

2023 LIR HISTORY

Membership numbers have continued to rebound from the decline experienced during COVID. Membership has increased from 329 in 2020 to 363 in 2023.

Previously the LIR website was hosted by Lincoln University. In 2023 LIR inaugurated a new website (www.lirjc.org). The new website is easier for members and search engines to access. In addition, the LIR webmaster has added a lot of information to the website. Members can now access information about the history of LIR and LIR activities on the website.

Members were offered the opportunity to participate in 8 trips and 13 classes in the Spring and 9 trips and 21 classes in the Fall.

In late 2023, a new club, Liverpool Rummy, was added to the clubs line up.

A trip to several parks and gardens in Kansas City in July was canceled due to an extreme heat wave—the first trip LIR has ever canceled. (Even in 2019, the morning after a tornado roared through Jefferson City a trip to the Fox Theater went off without a hitch.)

The winter general membership meeting was held on January 18th at a new venue, the Wardsville Lion's Club. Approximately 160 members and guests attended. At this meeting, the membership voted to amend the constitution to include the Clubs Committee chairperson and the Newsletter Editor as voting members of the Board.

Carol Ellinger and Kathel Cooper were honored with lifetime memberships.

The July general membership meeting was attended by about 165 members. Entertainment by Mike Michelson and a hearty sing-a-long enlivened the meeting.

The holiday social was held December 6, 2023, at the Masonic Lodge.

Because of some postal service hitches in December, 2022, the Board decided that the Learning Times newsletter would not be mailed until after the New Year's holiday. In addition, the Board voted to move the January general membership meeting from the third to the fourth Wednesday of January in order to allow the travel and curriculum committees more time to process registration forms before the meeting.

LIR now has bookcase in Room 8 where members can donate books and take books they would like to read.

Because of the expense of issuing so many small (\$3) checks for refunds for class cancellations, the Board voted in August to revise policy to issue vouchers to be used for future classes instead of cash refunds. Another policy change this year was to extend a 50% discount to escorts for trips. Previously, the discount was limited to the coach fare.

In October the Board authorized the purchase of plaques honoring the founders of LIR and the members of the first Board of Directors. These two plaques are now proudly displayed in the LIR office.

In December the travel committee conducted a travel survey to help guide future travel planning. Ninety (90) responses were received.