



Retiree Reflections, Ruminations, and Ramblings (R⁴)

Issue #13 (March 2021)

Becoming a Lifer

I know that it may seem a life sentence as the pandemic and related isolation drags on, but this is a life sentence of a different kind. It arises from discussions at a recent meeting of the Association executive. It was decided that those who have paid the annual membership fee for 10 years (or more) will be recognized as life members and will henceforth have no further payment requirements. All such individuals have already been notified of this dramatic development, with varying reactions. Some were deeply moved by this generosity on the part of the executive, but at least one member claimed to have paid an annual fee for so many years that he was entitled to three life memberships (which we have granted).

If you have not received an email about this in recent days you are either (a) already a life member or (b) an annual member with insufficient years to be granted a life membership. However, if you are in doubt or want to check your status, you can contact Membership Secretary Thelma Mott at thelmamott8@gmail.com.

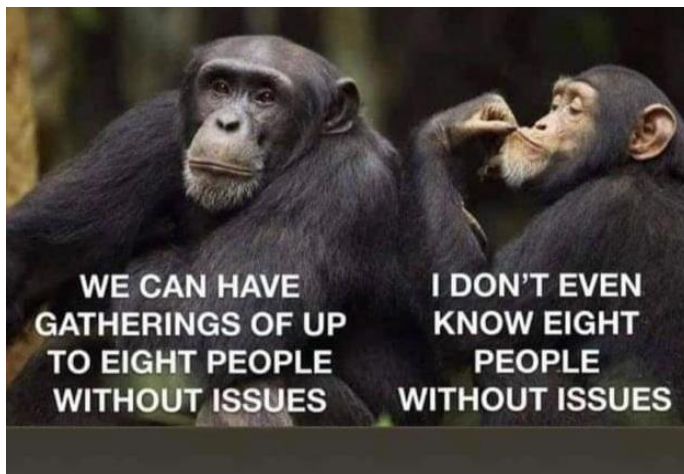
Our Long-Delayed AGM

The last AGM for your Association was in May 2019. Last year's meeting was not held, for obvious reasons, and at this point the prospects for a May 2021 AGM are uncertain at best. Your executive has taken the position that the AGM must not be delayed beyond this year. If necessary, we can organize a ZOOM AGM, although the free version of this technology would limit the meeting to 40 minutes. This is probably sufficient to transact essential business, such as presenting our financial statements and filling any positions on the executive. But we are not sure how many of our members would be comfortable with ZOOMing and we also know that for many of us, the chance to meet face to face (even masked) is far more meaningful.

The plan at this point, therefore, is to hope that conditions will have improved sufficiently to allow us to hold an in person AGM this year, even though it may not take place until early fall. If things are still in doubt then, we will set up a ZOOM AGM. We hope these arrangements meet with your approval.

C'mon Mate, Let's Vaccinate

On **March 15, 2021**, it is anticipated that the provincial online booking system will be open to the members of the public 80 years of age and older and Indigenous adults 55 years of age and older. By April 1, those 75 to 79 should be able to book, and then those 70 to 74 by April 15, as we proceed through five year age groups. We can only hope that the vaccinations will spread faster than the new and more contagious variations of virus that are now turning up. In the meantime, laughter is the best medicine!



NO, I'M NOT COMING DOWN!
We've been on 20 walks today. Leave me alone.



Idle Thoughts

Today I saw a dwarf climbing down a prison wall. I thought to myself: "That's a little condescending."

My computer asked for a new password. When I put in "chicken," it said that the password must contain a capital – so I entered "chickenkiev."

I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I've missed my exit.

Fly Me to the Moon

On July 20, 1969, as Commander of the Apollo 11 lunar module, Neil Armstrong was the first person to set foot on the moon. His first words “That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind,” were televised to earth and heard by millions. But, just before he re-entered the lander, he made the enigmatic remark “good luck, Mr. Gorsky.”

Many people at NASA thought it was a casual remark concerning some rival soviet cosmonaut. However, upon checking, there was no Gorsky in either the Russian or American space programs. Over the years, many people questioned Armstrong as to what the “good luck, Mr. Gorsky” statement meant, but Armstrong always just smiled. On July 5, 1995, in Tampa Bay, Florida, while answering questions following a speech, he faced again the 26-year-old question about Mr. Gorsky and this time he finally responded because Gorsky had just died.

In 1938, when he was a kid in a small mid-western town, Neil was playing baseball with a friend in the backyard. His friend hit the ball, which landed in his neighbor's yard by their bedroom window. The neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Gorsky. As he leaned down to pick up the ball, young Armstrong heard Mrs. Gorsky shouting at her husband. “Sex! You want sex?! You'll get sex when the kid next door walks on the moon!” [This is apparently a true story.]

A Buddy System

It has now been a year since the pandemic changed everything and left most people feeling isolated and missing contact with friends and family. I make it a point of sitting in the front lobby of our building every day. Tenants entering or leaving inevitably stop to chat; some take a seat as well and spend 10 or 15 minutes in conversation. I am particularly conscious of the large number of folks who live alone in our building and I believe that these impromptu chats are especially good for them – not to mention how they are helping me to overcome my extreme shyness.

I urge you to keep in touch with your former colleagues from SLC. A phone call just to check in with them would, I'm sure, be appreciated. If you would like to email someone (and need the address), just send a note to us at slcretirees@gmail.com. If that person is a member of our Association, we will have the email address and can send a short note, with your email address, and your interest in getting in touch. It is a simple system that protects the confidentiality of email addresses while facilitating contact between colleagues.

Another way of keeping in touch is by visiting our website (www.slcretirees.weebly.com) regularly. Some of you must know the answer to #13 in the “Do You Remember” contest.





If You Need a Lift

Wouldn't it be nice to get out and enjoy the scenery around Kingston? You can – from the comfort of your home – thanks to this Drone video from 2018 exploring the many sights of the Kingston area. Just click on the link below and settle back and enjoy your flight around town. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Q1L-rKlgSM&feature=youtu.be>.

Music and Memories

With the prolonged pandemic and the prospect of new variations of the virus, we could use a little cheering up – and we have just the thing for you with these music videos.

We begin with Chuck Berry providing the music as a background for dance scenes of various stars. See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UM_PTJCFQw.

The second video is similar and somewhat longer, with the music from Footloose and many familiar stars dancing. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rLhJZTHYo4>

The third item (<http://thenostalgiamachine.com/>) is particularly intriguing. You pick the year – such as when you graduated from high school, got married, or got paroled. You then click on “hit me” and you will have a choice of a great number of top hits from the year you choose.

All this music and dancing should help keep us going until we can get out and about.

Adventures in the Wild

A couple on an African Safari witnessed a small antelope being chased down by a cheetah.

While the kill was about to happen before their eyes, the husband casually remarked: "I'll bet the antelope gets away." The wife answered: "If that antelope survives, I'll give you sex every day for the rest of your life."

The deadly chase was recorded in this 18 second video. Click [here](#).

Closing Thoughts

