

Academy for Lifelong Learning

2018 – 2019

Annual Report



May 10, 2019

10:00 a.m.

**Lorusso Technology Building
2nd floor, Atrium**

**Academy for Lifelong Learning
Annual Meeting – Tuesday, May 10, 2019
Agenda**

- I. Welcome and Introduction of New Board Members
- II. A.L.L. Bylaws review – Jim Lathrop and Dianne Tattersall
- III. Annual Reports – Officers
 - President’s Report
 - Vice President’s Report
 - Treasurer’s Report
- IV. Committee Reports:
 - Finance
 - Long-Range Planning
 - Communications
 - Curriculum
 - Registration
 - Policies & Procedures
 - Hospitality
 - Nominating
 - Special Events
- V. Adjournment

Report from the President 2018-2019

The Academy for Lifelong Learning of Cape Cod Inc. (A.L.L.) offers an opportunity for those age 50 and over to pursue their intellectual interests and educational activities and to explore new areas of learning in the company of their peers. Social relationships and special events are integral parts of the mission. A.L.L. fosters and maintains a close and mutually beneficial relationship with Cape Cod Community College.

It has been a rewarding year for the Board and hopefully for our members. On the following pages you will read about the 2018 -2019 accomplishments of our talented and hard-working Committee chairs. Their goals and accomplishments are to serve our members consistent with our mission, strategic plan and vision statement.

Elemental to our service to members is our important relationships with Cape Cod Community College and Bridgewater State. Both Colleges provide us with classroom and meeting space. Our Fall 2019 semester classroom license with Bridgewater State is in the process of review and signing.

Our 2-year License Agreement with Cape Cod Community College ends in July 2020 with an opportunity to negotiate an extension for another 2 years, (to 2022). Most of you are aware that the College received funding for a new Science Building and is in the middle of a fundraising campaign for the balance of funds needed for construction. A.L.L. increased our annual scholarship donation to \$6,000 for the College Education Foundation. A.L.L. has contributed to the Education Foundation scholarship fund for over 20 years. I meet regularly with Dr. Cox, President, and Lisa Kopecky, VP Finance and Operations, on topics of mutual interest and benefit.

It's appropriate that I thank those Board members whose 3-year terms are expiring. They include Kirk Young (Treasurer), Leslie Mathis (Policy and Procedures chair) and Ed Wirtanen (Member at Large). Their work, skills and dedication to A.L.L. has benefited us all. And of course, my heartfelt thanks to Jim Lathrop, A.L.L. President for two years, who mentored and supported me as I took over as President in 2018.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Lore DeBower, recruited six new members to the A.L.L. Board. We are pleased to welcome Rita Ailinger, Regina Hopkins, Pat McKean, Andrea Plate, Marianne Triplette, and John Ward.

I'd be remiss if I didn't thank those Board members whose terms are not expiring. They include Dianne Tattersall, Noelle Howland, Diane Hoover, Marilyn Nouri, David Wyant, Jackie Faulhaber and Rona Robinson. I also thank all our hardworking volunteers who contribute their time and talent to make A.L.L. a place where members can learn lifelong.

If you see me at A.L.L. in the office or cafeteria stop by and say hello. If you have questions, please ask. The more you participate and know about A.L.L. means we're doing our job.

Judy Roettig, A.L.L. President

Report from the Vice President for 2018-2019

The Vice President, in the absence of the President, performs all duties of the President, subject to the restrictions upon the President, as stated in the Bylaws. In addition, the Vice President works closely with all Standing Committees on the recruitment and retention of members.

Annually, the A.L.L. Vice President hosts a New Member Orientation at the beginning of each semester. Board Officers and Chairs sit with new members to inform and answer their questions. Chairs share their committee's responsibilities with attendees (Hospitality, Long Range Planning, Finance, Special Events, Curriculum, Communication, Registration, Policy and Procedures). Skills needed are highlighted with new member attendees for committees with openings.

Each attendee receives an informative Orientation Handbook that includes;

- Information about The Academy for Lifelong Learning
- Semester start/finish dates plus upcoming special event/lecture dates
- Maps of the College campus
- Board contact information
- Committee Volunteer Form, and
- New Member Survey provided by the Long-Range Planning committee

The intent is to welcome new members to the supportive and hospitable A.L.L community. The New Member Orientation Handbook is posted on the A.L.L. website and new members are asked to verify their email address to receive the monthly ALLways newsletter.

This year the Academy welcomed approximately 90 new members. Over the year interested new members volunteered as committee members and class Coordinators.

Membership and Volunteer recruitment was identified as a high priority in A.L.L's Three-Year Strategic Plan. Each committee is identifying needed skills and knowledge for new committee members. The following A.L.L. committees need volunteers with any of the specific skills listed below:

- Finance – QuickBooks, accounting, banking and/or finance
- Communications – Constant Contact, communication/marketing plan development including member and prospective member communications i.e., newsletter, website and social media design and upkeep
- Policies and Procedures – Working with standing committees to review and revise existing Policies & Procedures manuals
- Special Events – Event and trip planning, and graphic design.

This year the officers met to review and update the by-laws, and the changes were presented to the Board of Directors for input and also to the membership at the annual meeting.

Dianne Tattersall, Vice President

Report from the Treasurer F.Y. 2018-2019

Although the current fiscal year, and my term as your Treasurer, does not officially end until June 30, I think I can safely predict that your organization will again finish the year in a healthy financial condition.

In addition to the factors cited in last year's report, it is noteworthy that during this fiscal year our catalogs offered 13 more courses than last year. Coupled with the tireless efforts of Mike Baker to maximize the number of classroom seats available, this enabled us to realize another increase in Membership Fees; this year totaled \$120,277 vs \$118,005 in 2017-18.

As of April 30, 2019, total revenue for the year stood at \$128,288.30. This side of the picture is virtually complete; the second semester is over, and there are no more Special Events scheduled before June 30.

Expenses are not quite as close to being finalized; however, at this point it appears they may come in slightly higher than what had been budgeted. A contributing factor is that the total cost of producing this year's catalogs was greater than anticipated. To see the full effect, one has to add the Catalogs Distributed expense in Advertising & PR to the Catalog Printing/Mailing expense in Curriculum. This change from prior years is the result of the Board having agreed with me that the 1,000+ catalogs that are not mailed or given individually to members, but rather distributed to Libraries, Senior Centers, etc., are in fact one of our primary means of advertising A.L.L. Partially offsetting is the fact that we again this year did not have as many Special Events as was anticipated, due to apparent lessening of enthusiasm among the membership for these types of activity. (This is also a major factor in why Total Revenue is less than the budget anticipated.)

Also on the expense side, we are in the process of upgrading the hardware and software of our two desktop workstations in the office and the laptops used in the registration process. Some of the money has been spent this year (see Other Office Equipment); the hope is to have everything in place in time for Fall 2019 registration.

For those with more than a passing interest, attached are:

1. A report showing the current year revenue and expenses through April 30, 2019 vs budget
2. The balance sheet as of April 30, 2019.

Before closing, I would like to thank my fellow Board members, particularly Jim Lathrop and his Finance Committee, for their advice, assistance and tolerance during the past three years.

Respectfully submitted:

Kirk Young, Treasurer

Academy of LifeLong Learning of Cape Cod, Inc.
Revenue & Expense

REVENUES	7/1/2018 - 4/30/2019	Full Year Budget	YTD Percent
Membership Fees	\$ 118,005.00	\$ 115,000.00	102.6%
Other Revenues			
Donations/Contributions Received	\$ 121.00	\$ 1,500.00	8.1%
Interest Income	\$ 2,139.27	\$ 3,250.00	65.8%
Special Event Revenue	\$ 3,614.00	\$ 13,000.00	27.8%
Miscellaneous	\$ 214.00	\$ 250.00	85.6%
Total Other Revenues	\$ 6,088.27	\$ 18,000.00	33.8%
Total Revenue	\$ 124,093.27	\$ 133,000.00	93.3%
EXPENSES			
Curriculum Expenses			
Registration	\$ 1,858.87	\$ 2,000.00	92.9%
Coordinators' Allowances	\$ (175.00)	\$ 250.00	-70.0%
Coordinators' Luncheon	\$ 1,444.50	\$ 2,000.00	72.2%
Other Coordinator Expenses (Handbook)	\$ 422.38	\$ -	
Catalog Printing/Mailing	\$ 11,555.74	\$ 10,500.00	110.1%
Class Supplies	\$ 604.71	\$ 400.00	151.2%
Total Curriculum	\$ 15,711.20	\$ 15,150.00	103.7%
Special Event Expenses			
Annual Banquet	\$ 1,610.92	\$ 2,000.00	80.5%
Winterim	\$ (42.97)	\$ 5,250.00	-0.8%
Lecture Series	\$ (6.46)	\$ 500.00	-1.3%
Other Events/Trips	\$ 2,354.68	\$ 6,900.00	34.1%
Total Special Events	\$ 3,916.17	\$ 14,650.00	26.7%
Reflections	\$ 4,400.55	\$ 3,600.00	122.2%
Hospitality			
Mixer	\$ 486.47	\$ 600.00	81.1%
1st-Week Snacks	\$ 1,608.75	\$ 1,800.00	89.4%
New Member Orientation	\$ 987.40	\$ 250.00	395.0%
Holiday Party	\$ 263.98	\$ 200.00	132.0%
Water Cooler & Candy	\$ 185.82	\$ 150.00	123.9%
Total Hospitality	\$ 3,532.42	\$ 3,000.00	117.7%
Contributions Made	\$ 7,026.00	\$ 6,450.00	108.9%
Office Expenses			
Staff Expense	\$ 35,299.90	\$ 55,595.28	63.5%
IT		\$ 2,850.00	0.0%
Office Supplies	\$ 863.35	\$ 1,670.00	51.7%
Office Copier	\$ 964.86	\$ 1,900.00	50.8%
Other Office Equipment	\$ 647.72	\$ 100.00	647.7%
Off-site copies	\$ 32.08	\$ 3,000.00	1.1%

Postage	\$ 135.12	\$ 500.00	27.0%
Board Expenses	\$ 568.13	\$ 750.00	75.8%
Total Office Expense	\$ 38,511.16	\$ 66,365.28	58.0%
License, Legal & Professional	\$ 4,034.78	\$ 6,588.50	61.2%
Advertising & PR			
Member Communications	\$ 992.07	\$ -	
Media Advertising	\$ (140.00)	\$ 500.00	-28.0%
Constant Contact	\$ 926.33	\$ 546.00	169.7%
Web Site	\$ 206.87	\$ 400.00	51.7%
Total Adv & Promo	\$ 1,985.27	\$ 1,446.00	137.3%
Fixed Charges			
Space Rental	\$ 11,820.40	\$ 12,334.40	95.8%
Insurance	\$ 3,880.00	\$ 5,000.00	77.6%
Total Fixed Charges	\$ 15,700.40	\$ 17,334.40	90.6%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 94,817.95	\$ 134,584.18	70.5%
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ 29,275.32	\$ (1,584.18)	

Report from the Finance Committee for 2018-2019

A.L.L.'s Finance Committee works with the Treasurer to create and monitor the annual budget for the Board of Directors. The committee, working with the Treasurer, also:

- assesses budget variances and market trends, especially interest rates, that affect current financial stability and A.L.L.'s future financial needs
- reviews and advises on A.L.L.'s investments
- maintains best accounting practices as defined in governance documents
- reviews monthly financial reports prepared for the Board of Directors.

This year we also arranged the purchase, through the College, of two new desktop computers which will be delivered soon. The college owns the machines we currently use, as well as the data network, so the college made the purchase, to our specifications and with our funding.

Cape Cod Community College has obtained much of the needed funding for a new Science Building and lecture rooms. We expect that this construction project, which we understand is at least several years away, will impact A.L.L, possibly including temporary relocation. While this would be disruptive, we appear to be in a position to cover any costs from own funds. A.L.L continues to utilize classroom space at, and rented from, Bridgewater State University's Cape Cod campus during the fall semesters.

Overall, A.L.L. is in very good financial shape. Operations are on-budget and we are solvent. The Treasurer's report will include more detailed information on our financial condition and this year's operating results. Financial assets are held in a conservative fashion—bank CDs—which preserves capital though it does not generate a lot of interest income.

Kirk Young has done an exemplary job as A.L.L.'s Treasurer but his 3-year term expires this June. I am pleased to report that John Ward has agreed to replace Kirk as Treasurer and that Kirk will remain on the Finance Committee.

Committee Members: Jim Lathrop, Chair; Kirk Young, Treasurer; John Ward, Alan Berger; and Joe Gill.

Report from the Communications Committee 2018-2019

The role of the Communications Committee is to promote the mission and values of A.L.L. to membership, volunteers, coordinators and the public using various media appropriate for the message.

In January 2019, I assumed the role of Communications Chair from Lee Pledger, aspiring to build upon her established goals of recruiting new members and retaining current members, as well as promoting volunteerism within the Organization. The results from the extensive 2019 Member Survey mounted by the Long-Range Planning Committee were helpful to our goal of assessing both what we are doing right and what we need to improve upon. Using the information obtained in the survey, we reviewed the monthly Newsletter format, content, and distribution process, addressing some concerns raised in the survey. The results of the completed survey were printed in the April 2019 *ALLways* newsletter, in case you missed it.

The Committee is focusing on the information we received from new members and their retention rate the following semester. New A.L.L. members who just completed the Spring Semester will get a new survey about their experiences as members. Our questions will focus on Class selection and priority, the Registration process, the environment in their classes, class management by the coordinators, and the new members' assessment of the alignment of material presented in classes with the class descriptions in our catalog. Our goal is enhancing retention yearly as well as letting members know that we listen and care about their experiences as students and as members.

We are fortunate to have nearly one thousand viewers, mostly current members, who read *ALLways* each month. In addition, we will be promoting the Organization to various outside groups such as Councils on Aging, Newcomers organizations and condominium boards on Cape Cod, showing them snippets of current classes in order to excite them about the offerings in the upcoming Fall Catalog. The Committee will continue with Lee's approach to news releases and P.R. opportunities that match our demographic in age, interest and location. We hope to take advantage of available space for non-profits in local publications and will look for further opportunities and events to promote new membership.

I expect an exciting year for the Communications Committee and for me personally. I have met so many awesome people since I started coordinating classes and joined the board. This is the most active, most professional, most innovative group I have ever worked with and I am enthusiastic about the coming year just imagining what we can get done together as a team.

David Wyant, Chair, and members Jeannie Dodson-Edgars and Barbara Leedom.

Report from the Curriculum Committee 2018-2019

During this past year we presented a total of 144 courses. The subject matter and totals for each category are as follows:

Personal Interest	32
History	25
Film, Music, Drama	23
Current Events	13
Literature	12
Science	9
Writing and Rhetoric	6
Arts and Culture	5
Philosophy and Religion	5
Language	4
Sports	4
Social Issues	3
Law and Government	2
Health and Wellness	1

The courses were held at four locations: the campus of Cape Cod Community College in West Barnstable, the CCCC Downtown Hyannis campus, Bridgewater State University in South Yarmouth, and the Mashpee Senior Center. Coordinators attended a luncheon/technology session prior to each semester. We thank Nancy Weida for teaching our coordinators how to integrate technology and use the podiums at our various locations.

We met with members of the Barnstable Senior Center in January and informed them about the benefits of A.L.L. The response was positive and many of the attendees registered for courses during the spring semester.

The members of our committee are:

Mike Baker – Scheduler

Henry Tamzarian – Catalog data entry coordinator and liaison to A.L.L. committees

Nancy Yee – Editing and compiling dates in catalog

Lew Taylor – Outreach and communication with coordinators

Richard Stewart – Editing and outreach

Miriam Kronish – Chair and catalog distribution coordinator

Throughout the year, we meet weekly on Thursday afternoons from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in Lorusso 114. Our meetings consist of interviewing new coordinators, entering and editing information into the catalog, scheduling classes, and encouraging members of the Academy for Lifelong Learning to become coordinators. When it is time to review the final copy of the catalog, we meet with Sean Sullivan at the Sunderland printing headquarters in Hyannis.

Our work has become much more efficient and basically paperless, thanks to Henry Tamzarian's coordinated efforts. We thank Kerry Arnett for all her efforts on our behalf. We look forward to working with members of other A.L.L. committees as we plan our next steps.

It has been an honor to work with my Curriculum Committee colleagues.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Kronish, Curriculum Committee Chair

Report from the Registration Committee 2018-2019

The 2018-19 Registration Committee had a successful year enrolling A.L.L. members in a variety of classes. For three weeks in August, the committee worked tirelessly to enroll almost 700 members for the fall semester and, again during January, to enroll 590+ members for the spring semester. The committee members spend many hours each day to insure all members were registered.

The committee members are; Paula Stefani, Jane Dunworth-Baker, Noelle Howland, Jean Devinentis, Aimee Silberman, Beth Thayer, Betsey Godley, Kate Lathrop, Grace Sweeney, Karen Young, Holly Anderson, Judy Bell, Judith Roettig, Lee Pledger, Marilyn Nouri, Martha Guzikowski, Miriam Kronish, Nancy Paslaski, Paula Connolly, Jim Connolly, Sandra Piver and, of course, Kerry Arnett.

The committee has also set goals for the upcoming year which include updating the software on the laptops to Windows 10 and reprogramming the printers to work more easily.

As chair of the committee, I would like to thank the committee members/volunteers for their efforts in making this substantial task and accompanying outreach to members achievable.

Jackie Faulhaber, Registration Chair

Report from the Hospitality Committee 2018-2019

The A.L.L. hospitality year began with registration in August; coffee, tea, water and pastries were available in the A.L.L. lobby all week as well as the first week of fall semester classes.

The New Member Orientation was held on Wednesday, September 5th, in the Solarium of the Lorusso Tech building. Pastries, hot beverages, and bottled water were made available. Thirty new members were in attendance. At noon, the annual fall semester coordinators' luncheon was held: lasagna, salad, rolls, cookies and soft drinks were available. All food for the above events was prepared by Unidine, the college food service.

The Back to School night was held on Monday, September 17, at The Cultural Center of Cape Cod in Yarmouth. A variety of delicious appetizers were prepared by the Hospitality Committee and Board of Director members. Wine, cider, lemonade, and bottled water were available. Approximately 65 people attended this successful event.

The annual Holiday Party was held on Sunday, December 9th from 12 – 2 pm in the Grossman Commons cafeteria. The Hospitality committee, ALL members, and the Board of Directors provided the scrumptious food, as well as wine, punch and bottled water. Approximately 65 people attended this event. Also, during December Beth Thayer collected donations from A.L.L. members, and a thousand dollars was donated to the Cape Cod Times Needy Fund.

Monday, January 7, 2019 marked the second semester and the beginning of registration; coffee, tea, water and pastries were available in the A.L.L. lobby all week. The New Member Orientation was held on Wednesday, January 23rd, in the Solarium of the Lorusso building, followed by the second semester coordinators' luncheon. Pastries, hot beverages and water were available for the new members, and the coordinators' luncheon menu was the group's favorite: lasagna, rolls, salad, soft drinks, bottles water, and dessert.

The last Hospitality Committee event of the A.L.L. year was the Spring Social, which was held at the Cape Codder Resort & Spa on Thursday, April 25 from 5 – 7 pm. A variety of scrumptious appetizers were available as well as beer, wine, soda, and mineral water. The cost was \$20 per person, which included one complimentary drink. A cash bar was also available. We had a favorable turnout of over 60 attendees.

The incredible Hospitality Committee members are Noelle Howland, Kate Lathrop, Ellie Petrocchi, Grace Sweeney, Aimee Silberman, and Sue Berlandi.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dianne Tattersall, Hospitality Chair

Report from the Long Range Planning Committee 2018-2019

The Long Range Planning Committee had two primary goals this year: 1) revision of the policies and procedures applicable to our committee and 2) an evaluation of Academy for Lifelong Learning in terms of the goals addressed in the Strategic Plan.

Four topics were explored in the survey developed by the committee:

- 1) Satisfaction with classes offered,
- 2) participation in and satisfaction with other activities offered,
- 3) evaluation of the Board and its activities, and
- 4) use of and evaluation of newsletter and website.

To evaluate A.L.L., the committee decided to select a stratified sample of classes being offered fall semester. Classes that we surveyed represented every type of class offered in our program last fall. Members of the committee distributed and collected surveys in the selected classes. The results of those surveys were tabulated and summarized into a report, "What our members think about what we do." A briefer report was included in the March newsletter and the full report was made available through the A.L.L. website. A meeting was held with the chairs of all the standing committees of A.L.L. for a conversation about how they might use the information from the report to move forward in meeting the goals of our strategic plan.

The committee also decided that it would be interesting to learn more from newer members of our organization. We learned, from the yearly data, that about half of those who first take classes, do not return. We wondered why, and what encourages some to continue. A Survey Monkey survey of only seven questions was sent via email to members who first took classes in the Fall of 2017 and the Spring of 2018. Two committee members are now in the process of calling members on the list who did not respond to the email survey.

The committee also reviewed the policies and procedures of the Strategic Planning Committee. Revisions were suggested that made those fit better with what we actually do as a committee. The reviewed document was submitted to the Board and approved.

Respectively submitted,

Marilyn Nouri, Chair, Long Range Planning

Report from the Policies and Procedures Committee 2018-2019

The Policies and Procedures Committee is responsible for documenting Policies and Procedures for A.L.L. committees, subject to Board of Directors approval, and maintaining the Policies and Procedures manuals held by committee chairs and A.L.L. officers.

For the past three years we have been revising the entire Policies and Procedures Manual, which was last done in 2010. The P&P committee has seen several people offer their talents: Dr. Ray Partridge and Mike Pigo-Cronin, as well as Diane Hoover, who is working on revisions to parts of the manual.

This past year we completed and approved the Curriculum Committee revisions thanks to the tireless work of Miriam Kronish, who returned to the board and once again dedicated herself to completing work on the rules that she began two years ago. Diane Tattersall worked diligently to update the Hospitality Committee revisions and Marilyn Nouri promptly completed revisions of the Long-Range Planning Committee rules this year. Diane Hoover and I expect to complete drafting revisions to the "Director" section by June. We also added current versions of authoritative outside material such as the Mass. Attorney General Guidelines. Updates to the Treasurer and the Finance Committee P&Ps will be addressed after the bylaw changes are approved.

We have relied on notebooks to hold P & P material but we see some "attrition" in their number from year to year. To address this, we are looking at the idea of dispensing with the notebooks in favor of small thumb drives for each board member. Once all our notebook contents are in electronic form, which process is nearly completed, the thumb drives would be easier to store, easier to replace, and much easier to update. We would still maintain one or more notebooks for general reference purposes. If done that way, only the dividers, tabs, labels, binder, and separate attachments need to be added by hand.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie B. Mathis, Policies and Procedures Committee Chair

Report from the Special Events Committee 2018-2019

Members of the Special Events Committee this year were Donna Northrup, Aimee Silberman, Bill Ray, Judy Bell, Lili Seely, and Diane Hoover, Chair. Every member took an active part in planning and facilitating the following special events during the 2018-19 school year.

“The National Emergency on 9/11” was presented by Ben Sliney on September 13. Ben was the National Operations Manager on duty with charge over the nation’s airspace at the Air Traffic Control System Command Center in Washington, D.C. on September 11, 2001. He appeared as himself in the movie “United 93”, which dramatizes the events of 9/11 leading up to the heroic actions and fatal crash in a field in Pennsylvania.

Jung-Ho Pak presented “A Day in the Life of a Conductor” on October 11. Jung-Ho, the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Cape Symphony for over 10 years, spoke about the technical and artistic details and administrative responsibilities of being a conductor as well as his artistic and business vision for the future of the Symphony.

Our annual fall Dinner/Theatre Matinee was held on Sunday, November 11, at the Barnstable Comedy Club, followed by dinner at the Barnstable Restaurant and Tavern. The presentation of GREASE was most enjoyable and entertaining, followed by a three-course dinner.

Marty Sandler, local Cape Cod author of over 90 books, spoke to us about “Making History Come Alive” on November 28. Marty explained that he, unlike many authors, does his own research for each book that he writes. He gave examples and explained how he wrote some of his more recent books, which are favorites for all ages. He has a great sense of humor and gave such good descriptions of his books, making many of us eager to read what he has written.

On December 12, Randy Hunt, State Representative, gave a presentation on “Cutting the Cord on Cable”. Randy was very knowledgeable about the various options available to customers of cable TV who are interested in lowering their monthly bill. The audience was very receptive and asked many pertinent questions of Randy after his presentation.

On February 14, Stew Goodwin presented “Our Towns: A Symbol of Optimism”. Stew used the book “Our Towns” and other resources to present the many positive things taking place across our country at the Grass Roots level. He encouraged us to get involved in local affairs in our communities, where he believes that change can most effectively be realized. We were not disappointed as Stew spoke fluently about his topic for over 45 minutes without any notes. He answered various questions from the audience, and later people lined up to speak with him one-on-one before leaving the auditorium.

Our final event of the year “The Underground Railroad” was given by Samuel C. Still, III on Saturday, April 13. Samuel’s presentation included brief biographies of William Still, a major conductor of the Underground Railroad, his brother Peter Still who was left in slavery as a young boy, and Dr. James Still, a self-taught herbalist who became one of the wealthiest African Americans in New Jersey during the 1800’s. This is the real-life story of an American family who persevered through life challenges despite prejudice and the lack of formal education. There was a lively question and answer time at the end of Samuel’s presentation.

Diane Hoover, Special Events Committee Chair

Report from the Nominating Committee 2018-2019

Members: Lore Lofffield De Bower, Joe Gonzalez, Sandra Piver, Aimee Silberman, Ed Wirtanen, Nancy Yee

The committee met in February for the purpose of finding nominees for the Board of Directors. Six nominees filed their petitions, the exact number of open seats on the 2019- 2020 Board of Directors, by April 2019. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Nominating Committee's recommendation at their April Meeting.

The new members are Rita Ailinger, Regina Hopkins, Pat McKean, Andrea Plate, Marianne Triplette and John Ward.

Lore Lofffield De Bower, Nominating Committee Chair