

**OUR MISSION:** *To identify, define and develop a sustainable plan of action which addressed signature social issues in Greater Asheville that engage and provide a significant volunteer experience among the OLLI membership community.*

I. Call to order and members present: Meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm. Members present: Catherine Frank, Chuck Rosenblum, Cindy Berryman-Fink, Herb Buder, Tom Bushar, Peggy Denny, Tom Doebber, Laurel Jernigan, Judy Mattox, Jean Moore, Kathy Rouse, Dave Schenck, Steve Schleifer, Karen Schwartz. Invited guests and speakers:

- Peggy Dalman, Asheville Board of Education
- Kate Pett, Asheville City Schools Foundation
- Jay Lively, Asheville City Schools Foundation
- Meeting Minutes 08/20/2013 were approved as distributed.

II. Addressing Our New Challenge: Peggy Dalman cited the lack of reading skills as the primary literacy challenge. There is an urgent need for one on one reading sessions as well as group reading support. Volunteers are needed at all public schools and levels.

Kate Pett presented the primary activities of the Asheville City Schools Foundation which has been very active since 1988 in the areas of:

- Helping struggling students and after school programming
- Supporting Teachers with Technology and Training
- Creating Community Engagement and Advocacy

Jay Lively who is in charge of Training and Volunteering for ACSF outlined the needs and volunteer opportunities available.

At the conclusion of the presentation, everyone was empathetic to the urgent need to improve and nurture education and literacy in our public schools.

Committee member Tom Doebber felt strongly that we should have Peggy et al at our kick-off Call to Action symposium and suggested that one of the presenters be a student who has benefited and improved his learning skills through volunteer support.

III. OLLI Volunteerism: Peggy Denny gave a nice summary of Volunteerism as discussed at the August 6 brainstorming: Communicate with success stories, organize and brand OLLI civic engagement, reward outstanding volunteers, and match interests with needs.

IV. Strategy Sub-Committee: Kathy Rouse agreed to head up a sub-committee to drill down and formulate our strategy for the coming year in terms of our new project to support education and literacy. Supporting volunteers are Chuck, Jean Moore and Tom Doebber. The sub-committee will present its initial strategy ideas at the next committee meeting.

V. Laurey Masterton Presentation: Chuck discussed our marketing efforts for Laurey's presentation and encouraged everyone to attend—Tues. 24 September at 4:30 pm in the Mannheimer Room.

VI. Other matters: Catherine Frank reminded everyone about the 25<sup>th</sup> birthday party for the Center of Lifetime Learning (now OLLI) to be held on Wednesday, 25 September from 11 to 2 pm. Chuck reminded everyone that our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 15 at 1:30 pm in the same room.

**P.S. Neither rain nor the early hour of the morning could hold back those two intrepid walkers to “End Alzheimer’s” last Saturday. Herb and Karen walked the distance and (hold the applause) Karen collected over \$300 all on her own to support Alzheimer research!!! Let’s all applaud her---thank you Karen!**