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Before going into all the coming changes, I need to clarify a mistake I made in the last Newsletter. **The start date for the Fall 2020 classes is October 5.** Please accept my apology that the ILR help desk email address in the first newsletter was incorrect the email address has been corrected in this version of the newsletter. John Koliha

I don't have to tell you how things have changed over the past several weeks. To continue to serve our Membership, the ILR must change how we operate. Over the past weeks plans and processes have been made to do just that.

Below **Mary Kolk, ILR President**, outlines where the process of moving the ILR to a digital platform stands. There will be further updates as things occur.

### **What's Happening in the ILR?** *An Important Update to Members*

#### **Membership**

The new **ILR ProClass Portal** will be online within the next two weeks. Members will be able to renew their membership and new

members will be able to login to the new **ILR ProClass Portal** and sign up for Membership for the 2020-2021 year.

Very soon, you will receive an email that will provide exact, simple instructions on how to access the **ILR ProClass Portal**.

We have contracted with an experienced vendor, **ProClass**, to provide us with *online registration for Membership and Classes*. Whether you are a new member or a returning member, *all membership matters, class registration and payments will be conducted online*.

***You must have an email address to become a member or to renew your membership in the ILR.***

As we write this, our online Membership Registration pages are being finalized. It will be simple and easy to navigate the ILR registration pages.

**ProClass** has over 20 years of service to ILR organizations throughout the country. They will also provide online Class Registration. Training for the ILR volunteers who will be administering these online registrations is progressing well.

#### **FREE ZOOM CLASSES**

If you have never been on a Zoom class before, please stay tuned. We are creating a number of simple, easy to follow FREE tutorial classes that will help you get onto and participate in ILR Zoom classes. These classes will be held beginning in Mid-August. These classes will be FREE and FUN!

*Please watch your email/Newsletter for more information.*

## ILR Help Desk

We are excited to announce the creation of an exclusive new assistant for members, the **ILR Help Desk**. Our office has been closed for over four months. We do not want any of our volunteers exposed in any way to the Coronavirus. Yet we want to stay in touch with everyone.

The Steering Committee *knows* you have questions and concerns about what is happening with the ILR during this time of transition from in-person to digital classes. Each of your question and concern are important to the us. We realized the need for one central communications center for our members. The **ILR Help Desk** email is that central communications center.

If you have any questions or concerns, send an email to [ilrhelppdeskbwu@gmail.com](mailto:ilrhelppdeskbwu@gmail.com).

Our staff of volunteers is monitoring the help desk emails daily and safely from their own computers. When we receive your email, we will reply within 24 hours. You will get your questions and concerns answered on a timely and efficient manner.

## What You Will Need For Membership, Registration and Classes

- You need to have any one of the following devices: a computer, iPad or other tablet, or smartphone.
- Your computer or other device needs a camera, speakers and a microphone. Most computers in the past 8 years have these items built in. If your device does not have these items, there are some very inexpensive ways you can add these

items to your computer.

- *You need to have an email address. Our new membership / registration systems and our Zoom classes all use email to login.*
- You must have a credit card to pay for membership and registration. No checks or cash will be accepted. This again is for the safety of the volunteers.

## A Message From The President

Dear Members

The ILR is alive and well! That is *very good* news!

The Institute for Learning in Retirement at Baldwin Wallace University (ILR) is a group of amazing mostly retired people who want to continue to learn, to grow and to socialize with their peers. That is the foundation of the ILR. It is why we exists as an organization.

The demographic of the members of the ILR are in the high -risk group for becoming very sick and possibly die from the Coronavirus. Therefore, it is impossible for the ILR to continue with business as usual. To do so would be highly irresponsible.

The Steering Committee has worked long and hard in an environment of constantly changing information to separate fact from fiction about whether it is safe to gather in our usual manner. At this time, we have determined that it is not safe to resume our in-person events and classes. We cannot in good conscience jeopardize the health of our members, volunteers or presenters. We hope for a return to normal as soon as possible. We all hope we will be seeing our longtime friends and be able to meet new

friends in our classes, at our luncheons and in our travels with the ILR. We will all celebrate that day!

However, until that day comes, we need to keep the ILR and our members alive and well. The only way to do that is by using the technology available to us. That technology is the computer.

We do not make these changes lightly. The hours, days, weeks of work the Steering Committee and our many volunteers have spent implementing the changes to our routines has been challenging. It has also been rewarding as we see our work coming to fruition...and we see the ILR remaining the viable, important learning and social link for our members.

Thank you for your patience as we navigate these uncharted waters of change to our organization. We understand how challenging these times are and continue to be for everyone.

It is our intent to bring some sense of normalcy back into our lives by keeping ILR viable and fun during this period of the pandemic.

You have my promise and the promise of everyone on the Steering Committee that we will return to in-person classes and events as soon as this pandemic has passed. Take care. Stay safe.

**Mary Kolk – President**

## **BIG NEWS**

The coming new and improved ILR Website will have the capability to display Member photographs.

So, please send a few of your best pictures of ILR events and trips to:

[Jarhead215@iCloud.com](mailto:Jarhead215@iCloud.com)

Thank you

If you have a question, a comment or something that you think should go into this newsletter, contact the

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