A logo for a community

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A blue and black logo

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A group of women eating at a table

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**New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning**

**Annual Report**

**2024 - 2025**

We’ve had a wonderful year at New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning! We’ve had some fantastic classes, come through some tough times together, worked together, and had fun together. We also might have learned a few things along the way.

**A Thriving Community**

We have more new members this year thanks to current members encouraging friends, family, and strangers to join. We have had an impressive variety of classes, hosted two successful Open Houses, had a creative Holiday Luncheon, had Study Halls and Out to Lunches in several different locations in the Valley. These all encouraged a sense of community and the opportunity to make new friends! We discovered many ways to give back to our community.

**A Strong Leadership Team**

A person smiling at camera

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Our Council proved how dedicated they are by the way they pitched in helping with the transition of Presidents mid-year. The death of Cindy Schrantz, our President, took us all by surprise. Without Cindy’s help and guidance (and computer files), we still succeeded in achieving our goals. I am sincerely grateful for the assistance, guidance, and patience of the committee chairs (Suzanne Brown, Curriculum; Mary Boehlen, Membership; Arlys Medlicott and Joanne Handlong, Social; Dawn Fleming, Communications; Allan Zisner, Technology; Mary Adamick and Dan Taylor, Volunteer) and a special thanks to Debby Smith our MCC Liaison who helped us keep going after our former assistant, Neva Hansen, resigned. Debby had the knowledge and skills to keep us going. Many thanks to Allan Zisner for stepping into the Vice President seat. Pat King, Secretary, kept me on task; Fred Searing, Treasurer, kept us on budget: and Jan Lorette, Janice Overdorff, and Lois Schaffer, kept us in touch with the rest of the participants. As Past President, Roland Tanner was there to advise as I needed it.

**Jacki McDugle**

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**Building Partnerships**

We continue to work with and strengthen our working relationships with MCC Administration through quarterly meetings with Associate Dean Kathleen Perales and other members of administration as appropriate. We especially appreciate the work of Rob Budach, Vice-President of Administrative Services, and Valerie Stigley, Financial Manager for their advice and input on our operations.

**Looking Forward**

As we move forward, we aim to increase our membership. We remain committed to providing a wide variety of classes, social activities, physical movement opportunities, and volunteer programs to enhance our learning and healthy ageing.

Supporting MCC and our wider community will continue to be a major focus through our volunteer efforts, donation programs, and exposure of opportunities in our community. Each member’s involvement, in whatever way chosen, is the lifeblood of New Frontiers. Together, we are creating a remarkable organization to foster lifelong learning and community. Thank you for being a part of it!

**Curriculum Committee Annual Report**

**Prepared by Suzanne Brown, Curriculum Chair**

During the 2024-2025 school year, NFLL classes were held on-campus, on-line, and at various off-site locations.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Term** | **Summer 2024** | **Fall 2024** | **Spring 2025** | **Total** |
| **Courses** | **37** | **82** | **88** | **207** |
| **Number of Sessions** | **50** | **152\*** | **146\*** | **408\*** |
| **On-line Classes** | **10** | **27** | **30** | **67** |
| **In-Person Classes** | **27** | **55** | **58** | **140** |
| **Overall attendance** | **816\*** | **1672\*** | **1898\*** | **4386\*** |
| **Average Attendance per Session** | **13** | **11** | **13** | **12** |
| * **Weeks** | **8** | **12** | **12** | **32 weeks** |

\*estimates

Individuals presenting courses came from the Membership of NFLL as well as the community. Most presenters gave more than one lecture during the year. The chart below shows individual presenters.

A screenshot of a computer screen

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|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Term** | **Guest Presenters** | **NFLL Presenters** |
| **Summer 2024** | **11** | **10** |
| **Fall 2024** | **22** | **19** |
| **Spring 2025** | **26** | **17** |

**Curriculum Committee accomplishments:**

* Implemented weekly email reminders of courses and events
* Maintained the website Calendar of Events for classes and events
* Assumed responsibility for entering classes into the MCC Room Reservation system
* Worked with ProClass to update information to members and the Registration process.
* Represented MCC throughout the East Valley with classes and events.

Two women hiking on a trail

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**Membership Annual Report**

**Prepared by Mary Boehlen, Membership Chair**

The Membership Committee has many duties, we:

* Recruit new members (we had booths at both Healthy Living Expos at the Aster Centers; had a table at the Holiday Boutique & Car Show at MCC Red Mountain; and had a table at the Augusta Ranch community’s Oktoberfest event);
* Assist in helping people become new members regardless of when they register; Hold two Open Houses (in the Fall and Spring);
* Welcome new members at the New Member Coffee.
* Drop off information at Senior Centers and groups.
* Handle the database which includes sending emails to all members.
* Contact people who have expressed interest in New Frontiers to personally invite them to our Open Houses and by the end of June 2025 we had a total of 207 members.

**Technology Annual Report**

The Technology Committee is responsible for maintaining the New Frontiers website: NewFrontiers.mesacc.edu. The Webmaster keeps all information pages and seasonal information up to date, as well as posting the many photos submitted by members.

A screenshot of a website

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**Year- End Financials**

**July 2024-June 2025**

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A screenshot of a report

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**Communications Committee Annual Report**

The Communications committee continued to look for opportunities to spread the word about NFLL. The committee also looked at ways to improve the way we connect with our members. Program activities are listed below.

* Submitted posts for MCC’s intranet site.
* Published a monthly newsletter to NFLL members.
* Updated NFLL FACEBOOK page in a timely manner.
* Provided marketing presentations to several groups about the benefits of being a member of NFLL. These groups included the Mesa Regal Technology User groups, the Las Sendas Retirement Club, and Technology Club at Sunland Village.
* Represented NFLL at the Aster Center’s Health Living Expos (downtown Mesa) and at Red Mountain Multi-Generational Center.
* Researched and put together lists of possible Mobile Home parks and communities in Mesa to give NFLL marketing presentations.

**Social Committee Annual Report**

The Social Committee actively works to bring NFLL members a wide variety of events to promote social interaction, entertainment, and community awareness. Our committee of dedicated volunteers search out unique venues to dine-in, socialize, and learn new things. Each month we try to bring at least three opportunities to get out and have fun. Our major events include the Holiday Party and Annual Picnic. During the 24-25 year we hosted over 20 different outings including 10 Out-to Lunches, 6 outings, and 9 Study Halls.



A group of people standing next to a toy car

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|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Out to Lunch (attendance)** | **Field Trips (attendance)** | **Study Hall (attendance)** |
| Bucca di Beppo (10) | ASU Mix Center (21) | Barrio Queen (10) |
| Cheesecake Factory (12) | Sunshine Acres (20) | II Vinaio Wine Bar (12) |
| Rancho de Tia Rosa’s (12) | Falcon Field (23) | Uncle Bear’s (8) |
| Holiday Lunch EVIT (73) | TGen Center (16) | Blue 32 (11) |
| Garcia’s (22) | MPD Family Advocacy Ctr (17) | Uncle Bear’s (15) |
| Blue Adobe Grill (11) | ASU Art Museum Ceramics Ctr (14) | Beer Research Institute (7) |
| BJ’s Restaurant & Brewhouse (13) |  | Spinato’s Tempe (10) |
| Annual Picnic Joe’s BBQ (47) | Blue 32 (14) |
| Brunch Crackers & Co (14) | Boulders on Southern (10) |
| AZ Mills Mall Walk & Lunch (12) |  |

Fifty New Frontiers recorded 2,898.50 volunteer hours over this last year. This includes assisting with NFLL committees, facilitating classes, and working on MCC events, i.e., Halloween, Empty Bowls, food and clothing distribution for students, and the Human Library event.

**Volunteer Committee Annual Report**

**Prepared by Mary Adamick and Dan Taylor, Co-Chairs**

New Frontiers sponsored a Volunteer Recognition luncheon held on March 26, 2025, with EVIT students serving 35 volunteers. It was great to hear from the EVIT Superintendent Chad Wilson about the opportunities that students have with the wide variety of classes. Jacki McDugle, President, thanked all the Council members and various committees.

Volunteers are the reason that New Frontiers continues to be successful. All members are always welcome to join in this great direction.

* **Empty Bowls** -This is a fund raiser for Paz de Cristo Outreach Center that helps people struggling with hunger, poverty, and homelessness in the East Valley.
* **Mesa Market** - Provides students with free food, clothing, and hygiene products.
* **We Care Wednesdays** - A food distribution open to all students, staff, and community members in need of food assistance, held the 1st Wednesday at Dobson campus and the 3rd Wednesday at Red Mountain campus during each semester.
* **Books Off the Shelf** - An event that highlights stories from people who have been marginalized, stereotyped, or misunderstood. This event creates new understandings and greater harmony in our community.
* **MCC Theater and Performing Arts Center on Campus** - Ushering during their first-class concerts and performances and getting to enjoy the event.

A group of people sitting at a table

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At the Holiday Luncheon, we assemble donations for the Food Pantry

Several of the volunteers being celebrated at the Volunteer Luncheon



**NFLL Council 2024-2025**

**NFLL Mission**

New Frontiers is an organization dedicated to adults wishing to continue their discovery of knowledge, advance their learning and enhance physical wellness.

We are a Mesa Community College non-credit, community education program designed by and for our active senior community.

With over 230 active participants, NFLL members serve as MCC ambassadors to our growing community of active adult learners;

providing peer-led classes (in person and online), social events, volunteer opportunities, and physical activities like hiking, biking, and walking groups.

**President**: Cindy Schrantz (July 2024-Jan 2025), Jacki McDugle (Jan 2025 – July 2025)

**Vice President:** Jacki McDugle (July 2024-Jan 2025), Allan Zisner (Jan 2025 – July 2025)

**Secretary:** Pat King

**Treasurer:** Fred Searing

**Members at Large:** Jan Lorette, Lois Schaffer, Carolyn Follett, Janice Overdorff

**Curriculum Co-Chairs**: Suzanne Brown, Jacki McDugle

**Membership Chair**: Mary Boehlen;

**Sunshine Lad**y: Diana Pearce

**Technology Chair:** Allan Zisner

**Volunteer Co-Chairs:** Mary Adamick, Dan Taylor

**Current Past President**: Roland Tanner

**Annual Report Editor**: Jacki McDugle

**Photographs:** Suzanne Brown, Marie-France Ganansia,

Joanne Handlong, Allan Zisner

New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning Phone: 480-461-7497

Mesa Community College Website: [New Frontiers](https://newfrontiers.mesacc.edu/) (NewFrontiers.mesacc.edu)

Office of Community Partnerships Email: newfrontiers@mesacc.edu 7110 East McKellips Road

Mesa, AZ 85207



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appointed coordinator: (480) 731-8499. For additional information, as well as a listing of all coordinators within the Maricopa College system, visit [http://www.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination.](http://www.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination)