



BIOGRAPHIES OF ILR BOARD NOMINEES 2017-2018

DON CHRISTENSEN, President

Don was born in Hartford, Conn., and moved to Virginia Beach in 1974 (which doesn't quite make him a native of Tidewater, but close!) Don is a licensed clinical psychologist, with a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois; he was in a private group practice for 15 years before transitioning into healthcare administration with ValueOptions, Inc., a behavioral health managed-care company. He also holds an MBA degree from the University of Richmond.

He retired from ValueOptions in December, 2010, and currently enjoys cooking, reading, hiking, kayaking, travel (both national and international; latest trip to Istanbul, Egypt and South Africa), and spending time with his two grandchildren. He has taught in the Hartford, Conn. Public School System, the University of Illinois, and Tidewater Community College. He currently volunteers with Junior Achievement and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). He has been married to Joyce for 48 years and has 44-year-old twin boys.

CAROLYN SCHMICK, Vice President

Carolyn attended Montclair State University, NJ and PACE University in NY, attaining a diverse educational background. Following careers in Speech Pathology, IBM Information Systems and support for a family civil engineering office, Carolyn moved to Virginia Beach to be near a daughter. Since moving to Virginia Beach, Carolyn has been active in ILR programs. She is a member of the Communication Committee as editor of the ILR quarterly newsletter, and has served on the Communications Task Force.

She has two grown children and four grandchildren. Spare time activities include painting (mostly oil), having exhibited with fellow ILR artists, Mahjongg, and cooking.

ELIZABETH (BETSY) COFFELT, Secretary

Betsy is retired from Virginia Beach City Public Schools where she served as Special Education Coordinator for 20 years. She earned her doctorate from the College of William and Mary in Education Administration, and her teaching certifications in Special Education and General Education from Rhode Island College and the State University of NY at Oswego. Originally from central New York (Finger Lakes area), she also lived and taught in Rhode Island before migrating South.

She married Richard in 1995 and they are the proud parents of 3 Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. Her favorite retirement activity is taking fitness classes at our wonderful Recreation Centers. She has also been taking classes at the Glass Studio at The Chrysler Museum. She and Richard are experienced RVers. Since Richard retired this past July, they have been taking their 5th wheel on extended trips. They started camping by backpacking near the Blue Ridge Parkway, graduated to a Pop-up camper and got their 5th wheel in 2009. She has been an ILR member since July 2011 which is when she retired. Her best friend gave her a membership as a retirement gift, and she has been attending classes and taking trips ever since.

STAN WEISBERGER, Treasurer

Stan was born and raised in McKeesport, PA, a suburb of Pittsburgh. After serving four years in naval communications, he graduated from Old Dominion University with a degree in Marketing. He began his 38-year career in mortgage banking with Wachovia Bank in Raleigh, NC. The last 20 years of his mortgage banking career were spent at National City Mortgage in Virginia Beach. Stan has held various positions in the industry including President of Virginia Mortgage Bankers association and chair of the Ethics committee. Recently, he became a Real Estate salesman.

Stan has been married to Cecilia for 47 years. They have two grown daughters that reside in Reston, VA and Richmond, VA. Stan and Cecilia joined ILR in 2009 and enjoy the people and programs.

BILL MOYSE, Historian

Bill and his wife, Judy, are six-year members of ILR and have found the organization a great tool in learning how to retire. The breadth of its offerings has been stimulating for both of them, and they have found that its members' curiosity and enthusiasm have inspired them to expand their interests beyond what they initially might have imagined.

They moved to Tidewater from Swampscott, MA, after deciding that shoveling snow was less invigorating than it once had been. Moreover, thinking that retirement was fast approaching for both of them, they thought moving to where they had lived while Bill was in the Navy would offer some respite from winter exertions while allowing them to enjoy a culturally rich area with great beaches to use all year round.

After graduate school, Bill turned to teaching and school administration for seven years in an independent school in Long Island. Twenty-two years in sales management and retail consulting followed, taking his family to Chicago and then to the Boston area. After returning to teaching in public schools in Massachusetts, Bill and Judy moved to Virginia where Bill finally retired from Norfolk Public Schools, and Judy retired from nursing.

With their two children grown and living in California, Bill and Judy have begun to travel more than they had before retirement, not only to see their children and new grandson, but they have also enjoyed many Road Scholars adventures. These have been great fun and have offered that same intellectual growth as ILR has provided through a diverse group of companions eager to learn and experience something new.

LEAH-BETH (BETSY) BLANK, Member-at-Large

Betsy grew up in Pottstown, PA. She went to Wheelock College in Boston, MA and then Roosevelt University in Chicago, IL where she earned her B.A. in Education. She was a Kindergarten teacher in Chicago. After moving around for several years, so her, now ex-husband could finish his medical training, they moved to Virginia Beach in 1976.

Betsy became a Real Estate agent and worked as an agent in resale and new homes. She went on to earn her Associate Broker's license. When she decided it was time for another career change, she went to Commonwealth College (now Bryant and Stratton) and earned her Paralegal Certificate. She worked in the areas of Real Estate law and then Insurance Defense. She achieved the professional designation of Certified Paralegal. Being very active in the Tidewater Paralegal Association, Betsy held numerous positions including President. Her last career change was as an Administrative Assistant in OB/GYN at Eastern Virginia Medical School, where she worked until she retired.

Betsy is divorced and has an adult daughter and son, as well as one granddaughter and three grandsons, who all live on the West Coast. Currently being an Acts of Kindness volunteer with the Cancer Care Foundation, playing Mah Jongg, reading, knitting, gardening and traveling are keeping retirement a joy.

Betsy has been a member of ILR for seven years. She is on the Communications and Technology Committee, co-chair of the Travel Committee, and currently serving as Member-at-Large.

SUSAN JONES, Member-at-Large

Susan first moved to Virginia Beach in 1980 from Charleston, South Carolina. She went to work for the Dept. of Juvenile Justice in 1999 and moved to Culpeper and then Richmond. While working for the Department, she served as Clinical Social Worker Supervisor at Culpeper Juvenile Correctional Center and Assistant Superintendent for Programs at Oak Ridge Juvenile Correctional Center. She retired in May 2015 and moved back to Virginia Beach during the summer of 2016. She looks forward to having time to travel and participating in more classes and activities offered by ILR.