First, let me say, as developments with COVID-19 evolve, our thoughts are with our OLLI members’ well-being and safety. This virus surprised every sector of society including the University of Nebraska and the OLLI program. However, staff and members of the OLLI Advisory Council continue to work on your behalf remotely from our homes. We will continue to tailor our approach to meet your specific needs, and we will adjust and communicate with you as circumstances change.

Second, I would like to remind you that May is the time of year that OLLI members have the opportunity to elect two new representatives to the OLLI Advisory Council to serve 3-year terms as members-at-large. YOU have a say in who helps guide the OLLI program by voting for representatives to the Advisory Council. Composed of officers, elected representatives, standing committee chairs/co-chairs and the OLLI coordinator, the Advisory Council sets the direction of the program and safeguards its sustainability. The terms of the Advisory Council are staggered in order to ensure continuity of leadership.

The role of the OLLI Advisory Council is to ensure the effectiveness and continuity of OLLI at UNL by guiding decision making, enabling program excellence, responding to the membership and promoting member participation. The Advisory Council is the vehicle for leadership, in collaboration with OLLI’s professional staff. Its leadership determines OLLI policies and helps ensure that programs and activities are consistent with University of Nebraska policies. Leadership strives to improve programming, ensure financial sustainability, and address challenges and opportunities.

The Advisory Council is a critical part of shared leadership. Representatives on the Advisory Council are your voice and support the interests of the membership.

We encourage you to vote and are grateful for your participation. Five OLLI members are running for two positions on the Advisory Council. Please review the candidates’ statements and cast your vote. Ballots will be sent electronically or by mail to those who do not have email addresses. The deadline for submitting your ballot is Friday, May 15.

OLLI is working collectively to successfully navigate the program during this health crisis. We will keep you apprised of plans for the coming months.

Wishing you good health,
Steven A. Eggland
Chair, OLLI Nominating Committee

Voting is open from May 11-15
Five candidates are presented here by the Nominating Committee for your consideration. Cast your vote for two of the candidates.

Members with email addresses will receive their ballots electronically.
Members without email addresses will receive their ballots in the mail.

Whether you vote electronically or by mail, your ballot must be received or postmarked by Friday, May 15.
Advisory Council
Duties & Responsibilities

The Advisory Council serves as an elected representative body from the membership. It is composed of officers, elected Advisory Council representatives, standing committee chairs/co-chairs and the OLLI coordinator. The Council provides leadership and advice on the direction of the OLLI program.

The Advisory Council’s duties and responsibilities include the following:

• Establishes, safeguards and advances OLLI’s mission, vision and values

• Reviews and monitors OLLI’s financial position

• Advances OLLI’s goals

• Advises and supports the OLLI coordinator

• Establishes policies by mutual agreement between the Council, the OLLI Coordinator and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

• Works collaboratively with the OLLI Coordinator to recommend actions on curriculum, budget, fee structure and program sustainability

• Ensures quality programming

• Ensures a positive learning environment

• Represents and advocates for members

• Encourages membership participation

• Establishes and oversees committees

• Approves committees’ actions

• Accesses and evaluates program viabilities and strategic planning

For more information on the role and responsibilities of the Council, visit: https://olli.unl.edu/Documents/Council-Duties.pdf

Jim McLoughlin

I have been an active member of OLLI since retiring in 2017, and a life-long Lincoln resident. OLLI has personally been a tremendous outlet for me and has deepened my natural curiosity in many different subjects. I have taken a variety of classes and would look forward to serving on the council.

I graduated from UNL in 1981 with a degree in business administration. Following graduation, I was hired by a start-up company in Lincoln, Information Technology Inc. (Fiserv, Inc.), and spent my entire career in the banking software field. During this time, I held various leadership positions and enjoyed helping Fiserv grow. I had the unique opportunity while in my position as Chief of Global Services to establish our international teams and formed lifelong friendships.

My wife, Sara, and I have opened our hearts along with our home to 16 international high school exchange students. The “Mac Pac” has been a joy for us and the first grandbaby arrives in August.

I stay active with biking, photography, reading, traveling and pickleball.

I would bring a unique perspective having worked and lived with other cultures. I look to develop new ways to further extend these experiences to others and help the OLLI membership grow.
Helen Meeks

I have been a member and an educator with OLLI for over five years. This has provided many personal enrichment opportunities. It would be wonderful to see the OLLI curriculum expanded to even more entertaining and educational courses. I have been serving on the OLLI Advisory Council and the curriculum committees towards these goals.

My professional experience includes being a physician/owner of pulmonary and hospice medical practices. I have also owned and operated a nursery and landscape company near Eagle, Neb.

During my career, I held positions of increasing managerial and administrative responsibilities, the last of which was the director of health licensing that spanned over 25 years. These positions afforded me a broad range of responsibilities, including staff selection, training and evaluation; statutory, regulatory and operational policy development and implementation; and work with various boards, commissions, health care organizations, agency directors and elected officials.

Additionally, I have served on national, state and local boards and commissions. Locally, these include the Community Health Endowment Board of Trustees, the City of Lincoln Charter Revision Commission and the Telecommunication Advisory Board. Currently, this volunteerism includes serving as a tutor of English as a Second Language for the Lincoln Literacy Council and ushering at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

My knowledge of OLLI dates back to the time it was known as SAGE; and I regard it as a treasured asset that we are fortunate to have as part of the University of Nebraska system. I will work diligently to continue OLLI’s provision of courses and other activities, in a fiscally responsible manner, that impact our lives governmentally, culturally, socially; and promote the physical and mental well-being of OLLI members.

Bob Bleicher

I have been a resident of Nebraska for 48 years, having remained in the state after receiving a master’s degree in speech-language pathology from UNL. While I engaged in the clinical practice of speech-language pathology for several years in the public and private sector, I transitioned to management that lead to a 40-year career in Nebraska State government.

I have been a member and an educator with OLLI for over five years. This has provided many personal enrichment opportunities. It would be wonderful to see the OLLI curriculum expanded to even more entertaining and educational courses. I have been serving on the OLLI Advisory Council and the curriculum committees towards these goals.

My professional experience includes being a physician/owner of pulmonary and hospice medical practices. I have also owned and operated a nursery and landscape company near Eagle, Neb.

I have been privileged to serve on a number of boards including the OLLI Advisory Council, Planned Parenthood, KUCV/NET Public Radio, Community Health Charities, Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care, Bryan Health Executive Committee and the Anti-Defamation League.

I wish to promote OLLI to many more individuals by reaching out to the educational, law, medical and other professional communities who would be stimulated, as I have been, to gain knowledge of many new fields.
Maxine Burnett Moul

OLLI classes have helped me transition to retirement after a career as a journalist and public servant. The variety of classes offered by OLLI has helped me explore new interests and keep my mind active. I thoroughly enjoy the OLLI lunches and re-engaging in kayaking and exercise opportunities. I have also been able to indulge my interests in the arts, including impressionist paintings and the symphony. I have taught OLLI courses.

I grew up on an Oakland, Neb., farm and I am a journalism graduate of the University of Nebraska. Francis and I published the “Syracuse Journal-Democrat” and other newspapers in southeast Nebraska. My public service began as lieutenant governor with Ben Nelson and as director of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. I was appointed by President Obama as Nebraska State Director of USDA Rural Development, retiring in 2017.

My most recent volunteer work has focused on citizen diplomacy, through Friendship Force and the Lincoln Council for International Visitors. I am a member of Lincoln South Rotary.

As an OLLI Advisory Council member, I would endeavor to increase the number and size of classes, so that more OLLI members could experience the breadth and diversity of educational, cultural and health offerings.

Dick Dienstbier

Originally from the northeastern part of the U. S., I had a slow academic start in chemical engineering, followed by service in the U.S. Army.

Seduced by the study of psychology, I received a Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Rochester. I moved to Lincoln with my wife, Karen, and our sons in 1969 to join the faculty of the UNL Department of Psychology.

During periods away from UNL, I was a visiting scholar and/or visiting professor in the U.S. and abroad. At UNL, I served as director of the program in social and personality psychology, and as department chair, retiring in 2005.

Since 2008, I have served on the OLLI Curriculum Committee. During these years, I developed and taught seven courses, and facilitated another 16 based on “Great Courses” DVD lectures. I developed another five courses with co-organizers. I lead the committee that created the annual “Winter Lecture Series” that is sponsored by the Unitarian Church, OLLI and Humanities Nebraska, and have participated in the planning of our annual one-day symposium.

With my administrative experience at UNL, I will try to be helpful guiding OLLI. Even as new circumstances portend some changes, I will focus on maintaining program excellence.