

# NEWCOMERS/LONGTIMERS NEWS & VIEWS



Debby Nickless,  
2020-21 N/L President

who have led Newcomers/Longtimers over the years. Paula Constantini has spent hours researching and contacting as many of the past presidents as she can find. Some of them are in their 90's and still going strong! This month's newsletter is a tribute to them. They have helped guide the group over many years. "Thank You" to Paula and "Thank You" to all of the Past Presidents who have given of their time and energy to help guide us!

Let us welcome  
FEBRUARY &  
take EVERY chance  
to show love  
to all we meet.

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## From the President's Perspective

It is the month of love and reflection! I think of Valentine's Day, the Presidents and of course my birthday!

It is President's Month, a time to honor all presidents - not only those who have led our country but also those

The Board will meet in February to discuss how to proceed with activities. There was a survey sent out to all members for feedback. More news will be forthcoming. The fund raising committee is working on a Road Rally for May. This would be an outdoor activity.

We are keeping hopeful and optimistic! The vaccine is here...

Happy Valentine's Day... Happy Presidents Month!!

Sending our love,  
Debby



### Special Thanks from your Editor

A few weeks ago the board sent out a survey requesting your thoughts on whether or not to restart NL activities amidst on-going covid concerns. I just wanted to say thank you to the many ladies that took the time to respond - your thoughts will definitely help us make the best decisions regarding our way forward.

Just for consideration, Mad Max was set in 2021... is it socially acceptable to dress like this straight away, or do we give it a few weeks?



2020-2021 Newcomers/Longtimers Executive Board			
President	Debby Nickless	573-374-0779	nicklessdk@gmail.com
1st Vice President	Iris Wright	314-221-1525	irisw1@att.net
2nd Vice President	Robyn Roehl	314-750-3020	rlroehl@sbcglobal.net
Recording Secretary	Donna Hamilton	402-830-3693	donnahne@gmail.com
Treasurer	Carole Brown	573-692-0734	browne5130@yahoo.com
Corresponding Secretary	Jackie Zimmerman	913-306-5119	jackiezimm34@gmail.com

# COMMUNITY NEWS

For many lake area children, the typical extra-curricular activities offered by the schools don't quite check the box for them in terms of interest or challenge. Some local mothers took it upon themselves to develop a program that would meet the needs of their inquisitive kiddos, and Lake Area Youth Robotics was the very successful result!

## Community Awareness Spotlight

This month, our Community Outreach focus is on Lake Area Youth Robotics (LAYR), a 501-C3 organization which started in the summer of 2018 when two moms got together (Carla Dixon and Maria R. Davis) to find an outlet for their 12-year-old boys whose interests lay in Robotics versus traditional sports. The main purpose of Lake Area Youth Robotics is to inspire kids to be science and technology leaders and innovators through their mentor-based program that builds science, engineering, and technology skills, inspires innovation, and fosters well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership. LAYR follows the program structure of the international US organization called *FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). The program is currently divided into three different levels *FIRST* Lego League (FLL) Explore for grades K-4, FLL Challenge for grades 4-8, and *FIRST* Tech Challenge (FTC) for grades 7-12. It is open to any child residing within the Lake area community. More information on *FIRST* can be found on its website, [www.firstinspires.org](http://www.firstinspires.org).

In its first year, through donations, community support, donated hours, and weekly practices, LAYR registered nearly 20 kids ranging in age from 6-18. Its FLL team competed against 15-20 teams in a regional competition in Rolla, and its FTC team competed against 36 teams in the *FIRST* Missouri/Kansas West Conference Qualifier held in Blue Springs, where it received the Judges Award. This award recognizes a team's unique efforts, performance, or positive dynamics that make it stand out in the eyes of the judges.

Now in its third season, Lake Area Youth Robotics is under the guidance of new Board members – President Nikki Copeland, Vice-President Katie Doornink, and Secretary/Treasurer Tracy Wohlgemut. This year they were able to register 23 kids, with 18 of the 23 actively participating in programs. The FLL Explore team is currently exploring real-world problems, learning to design and code and create unique solutions made with LEGO bricks that are powered by LEGO Education WeDO 2.0 bot. They started meeting in November on Thursday evenings and will be showing off all the things they learned in an upcoming Expo event in March. The FLL Challenge team is focusing on problem-solving, coding and engineering through the building and programming a LEGO robot that navigates the mission of a robot game. Their season started in September on Sunday afternoons with the aim of competing against 35 other mid-Missouri teams in January. This team will meet again after the competition to celebrate all they have learned, and problem solve areas that can be improved upon for the next Robotic year. The FTC team got off to a good start, but many factors have played into the team needing to step back for the year. They are working through those factors and are looking forward to coming back stronger in the fall.

LAYR's official mission statement is "to work with kids through education, mentoring and other assistance to help them grow in Robotics." It costs approximately \$500 for each FLL Explore team, \$1,200 for each FLL Challenge Team, and \$3,000 for an FTC team. There is also currently a \$60 registration fee for each child to participate to help offset the costs of running one of the programs. All other funding is raised through lake area businesses and individuals who have partnered with LAYR to provide a safe facility for the teams to meet, monetary donations to keep programs running, and scholarships for kids who are unable to meet the registration fees. Their hope is to continue to expand programs this fall and have more kids inspired to learn the dynamics of robotics. For more information on LAYR, follow their Facebook page, Lake Area Youth Robotics.



# A Tribute to our Past Presidents

During February, NL typically recognizes its past presidents at the monthly luncheon. Sadly the luncheon isn't happening, but it inspired us to reach out to our former leaders in other ways...and the response was amazing! This month we are devoting our pages to those ladies who have guided and inspired us for more than 50 years.

A special "shout out" goes to Sue Bleigh and Dee Cole for donating past Directories that helped us in our search. If anyone else has any past Directories (hard copy or digital) that you could provide for our permanent files we'd be grateful.



**Anne Koepke (2015-16)** - I have been home for the past 15 months with a few health issues and the pandemic. I am hoping the vaccine becomes available and we can all resume our "normal" lives. Hope to start traveling again this year and attending N/L activities and seeing everyone's happy faces!👍👍👍👍



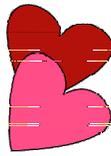
**Shirley Hoekstra (2011-12)** - Dear Ladies, I am so happy to hear from you. I moved to Southern California in 2014. I live on the same street as my son and my daughter. So I see them often, no grandchildren. I have a 2 year old female Pomeranian. I named her Flower after the skunk in Bambi. She is really special and keeps me entertained.

I am still very socially active. I am active in the Daughters of American Revolution, Daughters of the Confederate, Laguna Niguel Womens Club and in 2019, I served as President of Newcomers of Saddleback Valley. There are a lot of single ladies here, we get together often and do have fun. I play a lot of cards outside on patios. That's a big advantage to living here, the weather is usually nice. I've missed participating in my church activities due to the pandemic.

My wish for all of you is that you and your family stay healthy and have some happiness.



**Claudia Thomas (2018-20)** - My routine lately is walk the dogs twice a day, play with them occasionally, clean the house when the mood strikes, and waste hours on TV and online. We are planning a trip to Portugal next October so some of my time online is watching YouTube videos and reading reviews on TripAdvisor. I enjoy the book club Zoom meetings and the books others recommend. I miss seeing our members and hope the vaccine is coming soon!



**Carlene Chubbuck (2012-14)** - My husband and I left the lake for Florida where we lived full time until May 2020. We now reside in Bella Vista, AR.

We have two great granddaughters and two more greats on the way. Living in Bella Vista allows us to be halfway between our daughter in Texas and our two sons in Nebraska. Right now with the virus, the only activity we participate in is golfing. I certainly miss all my

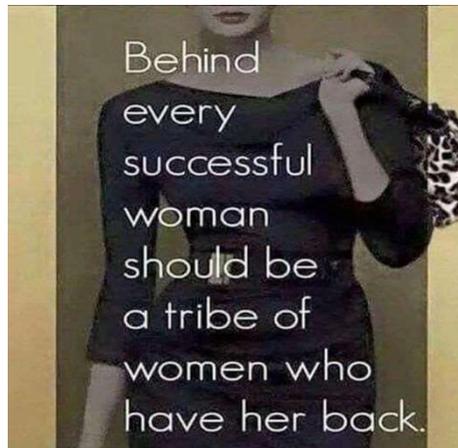
Newcomer/Longtimer friends.



**Lynda Hartwick (2009-10)** - My business, Documents in Dispute, has been busy. It seems that more fraud is being committed due to people being out of work. My court appearances have been via Zoom, which is a unique experience for most of us. Aside from work, I have gotten hooked on the new diamond painting craze. I have also been reading a lot more than in the past. Jim and I both had Covid in early December. Jim skated through his virus with the expected symptoms, I spent four days in the hospital with Covid and double pneumonia. We have both recovered and are looking forward to pool and boating season.



**Vicki Faulstich (2016-17)** - We were blessed to have downsized our living last year. We live on 8 acres in Osage Beach on the lake in a house, which is a large garage with an apartment. Our son and his family also have a large house on the property. It has made being quarantined this year very tolerable that we can all play and work together. Looking forward to traveling more in 2021.



The following cards were sent in the past month:

**Get Well Soon:**

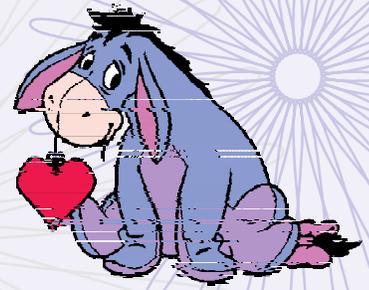
Jean Andrews (back surgery)

**Happy Birthday**

Lorraine Carnehl (past president)  
97 years old!



# Honoring our Presidents Continued!



**Shirley Edwards Daake (1998-99)** - How very thoughtful of NC/LT to recognize their Past Presidents. I am honored to have served.

I just tested positive for Covid 19 and am currently at home trying to recover. I was so very careful but still contacted it! I recently sold my home; closing is February 11. I will be moving close to my family in the Kansas City area. We are going to build a new home near Lone Jack, MO. This is bittersweet for me. I have lived at this beautiful lake since 1993. In fact, our home was on the first home tour. And I started the book club when I was President. But, I know it's the winter of my life and I want to spend the time I have left with the family I have and love. I will always carry fond memories of my time here and the time I spent in NC/LT.

May God continue to bless this wonderful organization and all those who dedicate their time.



**Carole Olivarri (2006-07)** - Since I was President lots has happened in my life, but I believe the mission is to tell what is happening now. I am still living at the Lake. I am still blessed with a husband who constantly entertains me. I've reached the "great-grandchild" period and have the third one coming in April. Like everyone, I

have disappointing days when the things I love to do are being canceled. I can truthfully say, though, I have not let COVID define my golden years or depress me. I still gather with friends, I play cards weekly, I attend church, and I dine out with family and friends. I take every opportunity offered to see face-to-face those who mean so much to me. I really miss N/L activities.

I've said this before, but this club is full of such talented and dedicated ladies who are willing to give so much of their time to make it run smoothly that I am constantly in awe of what they accomplish. We have much to be proud of within our organization and it seems to get better each year.



**Karen (Russell) Thompson (2003-04)** - Thank you for reaching out to me for an update.

I am currently living in Overland Park, Kansas. I continue to play cards in two "social Bridge" groups, I am in a Bible study group at church, have traveled to the Holy Land, I enjoy attending music concerts, happy hours, dining out, movies, being with my family and attending the Grandchildren's school and sports activities. Much of my life is a continuance of NCLT activities! I am happy, healthy and blessed!



**Brenda Love (2008-09)** -

After Bob and I retired, we RV'd full time wintering down south and spending summers up north. We have since bought a condo on the beach and will use the RV for our travels. We have been RVing

since 1992 and are on our 8th rig. Bob, Toby Cat and I love the RV lifestyle and spending time visiting family and friends and exploring new places.



**Sue Bleigh (2017-18)** - My husband Jim and I are still living at beautiful Lake of the Ozarks. Yes, we still do own our home in Olathe, KS that we fondly refer to as our storage locker. We enjoy going back to the KC area as well about once a month. I am still active in N/L

and look forward to activities resuming when Covid is not a threat. What a challenging time it has been. We are longtime Missouri Tiger fans which is no easy task. We enjoy playing pickleball for fun and exercise even though our game does not seem to be improving. I think it could have something to do with our age and physiques. We enjoy traveling, boating, and enjoying life with friends and family. N/L has been a wonderful group to develop friendships for both Jim and I. I feel sure all of this down time will keep the group safe and spur creativity for wonderful future activities.



To whoever reads  
this, I hope  
something good  
happens to you  
today.

H A P P Y  
*Valentine's Day*



**Louise Anderson (1987-88)** - Louise has fond memories of many friends she made while a member and then President of NL. They moved to Eldon in the fall of 1983. There wasn't much at the lake then, especially during the winter months. She attended her first NL meeting and she was so glad she did!

She was always part of a bridge group in her hometown of Rockford, Illinois. She was surprised that there wasn't one at the Lake. In time, she started the NL Bridge Group at Arrowhead Lodge. She drew up a bridge lesson book on her own, and also arranged for someone to come in and give lessons. It was extremely successful! Women who had never played bridge started playing for NL once a month and some actually got together weekly.

In addition to the bridge group, she also started the 'Dining Out' group with spouses. It was a great way to get acquainted and get to know each other better. She also always enjoyed the teas and 'pouring' as a past president!

All of the ladies had a deep appreciation for each other's friendships - again there wasn't as much going on at the Lake as there is today!

Louise sends her very best to everyone and so enjoyed reminiscing about her time with NL and hopes you will stay in touch!

Note - Louise had a stroke in late August and is currently living and undergoing rehab at her daughter's home in Iowa. She still owns her home at the lake.



**Deirdre O'Donnell (2010-11)** - These days, I spend time focusing on my breathing and trying to remain calm and intentional. To help me with this, I do a few minutes of on-line yoga first thing in the morning when I can.

As far as my work goes, we have evolved into an estate planning practice. All of my client meetings now are by Zoom. This is a good shift, in part because I feel as though I am sitting in my client's homes with them, where they feel most comfortable, and partly because we can talk and get to know each other safely, without masks covering our facial expressions. Our Osage Beach office serves mostly as a comfortable and welcoming space for the signing ceremonies.

Because of COVID, Bob and I do most of our work from home now. I work upstairs, he works downstairs, and we meet in the kitchen every day for lunch. A year ago, I would not have imagined our work-lives intertwining like this. The downside to working from home is becoming so sedentary! I try to get outdoors and walk once a day, and Bob is building me a motorized desk that can turn into a stand-up desk.

I am missing friend activities and do occasionally give in to the temptation and have a little get-together. I am very much looking forward to our club activities returning to normal, and doing much, much more visiting and hugging.



**Jean Andrew (2014-15)** - My husband and I have spent the last year in quarantine in our home. During that time we have had our master bathroom remodeled and we now have a heated floor. We have also concluded a new edition of one of the 19 books we publish for masters and Ph.D. students. Our books are sold to colleges and universities, state Rehabilitation programs, the Veterans Administration, and others in the United States and numerous foreign countries.

In July I had surgery on my back. They fused three vertebrae. It has taken me a long time to recover, but am feeling much stronger. Now we are anxious to get our covid vaccinations and for the U.S. to get back to normal. Everyone stay safe until that happens.



**Lorraine Carnehl (1996-97)**

- Lorraine will be 97 in March and lives by herself in a 3500 sq ft home in Surprise, AZ. Her husband passed ten years ago but her son comes every few weeks from Prescott, AZ to take her shopping AND more importantly, get her hair and nails done.

She has to use a walker which limits her traveling which she loves - Her last trip was a cruise on the Danube River and she would go back tomorrow if she could.

Besides her son, she has a daughter in Albuquerque and one in Long Beach, and has 8 grandchildren and 9 great grands.

She's tired of being cooped up but has been blessed with good health. She sends her best to all who might remember her.



**Doxiene "Doc" Stewart (1993-94)** - Doc

lives with her daughter in a 55+ community in Marana, AZ. She just turned 91 and says she is in better health than her daughter. She laughingly says she gets around too fast using her four wheel walker - of which she is not a very good driver, always bumping into the corners of her walls. She has had her first Covid shot and is feeling great.

Doc shared many memories of NL activities. The annual Halloween Party was something to behold. Everyone dressed in elaborate costumes with prizes and fun galore. They also sponsored line dancing lessons, fashion shows with models dancing to the latest hits., and anything that was fun! One year the club promoted a drawing for a Jet Ski. She contacted the Kawasaki factory and the local dealership and they shared in the cost of the donation. It was displayed in a water fountain and tons of tickets were sold. It was one of their most successful fundraising events.

Doc is proud that NL is an important part of lake life and can always be depended on to help out.

### IN MEMORIAM

- Helen Grandstaff – 1965-1966
- Mabel Wenneker – 1967-1968
- Vi Vogel – 1968-1969
- Lou Larson – 1969-1970
- Leniece Johnston – 1970-1971
- Flo Lindquist – 1972-1973
- Fran Smith – 1973-1974
- Sue Olive – 1975-1976
- Mary Ann Williams – 1980-1981
- Necil Webb – 1984-1985
- Evelyn Bilyeu – 1986-1987
- Ann Sullivan – 1988-1989
- Jane Foreman – 1989-1990
- Sandra Brouillette – 1990-1991
- Dottie Anderson – 1992-1993
- Fran Davis – 1999-2000
- Kay Johnson – 2001-2002
- Jan Cizek – 2002-2003
- Tamhra Latshaw – 2005-2006