A Message from President Elaine White

Even though our year’s work came to an abrupt halt because of Covid-19, this has been a busy year for your LLL Advisory Board. We began by approving a Strategic Plan for Intentional Growth in June of 2019 and have spent the year implementing that plan. As you can see from our attendance at classes and programs and from our increased membership, that plan has been successful. All of this is the result of the hard work of our board and volunteers.

Kudos to our Past President Ray Perry and Vice President Mike Woodson who have been integral to the development of our plan. Their work in 2018-19 helped lay the foundation we needed. Mike has been a huge supporter of this work and plans to work toward its continuation during his presidency.

Kudos to Secretary Gail Baird who has kept detailed records of our work so that the path we have followed has been documented and archived.

Kudos to Curriculum Chair Judy Staples. The tireless work of Judy and her committee resulted in our increasing our offerings to 16 per semester. Committee members also extended their work so that those who developed courses, followed those courses to completion and introduced the professors at the first session of class meetings. As you noticed, this curriculum committee member also gave a short explanation of how the class was developed so that the work of LLL is more transparent.

Kudos to Special Events Chair Nancy Moore who stepped in at the last minute and took over the reins to develop fresh, exciting venues and speakers for our coffees, bus trips, and luncheons. Nancy tapped into the interests and resources of her committee members to see that every detail was planned and completed.

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Kudos to Mary Gerecke who took over the reins of the History Committee as we transition to a different way of documenting the work of LLL. Mary, Bob Kinney, and Diane Hamilton have worked to incorporate technology and data collection into our work so that we can more easily analyze the work of our organization and plan for the future. Diane has also helped us shape and create our newsletter into a source of engaging information about the work of LLL.

Kudos to Jin Surovick who worked graciously, not only to enlist Course Hosts who facilitate each class, but also to help plan for more meaningful and efficient ways to use volunteers to make classes function smoothly.

Kudos to each of our Member-at-Large Board Members. Stan Wilkes has taken the responsibility of helping us revise our bylaws and memorandum of operations. Bobbie DeLoach has kept us mindful of our goal of becoming a more diverse organization, and Jane Winston has been our cheerleader.

Kudos to our committee members who have put hands and feet to the plans we've made. The result is increased membership and continuation of the LLL legacy of quality programs.

Kudos to the Location Coordinators and Course Hosts who have helped us streamline and improve the way our courses are facilitated.

And of course, kudos to our Program Administer Audrey Yadon who uses her incredible management skills to keep us engaged and focused.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity of serving as President this past year. It has been an honor to work with such amazing people.

Calling all amateur photographers!
Contact Mary Gerecke at marywaco@yahoo.com

Lifelong Learning 2020-2021 Officers

The following Lifelong Learning members are presented by the Nominating Committee and approved by the LLL Advisory Board. They will be presented for election via email and paper ballot in May.

Nominated for President: Mike Woodson

J.M. “Mike” Woodson lives in Woodway with his wife Trudy. He was born in rural Coryell County in 1928. He graduated from Gatesville High School and attended Texas A&M where he was in the Corps of Cadets and earned a BS degree in Civil Engineering and a commission as a Second Lieutenant. He served 10 years in the Army Reserve and was discharged as a Captain. As an engineer, he worked for the Soil Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture for 35 years and continued working with engineering companies during retirement. Mike and Trudy are active members of Central Christian Church. Although retired, he is still active in professional and civic organizations.
Nominated for Vice President: Judith (Judy) Staples

Judith Staples was born and raised in Boise, Idaho. After college graduation in the field of education, she became an inner-city elementary school teacher for 10 years in South Dakota, Washington State, and New York, followed by 30 years as a school administrator. She served as Superintendent of Schools in four school districts in Western New York. During retirement she has volunteered with several organizations, including Baylor Lifelong Learning and her church, First Baptist Woodway. She and her husband, George, have been married for 35 years in a blended family with four children and 10 grandchildren. She enjoys travel, scrapbooking, cake decorating, and genealogy. She has served Lifelong Learning as Curriculum Chair for the past year.

Nominated for Secretary: Linda Howell

Linda was raised in Bridgeport Texas then moved to Hutchinson County, Texas, when her father was transferred. Linda graduated from Texas Woman’s University with BBA in Marketing and a Master’s of Library Science. She served as the Hutchinson County Library Director for several years. Moving to Waco 20 years ago, Linda worked at the Waco-McLennan County Library as Technical Services Manager, before retiring, to become a Lifelong Learner! Linda currently serves as Reservation Director for Newcomers and Neighbors, publicity for the HOT Storytellers Guild and as Board of Evangelism Chair at Saint Mark Lutheran Church, Waco.

Nominated for Member-at-Large: Douglas (Doug) Baldwin

Doug lives in Lorena. He was born and grew up in Florida, attended University Florida for a Chemical Engineering Degree and University of Houston Bates Law school for a JD. Doug has worked for Shell Oil Company as an engineer and an Intellectual Property attorney. He retired from Shell as Assistant General Counsel for Intellectual Property. Since retirement, Doug has maintained a sole private practice of Intellectual Property (patents, trademarks and copyright). He is widowed.
We Are Growing!

This year our membership as of March 6 was 368 members. That’s 60 members more than this time last year. It’s an exciting time to be part of Baylor Lifelong Learners. What has contributed to this growth? Hard work and quality programs.

Our Publicity Committee has done an excellent job of sharing information about Baylor Lifelong Learners. Many guests at our coffees said that they came because they saw announcements in local newspapers or magazines and decided to see what it was all about. You will find brochures spread all over our community, and many of you are bringing guests to our events.

Our Curriculum and Special Events Committees have continued to provide high quality courses and programs, tapping into community resources that have interesting information to share with our group. Increased course offerings and creative programming keep us all looking forward to what is happening next.

More than 70 volunteers have helped us carry out the work of our organization. These folks have given their time as board members, committee members, location coordinators, and course hosts. Many have volunteered for multiple tasks.

Thank you to all of you who invest your time and talents in Baylor Lifelong Learning.

Another Scholarship Added

Due to our increased membership, we have more money to award scholarships. Remember, a portion of each membership fee goes into an account that supports undergraduate students. At the March Advisory Board meeting, members voted to award three scholarships next year, each in the amount of $3,000.

First LLL Lifetime Membership Award

This year as the Advisory Board has planned for the future of Baylor Lifelong Learners, we have also looked back at the legacy that has been created for us. We’ve read and heard stories of some of the challenges the organization has faced in the past. We’ve also learned that one person, Bob Anne Senter, has been the thread that has run through our history. Without her vision, determination, and love of Lifelong Learners, our organization would not be what it is today. In honor of her work, the Advisory Board voted to award Bob Anne with a Lifetime Membership to Baylor Lifelong Learners. Join us in thanking her for her valuable investment in our present and future.