

Breakout Sessions

Breakout Sessions 1 Tuesday, July 23, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Salon A	<p>Ways to Keep Your Members Engaged Beyond the Classroom <i>Tarilyn McBride, Coordinator, OLLI at Louisiana State University</i></p> <p>Once your classes have ended, are you trying to find ways to keep your members active and engaged? It's sometimes hard to know exactly what will be a success and what won't. OLLI at LSU will share what has worked for them, and there will be time for the group to share ideas as well.</p>
Salon D	<p>Courses and Curriculum: Data and Discussion <i>Kevin Connaughton, Manager of Adult Learning, & Kari Fagin, Associate Director, National Resource Center for Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes, Northwestern University</i></p> <p>Utilizing data compiled from the Osher National Resource Center's National Membership Study and Institute director benchmarking survey, this session will present the topic interests of membership and other data related to the formation of courses and curriculum. The data will be presented by the various demographics of Osher Institute Members. Specifically, we will address the topics by the demographics of younger members (50 to 70 year old range), gender, and under-represented groups. Furthermore, we will present and discuss effective and/or unique ideas for courses/curriculum to address these demographics. This session will provide data and ideas to inform LLI on creation/modification of their curriculum and courses.</p>
Bluegrass	<p>Lifelong Learning Curricula Challenges and Opportunities <i>Don M Gash, Ph.D., OLLI at UK Curriculum Committee Chair, Sandy Emerson, OLLI at UK Advisory Board, OLLI at the University of Kentucky, and Penny Lamb, OLLI at UK Instructor</i></p> <p>This breakout session will explore effective practices for Curriculum Committees to attract, recruit and retain good instructors for strong lifelong learning classes and shared interest groups SIGs. The importance of mentoring new instructors. How to encourage experimentation and innovation in developing new classes and SIGs. The incentives and personal rewards that help attract and retain instructions. How to implement quality assessments of classes and SIGs. The importance of trust and social interactions for successful programs.</p>
Crimson Clover	<p>From Experience to Influence: Leveraging Personal Narratives for Lifelong Learning Impact <i>Mary K. Clark, Ph.D., Volunteer Facilitation and Training Team, AARP - Office of Volunteer Engagement</i></p> <p>Join us for an engaging and interactive session incorporating components from a storytelling format that explores the impact of personal stories on volunteerism. Discover how sharing your personal "why" and your unique journey as a volunteer can serve as a powerful marketing tool to inspire others to become instructors or to participate as students in lifelong learning. This session serves as an introduction to the storytelling concept and how it can be an effective way to enhance community engagement, contributing to increased interest in lifelong learning as a hub for continuous and personal growth. A subsequent breakout session will provide a hands on opportunity to delve into the art of creating your personal volunteer story.</p>

Breakout Sessions 2 Tuesday, July 23, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Salon A	<p>Cultivating Greater Community and Belonging for Lifelong Learners <i>Rachel Ramirez, Executive Director of the Lifelong Learning Institute in Chesterfield, & Tom Deschenes, Director of Partnerships, Nearpeer</i></p> <p>Socialization is one of the primary reasons that retirees and active adults pursue continued education at their local lifelong learning institute -- the chance to learn communally and collaboratively is so important and enriching, especially for people who may struggle with loneliness and isolation. To help improve community, connection, inclusion, and belonging among its members, LLI in Chesterfield (Virginia) has partnered with Nearpeer to allow their members to find meaningful friendships, share resources and skills, network, and stay informed -- all from an easy-to-use mobile app and website. Nearpeer, a leading technology for fostering peer connections at colleges and corporations, and LLI in Chesterfield, affiliated with Virginia Commonwealth University and one of the largest LLIs in Virginia, will share their joint findings on how their collaborative pilot is improving learning, enriching community, and enhancing the overall LLI experience, especially in this "post-pandemic" era with some members still leery to return to in-person learning. Further, this session will cover how this initiative is helping to increase recruitment, retention, engagement, and the classroom experience at LLI in Chesterfield.</p>
Salon D	<p>Hybrids: Positives and Pitfalls in a Post-Pandemic World <i>Wayne Cotter, Vice President/Chair, Technology Committee, & Donna Ramer, President/Chair, Membership, Quest Lifelong Learning Community</i></p> <p>In this session, the vice-president/chair of technology and president/chair of membership of New York City's Quest Lifelong Learning Community (affiliated with the City College of New York) will discuss the pros and cons of hybrid presentations and the necessary equipment to maximize the hybrid experience. They will describe how they promote their combined in-person and hybrid program; how this model has helped their organization achieve historic increases in membership following two years of decline during the Covid years; and why Quest has largely abandoned the Zoom-only format. In addition, they'll describe how members are selected and trained in hybrid technologies and equipment. They also will discuss how Quest has addressed the yearning for meaningful social interaction among retirees in a post-Pandemic world.</p>
Bluegrass	<p>Zooming Into The Future: Increasing Access for Rural, Isolated, and Mobility Limited Seniors <i>Lucy Bisson, Executive Director, Lewiston Auburn Senior College</i></p> <p>Classroom regulars disappear. How many of them are no longer physically able to attend in person, isolated by health changes or access to transportation? To address this concern, Lewiston Auburn Senior College had begun exploring the possibilities of online classes when the COVID pandemic began. Suddenly, everyone was mobility restricted, isolated from friends and family. LASC used Zoom to keep classes going and growing through the pandemic, maintaining a thriving senior network in a time when it was critically needed. Even now, many vulnerable seniors prefer to stay away from crowds yet hunger for intellectual stimulation and social interaction. Come and hear how we are bringing meaningful learning and engagement to isolated seniors in Maine.</p>
Crimson Clover	<p>Stories in Action: Transforming Experiences into Impactful Narratives <i>Marilyn Diaz, Esq. & Suzan Turley, Volunteer Facilitation and Training Team, AARP - Office of Volunteer Engagement</i></p> <p>Building on the insights gained from "From Experience to Influence: Leveraging Personal Narratives for Lifelong Learning Impact" presentation, this hands-on workshop invites participants to actively shape and refine their own volunteer stories. Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or just starting your journey, this session will guide you through the process of articulating your experiences in a way that captivates and inspires others. Learn techniques for effective storytelling and the value of sharing your story. Share constructive commentary, known as a "feedback sandwich" with your peers. By the end of the session, you'll have a story outline, ready to share what led you to lifelong learning. Prior attendance in the earlier session is not necessary to participate in this workshop. This session will empower participants to recognize the value of their stories and the significance of leveraging stories as tools for promoting lifelong learning.</p>
Blackberry Lily	<p>What's Next: Planning for Staff and Volunteer Succession in Lifelong Learning Programs <i>Catherine Frank, Executive Director, OLLI at the University of North Carolina, Asheville</i></p> <p>Organizational change is inevitable, and planning is critical for smooth transitions. Because lifelong learning programs differ from other organizations in a university setting and often carry on their work independently, it's important to have clear and complete staff job descriptions in place so that the process for hiring and selecting staff is clear and so that potential candidates have a sense of the many hats they will wear. It's important to have clear job descriptions and term limits for volunteers so that they know what to expect and so that more people feel prepared for and invited into the work of advising and serving their organizations. Share your organization's plans for change, and learn from others as we learn to see change as a positive force.</p>

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Breakout Sessions 3 Tuesday, July 23, 3 - 4 p.m.

Salon A	<p>A Fun Approach to Curriculum Development and Volunteer Satisfaction <i>Janna Trout, Volunteer Curriculum Chair for LIFE@Elon, & Kathryn Bennett, Assistant Director, Professional & Continuing Studies, Elon University, Elon, North Carolina</i></p> <p>While many lifelong learning programs provide "à la carte" short courses on a specific topic, LIFE@Elon takes a different approach; an annual membership provides access to all weekly sessions, presented on a variety of topics. LIFE@Elon offers 12 classes each semester (fall and spring), taught by current and retired Elon faculty and staff members, other area educators, and experts chosen by our Curriculum Committee volunteers. Session attendees will learn how this fun approach sparks interest among participants by expanding their knowledge to topics they wouldn't typically engage, while also learning how to utilize the strengths of each volunteer within the Curriculum Committee to provide successful educational programming for the membership.</p>
Salon D	<p>Community Impact <i>Jennifer Disano, CEO & Executive Director, OLLI at George Mason University</i></p> <p>Discover how Lifelong Learning Institutes can significantly influence their communities through partnerships, strategic relationships, and organizational collaborations. This session will explore ways to expand your reach, enhance community impact, raise awareness of your organization, and foster positive outcomes for all involved. Learn how to leverage relationships in the community by initiating impactful projects and programs that address local needs, engage diverse populations, and create sustainable benefits.</p>
Bluegrass	<p>Content Creation for Member Engagement on Social Media <i>Kristen Suess, Program Coordinator, OLLI at the University of Cincinnati</i></p> <p>You have that social media profile...how are you using it? Learn to use some free tools to create adaptable content to engage your members. By the end of this session, you will learn about and see a live demonstration of three free tools that can re-energize your social media presence.</p>
Crimson Clover	<p>Nurturing a Garden of Volunteers to Blossom <i>Lucy S. Woodhouse, Director, Lifelong Learning at Wofford College</i></p> <p>Stepping into a new, young Lifelong Learning program at the beginning of COVID had challenges plenty: no committee structure in place, a founding advisory council that had not changed since its founding, a membership primarily made up of long-term residents of Spartanburg, no opportunity to meet in person and virtual classes. My first year we had 220 members, a drop from 400 before COVID. Flash forward 3 years to a membership of 525 members, an advisory council of 15, 4 committees and hands on deck of over 150 volunteers. How does asking a member to be a class liaison turn them into an Advisory Council member? How does challenging the group for the first time to raise \$10,000 and they raise \$13,000 happen? I'll share secrets, tips and ideas to get your members more engaged so your program can blossom.</p>
Blackberry Lily	<p>Fundraising: Starting and Improving Upon the Journey to Create a Culture of Giving <i>Amy Edwards, Stewardship Assistant, OLLI at the University of Richmond</i></p> <p>In 2017 Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Richmond started fundraising strategies to ensure our lifelong learning organization could remain financially strong, even if times grew challenging. In this session, we'll discuss the start of our Osher's fundraising in 2017 and how it has changed and grown through today, even through the COVID impacted years.</p>

Breakout Sessions 4 Wednesday, July 24, 9 - 10 a.m.

Salon A	<p>Marketing by the #s <i>Lucy S. Woodhouse, Director, Lifelong Learning at Wofford College</i></p> <p>Our flyers, brochures, and online website go far in publicizing our programs. Word of mouth of course can't be beat. But what if you want to diversify your program? What if you want to reach segments of your community that you are not connecting with? Several useful online tools cost very little money, a little of your time, and some quiet brain power time to take advantage of. A few of these tools include Google Analytics, Facebook Ads, Facebook group targeting, and Google Business. We can also mine our registration data to identify affinity groups within your membership that you can target, market to and enhance. Let me show you a high-level look into these tools that could help your program grow and reach new members!</p>
Salon D	<p>Loving Longevity through Lifelong Learning <i>E. Ayn Welleford, PhD, Associate Professor and Gerontology for Community Voice, Virginia Commonwealth University, & Rachel Ramirez, Executive Director of the Lifelong Learning Institute in Chesterfield</i></p> <p>This session will present a glimpse into elder roles and the importance of exploring a "Big Why." Participants will hear about age oppression and how internalized ageism can interfere with the anticipation of elderhood and fulfillment of elder roles. The whole-person lifespan approach to aging and longevity will be introduced, and the tasks of elderhood will be explored. Guided by evidence-based gerontological practice, consideration will be given to the importance of co-creating an elderhood worth anticipating through lifelong learning. Through examples and case studies from the Lifelong Learning Institute in Chesterfield, Virginia, sponsored by Virginia Commonwealth University, best practices for an elderhood worthy of anticipation will be shared.</p>
Bluegrass	<p>Ask Us Anything! Volunteer Engagement Troubleshooting Session <i>Tara Shaver, Senior Advisor, AARP & AARP Volunteer Facilitation and Training Team</i></p> <p>Let's talk about challenges and opportunities in volunteer engagement! Experts from AARP's Office of Volunteer Engagement facilitate a conversation about volunteer engagement, taking questions from the audience and harnessing the wisdom in the room to address challenges and identify opportunities. They'll share the most common challenges they work with; offer tools to address common issues; and facilitate a broader conversation with participants about volunteer engagement in the lifelong learning space.</p>
Crimson Clover	<p>Little Things, Big Impact: Elevating Member Engagement <i>Stephanie Tarpley, Program Manager, & Annie Nichols, OLLI Program Associate, OLLI at Emory University</i></p> <p>While we offer a rich array of courses, lectures, and social activities, it is often the little details that leave a lasting impression on members. These small gestures, contribute significantly to the overall member experience. In recent times, as we navigated challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and changes in programming, it became evident that these "little things" played a crucial role in retaining members and fostering a sense of community. Join us as we discuss our journey, what we have implemented and changes we have seen with our efforts. We can delve into what has worked for us and what simple changes you might also be able to implement with little cost but making a big impact and in return see member retention. Let's share ideas!</p>
Blackberry Lily	<p>Beyond Zoom Lectures: A Case Study of Online, Live and Interactive Exercise <i>Eric Levitan, Incorporating, Vivo</i></p> <p>The OLLI at Duke strives to provide cutting edge programs that engage and challenge their lifelong learners. Finding a partner who could provide innovative, creative exercise programming that met the needs of their members was key. This session will discuss the recent partnership between the OLLI at Duke and Vivo, a live and interactive, small group exercise program. In this presentation, presenters will discuss why this program is so important, and best practices and partnership strategies from implementation to evaluation. This presentation will also highlight program successes and lessons learned.</p>

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Breakout Sessions 5 Wednesday, July 24, 10:15 - 11:15 a.m.

Salon A	<p>Making the Most of It: Promoting Learning in Retirement (LIR) <i>Diana Rast, OLLI Promotions and Marketing Chair, OLLI at the University of Kentucky, & Seetha Subramanian, OLLI at UK Instructor</i></p> <p>Participants are invited to an exchange of ideas on how to promote LIR to the general public, potential and current learners, the press and media and within your own institution, with a view to the sustainability of your efforts and given the resources available learners.</p>
Salon D	<p>Using Google Suite for Efficient and Effective Volunteer Collaboration <i>Kristi McMillan, College for Seniors Program Manager, & Hilary Schroeder, Life Transitions and Special Programs Manager, OLLI at the University of North Carolina, Asheville</i></p> <p>Staff at OLLI at UNC Asheville uses Google Suite applications and tools extensively for instructor and volunteer management: communication, collaboration, archives, scheduling, evaluation, information-gathering, etc. Google apps are not only designed for ease of use but are also free—whether or not your institution is a Google campus—and available on any internet-connected device. We will discuss some of the apps we regularly use such as Groups, Gmail, Drive, Docs, Forms, Sheets, Slides, Calendar and Sites, and present a number of case studies on how these apps help us work more efficiently and effectively with various groups we serve.</p>
Bluegrass	<p>One Day Fundraising Campaigns: Planning and Execution <i>Janice Birdwhistell, Former OLLI Development Chair, OLLI at the University of Kentucky</i></p> <p>During the past six years the University of Kentucky has held a “One Day for UK” campaign in mid-April. Philanthropy creates a tool kit that spells out university-wide guidelines and offers colleges and programs suggestions and assistance. Working together, the OLLI staff and the Development and Marketing Committees develop a “campaign within a campaign” plan. Learn what we have done and how we use this campaign to raise funds, make friends and develop annual donors to support OLLI activities and needs.</p>
Blackberry Lily	<p>Elevating Possibilities: Data Driven Decision Making for Lifelong Learning <i>Michelle Shideler, Caren Francis, & Tim Thompson, Master the Possibilities</i></p> <p>Attend this presentation to see how Master the Possibilities uses daily data inputs to gain insights from its software to drive its overall operational decisions. Examples of a few time-saving reports includes under minimum, wait lists, catalog proofing, print catalog template pull, room conflict report, instructor missing course list, etc. All of this is done with the use of an online database connection through CampusCE.</p>