

Deb Dillon

Deb has been involved with OLLI for more than six years. She figures she's taken about 100 classes in that time and loves the OLLI experience. Deb is also a Master Facilitator and currently chair of the Curriculum Committee. Her husband Mark is also an Olli facilitator and fan. Deb is also very involved in the community. She is a member of the PUSD School Board, a volunteer for the Arizona Crisis Team, and an officer in the American Association of University Women. Her background is in school administration and she holds a variety of degrees.



Ellie Laumark

Ellie retired to Prescott in 2008 from the Twin Cities where she worked with the Minnesota Department of Health supervising the licensing and certification of healthcare facilities. She previously taught health information management at York College, in York Pennsylvania, and at Western Wisconsin Technical Institute. She has been a member of Olli for over ten years. She is currently on the Citizens Water Advocacy Groups board and is active in The North Central League of Women Voters.



Jim Reid

Jim was born and raised in Phoenix, AZ. He graduated with a BS degree in Management from Golden Gate University San Francisco, CA. His career with the Post Office took him from Phoenix to San Francisco to Hawaii, with assignments that included assaults and Internal Crimes. He got the opportunity to transfer to Anchorage, Alaska, enjoying success and happiness in the colder Arctic area, while working and spending his leisure time hunting, fishing, and shoveling snow. He still splits time between Anchorage and Prescott. After losing his wife a couple of years ago, Jim discovered OLLI and he likes to say it saved him as his world was turned upside down. It's such a great program he feels a need to pay back and that is why he is running for Governing Council.



Jim Veney

Jim retired from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 2006 where he was a professor of Health Policy and Administration at the School of Public Health. While at UNC he took leaves of absence during which he worked for WHO on three occasions, living in New Delhi India for three years and Kathmandu, Nepal for a year and a half. Jim also worked in about twenty other countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America either with WHO or with USAID. He has a PhD from Purdue University in social research. He has been associated—more or less—with OLLI for about ten years, during that time facilitating courses in Microsoft Office applications, watercolor painting, and creative writing. OLLI is a tremendous resource for the Quad City community and he hopes to help continue its outstanding work.



Gretchen Paustian

As enthusiastic new Prescott residents in 2000, Gretchen discovered Yavapai Learning Institute through founder Bev Hacker. It was similar to a program she had enjoyed in N.J. She and her husband attended classes and John facilitated many. Separately, they pursued new and old interests, making new friends. Iowa was home growing up, married life was in N. J. and raising three children. She went back to school and became a Home Economics teacher. Lifetime personal interests have included reading and book club, sewing, quilting and weaving, art docents, AAUW, church activities and friends. In Prescott, easy access to town and art events, blue skies and sunshine have been valued. At this time, it is learning to live alone for the first time.



John Carter

John Carter got his electronic education in the Navy. During the first 18 years in the industry, he worked as an electronic technician in microelectronic R&D and soon advanced to be an electronic engineer working with all manner of computer hardware. For the next 18 years, he switched to work as a software analyst and sales support, then on to customer support. His interest expanded into database development and finished up as a software build engineer. John now spends some of his retirement time taking photos of the night sky, volunteering as a facilitator with OLLI at Yavapai College, and being president of both the astronomy club and Mac club.



MEET THE CANDIDATES

Bill Miller

A native Hoosier, Bill graduated from Michigan State University and Miami of Ohio with an MBA. Bill has a background in accounting, and serving as a CFO, director of strategic planning, and owning and operating three franchises. Since moving to Prescott, he has been involved with church committees, SCORE, grant committees for Yavapai Community Foundation, Yavapai Big Brother Big Sisters, and the Yavapai College Foundation Board. He has served the last three years on the OLLI Governing Council, and as Chair of the Finance Committee. Bill was regretfully slow taking advantage of OLLI, but once he got a taste of it, he became a big fan. New friends, exciting discussions, interesting and informative topics that keep me signing up for classes all the time. If re-elected Bill's goals would be to help OLLI grow, meet members' wishes, and remain financially sustainable.



Joe Schaffer

Joe is a retired business owner, college professor and writer. Joe and his wife, Mary Ann, have been active in the OLLI program, both as participants and program facilitators, since their return to Prescott in 2010, after many years working and living in places as diverse as Ireland, Alaska and Florida, and traveling extensively throughout the US, Mexico and Europe. Joe is fully enjoying a retirement enriched by family, friends old and new, and the opportunities for personal growth through Prescott's OLLI program and also as a volunteer at the world-renowned Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix. He loves OLLI, and welcomes the opportunity to help advance and expand OLLI programming, membership and participation, in pursuit of his personal mission to fill his life and the lives of those around him with intellectual stimulation, good food, good wine, and beautiful music.

