



THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
Potsdam

Spring

SOARING!

the Newsletter of

SOAR

lifelong learning in the North Country



2012

A Note from the Chair



As my term as SOAR Chair winds down, I want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow board members. Their contributions during the last two years have made my task as chairman so much easier than I anticipated. (If only they could have written the “notes from the chair” for me over the past two years my duties would have been easier yet!)

SOAR faces some challenges which grow out of our success. Membership stands at slightly over 370. With 58 courses offered this spring, and 60-plus being developed for the fall semester, we have been able to meet the expectations of the membership for a variety of quality course offerings. However, as the membership continues to expand, we may find ourselves struggling to maintain that standard. With only one part-time administrative assistant, SOAR has done well operating as an almost all-volunteer organization. This is so because SOAR members have stepped forward and volunteered their time and hard work. In the future we will need to expand the number of volunteers. We also will need more members willing to take a turn at serving on the Board of Directors and as chairs of our various committees. Many of us on the Board have served multiple terms in both these capacities, and the need to build up a roster of replacements is more important than ever. I believe that we are up to the dual challenge of maintaining a variety of quality courses and managing growth with a volunteer workforce, but we cannot become complacent, expecting someone else will step up to do the work. We need YOU to step forward.

There are many ways one can volunteer - be an ambassador, serve on a committee or on the Board, work in the office on specific tasks, offer to teach a course, etc. If you see something that needs doing, volunteer to do it. Step up and become a leader.

Several years ago, SOAR was the beneficiary of a generous monetary gift from a member. The intention of the gift was to have SOAR sponsor an educational event that would be open to the Potsdam-Canton community at large. This year SOAR and the School of Education Alumni Association at SUNY Potsdam co-sponsored a public lecture by investigative reporter Charles Fishman entitled “The Big Thirst.”

If you have an idea on how SOAR can be a better organization, act on your idea.

Thanks, SOAR members, for your commitment to SOAR. I look forward to serving SOAR with you from the ranks!

Keep SOARING!

Ed Russell, Chair, SOAR Board of Directors

NOTICE: Membership Meeting

Wednesday, May 23, 2012

The SOAR Board of Directors is calling a meeting of the membership at the spring 2012 luncheon for the purpose of acting upon the slate of officers and board members recommended by the Nominating Committee. *(See below)*

NOMINATING and AWARDS COMMITTEE

Announcing the nominees for officers and other members of the

SOAR BOARD of DIRECTORS

The Nominations and Awards Committee is pleased to recommend the following members for a one-year term on the SOAR Board of Directors to be voted upon at the membership meeting on May 23, 2012. Members present may also propose other candidates to be placed in nomination.

OFFICERS

Chair: Steve Hopkins **Secretary:** Dorothy Howe
Vice Chair: Ed Russell **Treasurer:** Otis Van Horne

OTHER MEMBERS

Jim Barry	Neil Johnson	Sharon Regan
Catherine Dalton	Linda Jones	Fran Van Horne
Pat Dishaw	Ruth Kreuzer	Donna Webster
Betty Graham	Linda Nixon	

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Graham, **Chair**, and other members: Juanita Babcock, Sandi DiGiovanna, Linda Helmase, Dorothy Howe and Carol Woodward


A peek at the working list of fall 2012 courses

Fall semester runs from **September 10 - November 16, 2012**

When all the courses are confirmed, the "Preliminary List of Courses" will be posted on the SOAR web site: www.soarnorthcountry.org

NOTES: 1) Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of class sessions, 2) * = courses NOT confirmed as of 04/22/12

- Chemistry Demos – Fadi Bou Abdallah (1-2)
*Reconstructing Ancient Environments – Lisa Amati (2)
*Advanced Contract Bridge – Pat Anderson (6)
Vegetarian Cooking Goes Global – Juanita Babcock (3)
Geology of Our National Parks – Rob Badger (4)
*Sea Food: You Are What You Eat – Brad Baldwin (1-2)
The Power of the Plot – Linda Batt (2)
The Realm of the Atom – Daniel ben-Avraham (4)
Chinese Spinning and Weaving: A History – Ina Brockriede (1)
Current Events – John Casserly (8)
Wishbones and Pumpkin Pie: Thanksgiving Traditions and Customs – Varick Chittenden (1)
*The Art of J. Vermeer – Geoffrey Clark (1)
Memoir Writing – Helen Condon (4)
*Hurricanes, Oil Spills and Dead Zones – Walter Conley (3)
Making Fishing Lures – Dave Crosby (2)
Painting with Liquid Acrylics – Cecilia Dewey (4)
AARP Driver Safety Course – Jack Downs (2)
SLU's Gunnison Chapel: A Tour – Lynn Ekfelt (1)
*Treatment of MS Using Nanoparticle Drugs – Joe Erlichman (2)
Creating Clean Air at Home – Andrea Ferro (1)
Mah Jongg – Brenda Francey and Kay Russell (4)
You Too Can Play the Harmonica – Neil Garner (4)
Compassionate Communication – Ed Goldstein (8)
Tunes-R-Us – Clive and Sandra Henery (4)
Language and Love in the Digital Age – Traci Fordham (4)
Mammals of Northern NY – Roy Horst (4)
Weight Loss: Lose Your "Wheat Belly" – Kathy Howitt (2)
*Shaping Core Muscles; Preventing Falls – Brent Knight (1)
Vicarious Voyagers XI – Ruth Kreuzer, Coordinator (4)
*Historical Archaeology in Action – Hadley Kruczek-Aaron (2)
Digital Camera Use for Beginners – Vera LaRoe (3)
Art Workshop A – Leon LeBeau (8)
Frederic Remington: Master Illustrator, Sculptor, Fine Artist – Ted Linn (3 + field trip to Remington Museum)
*Fracking – Steve Manders (2)
Beginning Tai-Chi – Pam March (10)
Continuing Tai-Chi – Pam March (20)
Autumn Night Sky – Bruce McClure (4)
The Big Cats II – John McDonald (2)
Personal Financial Planning: Selected Issues – Eleanor Menz (4)
Eastern Religions and Philosophers – Rajiv Narula (1)
The Sky in Motion: Life on a Tilted Teacup Ride – Aileen O'Donoghue
Autumn Nature Walk – Peter O'Shea (1)
Citizen Advocacy: Making Your Voice Heard – Eileen Raymond (2)
Learning French through Music – Carol Reed (4)
St. Lawrence County Courthouse – Pat Roda (5)
Poetry of the Great War (1914-1917) – Doug Rose (4)
Earth's Climate History – Michael Rygel (4)
He-Said, She-Said Miscommunication – Catherine Sajna (3)
*Protecting Biometric Security Systems from Hackers – Stephanie Schuckers (1)
Railroad History – Walter Smith (?)
Smart Phones and Tablets – Chris Smutz (1)
Swimming for True Beginners – Hilda Sorensen (w/Sheila Cerwonka) (5)
The History of SUNY Potsdam – Jane Subramanian (1)
Laura Ingalls Wilder – Laurie Swinwood (2 + field trip to the Almanzo Wilder Farm in Malone)
*[course on genetics or evolution] – Mike Temkin (3)
Solar Car Design – Eric Thacher (1)
Reading Alice Munro – Bob Thacker (3)
Sled Dogs Across Alaska – Spencer Thew (1)
Meditation – Monique Tirion (4)
The War of 1812 & St. Lawrence County – Trent Trulock (1)
How Your Genes Affect Your Health – Jan Trybula (3)
*Math: Fractal Frenzy – Sam VanderVelde (1-2)
The US Presidential Election – Bob Wells (4)
Concert Music: What is REALLY Happening – Keith Ziemba (4)



GOT AN IDEA?
The Curriculum Committee is busy finalizing the fall 2012 SOAR courses AND already working on the spring 2013 curriculum. If you want to volunteer to teach a course, or have course suggestions, call Jim Barry at 386-4732 or e-mail him at jimbarry2@verizon.net

DO YOU KNOW?

<i>the spring 2012 stats are...</i>	<i>you should...</i>
373 SOAR members (total)	- cancel your registration if you can't attend a particular course
71 new members (F11-S12)	- attend classes regularly
58 course offerings	- wear your name tag
21 course locations	- display your parking pass
65 presenters/coordinators/ (+ SLU student presenters)	- use the SOAR web site
58 ambassadors	- volunteer
218 class sessions	

COMMITTEE NEWS

AMBASSADORS COMMITTEE

A big Thank YOU to all the members who volunteered to be ambassadors. There were only nine classes where we had to ask people to help. Your help was much appreciated by the presenters and SOAR members alike. If you were not asked this semester, please consider volunteering again in the fall, by marking your registration form to show where you would be willing to serve as ambassador.

What are the duties of the ambassadors? The duties are varied, depending on the course, but some examples include: calling the presenter a week ahead of the class to see if everything is in order, making sure the classroom is set up appropriately, taking attendance, introducing the presenter to the class, and writing a brief summary of how things went, including student comments, and returning the summary to the SOAR office. Ambassador duties are clearly stated on an instruction sheet which each ambassador receives. Each ambassador (and presenter as well) receives a course list of participants.

Remember that SOAR is a volunteer organization. Being an ambassador is one way YOU can volunteer!

*Sharon Regan and Elsie Dominy, Co-Chairs,
Ambassadors Committee*

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

Between the short time when the course booklets get mailed out and when the first SOAR classes start, the registration team is very busy processing your registration requests. The first week is always particularly busy as members are anxious to turn in their registration forms to get the courses of their choice.

Many thanks to Jean Theobald, Dorothy Mein, Mary Nocerino, Byron Whitney, Catherine Dalton, Jackie Cutler and Ruth Carrington. They did a wonderful job helping with registration this spring; registration would not have happened without them.

Several "snow-bird" members of our registration team were still away when registration was taking place this spring; we look forward to having them back for fall registration. Special thanks go to Pat Harrington, who kept us all organized and served as our #1 trouble shooter. In addition she took over the tasks of registering walk-ins and handling the overflow when the teams were not available. Pat also monitored wait lists and notified you folks if there were openings in closed courses, and she attended to many more details too numerous to mention.

We are always in need of volunteers for the registration committee. If you have computer skills and would be interested, we would be delighted to have you join

us in our work. Even if you do not have computer knowledge, we need helpers to do the finishing touches and get things ready for mailing. So, please consider volunteering if you would like to be part of the registration process.

Pat Dishaw, Chair, Registration Committee

NOMINATING AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Because SOAR is almost entirely a volunteer organization, the SOAR Board of Directors realizes the importance of publicly recognizing the people who work so hard to make SOAR a success. Along with our vocal thanks to teachers, member volunteers, and friends of SOAR, the Board offers three special awards, each with its own criteria for nomination and selection. Nominations are kept on file and may be used by the Nomination and Awards Committee in future years to help them in the selection process.

Given every spring at the annual meeting, the Super SOARer award is used to recognize a SOAR member who has significantly contributed to the development of SOAR. All SOAR members are encouraged to send nominations for this award to the SOAR office. Our past Super SOARers are: Leon LeBeau (2004), Bill Lewis (2005), Jim Barry (2006), Jean Theobald (2007), Ruth Kreuzer (2007), Dick and Peggy Mooers (2008), Otis and Fran Van Horne (2009), Claire Begeal (2010), and Pat Dishaw (2011).

The Leon LeBeau Outstanding Educator Award, presented each fall, recognizes a teacher (or teachers) who has (have) contributed greatly to the education, experiences, and/or well-being of SOAR members. The Nominations and Awards Committee gathers recommendations from Board Members, Committee Chairs, and Ambassadors and recommends the recipient to the Board. The past awardees are: John Casserly (2009), Pam March (2010), and Clive and Sandra Henery (2011).

The Outstanding Contribution to SOAR Award is presented to an individual or group that has provided outstanding service to SOAR and its mission. This award is not intended to be given every year, but will be reserved for those people making extra-special contributions to SOAR. All SOAR members are invited to send nominations to the SOAR office for this prestigious honor. This award has been bestowed on: Neil Johnson (2008), Barbara Trerise (2010), and Nancy Hess (2011).

*Betty Graham, Chair, Nominating and
Awards Committee*

You can't have too many photos?



"Vicarious Voyagers X - Prague"



"Dry Ice Demonstration"



"Fitness for Seniors"



"Numerology for Fun"

OUTREACH & PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

What's with all the photo taking??

Do you ever wonder why there is so much photo taking going on? Do you know where all those photos end up? Lots of photos are taken so we can use only the best ones - many are deleted.

Places where they are used include: the course booklets, publicity brochures, news articles, on posters and for projected displays at the luncheons, and some of the very best make it to the SOAR web site.

All courses and presenters have their own web page. Some presenters use their course pages to post their own photos, along with web links, documents, assignments, notes...or anything else that they want. An introductory photo to each course and presenter appears in an auto-changing gallery on the home page. There is also a photo gallery created for each course and each presenter (AND for every course location -- very handy for those who like to "see" where they are going!)

At the end of the term, besides being invited as our guest to the SOAR luncheon and receiving a token wine glass, each SOAR presenter receives a printed photo collage of his/her course and also a CD with all the photos taken at their class.

NOTE: *If you see a photo on the SOAR web site that you want for your own photo album, just right click on it (for a MAC: hold down "ctrl" and click on the photo), choose "save as" and put it in a computer file folder where you can find it again.*

Ruth Kreuzer, Chair, Outreach & Publicity

AWAY PART OF THE YEAR?

Do you want your SOAR course booklet and registration materials mailed somewhere other than to your permanent address? Just call **315-267-2690** or email the SOAR office soar@potSDam.edu and give Pat Harrington, our SOAR administrative assistant, your "away" address and the dates when you are away, and ask her to send the course booklet mailing to you. Also all the mailed-out registration information is on the SOAR web site under "Documents" on the home page. (NOTE: the registration form is posted last, only after a mailing goes out.)