

SOARING!

Spring 2023

The Newsletter of

SOAR

Lifelong learning in the North Country

Sponsored by:



Affiliated with:



Registered Members:

Spring 2023: 247
Fall 2022: 264
Spring 2022: 165
Fall 2021: 99
Spring 2021: 131
Fall 2020: 67
Spring 2020: 268
Fall 2019: 336

Number of Courses:

Spring 2023 - 45
Fall 2022 - 37
Spring 2022 - 32 (hybrid w/ some Zoom courses)
Fall 2021 - 24 Zoom courses
Spring 2021 - 24 Zoom courses
Fall 2020 - 12 Zoom courses
Spring 2020- 59
Fall 2019- 61



CHAIR'S COMMENTS

(WITH INPUT FROM VICE CHAIR LYN SWAFFORD & COMMITTEE CHAIRS)

As Chair of the SOAR Board of Directors, I am privileged to observe our committees and their chairs in action as they prepare each SOAR semester. With that thought in mind, I want to share with our members the whole process, one that starts about

six months before the new semester begins. The process of preparing for a semester of courses involves all twelve of our committees. Read on!

-Janet van Weringh

SOAR COMMITTEES AT WORK

The **Curriculum Committee** meets twice a year to consider potential courses. The eight members reach out to prospective presenters and gather a set of possible courses from various sources in a broad range of subject areas. They seek diversity in the topics so that the courses appeal to as many members as possible. Recently, the committee has been contacting presenters from 2018 – 2022, asking if they might be interested in repeating past courses or doing new subject matter. Anyone may suggest a topic, and those interested in presenting a course, (or **who** know someone who might,) please contact soar@potSDam.edu. **Chair David Mathie**

Once the list of courses has Board approval, the second step in the process is deciding when and where these courses will be held. This is when the **Scheduling Committee** gets to work. The four volunteers on the committee schedule classes in and around Potsdam and Canton, minimizing time and place conflicts as much as possible. **Chair David Mathie**

Next, it's time for the **Publications Committee** to create the course booklet that goes out to our membership. The booklet contains all the information about the courses: titles and descriptions, presenters and their bios, locations, dates and times, and any fees and special instructions that presenters may require. Did you notice the new two-column format this spring? Let us know what you think of it! BTW, SOAR's **website** contains this information also. **Chair Lyn Swafford**

**SPRING LUNCHEON
MAY 17TH @ 11:30 AM**

SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 3



It is then time for the **Registration Committee** to step in. Following our Fall semester, committee members took on a new challenge - they spent *many* hours discussing how SOAR could offer both paper *and* online registration opportunities, and how to time these two activities to be equitable for all members. The team then created new forms, volunteers came to the office to put the registration packets together, and all did their best to work out some kinks here and there. SOAR members took advantage of our dual methods for Spring 2023; approximately 50% of our members registered using the online form while the other half mailed in their forms. Sincere thanks go out to the team of 13 volunteers who worked during the initial two weeks of registration.

Chair Carol McRobbie

After members register, the **Ambassador Committee** begins its work of recruiting volunteers to serve as liaisons between presenters and course participants, selecting and contacting ambassadors for each course. The Committee details their responsibilities in two documents: "Ambassador Guidelines" and "Ambassador Checklist." Although the process seems daunting at first, with guidance from the Committee and the SOAR office, serving as an ambassador is fun and rewarding. Ambassadors are an integral part of the SOAR experience, and we thank all who have volunteered their time and efforts fulfilling this *essential* role. Those who would like to be an ambassador, please let the SOAR office know; the Committee will reach out to you. **Chair Bill Mein**

Each class in which the presenter may be unfamiliar with a computer and its projection system (used **primarily in Maxcy 104** on the SUNY Potsdam campus) may require a Tech Assistant in that class. Please note!! The **Technology Committee** continues to struggle recruiting volunteer Tech Assistants. The three current volunteers do a great job, but SOAR needs to share the

load with more helpers. A training session is held at the beginning of each semester for new assistants, and new assistants shadow experienced ones until they feel comfortable working on their own. Contact the SOAR Office if interested. **Chair Jerry Sharp**

It sounds like all the work is done now - SOAR members are in their courses, listening to the presenters, having fun. Oh, but there's more!

This semester, SOAR's **Events Committee** tried a new time slot for its Meet the Chef event, a dinner event as Sabad's in Norfolk. The response was great; the evening gathering was a hit! Should we try dinner again? Let **Chair Diane Hurlbut** know at hurlbutdiane@yahoo.com. Interested in joining the committee? Tell Diane!



Administration & Finance (Chair and Treasurer Phil Shatraw) prepares our budget and keeps track of our money. **Archives** collects many materials from SOAR's past, and **Outreach & Publicity** makes sure that our communities know about SOAR. (**Lyn Swafford** is Chair of both.) The **Membership Committee** (Chair **Anne Hopkins**) keeps track of member contact information, and gives members a choice of receiving materials via email only or by mail. Have you given SOAR your preferred method? **Nominating & Awards** (Chair **Juanita Babcock**) recommends new Board members and recognizes presenters and members in our organization with several awards at the Spring and Fall luncheons. Nominations can be made throughout the year by contacting juanitaatsoar@gmail.com. The **SOAR Office** (Admin Assistant **Juanita Blakemore**) plans the end-of-semester **Luncheon** and does *soooo* much more!

SOAR Spring Luncheon

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

11:30 am - 2:00 pm

11:30 am Broad Band: Brass with Class and a Little Bit of Sass

Serving lunch at noon.

Barrington Student Union

Multi-Purpose Room (second floor)

To reserve a seat: Mail the form below with your check.

All reservations due on or before Monday, May 1st.

If you must cancel, please notify the SOAR office at:

soar@potsgdam.edu or 315-267-2690 by *Monday, May 8th*.

(Otherwise, SOAR will be charged for the meal you did not enjoy.)

Send check payable to "PACES 235" with form below.

Buffet Menu:

Roast Prime Rib of Beef, Mixed Green Salad, Roasted New Potatoes,
Seasonal Vegetable, Rolls & Butter

Desserts: Chocolate or Strawberry Tiger Cake
Water, Coffee or Tea

****A Vegetarian Option is available, indicate on the form below if that is your preference.****

Directions: Please refer to the SUNY Potsdam map on our website, www.soarnorthcountry.org for location of Barrington Student Union and parking lots. There will be signs along Barrington Drive.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO DISPLAY YOUR PARKING PASS!

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Name(s): _____

Number attending: _____ x **\$30.00** Enclosed: \$ _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

All reservations due by Monday, May 1st.

Mail this form with your check payable to "PACES 235" to:

SOAR, 382 Van Housen Ext., SUNY Potsdam, 44 Pierrepont Ave., Potsdam, NY 13676



Life Long Learning in the North Country

Contact Us

SOAR Office

382 Van Housen Ext
SUNY Potsdam
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Potsdam, NY 13676
720094

Office hours: Mon-Wed-Fri 9 to 2

Phone: 315-267-2690

Email: soar@potsdam.edu

Website: www.soarnorthcountry.org

OUR MAILING LIST

Currently, all members who registered for a class at least once since Fall 2019 are on our mailing list. We left many members on our list intentionally because we understood that not all members were ready to return to meeting in person. Now it's time to pare down our mailing list. This newsletter will be the last mailing we send to people that were members prior to Fall 2022. In August 2023, we will send the registration packets only to those who registered in the Fall 2022 or Spring 2023 or have specifically told us that they wish to remain on our email list.

Do You Have Pictures We Can Put on Our Website?

Do you take your smart phone with you to class? Take some pictures of the presenter, your classmates or the projects that they are working on. Our website has a few pictures from the Fall 2022 semester, and we would like to put up a new set every semester. Send your photos to soar@potsdam.edu.

SOAR OFFICE

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Office hours: Mon-Wed-Fri 9 to 2

Recipient Name

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code