

THE STATE OF ICL – JUNE 2009

Good morning. I'm Bob Masterson and I've had the pleasure of serving for the last year as President of the ICL Governing Board.

I would like to spend the next few minutes reviewing the "State of ICL".

Overall, I would rate the organization as being "very healthy".

Our financials are extremely sound, and for the last year I believe we have had a solid, quality program, offering a wide variety of learning opportunities and social activity opportunities.

During the last year:

- We've continued to have a strong relationship with Roosevelt University;
- We've continued to develop and foster our partnership with Friendship Village – Thank you Tom Dooley;
- And, we have continued our effort in the area of communications, keeping you as informed as possible about what is going on.
- If you have looked at our Web site lately you've seen that there is just about everything you need to know about what's going on at ICL.
- At this time, on behalf of ICL I would like to give a Special Thanks to Dr. Charles Middleton, Dr. Toni Potenza, and Dr. Bud Beatty from Roosevelt.

We greatly appreciate their support and guidance.

Another Special Thanks goes to all members of the 2008/2009 ICL Governing Board (Vice President Sue Harty, Treasurer Don Carlson, Secretary Carol Keegan, and Members at Large David Sullivan, Joan Riesen, Earl Arnold, Harry Trumfio).

I thank each one of you for your service this past year.

And of course, we could not get on without all our Committee Chairs:

- Marge Olszewski – who organizes volunteers to get the general mailings out to you.
- Marilyn Lind – who organizes our excellent Field Trips.
- Joyce Szot – who keeps a watchful eye over our Finances.
- Debby Miller – whose committee organized one of our best Lecture Series ever this past Winter.
- Peter Marron – who takes care of orientation for our new members and sets up registration and information tables for our various activities.
- John Wiese - who so ably ran our recruiting activities and helps to maintain our PC's.
- Steve Wolf – who in my opinion has the hardest job in ICL – making sure we have Study Groups to attend.
- Margo Temple – who plans and organizes the wonderful events we have throughout the year.
- Mike Thompson – who does an outstanding job updating and maintaining our Web site.

- Dorothy Murphy – who organizes events like Dinners for Eight, and the Food Drive we participated in last March.
- Bob Allen – who is our Immediate Past President, and also serves as Liaison with other Life Long Learning organizations.
- And, last, but most certainly not least, the one person who we drive the most crazy, and yet she never fail to work so hard for us – Mary Fioretti

In fact, those of you who got the good news yesterday that you were no longer waitlisted for Kathryn Black's class can thank Mary. She went to bat for us and got Alumni Hall for Kathryn's class.

THANKS AGAIN MARY!!

PROGRAMMING

Let's look at "Programming" -- We continue to have record numbers of Study Groups that run throughout the year. The Winter Session that started in January 2008 with 4 Study Groups on Wednesday afternoon, expanded to 8 Study Groups on Tuesday through Thursday in 2009.

In addition, record numbers of participants are signing up for Study Groups.

Of course with these record numbers, we have had some "closed" classes, and that's not fun for anyone.

A NOTE FOR THE FUTURE: Anytime you find that a class you want to attend is "closed", be sure to contact the Coordinators. They are the only ones who know exactly how many people are actually showing up for the weekly sessions.

By the way, I can't help but repeat my mantra:

"SIGN UP ONLY IF YOU INTEND TO GO TO A STUDY GROUP, AND LET YOUR COORDINATOR KNOW IF YOU WON'T MAKE IT."

At this point I would like everyone who has ever coordinated a study group at any time to please stand up.

Ladies and Gentlemen, without these hard working and dedicated Coordinators, **THERE WOULD BE NO ICL.**

Without them, we would all be hanging around on street corners, looking for something to do.

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THIS DEDICATED GROUP TO HELP ENSURE OUR FUTURE.

Everyone who attended can attest to the fact that this past winter was one of the best Lecture Series we have had: John Callaway, "Teddy Roosevelt", Rich Kogan and Charles Osgood, Dr. Charles Middleton, Geoffrey Baer, Paul Green and others.

Thanks again to Debby Miller and her Committee, AND GOOD LUCK TOPPING IT NEXT YEAR.

WHAT ELSE --- We finished our 4-year Fall Humanities Seminar Series by learning more about the 20th Century.

We had our first ever Lecture at Friendship Village in September 2008 with Dr. Paul Green commenting on politics, after having just been to both National Political Conventions.

Our Field Trip committee continues to plan excellent trips.

Unfortunately, as of late we have had to cancel a couple of trips.

Today we are asking that you complete a survey to help us find out what you want in the area of Field Trips, and why we may not be getting as many people to sign up as we have had in the past.

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO, PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES NOW TO COMPLETE THIS SURVEY FOR US. WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED, WOULD ONE PERSON FROM EACH TABLE PLEASE COLLECT THE SURVEYS AND GIVE THEM TO ME DURING LUNCH TIME.

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THANKS MUCH FOR COMPLETING THE SURVEY.

Okay, back to my comments:

Last year Jack McKee organized a trip to a Cubs game, and this year, in the interest of "equal time", Jack has organized a trip to a Cubs game and a White Sox Game.

A reminder – Registration for these game trips begins at 4:00 PM on July 16th. So if you are interested, mark that on your calendar.

"Plato's Place" has continued to challenge our minds on Wednesdays;

AND "Encore" and "The Lighter Side" enlighten us and entertain us on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

HOWEVER, ATTENDANCE COULD BE BETTER AT THESE NOON-TIME ACTIVITIES. IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO ONE OF THESE, PLEASE GIVE THEM A TRY. YOU JUST MIGHT FIND YOU'LL HAVE A GOOD TIME.

Finally --- Thanks to John Wiese we had a very successful "Taste of ICL" last August, and it looks like we will have another one this coming August, so start lining up friends and relatives to bring in.

SOCIAL EVENTS

We have had lots of opportunities to share good times and fun, and to get to know each other better – the Ice Cream Social and Book Exchange; the Summer Outing; Oktoberfest; the first “Getting to Know You Party”; the Health Awareness 411 seminars; the always popular Holiday Party; and of course, our Annual Meeting.

Again, thanks much to Margo Temple for helping to plan and organize all of these events.

COMMUNICATIONS

We have continued our efforts to upgrade communications.

Weekly Announcements continue to be given at the Study Groups; information is displayed on our Bulletin Board; we keep expanding our e-mail list, and that helps us in sending out newsflashes, including, Mary’s excellent weekly ICL Updates.

Finally, we have general mailings when we have materials that are not best communicated via email or the Internet.

And of course, don’t forget the Website. It is full of information about ICL including a Calendar of Events you can review, so that you don’t miss anything. We hope that these efforts are meeting your needs.

ADMINISTRATION

Finally, our Administrative efforts: Our database for both our membership and our financials, continues to be improved and enhanced thanks to Don Carlson and Mary Fioretti.

As many of you know we recently began using a vehicle called Survey Monkey in which you can complete your study group evaluations.

We have also begun using it to survey the members on important ICL issues, like the most recent one we did about the Lecture series for next year. We plan on using this more often in the future to get your insight and input.

We conducted 4 Focus Groups in April to learn what people are thinking; and, we have ongoing New Member meetings at the beginning of each Study Group semester.

By the way, if you are interested in what people are saying in the Focus Groups, the summary will be posted to the website in the next day or so.

THE FUTURE

Now to the Future -- Well, we are in the middle Registration for the Summer Study Groups with new subjects and coordinators – Study groups begin on July 13th.

We have the Ice Cream Social and Book Exchange coming up in July and a Field Trip to the new Holocaust Museum in Skokie in July,

And, maybe a boat tour of Lake Geneva in August if enough people are interested.

We have the Summer Outing with Golf, Lunch and Cards scheduled for August 17th.

And, as I mentioned before, we will have a White Sox Outing on August 19th, and a Cubs outing on August 27th.

And most importantly, we are starting work on putting together the Fall 2009 Study Group lineup.

PLEASE CONSIDER COORDINATING A STUDY GROUP THIS FALL. LET STEVE WOLF KNOW IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO. THE DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS IS JULY 1, 2009.

CONCLUSION

So, thanks to all of you, we have a lot to be proud of and to be thankful for –

LET'S GIVE OURSELVES A GREAT BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE!!!!!!

NOW, ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS THAT I CAN ATTEMPT TO ANSWER BEFORE WE MOVE ON TO THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2009/2010?

Robert Masterson
President, 2008-2009
June 17, 2009