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THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
Potsdam

SOARING!
the Newsletter of
SOAR
lifelong learning in the North Country

Fall 2019

affiliated with:

ROAD SCHOLAR
Institute Network

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Leon LeBeau SOARing Educator
John McDonald

The Award, named in honor of Leon LeBeau who was our first super SOARer, recognizes an outstanding teacher who has made a major contribution to the education, experience, and/or well-being of our SOAR members.

Lions, tigers and, in John's case, elephants, Oh My! John's classes are well received and usually of such interest that the classroom is full to capacity. His eight presentations since 2011 concern big cats, great apes and wolves among many of the animals he loves and helps his students to appreciate as much as he does. Come to the Fall Luncheon to honor John McDonald, our Leon LeBeau SOARing Educator.



Chair's Comments

One of the pleasures of presiding over the Board of SOAR is to observe the interaction between the established wisdom of long-term members and the innovative energy of newer members. SOAR will soon celebrate 20 years of service and its purpose and principles remain steady, but the world is changing around us so we must adapt to a new environment. Two areas in which adaptation has been thrust upon us are in the functioning of ambassadors and in the provision of technological support.

We are fortunate in the generosity of so many of our volunteer ambassadors. They are the ones responsible for the smooth operation of our program by communicating with presenters to be sure that they are comfortable with arrangements and by communicating with participants to ensure that their experience is a pleasure. **Bill Mein** and **Carol Lawrence** have been at work for the past couple of years to enhance the support for ambassadors through training sessions, provision of materials and technical assistance.

Longtime SOAR members have surely enjoyed the new experiences made possible by advances in the technology of presentations. They have also benefitted from the invisible advances that our database has made possible in carrying out functions of registration and communication. **Janet Van Weringh** has taken in hand the updating of our database so that it can provide the reports that we need to serve members better. She also updates the website and has recruited **Jerry Sharp** to organize, equip and train the entirely new tech-support team which you observe scurrying about in SUNY Potsdam classrooms as they connect devices, log-in to the system and set up microphones and speakers.

We are almost unique among similar organizations in the extent of volunteerism, which makes possible the scope of our service to the community through our programs. SOAR is very fortunate in the broad participation of members: the Board, ambassadors, tech support, scheduling and registration teams, office crews.

Mark Coleman

Working Topics for Spring 2020

Current Events	Troopship Memories; A Citizen Soldier in the Cold War
Mah Jongg	The Northern Border: Episodes in US-Canadian Relations
Beginning Tai-Chi	Korean Music: Dung Dak
Tai-Chi: Short Form	Small wind generators
Continuing Tai-Chi	The Human Brain
Acrylic Art For Beginners	Conservation of Pastel Painting
Drawing For Everyone	Senior Fitness
Watercolors/ Mixed Media Art Workshop	Defining Successful Aging
Geology	Civil War Training Ground
Sculpture	Lead Detection in Drinking Water
All About Birds	Glacial History of the North Country and the Adirondacks
Chemotherapy Drugs	Knitting
Conversational German	Poetry of Billy Collins
Odyssey	Lincoln's True Love
Climate Change	Evolution and Religion
Basket Weaving	Flower Growing
Stanley Kubrick Films	At 38M members AARP is Nation's Largest Non-partisan Champion for Seniors!
Contemporary Social Issues	Women's Place
Purple Loosestrife Research Results	Fluorescence to Rock Your World
Young Adult Literature For Grandchildren	Native People
Nursing	Adult Skating Lessons
Genealogy, the Flip Side	Meet the Olympians
Bacteria of the Body	North American Indian Mythology
Marsupials	Mental Health Clinic
Age Related Hearing Problems	Birding
Greek Mythology	North Country 360 Alliance, Climate Change
Spring Constellations	So You Want to Join a Book Club
The Meaning Of Love	Barn Quilting
Secret Lives of Turtles	Breakup of Yugoslavia
Coin Collections	World of Robots and Artificial Intelligence
Park Planning in the North Country	3 Bears Gluten Free Bakery
Political Polling Problems	Fresh Water Bio
Stumped by Salamanders	False Confessions
Canine Body Language	Line Dancing
Secrets of Good Writing	Experiences in the Adirondacks
Tupper Lake and Lake Placid Study of Battery Use for Peak Energy Storage	Opioid Addiction and Recovery
Pain Management	
Heath Concerns of Flooring	
Nuclear Submarines: My Life Underwater	
More Elephants and Rhinos too!	

The Curriculum Developers

WHEN you attend any SOAR class you will see **Ruth Kreuzer** working to enhance your experience. She is omnipresent providing technical support. When the system fails, she dashes to her car to fetch an entire backup so that the show can go on. She has produced the elegant publications that inform you of SOAR opportunities (e.g., the course booklet, the Newsletter, the calendar). She established and has maintained the website. She photographs (or delegates the responsibility) all classes for distribution to presenters, posting on the

WHEN you choose from the long list of available SOAR courses, you are benefitting from **Jim Barry's** tireless cultivation of potential presenters. He recruits all of the presenters to teach SOAR classes. He has been developing our program since he joined the Curriculum Committee in 2002 and has increased the number of courses offered to members from 16 to over 60 (adding new areas such as games and physical activities). He maintains a list of several hundred potential presenters and combs local sources and professional journals to keep track of their activity and to congratulate them for professional accomplishments. His communications enhance SOAR's visibility and thus our

WHEN Jim has completed his list of presenters and presentations, **Ed Russell** goes to work to secure details about the planned courses. Before the scheduling team can go to work, Ed finds out the scheduling preferences and constraints of presenters (some of whom are elusive), their requirements for space and equipment, and

website and presentation as slideshows at luncheons. Ruth has been holding our organization together almost since the beginnings of SOAR.

Ruth retired from St Lawrence University as Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures where her field was Russian. In 1991 she received the J. Calvin Keene Award in "recognition of high standards of personal scholarship, effective teaching and moral concerns." She and husband Jerry live in Canton. Her two sons and new grandson live in California.

ability to attract volunteers to share their expertise with us.

Jim is a charter member of SOAR and has served as Chair of the Curriculum Committee for most of SOAR's existence. He has himself taught courses addressing such topics as hands-on chemistry, science demonstrations, game theory, and local authors.

Jim graduated from SUNY Potsdam in 1968. After a year of college teaching, he joined the faculty of Canton Central, teaching chemistry for 32 years before retiring in 2001. He and his wife Dana, a science writer, researcher and SOAR presenter, have been married for 48 years; they have four sons and four grandkids.

details about their topics and backgrounds. After gathering the necessary information he furnishes it to the scheduling committee and to Ruth.

Ed is a past chair of the SOAR board and the retired (2002) executive director of the County's Industrial Development Agency. Ed and his wife Kathleen live in Canton.

SOAR Fall Luncheon

Wednesday, November 20

11:30-2:00

Serving at noon

Come to honor John McDonald, Leon LeBeau SOARing Educator

New Venue

Knowles Conference Center

SUNY Potsdam (across from Crane parking lot)

To reserve a seat: call SOAR office 315-267-2690 or mail the form below with your check
All **reservations due on or before Monday, November 4**. If you must cancel, please notify the
SOAR office: soar@potsdam.edu or 315-267-2690 at least a week before the luncheon
(otherwise SOAR will be charged for the meal you did not enjoy).

Reserve now. Pay at the door or better send check payable to "PACES 235" with form below.

Menu:

Chicken Breast with Mushrooms & Leeks, Roasted New Potatoes, Fresh Vegetable
Garden Salad or Caesar Salad, Rolls and Butter
Dessert
Coffee or Tea

Directions: Please refer to the SUNY Potsdam map that was sent with your registration materials or visit our website, soarnorthcountry.org. There will be signs along Barrington Drive. Passengers may be dropped off on Barrington Drive, a few yards from the entrance to Knowles Conference Center.

Park in Lot #9 and cross (on level ground) Barrington Drive to the main entrance to Knowles Conference Center or park in Lot 17 and use the loading dock entry and the service elevator.

Name(s): _____

Number attending: _____ x \$20 enclosed: \$ _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

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SOAR, 389 Van Housen Ext., SUNY Potsdam, 44 Pierrepont Ave., Potsdam, NY 13676