

OLLI Personal Computer User Group
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University

Report of 2019 Activities to OLLI Board of Directors
Meeting of January 17, 2020

The OLLI Personal Computer User Group, or OPCUG, has completed its eleventh year of operation. This club activity serves members interested in Windows and Apple PCs, smartphones, tablets, digital photography and related technology. During the year, 73 OLLI members participated as dues-paying (\$5.00) OPCUG members. Others were guests at various 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 programs four Virtual Technology Conferences a year on Saturday afternoons, with five or more sessions, that can be viewed on-line, and via YouTube following the conferences.

Total attendance for 12 OPCUG Saturday monthly meetings was 574, an average of 48 per meeting. A PC Clinic was held in June and December, to assist members with computer problems, with five or six folks seeking help each session.

OLLI's videoconferencing equipment is linked to Zoom, a cloud-based video meeting service, to allow members unable to attend the physical meeting to see and hear the presentations and meeting activities via the Internet. Remote attendees (one to eight per session, 53 total in 2019) have participated from Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Most meetings, with permission from the presenters, are recorded for later viewing for those unable to attend, or wishing to review the material again.

Meetings were 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. Outside speakers and topics covered: Aaron Davis, Apple – Apple Ecosystem and Updates (two sessions); Jason Samenow, Washington Post – Washington Weather and Climate; Andy Livingston, LAD Consulting – Google: Much More Than Search; Fairfax Cty Dept of Cable and Consumer Services (2 Sessions) – Watching TV on the Internet, Digital Literacy – TV and Beyond; Dr. Brian Belanger, Capital Radio & TV Museum – The Murrow Boys: News Broadcasting in WWII.

Topics scheduled or in planning for 2020 include: Cellphone Configuration to Avoid Robocalls; Staying Safe On-Line; Television in the 1920s; History of Computing (two sessions).

Later this year, PATACS will present a \$250 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 \$2250 to the Friends of OLLI, and in 2010, donated three new, ACER flat panel monitors, valued at \$358, for use at PC Clinics. OPCUG dues funds were used to jointly purchase two web cams with PATACS for use at meetings, and jointly pay for the Zoom connection to OLLI's videoconferencing gear.. 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
January 3, 2020