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THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Potsdam

# SOARING!

the Newsletter of

## SOAR

*lifelong learning in the North Country*

Spring 2016

affiliated with:

ROAD SCHOLAR<sup>®</sup>

*Institute Network*



### *A Note from the Chair*

As we head into the warmth of spring and the end of another stimulating semester, it is time to think about the past and anticipate the future. SOAR has been busy growing for the last 15 years of its existence. We have seen tremendous

expansion in both our membership (over 400 at last count) and our course offerings (over 70 for next semester at this time). We have class instructors with wide-ranging talents and multi-levels of expertise. Our members share their skills and knowledge in everything from Tai-Chi and bridge to photography and Chinese philosophies. Faculty from several school districts and all four of the colleges in St. Lawrence County volunteer to lead us in classes on history, science and health. We are truly fortunate in having access to these extraordinary people. We now schedule classrooms in all of the colleges and many other places in both Canton and Potsdam. We are now involved in a large community.

As SOAR has expanded over the past 15 years, we have begun to realize that we must alter the way we deal with the paperwork generated by this organization. We have made significant progress in using new technologies in curriculum planning, registration and the production of documents both print and electronic (Look at Ruth Kreuzer's wonderful web site!).

We still need all the volunteer help from our members that has supported our extraordinary success. If you are not already involved please consider volunteering so that we can continue to prosper. Volunteers enjoy the fellowship of working together and also the satisfaction of learning new skills to keep SOAR soaring into the future.

*Linda Nixon*, Chair, Board of Directors

### **NOTICE: Annual Membership Meeting Wednesday, May 25, 2016**

The SOAR Board of Directors is calling a meeting of the membership at the spring 2016 luncheon. Members will vote on a slate of officers and other directors for the upcoming year (July 2016-June 2017) and also vote to approve the SOAR budget.

#### **NOMINATING and AWARDS COMMITTEE**

*announces the nominees for  
officers and directors of the*

#### **SOAR BOARD of DIRECTORS**

The Nominating 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 25, 2016. Members present may also propose other candidates to be placed in nomination.

#### **OFFICERS**

**Chair:** Bill Mein **Secretary:** Dorothy Howe

**Vice Chair:** Mark Coleman **Treasurer:** Ron Frank

#### **OTHER MEMBERS**

Jim Barry	Ruth Kreuzer	Lyn Swafford
Cynthia Bender	Carol McRobbie	Laurie Swinwood
Betty Graham	Linda Nixon	Byron Whitney
Neil Johnson	Ed Russell	

*Respectfully submitted,* Betty Graham, **Chair**, and other members: Juanita Babcock, Sandi DiGiovanna, Dorothy Howe, Fran Van Horne, Carol Woodward

#### **AWARDS**

#### **Come and Celebrate SOAR's 15 Years!**

Find out who is this year's **Super SOARer!** and also celebrate . . .

#### **Leon LeBeau**

who will be awarded the  
**Outstanding Contribution  
to SOAR Award**

in recognition of his dedicated service, teaching SOAR members since the beginning of SOAR 15 years ago in 2001!




# A peek at the working list of fall 2016 course topics (as of 04/23/16)

Fall semester tentatively runs from **September 5 - November 11, 2016** *(fall luncheon date TBA)*

*When all the courses are confirmed, the "Preliminary List of Courses" will be posted on the home page of the SOAR web site:*

**www.soarnorthcountry.org**

- Arcadians: Are They Taking Over the World? – Linda Auker  
 Healthy Comfort Food for Winter – Juanita Babcock  
 Research on 3D Object Manipulation – Natasha Banerjee  
 Civil War Letters Sent Home – Linda Batt  
 A Look at Our Lives through Poetry – Linda Batt  
 What is the World Really Like? – Heather Beauchamp  
 Fun with Paper and Scissors – I Can't Believe This Is Math!  
 – Daniel ben-Avraham  
 User Friendly Mindful Meditation – Charlie Bradt  
 Art Workshop – Nellie Bright and Sally Kirby  
 Memoir Writing on the North Country – Neal Burdick  
 Greek Mythology – Ellen Caldwell  
 The Architecture of Madness: The St. Lawrence State Hospital  
 – Jennifer Campbell  
 Duplicate Bridge: Intermediate Level – Ruth Carrington and  
 Dorothy Swanson  
 Current Events – John Casserly  
 Professional Organizers – Debra Chase-Lauther  
 Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum  
 – Reginald Chester  
 Tunes-R-Us – Clive and Sandra Henery  
 Shakespeare on Film – Mark Coleman  
 Municipal Solar Energy – Mike Dalton  
 Genetics and Larval Development – Andrew David  
 Acupressure – Joe DiGiovanna  
 Smart Grid and Electric Vehicles – Melike Erol-Kantarci  
 Mah Jongg – Brenda Francey and Kay Russell  
 Soap Making – Carmen Gendebien  
 Fine Particle Nanotech Research – Dan Goai  
 Publishing an E-book – Brian Harte  
 American Silver: Coin, Sterling and Silver Plate  
 – Jacqueline Hodges  
 Ballroom Dancing – Van Hoyt  
 Drawing – Sally Kirby  
 Endangered Species – Ken Kogut  
 The Comic Art of War – Christina Knopf  
 Vicarious Voyagers XIX – Ruth Kreuzer *(coordinator)*  
 Visiting Montreal – Penny LeBeau  
 Creative Non-Fiction Writing – Melissa Lee  
 Digital Photography II – Don Leonard
- Beginning Tai-Chi – Pam March  
 Continuing Tai-Chi – Pam March  
 Tai-Chi: The Short Form – Pam March  
 Fall Constellations – Bruce McClure  
 More Great Apes – John McDonald  
 SLU Arboretum – Karl McKnight  
 Climate Change – Daniel McLane  
 Soft Sculpture Pumpkin – Kathleen Mech  
 Grifters, Schemers, and Masters of Prestidigitation  
 – Peggy Mooers  
 What is AARCH? – Karyn Norwood  
 Modern Library: Computers, 3D Machines and Tools  
 – Emily Owen  
 Upcycling Used Wool Clothing Into Hooked Rugs  
 – Mary Ann Owen  
 Meteorology – Aileen O'Donoghue  
 Microgrid Technology – Tom Ortmeyer  
 Invasive Species – Rana Parshad  
 African American History – Stephanie Petkovsek  
 Death in St. Lawrence County Project – Mindy Pitre  
 Downhill Skiing – Bill Ramsey  
 Staying in Your Own Home – Linda Reece  
 French Language – Carol Reed  
 Environmental Study: Pollen Analysis – Wil Rivers  
 Gunfight at OK Corral – Doug Rose  
 The Beatles – Doug Rubio  
 Iran – Karl Schonberg  
 Basic Bridge – Peter and Christine Schrauth  
 AARP Smart Driver Canton – Dana Smith  
 AARP Smart Driver Potsdam – Dana Smith  
 Hands-on Chemistry Experiments – Samuel Tartakoff  
 How the Brain Works – Ginger Thomas  
 The Amish – Betsy Tisdale  
 How Your Genes Affect Your Health – Jan Trybula  
 Music for the Soul – Chris Watts  
 Law Enforcement – Kevin Wells  
 Cat Collar Study – Susan Willson  
 Edgar Cayce Exercises – Donna Wright  
 Musical Petting Zoo – Leah Zelkowitz



## GOT AN IDEA?

*The Curriculum Committee is very busy finalizing the fall 2016 SOAR courses AND already working on the spring 2017 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 [jimbarry@twcny.rr.com](mailto:jimbarry@twcny.rr.com)*

## DO YOU KNOW?

(as of 03/24/16)

<i><b>the spring 2016 stats are...</b></i>	<i><b>you should...</b></i>
<b>406</b> SOAR members <i>(total)</i>	- cancel your registration if you can't attend a particular course
<b>64</b> new members (F15-S16)	- attend classes regularly
<b>62</b> courses / presentations	- wear your name tag
<b>84</b> presenters/coordinators <i>(plus ~25 student participants)</i>	- display your parking pass
<b>62</b> ambassadors	- use the SOAR website
<b>27</b> classroom locations <i>(8 of them new)</i>	- <b>VOLUNTEER!</b>

# COMMITTEE NEWS

## REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

### Thanks to our Volunteers!

Registration for our Spring 2016 semester went very smoothly, thanks not only to the Scheduling Committee but also to the dedication of multiple Registration Team members who helped process data and prepare mailings. Without the assistance of these individuals, SOAR could not accomplish the quick turnaround required to get classes up and running on schedule. **Those who assisted this spring include: Laurell Brault, Pat Dishaw, Steve Easter, Susan Klein, Dorothy Mein, Sally Murray, Natalia Stahl, Laurie Swinwood, and Jean Theobald.** SOAR is fortunate to have these volunteers.

*Byron Whitney and Steve Hopkins,  
Co-Chairs Registration Committee*

## CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

The Answer: 547! The Question: How many people have been instructors of one or more SOAR courses in our 15-year history? Some instructors have taught a dozen or more courses. And Pam March and Leon LeBeau have each instructed more than 30 SOAR courses! Almost half of our instructors have been either active or retired faculty from the four local colleges. In addition, numerous townspeople have shared their knowledge and skills in a great variety of classes.

We honor our instructors with a free luncheon, a photo collage and a flash drive with all their photos. It is also nice to give them a kind word, hand clapping or pat on the back to let them know how much we appreciate them.

One more note: The SOAR Board of Directors has approved over 70 courses for the Fall 2016 semester. And the Curriculum Committee is already collecting course ideas for the Spring 2017. Direct any course ideas you have to Jim Barry at **386-4732** or email him at:

**jimbarry@twcnny.rr.com**

*Jim Barry, Co-Chair  
Curriculum Committee*

## SCHEDULING COMMITTEE

We had another successful semester of matching the constraints on instructors (60) with the availability of venues (12). We owe this success to the diligence and energy of volunteers (**Patty Bennett & Arthur Freeheart**) and to the efficiency of the procedures introduced by retiring Chair **Bill Mein**. But we need more help. To coin a phrase, “many hands make light work.” It’s quite satisfying to interact with our generous instructors. Please consider volunteering for this activity which can be done from home.

Contact Mark Coleman: **mcoleman@twcnny.rr.com** or **315-265-3230**

*Mark Coleman, Chair  
Scheduling Committee*

## NOMINATING AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Please attend the spring membership meeting and luncheon to congratulate the 2016 recipient of the **Outstanding Contribution to SOAR Award - Leon LeBeau**.

This 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 is 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), Nancy Hess (2011), and Ruth Kreuzer (2014).

The **Super SOARer Award** is given every spring at the annual meeting. This 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 and Ruth Kreuzer (2007), Dick and Peggy Mooers (2008), Otis and Fran Van Horne (2009), Claire Begeal (2010), Pat Dishaw (2011), Betty Graham (2012), Sharon Regan and Elsie Dominy (2013), Pat Harrington (2014), and Dot Howe (2015). The 2016 Super SOARer will be announced at the luncheon this spring.

*Betty Graham, Chair  
Nominating and Awards Committee*



## Ad-hoc Long Range Planning Committee

The Board of Directors has directed the Committee to report this fall on how to use technology to enhance our service to members. Now that SOAR has over 400 members and curriculum planning involves more than 70 courses, we must plan for greater efficiency. There are three areas that demand attention: administrative processes, classroom support and budgeting.

We will investigate software solutions to integrating the increasingly complex process by which we proceed from curricular planning, through classroom scheduling to registration. We will explore the potential for members, or perhaps paid student assistants, to support the technology that is increasingly needed by our presenters. Finally we will investigate the budgetary implications of software subscriptions (rather than purchase), cloud storage and services, and hardware replacement cycles.

We are looking for members, who would be interested in participating in these interesting, even exciting, deliberations, to volunteer for this short-term project. Please contact Mark Coleman at [mcoleman@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:mcoleman@twcnny.rr.com)

## Waiting List Protocol

Although we have been able to average more than 60 courses a semester for several years, invariably several classes fill up fast. Enrollment caps are determined by venue capacity and/or instructor preference. If a course reaches its limit, SOAR's computer database automatically starts compiling a list of additional members who wish to enroll. Subsequently, as spaces re-open, we enroll those listed in the order of their registrations.

It's easy for SOAR to move a wait-listed member into a course when an opening occurs. Please remember, however, that to do this the SOAR office must be notified of the vacancy ahead of time. So if you discover you must drop a course, please let the SOAR office know as soon as you can. Phone **315-267-2690** or email [soar@potsdam.edu](mailto:soar@potsdam.edu)

**NOTE:** If a course meets multiple times and you may miss a session or two, you do not need to notify the office about your expected absence.

**Pat Harrington**  
Administrative Assistant

## PARTY! PARTY!!

**SOAR is a well-established 15 year old group, but do we need to "act our age?" Heavens No!**

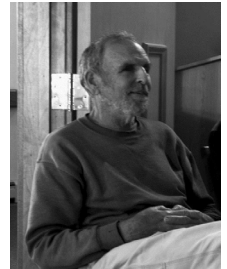
**We just love to have a little fun!**

There is a Golf Challenge, (full disclosure...) a Mini-Golf Challenge to be held at the "Swing Time" miniature golf course on Highway 11 half-way between Canton and Potsdam, i.e. across from the WPDM / WSNN FM radio station (look for the radio tower). The course is owned by Beth Robinson, a loyal SOAR instructor. Show up on Monday May 23 (rain date: Tuesday May 24), between 1:00 and 4:00pm. Identify yourself as a SOAR member for a \$1 reduced fee of \$5.50. Bring your own SOAR team or form a team on the spot...or play alone, if you prefer.

**Questions?** Ask Jim Barry – call him at: **386-4732** or email him at: [jimbarry@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:jimbarry@twcnny.rr.com)

Can you name all these people, and what they have in common?  
(answer below)

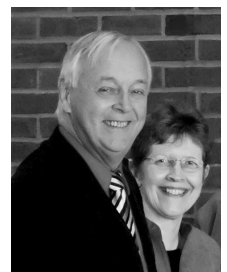
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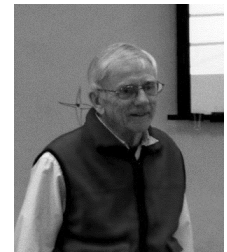
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Answer: They are all "Leon LeBeau SOARING Educator Awarders. (And if you haven't taken a class from them you should! They are GREAT teachers!)  
1) John Casserly; 2) Pam March; 3) Clive and Sandra Henery; 4) Terry Niles;  
5) Art Johnson; 6) Neil Garner; 7) Juanita Babcock