



LarsEncore

BULLETIN 68

WEBSITE: www.larse.ca

May, 2017

The Newsletter of the Association of Retired School Employees

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Luncheons 2017



Luncheon dates and locations:

May 26:- Madison's Grill & Bar, 3000 rue Jean-Yves,
Kirkland, 514-426-9111

July 26:- Marco Pizzeria Restaurant 82 rue Ste-Anne,
Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 514-457-3850

August 23:- Ristorante Andrea, 3194 boul. St-Joseph,
Lachine, 514-639-1414

September:- Thursday, Sept. 28 - Del Friscos,
3237 Des Sources, DDO 514-683-4444

October:- Thursday, Oct. 26 - Madison's Grill & Bar,
3000 rue Jean-Yves, Kirkland, 514-426-9111

LARSENCORE

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NOTE:- We are trying something new for our monthly luncheons!

In the fall we will change our luncheon day from the last **Friday** of every month to

THE LAST THURSDAY

Friday is the busiest day at restaurants; this change will make it easier to book restaurants for our large group and will also help us get better service. We hope you can join us!

2.

President's Address/ Message du président

I wrote my first draft of this message at the end of April stating that hopefully May would be a better month and bring us flowers. Well, May has not been much better, I would even venture to say that so far it has been worse with rain resulting in so much flooding around the West Island. Hopefully most of you and your families have been spared any great damage.

With the arrival of spring and despite the weather, the Cyclopaths have been back out on the bike paths as early as April 22nd enjoying a trip to Ste Anne de Bellevue. Le golfe aussi a recommencé. Si vous voulez vous joindre à ces activités contactez les chefs de groupes. Tous les nouveaux membres sont les bienvenus!

As an organization we are now into our 20th year. I invite you to read the article by Bruce Munro. This article gives a very good explanation of how L'ARSE came to be. We will be celebrating our **20th anniversary** in October so be sure to check your email for more information and your invitation. 20 ans ça se célèbre!! Soyez certains de célébrer avec nous! We would like all 361 members to try and attend this celebration!

I would like to thank the L'ARSE Executive, they made my first few months as president very easy. Special thanks to Jan Langelier who was there with suggestions and support. The Executive meets regularly to keep the association running smoothly. We have now formed a committee that will work on making the 20th Anniversary celebration in October a memorable event! Of course thanks also goes out to all the leaders of the Affinity Groups and the contact people who reach out to all members via phone or email. Un gros merci pour votre implication et dévouement!

As you read this newsletter and see the activities that are offered, I encourage all of you to participate. If you feel that you would like to start a new affinity group or if you want to plan a one-time outing or activity, please come forward and give it a try. Contact me and I can help you get it underway. Bowling, Trivia, Lawn Bowling, Escape Room, theatre outings, just to name a few!

To the new retirees, you who are undertaking the next chapter of your life...welcome to this special time of your life. Please make sure to get involved and to take advantage of some of our summer activities. There will be the breakfasts at the Manoir the second Friday of the month and as well the lunches which will continue at Marco's in Sainte Anne's on July 26th and at Pasta Andrea in Lachine on August 23rd. Sign up to become a member of L'ARSE for a small fee of 10\$ a year. You will find a registration form on the last page of this newsletter. I would also encourage you to look at the activities and events organized by QPARSE ([APPERQ-Association provinciale du personnel d'enseignement retraité du Québec](#)).

Remember that in retirement we can enjoy looking forward to a summer filled with wonderful activities --- des randonnées en forêt ou sur la plage, du cyclisme, de la nage, du jardinage, du golfe... quelques plaisirs de l'été!!! Check out the rest of the Newsletter for upcoming events as well as our website for pictures and information.

I wish all of you a safe and healthy summer and am looking forward to seeing you at the **L'ARSE 20th anniversary celebration in October**... on se verra au mois d'octobre, mais entre temps, passez un excellent été.

Bulletin Board

3.

THE HUMBLE BEGINNINGS OF L'ARSE

Late last year, the subject of the beginnings of L'ARSE arose. Was 2017 the 20th Anniversary of this fine organization? My memory told me it all began in 1997 but I would have sworn that it was in the spring. I went to my daily log, kept for over ten years following my retirement in 1996 and got a complete surprise. I had times and dates recorded. It was not the spring but the fall that it all happened. So here goes, right from my diary on dates, with memory working fairly well on the rest.

The late André Smith, retired French teacher from JRHS, called me on Friday, November 28, 1997. He had just been to lunch with a group of his retired JRHS colleagues. He asked if I would call up my retired confreres from Mac to see if there was a 'felt need' that we might organize a monthly luncheon for retired teachers to come together, to keep in touch, to enjoy the fellowship and allow whatever, should it be successful, to flow out of this. I said "No, André, let's arrange that you and I go to lunch, ask our colleagues to join us from JRHS and Mac and we'll actually see if there is a 'felt need', as you put it. It'll save us a phone call in the long run." I never did like extra work.

André and I discussed the place to meet and eat. We chose Vichy's on St. John's road. We arranged to have lunch there on December 5 at 11:30 a.m. and invite our colleagues. When Friday, 5 December rolled around, 22 colleagues from JRHS and Mac sat to lunch together. André, being the real originator of the idea, explained our goal and that in the coming days, our Ad Hoc executive would make further plans. All seemed delighted. We took their smiles as consent. It was a happy time. André was thrilled as was I.

Our immediate goal was to contact someone from each of the other High Schools and see if they would join our committee for 'organize these luncheon sessions'. I called Wayne Clifford from BHS. We also found Al Jared from LPHS along with Sandy Ferguson from Hudson. June Bolger [Board] joined our committee and, as we were meeting in each other's homes, she invited us to her house for a meeting.

This 'ad hoc' committee grew and began developing a structure for the group. Several meetings were held over the next couple of weeks as I was going back to our place in the sun in Arizona after Christmas. Questions about inviting the Retired Administrators and Support Staff were settled in the affirmative. The organization did not yet have a name and the committee members were sent away from one meeting to come up to the next with a name. Wayne Clifford arrived at the next meeting suggesting we call it "ARSE" [Association of Retired School Employees]. I was especially taken with the name and suggested that an "L" precede the name, L'ARSE, to satisfy the 'Office de la Langue Français'. All this happened, according to my records, prior to Christmas, 1997.

André Smith became L'ARSE's first President. June Bolger was the first Treasurer. The membership fee was set at \$10 which it still remains. I was the membership record keeper using a spread sheet from which we made labels, used for mailing the 'eventual newsletter'.

By the time I returned from Arizona in May, 1998, L'ARSE was fairly well established. André had pushed the need to have a constitution for L'ARSE and this was done. It was agreed to have a news letter for the group, eventually called LarsEncore. Anne Seddon [JRHS] was the first editor and publisher with the help, Al [Mac], her husband.

Affinity groups began to form and it appeared that the organization was well on its way. My favourite group was the cycling corps, out bright and bushy-tailed every Tuesday morning. Hanns Warnecke was the first leader but Wayne Clifford soon took over and still 'pedals' his routes.

I wish to thank all the people who, over the years, have contributed to this wonderful L'ARSE group. You have expanded it, improved it and left your mark upon it. You have satisfied the felt need we have to keep in touch and be active. May all good things continue to happen to this fine organization.

— *Bruce Munro*

4.

Luncheons 2017



Charity Report

January winners

Congratulations to the winners of our half and half draw at Elixor on Jan. 27th. Karen Bray won \$70.00 in cash while Sonia Stante donated her winnings to The Canadian Diabetes Association. Janice Murray won a \$50.00 gift certificate from Elixor.

February winners

Congratulations to Lise Bonhomme who won \$87.00 and a \$50.00 gift certificate to Madison's. Sheila Knott chose the West Island Palliative Care Residence as the recipient of her \$87.00.

March winners

Congratulations to Bob McIlhorne who won \$94.00 at our March luncheon. Raffaele D'Abramo donated his share of the draw to Share the Warmth while Cathy Wightman won the \$60.00 gift certificate for Restaurant L'Academie.

April winners

Congratulations to the winners from our April luncheon draw. Jean Macbeth took home \$75.00 while Raffaele D'Abramo donated his amount to the Montreal Gazette Christmas Fund. John Green received a \$50 gift certificate from Ottavio's Restaurant.

Flood Relief

A donation of \$50 was made to Red Cross Canada to help with Spring Flood Relief. This money was collected at our monthly breakfast on May 12th. Thanks to all who contributed.

INTEREST GROUPS

Interest Groups Editor:
Pam Greevy pgreevy@hotmail.com

5.



Book Club I

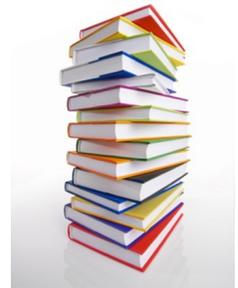
This year, our reading list has included a wider variety of genres than ever before. *Leaving Time* (Jodi Picoult) is a problem novel. *Seven Days Dead* (John Farrow) is a mystery, written by Hudson's own Trevor Ferguson. *The Wonder* (Emma Donoghue) and *Do Not Say We Have Nothing* (Madeleine Thien) are Canadian prize-winning novels. *The Lady and the Unicorn* (Tracey Chevalier) is historical fiction. *Are You Somebody?* (Nuala O'Faolain) and *This is the Story of a Happy Marriage* (Ann Patchett) are our first forays into memoir and essays. All of us have, at some point in the year, been challenged to venture beyond our usual choices - which is what a book club is all about!

During the summer months, we'll be searching for new titles, so we can put together our reading list at the September meeting.

Susan Somerville - 514-697-9709 - susansomerville8@sympatico.ca

Book Club II

In February, Lesley Pasquin hosted *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi, the story of half-sisters born into different villages and very different lives in eighteenth-century Ghana. The story tells of the loss and resilience of these two women and the generations to follow. We continued our theme of race, privilege and prejudice with *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult at Mary Anne Bindner's. Picoult tackles these issues with compassion and doesn't offer easy answers.



Our April meeting was postponed and in May we met at Bev Day's having read the award winning and complex novel *Do Not Say We Have Nothing*. Master storyteller Madeleine Thien takes us inside an extended family in China, showing us the lives of two successive generations and explores the question of what happens when everything you know how to express, whether through language or music or art, is literally stripped away from you.

Our June novel is the critically-acclaimed *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett. Told with equal measures of humor and heartbreak, *Commonwealth* is a meditation on inspiration, interpretation, and the ownership of stories. It is a tale of the far-reaching ties of love and responsibility that bind us together. We will convene at Norma Jones'. We welcome new members!

If you are interested in our eclectic readings, email Lesley at lesleypasquin@gmail.com

6.

Casual Bridge Group



The L'ARSE Casual Bridge Group plays every second Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. It is a great place to learn to play bridge, to hone bridge skills, to teach others about bridge and to socialize! We usually play at the lovely home of Lorraine Pawlusiak who has graciously hosted us for a number of years.

Our skill levels have a wide range. We use a format which changes partners and tables every four hands. If we have an odd number of players, we rotate in and out of play. Beginners will sometimes opt to watch the first few times instead of playing. They will often pair up with an experienced player who will explain and teach. We often discuss bidding and such as we go along.

For some, our games have been a starting point for pursuing more serious bridge experiences such as duplicate bridge clubs. Some of our most experienced and accomplished players have kept with us, maybe because they still learn with us or are still teachers at heart, but mostly because it's a really nice group and we have a lot of fun!

We have many members but, with travel and other commitments, we usually have between eight and sixteen players on any given Wednesday. There is always room for new members! Our focus is to enjoy and to learn. We'd love to have you join us!

**If you are interested,
please contact Pam Greevy
at pgreevy@hotmail.com.**



Canasta

The popularity of this game seems to be on the rise. We regularly have 16 -18 players at each Canasta afternoon. But we have even gusted up to 22 at one time.

It will be necessary to find a new location for holding the games since my house is up for sale and I am downsizing. We are hoping that, starting in September, we can find an unused classroom at Horizon School (the old Northview) where we can store our equipment and set up tables easily.

Keep tuned for that update. In the meantime, if you would like to find out what the popularity is all about, please contact me and I am sure we can fit you in.

Jan Langelier 514-453-7103 or

langelier.jan@videotron.ca

Interest Groups

**Interest Groups Editor:
Pam Greevy
pgreevy@hotmail.com**

TREKKER'S WORLD



We hope to have the next meeting of the Travel Talk Group in the fall. Unfortunately, the Sequoia Restaurant, where we used to meet, has closed and we are presently trying to find an appropriate restaurant which has a separate room and the proper TV equipment. More details will follow.



Cross-Country Skiing

It was another ski season of ups and downs. We had a pretty good start with a snowstorm in mid-December. In January we got some rain but the snow came back a few days later. Unfortunately, the second half of February and early March were definite low points. But the snowstorm in mid-March gave us a couple more weeks of skiing.

I would like to thank the group of enthusiastic skiers who met at Cap St. Jacques and Bois de Liesse. Unfortunately, Ile Bizard was closed all winter. Wishing all a healthy and active summer. Happy trails to you....

Mary Anne Bindner

Joke Time

An airplane was about to crash, there were four famous passengers on board but only three parachutes left.

The first passenger said, "I'm LeBron James, the best NBA basketball player there is. My fans need me. I can't afford to die." So he took the first pack and left the plane.

The second passenger, Donald Trump, said "Out of my way. I'm the new President of the USA and I'm going to be the greatest and cleverest President in American history." So he quickly grabbed the pack next to him and jumped out of the plane.

The third passenger was the Pope and he turned to the fourth passenger, a Lubavitcher Rabbi, and said, "I am old, frail and don't have many years left. As a good Catholic, I will sacrifice my life and let you have the last parachute."

The Rabbi turned to him and said: "Thank you, but it's really OK.... there are enough parachutes for both of us. America's greatest and cleverest President has just taken my Tallis bag."

8.

GOLF REPORT



As I sit curating this report, we are experiencing the first vestiges of the summer to come. Hopefully these 3 days are a foretelling of the weather that will bless our outdoor golf group this year. The 2016 season suffered from more cancellations than ever before.

After an indoor season at InDorion Golf, our 2017 outdoor season began on Monday May 1- a cold rainy day that diminished our numbers significantly! Our second outing to Glengarry GC, this past Monday took place in warm, windy conditions welcomed by all of us who played. Our schedule this summer will rotate between different clubs and different formats. We will be following format of a Monday for those preferring to play 18 holes, followed the next week by a course for both 9 & 18 hole players; the third Monday we will play 9 holes exclusively.

Those of us who organize our Golfing Mondays appreciate your cooperation and patience in getting the tee-times and groups out to you. This summer will be even more difficult as Bryden Murray will be out of action, recovering from knee replacement surgery and prepping for his return to the links in in 2018 . Happily, Bob McIlhone and Mike Kirk have stepped up to cover for Bryden, should the need arise.

The intent of the golf interest group in to provide an opportunity for LARSE members to get out on a course, socialize with other members and enjoy some physical activity. Should you be interested in experiencing this activity, please contact me at russk547@gmail.com. We usually contact our group by email, on Wednesdays to survey their interest and email tee-times and groupings on the Sunday before the outing.

Looking forward to seeing you out on the course.

**Russ Kelly on behalf of
Bryden Murray, Bob McIlhone, Mike Kirk**

LARSE INDOOR GOLF

Now that the outdoor season has started, our Indoor Virtual golf has come to an end. Some of our more avid members played every second Monday from before Christmas until the end of April; the turnout was good at the GolfIn Dorion facility. We had 6-8 people almost every time, generally beginning at 9 am and the 18-hole session lasted until 12:30. After each session a number of the group retired for a bite of lunch or a beverage at Le Manoir. We will be starting again after the regular golf season has ended; should you be interested in trying out your skills in a simulator please contact Mike at mcqkirk@bell.net in order to be included on his email contact list. See you on the course.

Mike Kirk



Cyclopaths

Our cycling group got underway mid-April in the midst of what seemed like an interminable rainy spring.

Following a number of appeals, some members of our group are beginning to share the leadership which eases some of the burden of running the Cyclopaths, a name chosen a few years ago for this group of recreational cyclists which has been operating since last century, almost since the inception of LARSE.

Originally an amalgam of retirees from Vanier College and the now defunct Lakeshore School Board, the group was initially led by Hanns Wernecke, who had worked for both organizations. Participant numbers then usually hovered between 5 and 10. I believe that I am now the only member remaining from that original group who regularly continues to cycle with the group. So far this season, the group has averaged around 8 participants, a number that will likely grow as the weather improves over the summer. However, variations in members' travel vacations usually helps to keep group size reasonable. Last year, the largest number of single trip participants was about 30.

Tuesdays are the usual days for cycling trips, but we cannot always count on ideal weather every Tuesday as the month of April demonstrated this year. Longer-term weather forecasting has improved over the years, however, surprises have happened. E-mail notifications of forthcoming trips usually appear on a preceding Sunday or Monday, based on these forecasts, distances usually vary from 20 to 50 kilometres, gradually working up to the longer trips over time.

This is not a racing club, there are enough of those around already. Our speeds probably average around 15-18 kilometres per hour, roughly 3 times a brisk walking pace.

Wayne Clifford, wmclifford@gmail.com or 514-697-8802

Ian Howarth writes of ROCK 'N' RADIO

On May 18, Vehicle Press launched ROCK 'n' RADIO: WHEN DJs AND ROCK MUSIC RULED THE AIRWAVES, a book by fellow retiree Ian Howarth. It was a wine & cheese evening of rock 'n' reading, a trip back to the golden days of Montreal's - and the West Island's - rock radio beginnings.

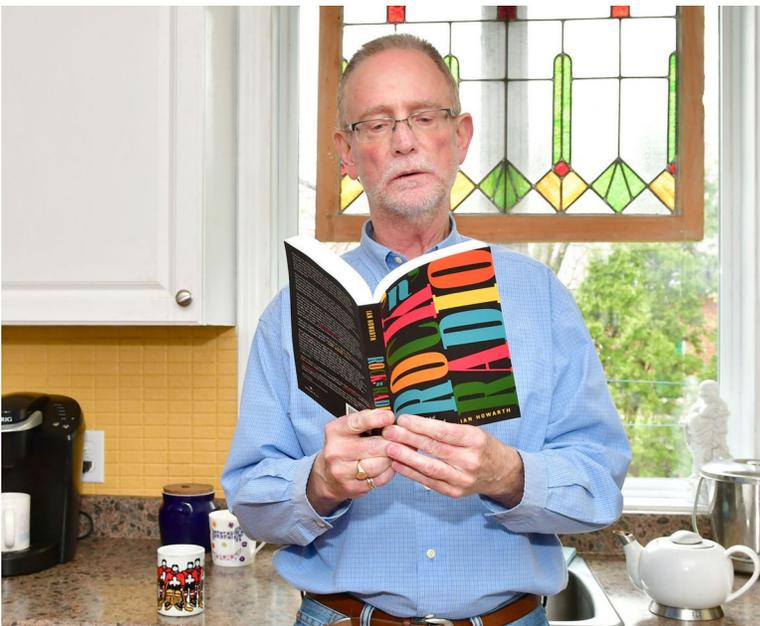


PHOTO: Rob Taussig/The Suburban

Ian was inspired to write his book by his remembrances of AM Radio in the 1960s, when as a teenager, he attended Beaconsfield High School. "I had a rocket-shaped crystal radio with an earbud, and I could lie in bed and listen", he says. He would see what stations he could bring in, like WBZ Boston or CKVL with Léo Lachance and Le Hit-parade américain, and later when he upgraded to a small transistor model, to Dave Boxer at CFCF or Dean Hagopian at Pointe-Claire's CFOX.

Not only has Ian written about 60s radio in this new book, he has a website (<https://rocknradiodays.com>) containing photos, newspaper clippings and soundbites from the era. More about the new book can be seen in the May 10th issue of The Suburban, Arts & Life section (Page A17) that can be found on the paper's website.

Ian Howarth and his wife, Mary-Anne Perreault, still live in Pointe-Claire. Ian began his teaching career at John Rennie High School in 1975. He later taught at Lindsay Place High School before moving on to a career in journalism. In addition to music, Ian is a passionate Habs fan. He coached football and was very active with Lakeshore Teachers Association where he acquired the moniker I. Howarth, Action Chief.

Writing and publishing a book has long been a dream for Ian. Congratulations and good luck with sales!

For the past ten years, Tricia Roet has served as Editor of LarsEncore. For many L'ARSE members, the newsletter is the main, and for some the only contact with our Association. As Editor, Tricia has also served on the Executive Committee of L'ARSE for all of those years and played a key role in establishing our second book club.

Trish was born in Edmonton. Her youth was split between three Canadian cities, two American states, Spain and Wales. Her elementary and high school years were spent in twelve different schools. At age fifteen, she was chosen to represent Canada at an international gathering at the World Guide House in Cabana, Mexico. She still attends reunions of the group held regularly in cities around the world.

After graduating from Macdonald College with a kindergarten and primary teaching diploma, Tricia taught six years at Beaconsfield Elementary where Margaret Manson was Principal. Here she was involved in teaching Integrated Day with totally individualized programs to family groupings of three age groups. Along with Mickey Wernecke, Betty Teasdale and Marilyn Bowan, Tricia travelled in a show-case team presenting their teaching style to administrators.

After the birth of her daughter, Melanie Dawn, Tricia worked for math consultants at the Lakeshore School Board where she co-authored a Little Red School House Math Kit with Mickey and others. She then started supply teaching...everything! Once she subbed K and grade 11 English in the same week. Trish also worked as technician in Macdonald High's resource room. She then went back to university and got a degree. In 1999, Trish finally went back full-time to teach history at Bishop Whelan. She taught in the International Baccalaureat Program and started training teachers, mostly in the States, for the IB which she continued for eight years after her retirement from the school board.

In retirement, Trish loves to read, skate, walk and knit. She is a member of the Trefoil Guild (senior Guiders) and will be leading a Brownie group with Ellen Gauthier this July. She is a member of the Lindsay Place Foundation.

Tricia and husband Joel, who lived 42 years in the same house on Ile Perrot, recently relocated to Ottawa where Melanie Dawn and her children, Eliana (11) and Milan(9) live. Their son, Josh along with Tricia's mom and other family members also live in Ottawa. Trish and Joel are "Loving condo living!"

Tricia, on behalf of all L'ARSE members, many thanks for all that you have done on our behalf for so many years.

— **Bryden Murray**

JOKE TIME...

An elderly couple are both having problems remembering things. During a check-up, the doctor tells them that they're physically okay, but they might want to start writing things down to help them remember...

Later that night, while watching TV, the old man gets up from his chair. 'Want anything while I'm in the kitchen?' he asks.

'Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?'

'Sure.'

'Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it?' she asks.

'No, I can remember it.'

'Well, I'd like some strawberries on top, too. Maybe you should write it down, so as not to forget it?'

He says, 'I can remember that. You want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries.'

'I'd also like whipped cream. I'm certain you'll forget that, write it down?' she asks.

Irritated, he says, 'I don't need to write it down, I can remember it! Ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream - I got it, for goodness sake!'

Then he toddles into the kitchen. After about 20 minutes, the old man returns from the kitchen and hands his wife a plate of bacon and eggs. She stares at the plate for a moment.

'Where's my toast?'

12.

L'ARSE MEMBERSHIP FORM

Regular Member

L'ARSE (L'Association of Retired School Employees) is open to any retiree from any educational institution and the spouse/partner of the retiree.

Name of Retiree _____ Retired from _____
(location)

*If you wish to include your spouse/partner in your membership,
please enter their name/e-mail address here:*

Spouse/Partner name: _____ e-mail: _____

Associate Member

Subject to available space, L'ARSE is also open to people who wish to participate in a L'ARSE-sponsored activity*.

Name _____

* * * * *

E-mail address _____ Phone # _____

Street address _____

Town _____ Postal Code _____

Please send a cheque for \$10 per person, payable to L'ARSE (one-year membership) to:

Lois Maeder-Alves, 63 Devon Road, Baie d'Urfé, QC H9X 2W7

* * * * *

The **LarsEncore** newsletter, issued 3 times a year, outlines the many and diverse activities available through our Association. It also highlights the activities of individual members. Articles highlighting members' travels, other activities or items of interest are most welcome!

The newsletter will be sent electronically, unless you prefer a copy by mail.

I wish to receive my copy of LarsEncore via Canada Post: _____

**Your personal contact information will be held in confidence by the Membership Chair, and shared only with L'ARSE activity leaders and executive members, as required. If you wish your contact information to be held ONLY by the Membership Chair, please check this box.*