

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Delaware
Kent/Sussex Counties Council Minutes
Via Zoom
January 9, 2026

In attendance: Tom Kelly, Chair; Susan Salkin, Co-Chair; Staff: Karen Asenavage Loptes, UD OLLI Statewide Director; Monica Browne, K/S Program Manager; Lisa Coldiron, Program Coordinator; Tracey Marino, Office Support. Voting Members: Donna Nacchia, Finance Chair; Deb Roberts, Academic Affairs Co-Chair; Nick Simmonds, Strategic Planning Chair; Jim O'Leary, Academic Affairs Co-Chair; Madeleine Nichols, Library Chair; Marge Felty, Social Co-Chair; Trudie Thompson, Community Relations Co-Chair; Denise Kaercher, Community Relations Co-Chair; Marty Rosensweig, Marketing Chair. Non-Voting Members: Connie Benko, Ex-Officio; Katherine Henn, Recording Secretary; Lynn Kroesen, Catalog/Communications Co-Chair; Rosemary Engle, Member Relations Co-Chair; Elizabeth Jelich, Travel Co-Chair; Wendy Leicht, Catalog/Communications Co-Chair.

Quorum was present.

Tom Kelly called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

The agenda was accepted.

Minutes: The Minutes of the OLLI Kent/Sussex Council Meeting of November 14, 2025, were approved with the following correction: The line "Susan Salkin introduced two new council members who had both won *anonymous* elections", striking *anonymous* and replacing with *unanimous*.

Motion to approve as corrected: Nick Simmonds
Second: Denise Kaercher
Passed Unanimously

Staff Reports:

Karen Asenavage Loptes, UD OLLI Statewide Director: Her report was filed on the Council Repository before the meeting. She highlighted the increase of 6.5% membership over last Spring and noted that Gary Quinton would be processing a volunteer UD and Community Connections form and suggested that Community Partners should be included. The Statewide Code of Conduct was approved. The Strategic Planning still needs some work and will be sent to the Marketing Department. Mark Clodfelter will review by January and Kim Isett by February.

Monica Browne, UD OLLI Kent/Sussex Manager; Her Report was filed in advance. She noted monies raised from the Giving Tuesday amounting to \$1600 will be posted to the Scholarship Fund. Membership goals were 450 for Sussex and 125 for Kent. Freeman Foundation grants for nonprofit organizations are under investigation. The mentoring program is still seeking members.

Lisa Coldiron, Program Coordinator: The report was filed before the meeting. A new system will be used for Instructor Evaluations in the future. Open Houses were well attended with new instructors volunteering in Ocean View. The total classes offered for Spring 2026 are currently 64 classes for Lewes of which there are 22 hybrid classes; 18 classes for Ocean View with 2 hybrid classes and 19 classes for Dover with 9 hybrid classes. There were currently 876 members registered for the January Explorations.

Committee Reports

Committee Reports are filed on the Council Repository before the meeting.

Old Business:

State Strategic Plan Update: See Director's Report above.

Finance: The Financial Materials are filed under Financial Information. Council has oversight and will look for the Financial Report in advance of the monthly Council Meeting.

New Business:

Instructor Orientation Plans: Tom Kelly and Lisa Coldiron: reported on new processes for cancelling class with notifications to the staff and a "Fire Safety" program offered for instructors.

Marketing: Tom Kelly and Marty Rosensweig: Members from Council will be selected to be on the Committee. Committee tasks will be formulated.

Announcement: Tom Kelly

Happy Hours:

Lewes: January 20, 2026, at The Wheelhouse 4 – 6 p.m.

Dover: January 15, 2026, at The Greene Turtle 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

The Meeting adjourned with a motion made by Denise Kaercher, Second by Deb Roberts approved by all at 2:38 p.m.

Next Council Meetings:

February 13, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

March 13, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

April 10, 2026 @ 1:00 p.m.

Katherine Henn
Recording Secretary