

# OLLI at SOU 2026 Council Director Candidates



**Council Candidates Forum: Wednesday, May 6, 3:30-5 p.m., SOU Campbell Center**

**Council Director Election: Tuesday, May 12–Wednesday, May 20**



## **Anne Hartridge**

Raised on the north coast of California, I grew up recreating in the Rogue Valley and dreamed of someday moving here. After retiring, I returned to Ashland last year with my husband and our dogs to begin our next chapter. I've loved taking OLLI classes and SIGs and meeting with classmates for discussion and revelry, and I have discovered what you all know - this OLLI is truly something special. The membership is replete with folks who want to learn new things and engage and who bring lifetimes of interesting experiences and skills to share. My goal in running for Council is to help keep this good thing going.

My career as a managing attorney at a large state board has provided me with skills that will make my contributions to the Council useful, and my joy at having been embraced by this community will make it light work. My BA is from Stanford, and my JD is from UC Davis.



## **Susan Plass**

As an OLLI member since 2019, I enjoy taking one or two classes each term and have attended several events. Our OLLI is an exceptional community asset that adds greatly to the quality of life in Southern Oregon and beyond; it was one of the reasons why I decided to move to Ashland. I am interested in becoming a Council Director to help OLLI continue to thrive.

My qualifications include a 26-year career in higher education administration at the University of Oregon and Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC), where I supported academic program development, faculty research, and new institutional initiatives primarily through planning and resource development; I also served on committees advisory to the institutions' presidents and coordinated major special events. Other leadership experience includes serving on a local United Way board and as a publicly elected member of the BMCC Board of Education. I currently volunteer at the Southern Oregon Historical Society, working in the research library and archives.



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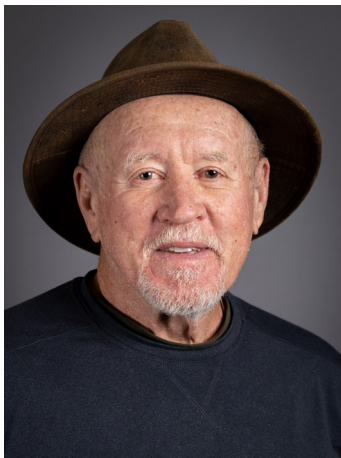
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## **Kevin Talbert**

Much of my professional career was administering lifelong learning at SOU. It inspired me that many people kept curiosity and delight in learning throughout adulthood and later years. It gave my job meaning as I was able to provide opportunities for many to gain skills, better understand the world, and, in some cases, share with others through teaching and mentorship. As one of the founders of Southern Oregon Learning in Retirement (SOLIR...OLLI's predecessor), I joined OLLI in 2025 and it has been wonderful to see how the program has flourished.

My own skills tend to be organizational, having been a manager and a leader on many nonprofits and boards. The OLLI Council may provide me with an opportunity to contribute to OLLI's continuing evolution. I am a good listener and facilitator, enjoy working with others, and bring an open mind to discussions and issues. My goal, if elected, is to support staff and volunteers in furthering the OLLI Strategic Plan.



## **Jacque Walawander**

I joined OLLI before Winter quarter and took my first class last term. Previously I was a member of MOLLI at the University of Montana.

My background is in media, primarily ad sales and specialty publications. In my volunteer life I served on the Board of the Western MT Radio Reading Service for 13 years, including past president. This served low vision people unable to read local newspapers. One of my specialty pubs was Montana 55 senior magazine. At my church I started a children's choir that I directed for 10 years. I also served on the Staff Parish Relations committee for six years, and as chair for three years.

I'm passionate about keeping seniors active and mentally engaged. OLLI is an excellent vehicle to meet and interact with others while stimulating thought. Teaching opportunities provide another great option. The OLLI Council Director position would be a great way to learn about and connect with my new community.



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