



THIS MONTH AT OLLI, SEPTEMBER 2019

By Joe Bailey

A couple of weeks ago Diana Faison and I were chatting about a since forgotten subject and I trotted out a sentence I have used many times, "It's not what it is that it is, but what you think it is that it is."

To which Diana replied, "Perception. The pastor's message in church last Sunday was on perception."

This got me thinking about perception and faith and belief. Oddly these can become actions with no facts to support the perception, faith or belief. Many times recently this has resulted in bad outcomes. How can this apply to OLLI you ask? We can choose good outcomes.

At every event that I have attended pitching the OLLI story it seems that at least one person says, "No thanks. I've had enough school. I'm done."

It's all perception, but how do we get past it? When I needed to be a student it was to reach a goal, not because I liked school. I liked learning. I didn't like school, and I know why I didn't like school. They force you to learn a lot of stuff that you don't need to know and will never use. The University of Delaware seemed to start all courses with the firmament. In the beginning there was dirt and from here we will eventually get to the study of micro-biology. What if when the chemistry professor presented the periodic table and told you that you would need to know a lot of what's on it, he had then followed it up by saying, "The making of beer and wine is a chemical process that can be done at home". That is a way to make learning fun. At OLLI we can learn about many things without first building a twelve-foot deep foundation.

We on the Member Relations Committee need your help. The University is paying for some ads to get our name out. More people have heard of us and know we are not a store in Rodney Village shopping center. We would like to have access to 55 Plus Communities. We would like to connect with retired Air Force, or any retired military personnel living in the area. We would like your ideas on a path to success. All of us are smarter than one of us. Make some contacts in your neighborhoods, clubs, social events. We know and meet a lot of people over fifty. Don't be discouraged if not everyone you talk to becomes a member. The first rule of sales cold calling is: A highly successful sales rep will get one yes from every ten contacts.

Make it your mission to give the people you meet more opportunities to learn just for the fun of it. Remember the week of September 9th is "Bring a Friend Week." The more folks can see what we have the better chance we have of meeting new members. There are many good classes for the fall term. If you see a class in Lewes that interests you and you have a hole in your Dover schedule, grab a friend or two and take yourselves down to Lewes. Nothing says you can't be the friend you bring. At the very least you will see another OLLI venue, and you will have someone to talk to on the ride down and back.

In other news, I sat in on all the instructor presentations at the Open House and even though I had already registered for eight classes I was impressed by Roger Hazzard's description of his class on the brain, so I added one more. The Senior Spree at Noble's Pond was a success. We spoke to a little more than seventy people and twenty-six of them filled out contact cards. We are offering a few classes at Heritage Shores, a 55 Plus community in Bridgeville. They are a self-contained community with over one thousand homes and room for many more. The residents may also choose to take some classes in Lewes and Dover.

I will leave you with the words of my mother said to me nearly every day as I left for school. "Learn all you can".

Because I failed to heed her words most of the time, I am glad that OLLI has given me a place to attempt catching up.