership at the halfway point of 12/31/19 was 348 and on the way to about 400 ...until the virus arrived.

Our year, shortened by half, showed membership fees of \$6,960 and Tuition of \$5,663. Revenue Total was \$12,623. Operation expenses totaled \$8,758—giving us an end of year balance of \$3,864. The LiR reserve remains at \$8,000. We go forward with \$11,864 – sufficient for restart of LiR.

At our 10/6 Council meeting it was decided to inform our 2019 members of LiR activity while we are in “hibernation”. \$2500 has been earmarked for mailings and costs of re-activation. These expenses take the place of the normal LiR budget.

While LiR has been affected in its operation, we go forward with financial health and intent to re-emerge as conditions allow.

*Woody Durst, Chairperson*

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## Ed Morin

1943 - 2020



Ed Morin, one of the guiding lights of LiR, has passed away. Ed devoted untold hours serving our organization. He was once our President. Then he started, and for years, chaired the Membership and Promotion Committee bringing our membership one year to 435 learners. He was one of the team that started our scholarship program with *An Afternoon with Brian Dennehy* at The Bradley which brought in over \$10,000 to the fund.

Ed presented over 100 programs for LiR showcasing his breadth of knowledge and many interests. We learned about Crazy Horse, the History of Deadwood, Charles Eastman the first Native American Doctor, Music of the Fifties, and *Riding the Rails*, about the life of a Hobo— he actually drew one hobo from Maine and one from New

Jersey to his talk! Ed was a natural with an audience.

This, from a former LiR member, says it best:

*Ed Morin was my introduction to LiR. When I retired in June 2008, I was finally free to join this fine organization, and I went to the August Open House to sign up. Ed Morin gave the lecture, and I was hooked. I always enjoyed hearing him speak – he was informative, funny, and a joy to listen to. This is such a loss. He will be missed by so many in the community. – Gabrielle*