

Presidents Report for 2014-15 Fiscal Year  
Annual Meeting May 27, 2015

This year the Second Half Lifelong Learning Institute has been successful with many transitions that have changed the way TSH operates. At the same time, it has maintained its commitment to its mission of lifelong learning and its motto "Live Learn Connect"! At each step of TSH transition Beverly Stevens has been a key influence, her experience with the legal requirements for non-profits and organizing an office from nothing was indispensable. Upon her retiring, we thank Beverly for her 7 years of dedicated service to TSH, but are consoled by the fact she will still be with us as a volunteer. Here is a brief account of our major accomplishments for this fiscal year:

- TSH is now an independent nonprofit corporation with federal 501 (c)(3) status;
- We have a new home at 205 Bedford St. in Fall River with 3 fully furnished class/seminar rooms with up to date technology;
- Eileen Sorrentino has lead the effort to rewrite TSH By-laws to reflect our independent status;
- TSH has a signed a Memorandum of Agreement with UMD to continue our mutual association;
- As Curriculum Chair Eileen has extended our educational partnerships into the community, entering into agreements with the New Bedford Art Museum, and the New Bedford Whaling Museum. In addition we have joined Massachusetts Non-Profit Network.
- The name of the Publicity Committee has been revised to reflect the extensive innovations Greg Stone has made as Chair of the Communications Committee. Using local print media, DCTV, the Second Half Cafe on Face Book and a revitalized web site, Greg has created a TSH community of connected members and 'friends' along the South Coast spreading the word about "what's happening".
- Joyce Miller graciously stepped up to be our Membership Chair and has "Taken charge"! She has rewritten the Membership Handook now called the Hand-E-Book, connected with lapsed members and scheduled summer gatherings to attract new members for the fall.

None of the above changes could have been made without the help of volunteers. TSH is a volunteer organization. The work done by the office staff is essential to our daily operation but volunteers are responsible for the extensive and diverse programs we offer to our members. Here are some of those activities :

- The Curriculum Committee is responsible for the variety and number of classes offered, 31 last fall and 34 this spring and an even larger number scheduled for the fall 2015. All were

lead by volunteers that graciously gave their time to share their enthusiasm and passions with our membership.

- There were 2 free two-day Facebook workshops by Greg Stone, and a one and a half day workshop on Reiki by Lorraine Stewart, in addition to "The ABC's of Writing and Publishing" with five local published authors.
- Special Events Chair, Jackie Maltais arranged free lectures on a variety of subjects: Conductor David McKenzie spoke about an upcoming NBSO concert ; Professor Robert Waxler on the Risk of Reading, Audiologist Rena Jacobson spoke about the Amazing Ear. In addition , Jackie organized a successful Christmas luncheon and this Annual Meeting luncheon.
- And for her 12th and final year Salma Jabbour has, single handedly, orchestrated TSH local trips to: Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown and the Yankee Candle Village in Deerfield; John Adams National Historic Park, Quincy and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's House in Cambridge; the Harvard Museum and Mt. Auburn Cemetery; Historic Lexington and Concord; as well as trips to musical theater performances of Il Divo Presents, Kinky Boots and Beautiful. Salma, we thank you for 12 years of wonderful and successful adventures.

Last summer, knowing our overhead would be higher as an independent nonprofit corporation at the Bedford St. location the Board of Directors had to increase the Membership and Registrations fees. We hoped that this in addition to increased membership from 370 to 400 would balance our budget. We needed both these fee increases as they are the core of our revenue source. Without them we cannot support the office and the many diverse classes/programs at TSH. As we await the hiring of our new Executive Director, following a full year with the present membership, registration fees and with our increased overhead expenses, TSH needs to make decisions about its future direction:

- How big it wants to be/can grow?
- Should we shift toward a full time staff?
- Are the present Membership and Registration rates sustainable?
- Can we expect donations and contributions to stave off an income shortfall if we don't increase our membership?

Next year, along with our new Executive Director, we will conduct a Strategic Planning session in order to identify the future direction of TSH. Please contact the Second Half Office if you would like to participate.

Respectfully Submitted: Jennifer Brindisi, President of the Board of Directors  
of The Second Half Lifelong Learning Institute, Inc.