From the President

Often as a CALL member, I have asked myself the question, “Who are my fellow CALL members?” I realize many of you have responded to questionnaires sent out from the CALL office about your preferences with regard to activities, travel opportunities and volunteer offerings. From these returns and from our mingling at classes, travels, film series and other encounters, I believe all of us are gradually developing certain new familiarities with each other. I hope these associations will lead to new interpersonal acquaintances and friendships. I have concluded that CALL members, by and large, are sociable people and are interested in extending their circle of friends.

But is there a typical CALL member and if so, who would it be or what would that person be like? I shudder to try to describe the typical or ideal CALL member since we are all so different in so many ways. Rather than tell you about the ideal member, let me tell you about a person who would not be a good or ideal CALL member. This would be my friend, Ron Baker, from Wichita, Kansas. He is a real loner and describes himself as such. To prove his point he told me this story of how he insists on always traveling alone. You see, Ron was a small aircraft delivery pilot during the sixties and seventies. This was a lonely job but Ron thrived on it. He rarely traveled outside of North America but one new aircraft delivery was destined for Scotland.

On a cold November day, after an overnight stay in Bangor, Maine, he headed out over the Atlantic toward Newfoundland. He flew the twin-engine plane below ten thousand feet since the cabin was non-pressurized. He passed over Nova Scotia and was midway to Newfoundland and his stopover in Gander when he noticed gradually at first and then unmistakably, a gnawing sound coming from behind his cockpit controls. Scratching sounds from the same site heightened his concern.

He pondered whether to turn back to Halifax or to try to reach Gander, or what other alternatives there were. It seemed as though an unwanted traveling companion had boarded the warm aircraft in Bangor. As a trial solution he reached for his supplementary oxygen mask, placed it over his face and throttled the plane up above twenty thousand feet. Soon his unwanted traveling companion, a large black rat, fell to the cockpit floor. Ron finished him off with a chop from his right boot heel. The rest of the flight was uneventful.

Most of us desire and seek traveling companions along life’s journey. We certainly don’t want rats and I am not sure we would want Ron.

Peter Van Vliet, President of CALL

CALL members are invited to join with new Calvin students for StreetFest, the service-learning portion of Quest, Calvin’s annual three-day orientation for freshmen. StreetFest partners Calvin students, along with faculty, staff and other mentors with over 50 community agencies, organizations and churches in several Grand Rapids neighborhoods. Groups are assigned to a half day of service that does more than expose students to the world beyond Calvin’s borders - it also strengthens ongoing partnerships between Calvin and the community. “Mentors” introduce students to the organization and community and work alongside them for a couple hours. For more info or to sign on, contact Audrey Van Vliet, 616-940-1949, or Tom Weeda, 616-243-6074. You are also invited to work with “Ready for Life” young adults with disabilities at Everyone’s Evergreen Garden near Hudsonville. “Visit” the garden at www.myspace/my2garden. For more information, call Lori Gesink at 526-6581.

Good News! At its meeting on June 6, 2007, the CALL Board approved the recommendations of the task force to initiate a program of both domestic and international trips of length approximately 7-16 days. Consistent with CALL’s mission, these trips should involve the opportunity for “enriching the lifelong spiritual, intellectual, cultural, and social lives of its members”. The Board authorized the formation of a new standing committee to plan and implement these trips.

Thanks to all of you who responded to the survey; we were very pleased with the level of response, and are very excited about the extent of interest in and enthusiasm for this program. Look for further information about the first few trips within the next couple of months.
Member Events Committee
Don Lautenbach, Chair

Jun 28-29 [Thur-Fri] Lighthouse Tour
Reservations are full, waiting list only. Participants in the Lighthouse trip should have received an itinerary and a request for information on car make and license number for overnight parking.

Questions, call Jeanne or Clarence Vos at 949-2888

Aug 7, 8 & 9, 2007 [Tue, Wed, Thur] Celebration Belle River Boat Cruise. Reservations are full, waiting list only. Questions, call Don or Shirley Lautenbach 698-9244

Sep 12-13 [Wed-Thu] The Stratford Trip. Reservations are full, waiting list only. Participants in the Stratford trip will receive an itinerary and a request for information on car make and license number for overnight parking. Final payment is due August 1

Questions, call Jeanne or Clarence Vos at 949-2888

Are You Interested?
Proposed for April or May 2008 – Civil War Battlefield Trip. The trip would include: Gettysburg and Antietam battlefields – guided tours, Harrisburg Civil War Museum, lodging at Gettysburg. If there is sufficient interest shown by October 2007, the trip will be scheduled. We need at least 30 persons to proceed. The cost would be approximately $295.

If interested please provide your name to:
Irene Bolthouse c/o CALL
or Don Lautenbach lautdon@juno.com

Curriculum Committee Wally Bratt, Chair

The list of courses for fall 2007 will be announced in the September issue of the CALLNews which will be sent out on August 15. You can expect several new course offerings as well as many favorites.

Diane VanderPool’s knitting class is shown with some of the items they donated to the DeVos Children's Hospital, and to an auction for Gilda's Club.

Summer Committee Peter DeBoer, Chair

Look for pictures on the CALL website (www.calvin.edu/call) of the four day CALL Summer Learning Opportunities day camp. We are delighted that several spouses of Synod delegates joined in the Jewelry Making, Hymnody and Line Dancing classes and the cookout. Many people attended each of Dick Harm's talks on "Along the Way to Becoming the Christian Reformed Church," an excellent series about Secession, 1834-1857 and Becoming a Denomination through each of the 50 year eras between 1857 and 2007.

CALL June Bike Trip