

2025 OLLI at SOU Council Director Candidates

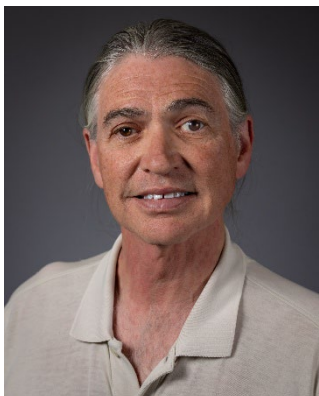
Jane Ballback



I have a master's degree in education and I spent several years teaching and then started a consulting company. I did a great deal of training, human resources and organizational development consulting in companies huge and small in Southern California. When I retired 16 years ago, I did human resources work pro bono for many nonprofits, including OSF. I produced a Ted X event and did a local program for Southern Oregon PBS. Now I am the site coordinator for smart meeting at Walker Elementary and I serve on the board of Camelot Theater.

I have taught and taken several OLLI classes. I am always so impressed at the talent and the topics that gravitate towards OLLI. From my point of view the organization is very well run and I was very impressed with the remodel. Right now, I am helping to organize the book club for OLLI. I love being around people who love education like I do.

Tony Davis



I moved to Ashland in 2016, and joined OLLI the following year. Before that, my career centered on language and computing, primarily in industry but also on the side in academia. My most satisfying moments in both settings came from synthesizing information and working with others to solve problems. Since retiring, I've gotten involved in several of the rewarding pursuits this area offers; taking and teaching various OLLI courses, hiking and backpacking, and volunteering with various local organizations.

OLLi is a unique intellectual and social nexus in this region, and I'd like to help ensure that it continues to flourish and embraces opportunities that can enhance its mission. These include possible uses of space in SOU's planned senior housing, collaboration with other local organizations and other OLLIs, and travel programs. Most important is to maintain the Council's sound oversight, allowing OLLI to offer a wide variety of courses and other activities for its members quarter after quarter.

Fernando Gapasin



I joined OLLI in August 2024. In three terms I participated in fifteen classes, facilitated a history class about Reconstruction and met with OLLI members in the community. My relevant experience includes serving as a Santa Clara County Transportation Commissioner (California); the Executive Board of Portland Jobs with Justice; National co-chair of the Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition; department faculty committees at UC Santa Barbara, Penn State, UCLA and the National Labor College; Executive Boards of four Local unions, three County Central Labor Councils and a State Federation of Labor; and I served as the Executive Director of the third largest union in California. My four skills: I finish my jobs, I keep my word, I aggressively maintain an open mind to ideas different than my own, and I actively listen. I value OLLI's capacity to build community. I want to contribute to OLLI's growth and longevity.

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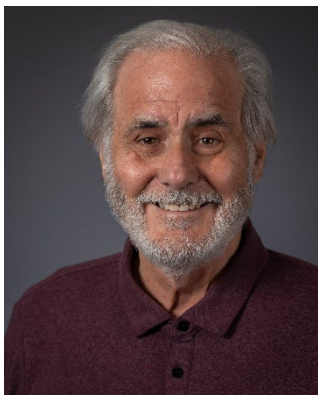
Daya Jaggers



I deeply appreciate, respect and highly value education. I'm impressed with continuing education for seniors and want to bring more attention and intention towards new kinds of learning opportunities, alongside incentives and rewards. I signed up with OLLI last year for the experience of learning and being a student again. This year I applied to teach for the winter term. My background traverses the fields of education, parenthood, personal development, alternative medicine, entrepreneurial ventures, concept design, retail management and the arts.

This broad spectrum has provided a wide based background for working with many types of people and projects. I'm a weaver of ideas, a creative, an objective listener gifted with seeing the bigger pictures, which I take to heart. Sharing my gifts of being an erudite who greatly enjoys researching, brain storming and collaborating. I'm delighted and look forward to achieving positive outcomes that benefit the organization and all involved -- the team, its members and the community.

Ronald Kaufman



My OLLI journey began in 2023 when I started presenting classes and quickly came to appreciate the heart of OLLI, its dedicated volunteer leadership. This spirit of service is what makes OLLI thrive. Earlier in my career, I worked for a multinational computer company, becoming the chief technical architect for one of the world's first online global distribution systems. I traveled widely as a lecturer and soon founded a consulting firm that grew from a one-person operation to 35 engineers. Next, I built a consumer-focused internet company that attracted more than 600,000 members.

Along the way, I've also devoted time to nonprofit leadership: serving as Board Chair of Divorce Recovery, Inc., President of the International Coach Federation of Southern Arizona, and board member for several nonprofits, including an 850-family congregation and a \$100M community foundation. I would be honored to bring a lifetime of leadership, innovation, and collaboration to OLLI's future, especially as we work toward OLLI's 2030 strategic vision.

Tom Woosnam



I joined OLLI shortly after retiring to Ashland in 2019 after a 45-year career as a physics (and sometimes math) teacher in Chile and the Bay Area. I thought it seemed a good way to find a like-minded community and I was right for all the reasons OLLI members know well. After taking a few classes I applied to teach a course and knocked some of the rust off my teaching skills. I can't speak for my students, but I have found it very rewarding to return to the field I had much experience in and to venture into teaching in areas in which I had an interest but no formal qualifications. It was very brave of OLLI to let me do that and in appreciation I think it's time for me to give back and share the knowledge I have acquired serving on one or two other governing Boards.