OLLI Personal Computer User Group
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University
Report of 2020/2021 Activities to OLLI Board of Directors
Meeting of April 15, 2022

The OLLI Personal Computer User Group, or OPCUG, is in its 14th year of operation. This club activity serves members interested in Windows and Apple PCs, smartphones, tablets, digital photography and related technology. During the past year, about 60% of meeting attendees were OLLI members although few paid the nominal $5 dues, apparently because of the lack of in-person meetings. OPCUG is one of about 140 members of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups, which provides program resources and vendor contacts to computer groups nationally, and internationally. APCUG typically programs four Virtual Technology Conferences (VTC) a year on Saturday afternoons, with five or more sessions, that can be viewed on-line, and via YouTube following the conferences. In August of '21, no OPCUG meeting was held so members could attend the VTC that month. APCUG is now providng a Wednesday Workshop series, with longer-form programs.

Attendance in 2020 was 607, enhanced by many folks using Zoom while stuck at home. Total attendance for 11 OPCUG Saturday monthly meetings in '21 was 450. A PC Clinic (in person) was held in December '21, to assist members with computer problems.

The computer club began using Zoom in 2013, with OLLI's videoconferencing equipment. Most meetings, with permission from the presenters, are recorded for later viewing for those unable to attend, or wishing to review the material again, an approach OLLI has adopted for most classes presented via Zoom.

Meetings arre held jointly with the Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society, (PATACS) which arranged the majority of meeting speakers. A broad range of computer and technology topics were the subjects of the meetings, both in formal presentations, and the Q&A sessions that are part of each meeting. Most meetings include both 30 minute and 60-75 minute programs, with a total of 20 plus offering each year. Future programs – Crating Slideshows with PTE Studio; Internet Radio on the Road, Safely; Sharing Public Google Calendars; Avoiding On-Line Scams; Spy Technology Originating in the Civil War; Streaming Audio with VLC; Introduction to Digital Tables.

Later this year, PATACS will present a $500 donation to the Friends of OLLI, in appreciation of the strong relationship between the groups. PATACS and its predecessor organization, known as the Washington Area Computer User Group, have contributed more than $3000 to the Friends of OLLI, and in 2010, donated three new, ACER flat panel monitors, valued at $358, for use at PC Clinics. Audio equipment is also jointly owned by PATACS and OLLI.

More information about OPCUG is available on the group's web site:
http://olligmu.org/opcug/index.html

PATACS web site is: https://www.patacs.org/

Paul Howard, OPCUG Treasurer and Program Chair