

sponsored by:  <small>THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK</small> Potsdam	SOARING! <i>the Newsletter of</i> SOAR <i>lifelong learning in the North Country</i>	October 2022 <i>affiliated with:</i> ROAD SCHOLAR <small>Eastern New York</small>
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Chair’s Comments

My first semester as Chair of the SOAR Board of Directors gives me a brand-new perspective on how truly fortunate we are to live in a place where so many retired people are eager to learn something new. When we started offering in-person classes again, the SOAR Board was *hoping* that our membership numbers would increase, but we did not expect it to happen so dramatically and quickly! We went from 99 members in the Fall of 2021, when we offered classes only on Zoom, to 263 members taking in-person classes this Fall.



SOAR members are not only eager to learn, they are also interested in a wide variety of subjects. This translates into SOAR being able to find a wonderful group of people who have interests and/or expertise to offer on those topics. And because SOAR members enjoy taking classes, presenters enjoy giving classes. They love to share their knowledge with people who really care to learn. SOAR class participants show so much interest in class--they ask questions, they are not afraid to speak up. All of this makes it a lot of fun for presenters. It is no accident that we have many repeat presenters.

I am looking forward to our membership numbers increasing again in the spring as word spreads that SOAR is back in business and that taking a SOAR class is lots of fun. Thank you so much to all our members for making SOAR what it is!

Janet van Weringh



Board of Directors:

Juanita Babcock, Mark Davis, Brian Gardam,
 Anne Hopkins, Dave Mathie, Carol
 McRobbie, Bill Mein, Carol Rossi-Fries, Ed
 Russell, Jerry Sharp, Phil Shatraw, Lyn
 Swafford, Jane vanWeringh, Alicia Walter

 Administrative Assistant: Juanita Blakemore

<p>FALL LUNCHEON NOVEMBER 16TH PLEASE SEE FLIER INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.</p>
<p>Spring Semester Dates: March 6-May 12 -Course list is included within.-</p>

The Latest News

*The **SOAR Board of Directors** is pleased with the early and continuing success of the full-on fall 2022 semester. That's because 263 members have returned to in-person classes. Thank you!



Water Treatment Class

*The **Board** would like to remind our members that SOAR is a volunteer organization – member-driven and not-for-profit. We are eager to empower all members to share their time, talents, and energy in any way they can. Please consider being a participant as well as a consumer of SOAR's offerings. The broader our participation base, the more efficient and effective our program becomes. Read on!

*The **Curriculum Committee** wishes to invite suggestions for future course ideas based on members' personal interests, skills and expertise. Please contact **David Mathie, Chair, Curriculum & Scheduling Committee**, at soarscheduling@gmail.com. If you have a suggestion, get back to David soon. He and his committee are well into planning courses for spring 2023 as well as gathering ideas for fall 2023!

*Do you belong to a club or organization that might have someone willing to share information about the work of the organization as a presenter for SOAR? Pass that info on to David Mathie, too.

*Several years ago, Lyn Swafford started reorganizing many of the files found in the office's file cabinets and in various notebooks. After encountering documents that held historic information about the beginnings of SOAR, she established the **SOAR Archives** in a little corner of the office. Some of the holdings include meeting minutes from the beginning to the present, each semester's booklet, newsletters, documents written at the organization's five- and ten-year anniversaries, press releases and newspaper articles, and many, many photographs. The Archives is open to members who are curious about SOAR's history or who are looking for information about – well, anything SOAR. For specific requests for information, call or email Lyn, who will try to answer your request. 315-262-2807 or lynatsoar@gmail.com.

*The **Tech Committee** has expressed a *serious* need for new volunteers to join those already assisting presenters this semester. As SOAR continues to build up its ever-growing number of course offerings, Chair Jerry Sharp hopes that members willing to be trained in the computer skills used to assist presenters in Maxcy 104 or other classrooms will contact him at jsharpigley@gmail.com. It's not that hard or scary!



"Beautiful Malaysia"

*Lyn Swafford, Chair of our **Publications Committee**, sends thanks to the members who have offered to assist with proofreading SOAR's documents. The list is long! Interested in writing for the newsletters? Let her know!

***Events Committee** Co-Chairs Diane Hurlbut and Don Potter wish to thank those SOAR members who have volunteered to assist with setting up future Meet the Chef luncheons. If you would like to add your name to the list, please contact the SOAR office.



Maxcy 104 classroom

*The **Registration Committee** thanks the 15 SOAR members who volunteered to help us during the very busy registration period this fall. The combined efforts of our volunteers allowed us to register 195 SOAR members in the first week of registration, a decidedly huge task! We now have 263 members registered for our fall 2022 classes.

We are exploring having both mail-in and electronic (online) registration for our spring 2023 semester. Electronic registration would be available for all SOAR members who paid dues and registered for fall 2022 courses. This would allow members a choice: (1) receive the printed course booklet and register by mail or (2) receive the course booklet by email and register using an online form (much like the form we used during COVID). Electronic registration might be desirable for members who are out of the area during next February's registration period.

To receive future registration packets and other SOAR publications, choose either (1) by snail mail or (2) by email. Please phone the office with your decision and verify your email or mailing address.



Quantum Mechanics

***Snowbird Reminder:** Please make sure the office has the correct winter mailing address and dates of your winter escape. This will ensure that the spring registration packet reaches the right place in time to make sure you get registered for the courses you want.



"Women's Place"

Spring 2023 Working List of Topics

Fabric Neutralizing and Acid Neutralizing Clothing

Space Debris

Basic Esports

Intro to Using Ennaegram

Balance for Seniors and Using Weight Machines

End of Life Checklist

New York, New York

St. Lawrence County Minerals

Basket Weaving

Vegetarian Cooking

Book Club

Couch Potatoes

Tai Chi

Mixed-Media

Watercolor Workshop

Civil War Medicine

The Raquette River 1950's

Hydro Development

Raquette River: Log Highway

Trinity Church

Ice Capades

Beginning Mah Jongg

Computing with Biomolecules

Native Americans of the SW

Purple Loosestrife

Underground Railroad in SLC

Occupational Therapy & Cell Phones

Importance of Insect Diversity

Stem Cells and the Media

Climate Change/Aquatic Communities

Big Cats

AARP Safe Driving

Extraction of DNA

Lighthouses

The Apollo Missions

European History topic

Geology topic

Digital Camera Photos

Albert P. Crary

Chocolate

It's OK ... Scream in the Shower

History of Literary Ecology: The Tales of Antropocene

Using **SEEK** and **iNaturalist**

No Cost Home Energy Audit

Canine Body Language

Turtles of the North Country

The Amish Community

Wildlife and Roads

Wildflower Loop walk