

President's Message

Remember when I said spring was here? Well I blew it. We are still waiting for that beautiful warm weather. This is a busy time. Please prepare for a big marketing program to hit in August. Come, renew your membership and be part of this venture.

When Pat Zimmerman and Shera Annunzio (our University of Nevada, Reno representative) attended the OLLI conference, they found we are blessed with many things some of the other (112) OLLI campuses do not have: space, parking, an already good-sized membership and a member-driven operation. They were proud to be a part of our organization. Watch for new and more mobile furniture, and new *smart classrooms*. Thank you to our own Sherl Landers-Thorman and Margo Daniels for nudging us in the right direction.

I promise all of you we will keep the warm, cozy feeling that makes us so much fun. Please take a moment to thank those on the board and those who serve on committees for their unwavering dedication to this organization. Remember we can always use a little extra help. Thank you all for your attendance and for making it happen. As usual, please call me if you have any questions or concerns. I am available to you.

LaMerne

OLLI National Conference

By Pat Zimmerman

We are back from the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI as in olive) National Conference held in Braselton, Ga., tired but excited and ready to face the challenges ahead. It was thrilling to be in the same room with representatives from OLLIs all over the country...112 in all, up from 73 last year. Bernard Osher originally wanted to fund 100 OLLIs, but he went flying by that figure earlier this year and he has revised that plan and now wants at least one OLLI in every state plus the District of Columbia. There are only three states without an OLLI and many states have lots of them.

Mr. Osher's plan for OLLIs includes collaboration with universities or colleges, *seasoned citizen organizations*, and the Osher Foundation. He believes that universities and colleges need to serve older adults and seasoned learners; that organizations need to grow membership for members who assign value to the services rendered and be willing to pay the costs of the organization; and that Osher grants should be provided for these organizations at the rate of \$100,000 a year to grow each membership to 500, at which time a million dollar endowment will be awarded to help defray costs. There have been 19 endowed institutions so far; five more have received an additional million-dollar endowment when they reached a membership of 1,000. He hopes that the network of institutes will be fully endowed in 5-7 years.

The Osher Foundation has provided a national resource center that is being designed to support OLLI members and share information. It is located at the University of Maine in Portland, the first OLLI. Take a look at the website at www.osher.net. The Osher Foundation is interested in member institutes that provide intellectually demanding material and offer diverse programs with strong volunteers, staff, and a robust membership. Shera Alberti-Annunzio, our University of Nevada, Reno Extended Studies liaison, and I were pleased to see that ElderCollege is a good fit with the Osher goals. We are nearing a membership of 300, the University is very supportive by supplying facilities and encouraging active and retired professors to teach classes, we have great parking facilities, we have a terrific volunteer membership, and our area is growing by leaps and bounds, especially with seniors.

There is a lot of work ahead in the next three years and there will be new and exciting changes on the horizon. I know we can count on you to roll up your sleeves and help make this the greatest OLLI ever...**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Nevada, Reno.**