

ILR TODAY

Vol. X, No. 2

May 2025



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President's Message

By Doug Imhoff, President



We have just finished the 2024-25 academic year for the ILR organization, and I would like to **thank all of our members** for their support. It was a great year and we look forward to the 2025-26 year.

As a reminder to our current members, **July 1 is the starting date for renewing your membership**, and we look forward to your continued participation. In addition, please let your friends know about ILR and our wonderful classes, trips, cultural events and luncheons. If you want to take a look at the calendar for upcoming ILR events, please **see page 9 of this newsletter or visit ilrbw.org** and click on the Calendar Tab near the top right-hand corner.

Our **Annual Meeting** will take place **Thursday, May 22 and is open to all members**. The meeting begins at **10:30 a.m.** in the Baldwin Wallace Strosacker Student Union, Sandstone 3 Room on the lower level.

On behalf of the entire ILR Executive and Governing Boards, **thank you again for your dedication and support** now and in the future!

ILR Honors Three Distinguished Instructors

Three instructors have been recognized for excellence by ILR at BW. **Father Andrew Harmon, Mel Maurer** and **Beverly Sadowski** are recipients of ILR's inaugural **Long-Time Instructor Service Award**.

The award is presented to instructors who have taught courses for a significant number of years, and their classes have been well received and well attended by ILR members. Nominees, who are proposed and voted on by the Governing Board, are deemed **persons of great integrity, competence, character and good standing**.



Father Harmon

Father Harmon is the retired pastor of St. Matthew Orthodox Church in North Royalton, where he served for 35 years. He earned a B.A. in history from North Dakota State University, a master's degree in Russian history from the University of Chicago and a Master of Divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Ky. He resides in Berea.

Mel Maurer is past president and historian of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable. He often performs as Abraham Lincoln. He is also a lifetime member of the Lincoln Forum. Prior to his retirement, he managed information technology before becoming Manager of Administrative Quality and Distribution for the Boston Weatherhead Division of Dana Corporation. Mr. Maurer is a resident of Westlake.



Mel Maurer



Bev Sadowski

Beverly Sadowski taught in the Berea City Schools prior to her retirement. She earned a B.A. in history and psychology and an M.A. in education from Baldwin Wallace University. Ms. Sadowski continues to speak on the Kennedy presidency and both the JFK and RFK assassinations to educational and professional organizations, libraries and private groups throughout the Cleveland area and at national conferences. She lives in Middleburg Heights.

Long-Time Instructor Service Award **recipients will be recognized on a prominent display at the ILR office** at 325 Front St., Berea.

2025 ILR Scholarship Recipients Named

By Nancy Jirousek, ILR Scholarship Committee

The 2025 ILR Scholarship Awards selection was held this spring under the direction of **Robert Ebert, Ph.D.**, Scholarship Chair, and committee members **Nancy Bowser** and **Gary Croy**. The committee members have served in this capacity for many years, and their thoughtful, dedicated work in selecting the scholarship recipients is greatly appreciated.

Because there was a smaller pool of applicants this year who were extremely deserving of a scholarship, **the committee decided to award the available funds to all 10 applicants**. Six non-traditional undergraduate students received a \$3,000 scholarship. One graduate education student was selected to receive the \$3,000 Louise Kiefer scholarship and the remaining three graduate education students were each awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

The ILR Scholarship Program goes to **the heart of what ILR stands for: promoting lifelong learning**. We are fortunate that since its inception in 1993, ILR has acquired the means to provide this opportunity to Baldwin Wallace students. In that 32-year period, ILR members have **provided more than \$495,000 in scholarships and grants** to BW students. This year's recipients are:

Undergraduate Recipients

- Samantha Evcic
- Cheryl Morales
- Bonnie Oswald
- Cierra Smith Voytek
- Mary Thomas
- Steven Tumino

Louise Kiefer Graduate Recipient

- Susan Sanderson

Graduate Education Recipients

- Kara Carreras
- Nicole Logan
- William Troyer



Scholarship awardees

attending the May 14 ILR luncheon include, from left, Susan Sanderson, Bonnie Oswald, Nicole Logan and Samantha Evcic. (Photo by Paula Gustin)

Recipients were invited to attend the May 14 Book and Author Luncheon, where their names were announced by ILR President Doug Imhoff. Congratulations!

Introduce a Friend to ILR at Aug. 6 Open House

Bring a guest and join us for an exciting sneak peek at the upcoming fall courses! Six ILR instructors will share brief previews of their classes. Learn more about ILR membership, meet fellow lifelong learners and enjoy light refreshments.

The event will be held **Tuesday, Aug. 6, from 3 – 5 p.m. at Southwest General Old Oak Center**, 7575 Old Oak Blvd., Middleburg Hts. Generations and Old Oak are co-sponsors.

More details coming soon!

Fall Courses Include Trees, Space Race and Legal Cases

By Pam McConnell, Curriculum Chair

In the past when I was teaching in public schools, **I would look back and see the progress my students made** from the beginning of the school year and what worked with their learning. Believe it or not, at the end of each school year for ILR, I also reflect on the successes that I see in the classes and from what others tell me.

I always appreciate the compliments as to the quality of the instructors and the content of the class. **Oftentimes, people let me know they learned something new.** At this time of our lives, expanding on the knowledge we have carried with us through the years can make us feel as though we have discovered a hidden treasure.



What I can share from my own experience is from a class in which we are making purses: **In addition to purses, I have been making new friendships!** Whenever one of us needs assistance and the instructor is busy, one of the other students will jump in to help. The positive outcome of this learning experience is that many of us will continue into the Fall



Quarter and work together once again, deepening the friendships as well as our sewing skills.

(Photos by Pam McConnell)

Looking forward to the Fall Session comprising 48 different courses, **we have three new instructors who bring fresh content to ILR.** **Mare Matthews** brings her teaching experience to provide a course on trees. We often take trees for granted, but after hearing the deep content in this course, you will look at them differently in the future. Mare will also take class participants into a park for an up-close study on trees.

Tom Benson, a retired engineer from NASA, will begin a series on topics specific to outer space. His first course will cover "The Race to Space."

Jay Milano, a retired attorney, will share his experience and knowledge of legal cases. Jay is one of the top attorneys in Northern Ohio.

Thank you for your support of our program through this 2024-2025 school year. **We are proud to celebrate the community of learners we have become** through the years.

Password Protocols Essential for Your Security

By Karl Keller, Chief Information Officer

"Why are strong passwords required, and why can't I just reuse the same password I use for other accounts?"

We understand that remembering multiple passwords can be frustrating, especially if you don't use a password manager. However, here are a few important reasons why strong and unique passwords are necessary:

1. **Reusing passwords is risky.** If a hacker gets your password from one site, they can try it on other sites. If you reuse the same password, this can give them access to many of your accounts.
2. **Password managers are safe and convenient.** They store your passwords securely and make it easy to use different passwords for each account. If you prefer not to use one, writing your passwords down in a secure place (like a locked drawer or safe) is a good alternative. Be sure to let a trusted family member know where it's kept.
3. **ProClass password requirements.** We understand the password rules can be a bit strict. However, the ProClass admin and portal systems used for ILR course registration are operated by a third-party software provider, and we don't have control over their password requirements.
4. **Why complexity matters.** In the past, an 8-character password with mixed characters (upper- and lower-case numbers and special characters) might have taken 57 days to crack. Today, the same password could take just 5 minutes or less. That's why longer, more complex passwords are recommended, they help keep your accounts secure.

Password

[Forgot password?](#)

If you're interested in learning more about password strength and how long it might take to crack different types of passwords, check out this helpful guide: [👉 Estimating Password Cracking Times – BetterBuys](#). **Thanks for helping to keep your information secure!**

ILR Finance Committee Seeks Dedicated Volunteer

By Gary Erlinger, Chief Financial Officer

The ILR Finance Committee is excited to announce an opportunity for an enthusiastic individual to join our team to volunteer in an essential role. Your contributions can have a significant impact on our financial operations and help us achieve our goals for the upcoming year.

If you have sales experience and a knack for building relationships, consider becoming a **development volunteer!** In this role, you will assist in soliciting sponsorships for ILR events, helping to secure vital funding that supports our initiatives. Your experience in sales will be invaluable as you engage with potential sponsors and communicate the benefits of partnering with ILR.

Why Volunteer? Joining the ILR Finance Committee is not just about fulfilling a role; it is about making a difference. As a volunteer, you will gain valuable experience and expand and contribute to the success of our organization. Plus, it is a great way to meet new friends and give back to the community!

Get Involved! If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity or would like to learn more, please reach out to Gary Erlinger at gerlinge@lcloud.com or 216-559-3535. We would love to hear from you and discuss how you can contribute to the ILR Finance Committee.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a difference within our community!

Volunteer Opportunity for ILR Social Media

By Patty Rondaris Danzy

Did you know the Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) is **run entirely by volunteers**? That's how we keep our class fees affordable *and* create a vibrant, welcoming community where everyone has a chance to share their talents—and have fun doing it!



If you enjoy posting on Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn, this is your chance to make a meaningful impact. We're looking for a volunteer to join the Marketing Committee and help us grow our online presence.

You'll be part of a small, friendly team working together to plan and post content that celebrates lifelong learning, promotes our programs and builds engagement. **Flexible hours, big rewards.**

Email us at ilrreach@gmail.com to learn more or apply.

How to Become the Perfect Host

By Patty Rondaris Danzy

ILR is always **looking for members to serve as in-person or Zoom Host Coordinators.**

Our Host Coordinators assist our instructors, greet participants, record class attendance and **attend the class free of charge.** Training is provided.

Persons interested in serving as a Host Coordinator initially will work with (shadow) an experienced Host Coordinator to learn their role and responsibilities. Thereafter, the Host Coordinator selects from available courses to host in the following term. **Prospective Host Coordinators will receive the “shadow” course free of charge.** Host Coordinators meet three times a year before the start of the new term.

For more information, please contact the Help Desk at ilrhelppdeskbu@gmail.com.

Looking Back at ILR History: A Binder Full of Treasures

By Paula Gustin, ILR Historian

At this year's Spring Luncheon, **Dr. Jane Cavanaugh**, originating member from our ILR's inception in 1992, handed Janet Bodjiak, our ILR Office Manager, a bag of manila folders and a binder filled with her collection of documents from those years. Dr. Cavanaugh was integral in establishing our ILR and ILR East. **What a treasure! Thank you, Dr. Cavanaugh.**

I've enjoyed reading every document, including: Chronological History of ILR at BW, research by members who traveled to Ohio Colleges at Bluffton, Cincinnati and the Cleveland area, Development Workshop report, an evaluation study by Dave Prok, BW professor (1999), Original Bylaws, 1999 Course Feedback survey, the first travel offered, Town Hall Meeting programs and minutes, Annual Meeting programs, luncheon programs, newsletters, planning documents for both Cleveland area ILRs and more.

Dr. Cavanaugh was profiled in our February 2024 issue (see ilrbw.org under the “News” tab). She was also profiled on the front page of the **Winter 1996 newsletter.** (*Dr. Cavanaugh's photo from that '96 profile appears here.*) In that profile, she talked about her personal history and the



Dr. Jane Cavanaugh

research trips mentioned above in fall 1991. By spring 1992, organizing meetings were being held, leaders took over and by that fall, ILR at BW began with two classes. She was also on the planning committee and board of ILR East created in 2000 with classes beginning that September. After reading all her documents, which span from 1989 to 2006, **it's obvious how grateful we can all be for her work and dedication** to both Cleveland-area ILRs.

Did you know our newsletter had several different names? From 2002 to at least 2013, it was "**Senior Moments**" (my favorite). Older newsletters in the binder included reviews of every class in the previous quarter, with comments from several members for each. Some columns featured back then included **Culture Vultures, Poetry, Roving Reporter, Travelers' Journey, lots of instructor profiles, Floyd's (Adams) Philosophy and a column on "Clifford," the nickname of our office copier purchased with donations after Past President, Clifford Hanson (2008–2010), had passed away.**

Dr. Cavanaugh's binder is stored at the ILR Office along with all of the other historical materials this organization has kept from the beginning. **You are welcome to go through any of these binders and materials during ILR Office hours:** Mondays and Fridays from 10 a.m.–12 p.m. The office is open all Summer.

Member Profile: Gregg Pavlik Fills Calendar with Eight ILR Courses

By Dan Bomeli, ILR Today Editor

"I couldn't wait for school to be over," says Gregg Pavlik when describing his childhood and admitting that he would never label himself as studious.

Compare that to the present, when **he routinely enrolls in as many as eight ILR courses each quarter.** Why so many courses?

"ILR classes are interesting," he says. "I have the time and interest, especially in history subjects."

Gregg was introduced to ILR in winter 2023 through the "Invite a Guest" program, when his sister, **Sharon Pavlik, suggested he might like Patrick O'Leary's "Democracy in Peril" course.** Gregg enjoyed it and now looks forward to selecting among the 40-plus offerings every quarter. He admits to making tough choices due to conflicting class times. He often manages to attend two classes per day. "If I sign up, I don't miss them," he explains.



"ILR teachers are qualified and very well informed," Gregg says regarding course content. He has enrolled in a wide variety of course topics in recent years, including "Greek Mythology," "U.S. Army in the Pacific," "The Third Reich" and "The Musical Life of Irving Berlin" ("It's music history," Gregg explains). He rates one recent course about plate tectonics as **one of the most unusual courses he has taken.** "It's amazing what's going on beneath our feet," he says.

Gregg, a CPA who retired from a career in accounting in 2018, lives in Brecksville with his wife Marge. He holds two bachelor's degrees – one from Baldwin Wallace – and a master's degree. In addition to classes, he and Marge attend ILR luncheons on a regular basis.

“ILR is a very well-run organization,” Gregg concludes. “I’m impressed with it and everyone does a good job. It’s a group of nice, qualified people.”

Resources for Seniors: Home Warranty vs. Insurance

By Elaine Joseph, ILR Today Committee

It's not just our bodies that are aging...how about our homes? **Have you thought about your expensive home equipment and appliances**, such as furnaces, air conditioners or electrical components? As a means of protecting against unexpected repairs or replacements, some people consider purchasing insurance or extended warranties.



What are the differences between home warranties and insurance?

- They serve different purposes and cover different issues
- They provide different coverages, exclusions and claims processes

Warranty coverage is a service contract that takes care of repairs and/or replacements of major home systems and appliances, due to normal wear and tear, while insurance protects against sudden and/or accidental damage. A warranty has a monthly or annual premium and a service fee for each call. If an item cannot be repaired, it is replaced, although the payout may be capped.

Insurance coverage has a deductible and protects you against sudden and accidental damage to the home and its contents. It can cover perils such as fire, vandalism, theft, windstorms, certain types of water damage and may include provisions for structural damage to the dwelling, personal property, liability protection and additional living expenses if the home becomes uninhabitable. Insurance premiums and deductibles are based on factors such as location, home value, construction materials and any history of claims.

Watch for exclusions in both warranty and insurance products, since all contracts and policies are different.

For assistance with home insurance, contact the State of Ohio Department of Insurance at 614-644-2658 or visit <https://insurance.ohio.gov/consumers/homeowner/homeowners-insurance-guide>.

For help with home warranties, contact the Ohio Attorney General at 800-282-0515 or visit [Know Your Consumer Rights — Warranties and Service Contracts - Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost](#).

Please note that ILR provides the above resources to enhance awareness, and that ILR does not necessarily endorse the organization, services or advice.

2025 Travel Schedule Update

by Maria Phillips and Tom Brennan, Travel Committee Co-Chairs

The following trips still have openings for ILR members and guests in 2025. These trips are filling fast and some have limited openings. So, if you are interested, please sign up soon. Specific information for each trip is posted on ilrbw.org.



We are working with three travel companies: **Nowak Tours**, **Great Day Tours** and **JKL Tours**. These trips are available to ILR members and their guest(s). Travelers do not have to be a member of ILR.

If you are interested in one of the trips, **please contact the travel company for details, pricing and reservations.**

Deposits will be refundable according to the travel company policies. Your payment ensures a seat for the trip on a first-come, first-served basis. A standby list will be maintained for trips that fill quickly.

JKL Tours: 440-942-5350 (John Lakovich)

- June 19 Progressive Field Tour and Lady Caroline Lunch Cruise
- Sept. 11-13 Canadian Theatre Adventure at Shaw and Stratford
- Sept. 17-19 Magnificent Michigan
- Oct. 9 The Covered Bridges of Ashtabula County
- Dec. 1-3 New York City at Christmas
- Dec. 17 Dickens Victorian Village, Cambridge

Great Day Tours: 440-526-5350 (Ryan Popovic)

- June 4 Shawshank in a Day
- June 25 Victorian Princess Cruise.
- July 18 Zanesville Sternwheeler Tour
- Aug. 3-11 National Parks of the Southwest
- Aug. 21 Lake Erie Island-Hopping Cruise
- Sept. 3-5 The Best of Western New York, Buffalo and Niagara Falls
- Sept. 25 Art, Wine and Roses in Mahoning County
- Oct. 1-7 Iceland: Land of Ice and Fire
- Dec. 10 Small-Town Christmas in Sandusky



Nowak Tours: 330-483-4900 (Wendy Skettle)

- Aug. 12-15 Niagara-on-the-Lake
- Sept. 14-18 Agawa Canyon and More
- Oct. 3-7 The Sky is the Limit – Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta
- Nov. 6-16 Best of Hawaii
- Dec. 9-12 Christmas at the Capital

Any questions can be referred to the travel company or to Maria Phillips and Tom Brennan, Travel Committee Co-Chairs, at ilrhelpdeskbwu@gmail.com.

Cultural Events Update

A survey was sent to all members to select the cultural events they would be interested in attending in 2025-2026. **The survey will close May 16.** There is a nice variety of events and

buses will be provided for all of them. Following the survey, results will be shared along with reservation information.

The next cultural event is listed below. **An event-specific flyer will be emailed to you.** Any ILR member may invite a guest.



***Carousel* at the Ohio Light Opera Theater in Wooster Ohio – Tuesday, July 29, 2025**

Based on Molnar's 1909 play *Liliom*, Rodgers & Hammerstein's 1945 musical – in its integration of song, dance and drama – picked up where *Oklahoma* left off a few years before. Its waltz opening, soliloquy for carnival barker Billy, and extended love due for Billy and mill worker Julie were daring in their musical elements. No less pioneering was Hammerstein's treatment of relationship abuse. Among the song highlights are "If I Loved You," "June is Busting Out All Over" and "You'll Never Walk Alone."

Any questions about these cultural events can be referred to Maria Phillips at ilrhelpdeskbwu@gmail.com.

Special thanks to our Cultural Events Co-Chairs, **Pat Giblin** and **Penny Jeffrey**.

Special Event Recaps and Reminders

At the St. Patrick's Day Luncheon on March 12, we **collected donations for the SCAN Hunger Center Pantry** that serves Berea, Brook Park, Columbia Twp., Middleburg Hts., Olmsted Twp., Olmsted Falls and Strongsville. Donations included non-perishable food (unexpired and unopened) and paper products. **We would like to thank you for your generosity as we collected 259 Food Items, 67 Household Products and \$110 cash!**

At the May 14 Book and Author Luncheon, we **collected 502 new and gently used Children's books, plus \$102 in cash for Laura's Home.** This is part of the City Mission that serves women and children to break the cycle of poverty.

June 17 **Volunteer/Instructor Appreciation Picnic at Coe Lake from 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.** We will be inviting all ILR volunteers and instructors for a special appreciation picnic luncheon for their dedication, commitment and hard work.

Aug. 6 **ILR at BW Open House at Old Oak Center co-sponsored by Generations and Old Oak from 3 – 5 p.m.** Bring a guest and get a sneak peek at upcoming courses as six Fall 2025 instructors each give a mini-presentation. Learn about ILR membership and enjoy some light refreshments. More information to follow.

ILR Calendar 2025-2026

- | | |
|--------|---|
| May 21 | Springtime Mystery Tour |
| May 22 | ILR Annual Meeting for all members at 10 a.m. in Strosacker Hall Student Union, Sandstone Room 2 |
| June 4 | Shawshank in a Day (<i>See page 8</i>) |

- June 17 **Volunteer/Instructor Appreciation Picnic at Coe Lake 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**
- June 19 Progressive Field Tour and Lady Caroline Lunch Cruise *(See page 8)*
- June 25 Victorian Princess Cruise *(See page 8)*
- July 1 **2025 ILR membership registration begins**
- July 18 Zanesville Sternwheeler Tour *(See page 8)*
- July 29 *Carousel* at Ohio Light Opera Theater in Wooster
- Aug. 3-11 National Parks of the Southwest *(See page 8)*
- Aug. 4 **Fall 2025 course catalog posted on ilrbw.org**
- Aug. 6 **ILR at BW Open House at Old Oak Center from 3 – 5 p.m.**
- Aug. 12-15 Niagara-on-the-Lake *(See page 8)*
- Aug. 21 Lake Erie Island-Hopping Cruise *(See page 8)*
- Aug. 17 **Fall 2025 course registration begins**
- Aug. 31 **Fall 2025 course registration ends**
- Sept. 3-5 The Best of Western New York, Buffalo and Niagara Falls *(See page 8)*
- Sept. 11-13 Canadian Theatre Adventure at Shaw and Stratford *(See page 8)*
- Sept. 14-18 Agawa Canyon and More *(See page 8)*
- Sept. 15 **Fall 2025 classes begin**
- Sept. 17-19 Magnificent Michigan *(see page 8)*
- Sept. 25 Art, Wine and Roses in the Mahoning Valley *(See page 8)*
- Oct. 1-7 Iceland: Land of Fire and Ice *(See page 8)*
- Oct. 3-7 The Sky is the Limit – Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta *(See page 8)*
- Oct. 9 The Covered Bridges of Ashtabula County *(See page 8)*
- Nov. 6-16/17 Best of Hawaii *(See page 8)*
- Nov 15 **Winter 2026 course catalog posted on ilrbw.org**
- Nov. 30 **Winter 2026 course registration begins**
- Dec. 1-3 New York City at Christmas *(See page 8)*
- Dec. 9-12 Christmas at the Capital *(See page 8)*
- Dec. 10 Small-Town Christmas in Sandusky County *(See page 8)*
- Dec. 14 **Winter 2025 course registration ends**
- Dec. 17 Christmas Dickens Victorian Village, Cambridge *(See page 8)*
- Jan. 5, 2026 **Winter 2026 classes begin**
- Feb. 23, 2026 **Spring 2026 course catalog posted on ilrbw.org**
- March 8, 2026 **Spring 2026 course registration begins**

March 22,
2026

Spring 2026 course registration ends and membership closes

April 6, 2026

Spring 2026 classes begin

Green is Seen Everywhere at St. Patrick's Day Luncheon



Quick Hits

ILR Office and Help Desk – The ILR Office at 325 Front Street is open every **Monday and Friday** from **10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** Feel free to stop in or call 440-826-3188 with questions. The phone line will be monitored on Mondays and Fridays. Also, the ILR Help Desk email address is ilrhelppdeskbwu@gmail.com for questions.

Connect with ILR and Share with Others --

Website:
ilrbw.org

Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/526562059407794/?ref=share_group_link

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