

# LONDON COUNCIL FOR ADULT EDUCATION

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Serving Adult Learners since 1945

**MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING**

**Date:** April 8, 2014

**Place:** Stevenson & Hunt Room, Central Library, London, ON

**Topic:** General Meeting, with speaker Gina Barber, Society for Learning in Retirement (SLR)

**Present:** Kristen Caschera (LPL); Amanda Burdick (LLSC); Donna Moore (UWO, Toastmasters); Beverley Payne (TVDSB); Heather Jeffery (Hutton House); Colleen Amatruda (LPL); Nancy Griffiths (WIL); Alison Sims (NokeeKwe); Laura Sherrett (Contact North); Michelle Cialacu (Francophone Community); Jane Ellyatt (City of London OW); Kym Wolfe (London Military Family Resource Centre); Alice Brona (LACW); Ann Walker (Independent); Monica Giorgini (Independent)

Ann Walker introduced the guest speaker, Gina Barber, from The Society for Learning in Retirement.

**Presentation:**

Gina, a past president and current executive committee member of SLR, provided a retrospective of The Society for Learning in Retirement – it’s history and what opportunities are available for members.

Key points (History):

* SLR was first established at Harvard University, and then adopted by a group at McGill. One founder moved to London and discussions for a new group began in 1993. Another founder moved to B.C. and began a group there.
* 1st class was in 1994 at Westminster College; the group moved to The Mount in 2008, and in 2013 found new space at Grosvenor Lodge
* A registered charitable organization
* Run by a Board of Directors (Executive, Registrar, Board Officers, Committee Chairs and a Volunteer Recruiter), elected annually; their AGM will be held April 24th

Activities of SLR:

* A volunteer (member-run) organization providing active learning opportunities for retired or semi-retired people, generally over 55 years of age, regardless of their formal education
* Members are people who like to share ideas and knowledge; members select from study or activity groups, interest or discussion groups, choosing various topics for discussion
* Groups often consist of ‘roundtable discussions’ led by a moderator/facilitator; Moderators and Peer Leaders ensure the functioning of the groups
* 10 week programs run from Sept – November, and Jan – March; 8 week program runs from April – June; summer break is during July and August
* Recently SLR connected with UWO students to form a ‘club’, helping seniors get “tech savvy”
* Visit their website:<http://slrlondon.ca/> for more information

Funding of SLR:

* Fees are $15.00 annually for members; course / activity fees range from $5.00 - $65.00
* Grants from The Westminster College Foundation, RBC, TD Canada Trust, individual (private) donations and one-time special project grants

Kristen thanked Gina for her presentation, on behalf of the members of LCAE.

Amanda Burdick (LCAE Executive & Awards Committee Co-chair):

* Gave an update on this year’s Awards Ceremony on May 8, 2014
* There are 11 nominees so far
* Requested volunteers from the membership to offer assistance at the event starting at 1:00pm; (Laura Sherret from Contact North stepped forth)

**Member Agency updates:**

Jane Ellyatt (City of London OW)

* There are 11,141 Ontario Works cases, up from this past February

Heather Jeffrey (Hutton House)

* There will be a dinner this evening for volunteers at the organization
* May 22nd is the Hutton House Learners awards ceremony

Colleen Amatruda (LPL)

* Provided updates on programs at the library, including job search (facilitated by Goodwill Career Centre), and other interesting topics
* Check the ACCESS magazine for a full listing of programs and activities at all London branches

Kristen Cashera (LPL)

* Announced she was part of the Literacy London board; Literacy London is organizing a Spelling Bee event to be held November 14th, 2014

Amanda Burdick (LLSC)

* She is developing the agency’s social media connections & connecting via Twitter, LinkedIn, etc

Alice Brona (LACW)

* Mentioned about recent around the Great Lakes by First Nations elder, Josephine Mandamin, to raise awareness about pollution, laws and concerns affecting water
* Also spoke of a UWO student who has been recognized for poetry on the topic of water

Kym Wolfe (MFRC)

* Reminded member agencies to consider bringing their client groups to watch the Adult Learners Awards ceremony, as it is extremely inspiring

Monica Giorgini (UWO)

* Announced an event April 15th - “Lessons for us all; What Intergenerational Curriculum can Teach About Education for Wellbeing,” presented by Dr. Rachel Heydon, Faculty of Ed, UWO

Michelle Cialacu ((Francophone Community)

* Announced a Francophone concert
* She recently attended a conference in London, hosted by local grain farmers, with keynote speaker, Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield

Donna Moore (UWO)

* Spoke about event on April 3rd at Western with 20 students, staff and faculty where a discussion of intergenerational topics took place
* Brought flyers regarding services available at the Student Success Centre for UWO Alumni

Beverley Thompson (TVDSB)

* Mentioned new credit and non-credit programs coming up for Spring

Laura Sherret (Contact North)

* New toll free phone number is 1-855-451-7516

Nancy Griffith (WIL)

* The new LCAE representative on behalf of WIL
* Announced closure of Clothing Works Apr 1,st after 15 years; Devon at WIL is the contact person

Alison (NokeeKwe)

* A free Income Tax Clinic is being offered currently through volunteers at the organization

Amanda and Kristen thanked everyone for attending. Meeting adjourned 1:00 pm