

LIR Club Descriptions

Bocce Ball

If you enjoy being outside and playing a sport that doesn't require a lot of talent or skill, Bocce Ball is the game for you. The object of the game is to throw a little white ball (the pallino or jack) down a sand or gravel alley and then try to hit it with a larger concrete ball (a little bigger than a softball). Eight balls are used: four red, four green. Whichever balls are thrown closest to the white ball in each frame gets the points, four points being the most in any frame, but the score may be only one point if one red ball is close, but then a green ball is the next closest.

It's a wonderful game for Learning in Retirement members because it does not require a lot of physical exercise; you simply have to take a small step down into the alley and then roll the ball. Games are played at Prison Brews on Ash Street.

Learning in Retirement has two Bocce teams. Both teams play on Mondays, but the morning team meets at 9:00 a.m., and the afternoon group meets at 12:15 p.m. The teams usually play April through June and September through November. Both teams eat lunch at Prison Brews because they aren't charged anything to play, and the teams want to support a local business. The morning team eats after they play; the afternoon team at 11:15 a.m. before they play.

It's an ideal game for LIR members because, not only does it offer a chance for outdoor physical exercise, but also time for socialization. Sign up – you will agree it's lots of fun.

Book Club

Of the many Learning in Retirement Clubs, the LIR Book Club fits the organization's mission best. The books chosen by the members certainly fulfill the goal of continued learning as the club reads all genres on many topics. In addition, LIR's goal of sharing knowledge and experience is exemplified each month as the members share their thoughts on the books read. But the best sharing of the book club is that of laughter, as members offer their comments and opinions on the current read. Join us at 1:30 on the fourth Monday of each month. Every LIR member is welcome.

Bridge Club

The card game of bridge can be challenging to the mind, but it is not overly difficult to learn. It involves one deck of cards; you play as partners and change partners as well as opponents throughout an afternoon of card playing. This not only allows you see how other people play the game of bridge (there are several styles of bridge used), it also allows you meet several people in small group settings. giving you a personal interaction with other bridge partners/opponents.

If you are looking for a serious card playing group, this may not be your cup of tea. The group does have some serious moments, but that is only if you measure moments in seconds (and very few seconds to the moment). But if you are into a fun time with card playing as a secondary objective, this might just might be what the doctor ordered.

If you have never played bridge and would like an opportunity to observe the game to see if it is game that might pique your interest, come on out to the Lincoln University ROTC building at 1:00 p.m. the first or second Monday of the month and watch an afternoon of bridge at your leisure and as your time allows for that day. Reservations are not required but, it is helpful to contact the LIR office in order to confirm there is no cancellation of bridge on the day you wish to observe. Come and join us if you already know how to play bridge and would like to participate.

Canasta

Canasta is a fairly simple card game that has the object of making a canasta while accruing points and then going out. A “canasta” consists of 7 cards of the same “number”, such as Jacks or 7s. A canasta can have up to 3 wild cards in it, but must always have at least 4 of the “naturals” (ex. Jacks or 7s). There are specific canasta decks with the cards marked with the points on them and they make it much easier to determine which cards can first be put down to make an initial “meld” (first placement on the table) or to tally the final points in the hand.

For example, Jokers are worth 50 points, and 2s, which are all “wild” are worth 20 points each. Also, red 3s give a bonus of 100 points each. A table usually consists of 4 players – 2 sets of partners – but can also have only 2 or 3 players, with those players then playing only for themselves. When 4 people are playing, 11 cards are dealt; if 2 or 3 people are playing, 13 cards are dealt. Multiple hands are played with three “tiers” of successively higher points requirements in order to put down initial melds. The final goal is to accumulate 5000 points through a combination of the points given for going out, having canastas and having red 3s.

Dominoes

We play Mexican Train Dominoes. This is a fun game and is easily learned. It is played with a double twelve set of dominoes. Our tiles have colors so it’s easy to identify the suit – if it’s yellow, it’s a six; orange, it’s a ten. The object of the game is to be the first to play all of your dominoes. Since the game is not played with partners, there is no problem with having an odd number of people. Everyone can play.

We are always happy to have new players and are willing to help if you are learning the game. Our players are not very competitive; the primary goal is to have a good time. Nobody really cares who wins. Hopefully, it’s also helping to keep our brains sharp!

Hand and Foot

Do you enjoy a good game of cards? Then you might enjoy trying a game you haven’t played before – Hand and Foot. Each player chooses two sets of 13 cards each; one becomes the hand, which is played first, and the other the foot, which can only be played after all cards in the hand are played. Usually, four players are at each table and partners are played; however, if a table doesn’t have four players, each person plays for himself/herself. The game uses five decks of cards—one for each person playing, plus an additional deck, so a game with four players would use five decks of cards.

The game consists of four rounds with each round requiring more points than the previous round to be able to “lay down” your cards. The goal is to play all the cards in your hand and then your foot to create melds of seven cards and score more points than your opponent. A game takes about two hours, but no time limit is set.

The game is different from other card games (maybe a little rummy, a little canasta) and although it seems difficult, new players catch on quickly and enjoy it very much. The most difficult parts of the game are having enough points in your hand to lay down, and then counting all those points you’ve racked up!

Jammers Music Club

Few things offer as many benefits as music. Whether we are listening, singing together, playing an instrument or dancing, music soothes our body and soul. Enjoying music in a group, improves our mental health and mood, helps us deal with our troubles and cares, gives us a sense of belonging and fellowship.

The LIR Jammers Club serves this purpose for its six current members. They meet every other Monday morning, 10:30am at the St. Joseph Lutheran Home Chapel at 1306 West Main. Our sessions last about two hours and we play all genres. Currently, we have members playing piano, guitar, violin, and percussion. In the past we have had banjo, ukelele and mandolin players. Do you play an instrument? Are you looking for fellow music lovers to jam with? The Jammers would welcome you. We are a casual bunch with a range of talents.

When we are not “practicing” we are performing for our fellow retirees that are confined to nursing homes. It is a joy when they recognize the songs, tap their toes and join in the singing. We typically play familiar tunes.

If you play an instrument, we would love to have you. If you are not sure, you can come set in on one of our practices to see if this would be a good fit for you. For more information contact Colleen at 573-308-0615.

Liverpool Rummy

We have a new card club called Liverpool Rummy. The game is played at Lincoln University’s, Soldier’s Hall on the first and third Tuesday at 10 a.m. If interested in joining this club contact the facilitator, Sue Barnes at suebarnes53@gmail.com or by phone number at 573-291-3467.

Liverpool Rummy is played with a minimum of 3 players and a maximum of 8 players. The object of the game rounds is to complete a specific set of melds, known as a contract. Melds come in the form of sets and sequences (runs). A set is three cards of the same value (example: 5-5-5). A sequence, or run, is four cards of the same suite and consecutive value (example: 10, J, Q, K). In each round, the contract will increase with difficulty.

Contracts by Rounds:

Round Number	Dealt Cards	Contract Requirement
1	10	Two Sets
2	10	One Set and One Sequence
3	10	Two Sequences
4	10	Three Sets
5	12	Two Sets and One Sequence
6	12	One Set and Two Sequences
7	12	Three Sequences (all cards in 3 sequences must be laid down at once with that player going out)

Liverpool Rummy is scored by calculating the sum of the remaining cards in each player’s hand after a player has won a round. When a player wins a round, that player’s score for that round is zero. The player with the lowest score at the conclusion of all seven rounds wins the game.

Mah Jongg

Do you want to keep your mind sharp and active, and have fun at the same time? If so, Mahjongg is for you. Mah Jongg is a 2,000-year-old Chinese game and one of the most popular in the world. It is a tile-based game that's been played in Asia for over 300 years and is gaining global popularity.

The goal of Mah Jongg is similar to poker, in that the aim is to make matching sets and pairs. It is a game of skill, strategy, calculation, and some luck. It is a great pastime and stress reliever. It is also entertaining, addictive, and fairly easy to learn the basics.

All are welcome to join in the fun; beginners and novice players. LIR members enjoy this fun experience the first and third Tuesday of every month in Soldiers Hall from 1:30 pm until 4:30 p.m. "Let the Game Begin!"

Pinochle

Pinochle (pronounced pea-nukkle) is a [card game](#). Our purpose and goal are to meet with and enjoy the game with others, while benefiting not only from the mental exercise of the game, but also the social interactions. Anyone who has never played or has not played recently is taken underwing and taught or refreshed. Pinochle is played with three or more players; ideally four players per team.

Pitch

Let's play pitch! The Pitch Club gets together two times a month to have a good time, make friends, and keep the brains working with the great game of 10-point pitch. The game itself is one of strategy and luck. Each player bids on his hand, based on number of cards in a suit and the number of points each is worth. It helps if your partner has some cards in the same suit.

While the game itself makes you think, it is not so complex, that you can't enjoy each other's company. We pitch players enjoy talking and laughing as we play. So, when we say, "Let's play pitch", we mean let's have fun.

Scrabble

Scrabble was invented by an out-of-work architect, Alfred Butts, in 1932. He was attempting to combine chance and a word game with a score. It was discovered by the President of Macy's, who ordered sets for his store. It was trademarked in 1948. Many people don't want to play Scrabble because they are concerned about their ability to spell, but it's far more a game of chance than spelling skill which will make you a winner. If you wind up being dealt five As and only one consonant, no matter how good a speller you are, you're going to have difficulty. If the player before you chooses to use the spot you were aiming for, you're out of luck.

Our LIR Scrabble group meets on the first Thursday of each month from 1 to 3 pm, and we'd love to have more players. We can easily use an odd number of players, since there are no partners in Scrabble. We occasionally have someone challenge a word, but more often than not, we agree to accept the spelling but will look up the word in our latest Scrabble dictionary for our own information. We have no prizes, but a lot of fun, and would love to have you join.

Thread Heads

ThreadHeads focuses on any type of hand work that uses threads or fibers. So far, we have people who enjoy knitting, crochet, quilting, needlepoint, embroidery. We are open to other forms of crafts.

We meet the first Wednesday of each month in Soldiers Hall from 9:30 - 11:30. Everyone brings their own project to work on.

Walking/Hiking

The Walking/Hiking Club meets weekly on Thursday morning at various walking paths throughout the city. The facilitator sends out a weekly notice specifying the location of the walk and directions. Meeting times are at 8:30 in the summer and 9:30 in the winter. There are varying speeds of walkers from slow to medium speed walkers. Come join us!

Writers

The LIR Writers' Club is an outgoing, diverse group of people, where individuals meet that have something to say. It meets monthly, in Room 8 of Soldiers Hall, on the Lincoln University campus. It is currently a small club but is growing in members who enjoy sharing life experiences through their stories and hearing the stories of other members.

The Writers' Club coordinator selects a life event or likely in common occurrence each meeting, which is suggested as the proposed subject for the next month's writing topic. Topics are usually just one word or a short phrase. For example, one month's being "Graduation(s)," - very appropriate for the month of May. Another 'topic for the month' was "Memorable Grandparent(s)," which really sparked old memories in the minds of club members, resulting in interesting stories.