

Compiled from Pioneer Council documents

NEWS

Ankeny Press Citizen

DMACC Pioneers keep helping

By Angle Nothdorf
Staff writer

When people retire, often they don't want to forget the place they worked.

They want to maintain contact with co-workers, and continue to support the business. Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) recently started a program for retired staff members who served the college for 10 or more years. The DMACC Pioneers is a group of about 50 people who want to continue service to the school.

Leonard Bengtson, president of the DMACC Pioneers, said although there are about 50 in the group, only about 35 live close enough to make the monthly meetings. Recently, the group adopted a constitution and voted in officers.

Bengtson said DMACC President Joe Borgen thought of the idea a couple of years ago. The group studied various colleges in the United States, but didn't find a program they wanted. So, they had to create their own.

"The group is really committed to the concept," said Bengtson. "They want to keep up with both developments at the college and be of service to the college."

Since the idea was planted, the group has been holding meetings to discuss what the goals of the group would be. Bengtson said the Pioneers have grown into a group with four main goals.

First, they want to help the



The newly formed Des Moines Area Community College Pioneers recently held elections for the organization's officers. The new DMACC Pioneers Planning Council officers include: (front row, l-r) Martha Pestotnik, member-at-large; Pauline Skarda, vice president; Millie Kerr, secretary; and Dona Dan-aher, member-at-large; (back row, l-r) Irv Steinbert, member-at-large; Leonard Bengtson, president; and Curt Smith, member-at-large.

longtime staff members who have left the college to keep in touch with what is going on at the school.

Second, the group wants to provide service to the college in the form of volunteering. So far, Bengtson said the Pioneers have given presentations, assisted with the screening of scholarship applications, and begun work on a scholarship fund for students.

Third, the DMACC Pioneers want to continue the communication and social contacts between the people affiliated with the college.

Finally, they want to provide their members with information

about topics that are important to retired people, such as health care and retirement benefits.

The Pioneers' first meeting is set for Sept. 8. Bengtson said the planning council will hold a short meeting, then the whole group will get together and hear presentations about various subjects. Most of the meetings will deal with what is happening at DMACC.

Since the group is just getting started, Bengtson said it's too early to comment about any plans yet, but service is one of their main goals.

"The college has been good to us over the years," he said. "We want to continue to be of help."

Aug. 30 1994

DMACC Pioneers: The Beginning

The DMACC Pioneers is a group of retired DMACC employees who remain active in DMACC events and provide service and support to the College through special projects and activities including raising money for scholarships for DMACC students. (Pioneer website) The idea for such a group began with Joe Borgen, Leonard Bengtson, and Don Kerr in 1993. After researching organizations at other colleges, the men were not satisfied with what they found, so they decided to create their own approach to the group. A group of retired secretaries had already been formed. They decided to merge with the Pioneers. A Pioneers constitution was written and approved by the college in August of 1994. Those who served as the first officers were Leonard Bengtson, President; Pauline Skarda, Vice President; Millie Kerr, Secretary; and Dona Danaher, Martha Pestotnik, Irv Steinberg, Curt Smith as Members-at-Large.

The goals of the group were to keep members in touch with what was happening at DMACC, to provide service to DMACC by volunteering, to provide communication and social contact for members, and to provide members with information/topics that are important to retired people.

The first meeting was held September 8, 1994. The initial group was about 50 people. At the first meeting, Dale Wagner presented an overview of the college taken from a document prepared by Bengtson. "In March of 1965, the State Board of Public Instruction approved establishment of the college and designated its district as Merged Area XI. In August, Paul Lowery was hired as the College's first superintendent. In February of 1967, 28 students were admitted in four programs at the first instructional site at 2801 Vine Street in West Des Moines."

Original benefits to members included being able to take a free class if an open seat in the class, using library privileges, receiving DMACC Bulletin, using college nurse for blood pressure checks, etc., participating in Wellness program at the same rate as Wellness members, using gym and exercise facility, participation in retirement functions. (Trail Point membership at employee rates was offered in 2017.)

Initially, membership requirements for the Pioneers required that employees work ten years at DMACC. On July 10, 1997, an amendment was proposed to reduce the number of years of service at DMACC to five. It was approved by letter ballot. On September 10, 1996, the decision was made not to require dues for Pioneers. The Constitution was revised in 2003 to allow voting on decisions to be made by members attending Pioneers meetings and to create procedures and time-lines for electing officers and members-at-large. (Jim Dowis, Pioneers President and Dale Wagner, Constitution Committee.)

The first committees were Membership, Garage Sale, Fundraising, Volunteer, and Meetings. With the approach of the 50th Anniversary of DMACC, President Denson asked the Pioneers to form a History Committee to gather history of the college and preserve it in a digital archive. Dale Wagner was the first Historian. Carroll Bennett served as an early Chair of the History Committee. Communications Director was added in 2016 with Dee Johnson serving first in that position.

Contributions to College, Students, Community

Scholarships

1996 - 2 full-time and 1 part-time scholarships for total of \$850

Money to FT and PT students

Reading of scholarship applications (2009 completely online)

Pioneers Star Recognition Scholarship

Student Assistance

Pamela's Pantry - supported with food items (SAC lunch on campus. Student had only 25 cents.
Pamela Parker, Mary Ocker, Laurie Wolf)

Holiday baskets and gift cards

Linda Fernandez

College

Ask Me - coordinated and staffed

Mike Perry

History Project - 50th Anniversary & Beyond

Carroll Bennett

Holiday Party – cohosted with DMACC Board of Trustees

Water Festival (1500 5th graders, started in 1997)

Sponsored the planting of a "pioneer elm" tree near the Eldon Leonard Pier on college's 35th anniversary.

Pioneer Brochure

Pioneer website: www.dmacc.edu/pioneers/ minutes, programs, dates, etc. (Dale Wagner)

Pioneers t-shirts

Sympathy cards – 1997 duty given to Vice-president

Orientation tours of DMACC for new students

Volunteerism to Community

IPTV fundraising

Iowa State Fair

Fundraising Activities

Letters to members requesting money for scholarships

Garage Sale (1995 in \$451.90; over \$11,541 in 2010) (Odds and Ends Sale) in the Diesel lab bldg.

None in 2005.

Book sale Reading's Fun, Ltd.

Younkers Community Day

Kite Festival

Jewelry Sale

Bookstore Matching of \$10,000

Golf Outing

Outstanding Pioneer Award

Nominated by current faculty, staff, or Pioneers. Selected by Pioneer Council.

Presented at college-wide meeting

Recipients

First award given to the organization as a group

2009 Sharon Eckstrom

2010 Dale Wagner

2011 Mike Perry

2012 Dolores Johnson

2013 Marcia Johnson

2014 Pauline Skarda

2015 Carroll Bennett

2016 Lyla Maynard

2017 Shirley Muehlenthaler

2018 Verlyn Noring

Monthly Programs

Kick-off

Veteran's Day

Holiday Party (silent auction)

Valentine's Day Gourmet Lunch

Picnics 1996/Tail-gate

Museums (Ankeny, Albaugh Cars, Aviation, Historical, Military, etc.)

Botanical Gardens/ Reiman Gardens

Day Trips – Sigourney, Jefferson

Guest speakers from community – hobbies, crafts, interests, skills, knowledge

Identity Theft

Service/Therapy Dogs

Movies

Tours of new facilities and programs on campus (Viticulture, Mortuary, etc.)

Senior Topics - Aging Services, Fraud

State Capitol Building

Science Center

Historical presentations – Underground Railroad

Artist Mary Muller

Iowa Genealogical Society

Legislative Day

Iowa Baby Lady

Council Retreats/Annual Reviews

The Council holds regular retreats and reviews to set goals for the coming year and to evaluate progress of the previous year.

Officers and Council Members (2-year terms)

1993-96

Leonard Bengtson	President
Pauline Skarda	Vice President
Millie Kerr	Secretary
Dona Danaher	Member at Large
Martha Pestotnik	“
Irv Steinberg	“
Curt Smith	“
Ardella Jones	

1996-98

Curt Smith	President
Pauline Skarda	Vice President
Joan Adams	Secretary
Bev Andersen	Member at Large
Duane Anderson	“
Dona Danaher	“
Don Huntoon	“

1998-2000

Pauline Skarda	President
Al Wyckoff	Vice President
Mary Harris	Secretary
Duane Anderson	Member at Large

Curt Smith Member at Large

Dona Danaher “

Don Huntoon “

2000-2002

Al Wychoff President

2002-2004

Jim Dowis President

2004-06

President – Dale Wagner Vice President – Chris Schreurs

Secretary- Shirley Jorgensen

Members-at-large – Tom Hildreth, Loretta McCabb, Larry Clauson, Linda Miller, John Wright

College Liaison Representatives – Hedy Ewing, Ciel Friess

2006-08

Sharon Eckstrom President

Mike Perry Vice President

Nyla Schmadeke Secretary

Sharon Miles Member at Large

Carolyn Rudisil Member at Large

Mike Perry Membership Chair

2008-09

Mike Perry President

Dee Johnson Vice President

Gloria Trager Secretary

Warren Pitcher Treasurer

Dennis Hansen, Bonnie McBee, Carolyn Rudisil Members at Large

Carolyn Rudisil	Hospitality
Marilyn Corwin	Program Committee Chair
Gladys Calhoun, Sharon Van Tuyl	Program Co-chairs
Linda Fernandez	Student Assistance
Harlan Giese	Garage Sale
—	Membership
Dale Wagner	Historian (7-9-2009 President Denson requested a DMACC History Committee to be formed)

2009-10

Mike Perry	President
Dee Johnson	Vice President
Shirley Muehlenthaler	Secretary
Warren Pitcher	Treasurer
John Arbuckle, Linda Fernandez, Sandy Wurster, Harlan Giese, Marcia Johnson, Verlyn Noring – Members at Large	

8/13/09 Carroll Bennet chair of Pioneers History Committee

2010-12

Dee Johnson	President
Lyla Maynard	Vice President
Shirley Mulenthaler	Secretary
Warren Pitcher	Treasurer
April Arbuckle	Meeting Programs
Linda Fernandez, Mike Perry	Student Assistance
Carolyn Hildreth	Hospitality
Marcia Johnson , Garlan Giese	Garage Sale
Carroll Bennett, Verlyn Noring	History

Gloria Trager Membership

2012-2014

Lyla Maynard President
Duane Anderson Vice President
Dee Johnson Past President
Shirley Muehlenthaler Secretary
Warren Pitcher Treasurer
Breck Danner Liaison
Linda Fernandez Student Assistance
Mike Perry Student Assistance
Dee Johnson Hospitality
Marcia Johnson Garage Sale
Verlyn Noring Meeting Programs
Kathy Lawyer Membership

2013 – created Communication Director position with Dee Johnson

2014-2016

Shirley Muehlenthaler President
Carroll Bennett Vice President
Marcia Johnson Secretary
Warren Pitcher Treasurer
Lyla Maynard Past President
Breck Danner Liaison
Linda Fernandez Student Assistance
Harlan Giese Fundraising
Dee Johnson Communications Director

Cathy Lawler Membership

2016-2017

Carroll Bennett President
Jan LaVille Vice President
Shirley Muehlenthaler Past President
Marcia Johnson Secretary
Warren Pitcher Treasurer
Mike Perry Student Assistance
Linda Fernandez Membership
Breck Danner Liaison
Dana Zeiser Hospitality
Dee Johnson Communications

2017-2018

Carroll Bennett President
Sue Gibbons Vice President
Ruth Wagner Secretary
Warren Pitcher Treasurer
Dee Johnson Communications
Dana Zeiser Hospitality
Lois Keister Student Assistance
Judith Vogel History
Marian Tonhouse Membership
Breck Danner Liaison

2018-19

President – Sue Gibbons	Past President – Carroll Bennett
Secretary – Ruth Wagner	Treasurer - Patricia Holmes
Hospitality/Volunteers – Dana Zeiser	Membership – Marian Tonhouse
Communications – Dee Johnson	Student Assistance - Lois Keister
Program Planning - Craig McEnany	History – Judith Vogel
Liaison – Breck Danner	

The Pioneers initiated a new program to recognize the volunteerism of its members. The first recognitions were announced at the Fall Kickoff Dinner on September 4, 2018.

Bronze Award Recipients: Mary Chapman, Carroll Bennett, Jan LaVille,

Marian Tonhouse, Ruth Wagner, Don Zuck, and Dee Johnson

Silver Award Recipients: Judith Vogel and Lois Keister

Gold Award Recipient: Dana Zeiser

Bronze recipients received a certificate. Silver recipients received a certificate and an invitation to lunch at the Bistro with President Denson. Gold recipient received a certificate, invitation to lunch with President Denson, and a DMACC medallion.

2019-20

President - Sue Gibbons	President Elect – Dana Zeiser
Secretary -	Treasurer – Patricia Holmes
Communications – Dee Johnson	Student Assistance – Lois Keister
Program Planning – Craig McEnany Barb Schmidt	History – Judith Vogel
Hospitality – Bonnie McBee	Student Assistance and Volunteer Activities – Lois Keister
Membership and Volunteer Activities – Marian Tonhouse	



Outstanding Pioneer
Dale Wagner



Dale Wagner was the recipient of the second individual Outstanding Pioneer Award in 2010. Dale served the Pioneers as President, Vice President, Historian, and Constitution Chair.



DMACC Pioneers members celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the organization in 2009. Pioneers started to form in 1993 and held its first meeting in 1994.



CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSES

Section A. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the DMACC Pioneers.

Section B. PURPOSES

1. To provide financial support and services to Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) and DMACC students, administered through the DMACC Foundation.
2. To provide opportunities for members to maintain contact with DMACC and to remain informed concerning its continued development.
3. To promote continued friendship and fellowship among members.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section A. REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Any person who is an early or regular retiree, or one who has left permanent full or part time employment with the College, after a minimum of five years of such service is eligible for Regular Membership.

Section B. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Individuals who have rendered significant services to DMACC over a period of time, a minimum of five years, and who were either long-term temporary or adjunct employees, Ex-DMACC Board members, or Department of Education retirees.

ARTICLE III: STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Section A. OFFICERS

Officers of the DMACC Pioneers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Immediate Past President.

Section B. LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The membership of the Leadership Council shall include President, Vice-President, Secretary Treasurer, six members-at-large, Immediate Past President and DMACC Liaison.

Section C. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COLLEGE

The DMACC President and DMACC Foundation will appoint a member of the DMACC staff to serve as Liaison between DMACC, the DMACC Foundation and the Pioneers. Such appointment shall be a continuing one until a new appointee is named. The Liaison representative shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Leadership Council.

In addition to the Liaison representative, the College provides assistance and support to the Pioneers in a number of ways, including but not necessarily limited to:

1. Providing facilities for regular meetings of the Leadership Council and for DMACC Pioneer group functions, as appropriate and available.
2. Processing of financial transactions through the DMACC Foundation and DMACC Business Office.
3. Access to office space.
4. Limited clerical assistance as appropriate and arranged by the Liaison representative.

Section D. RULES OF ORDER

Robert's Rules of Order Revised, by Henry Martin Robert shall govern the proceedings of the organization unless otherwise specified.

ARTICLE IV: AMENDMENTS

Section A. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Leadership Council followed by approval of 60% of those members in attendance at the meeting in which the vote is taken.

Section B. Members of the DMACC Pioneers will be notified of proposed changes to this Constitution through an announcement in the DMACC Bulletin for two publications.

PROCEDURES OF THE DMACC PIONEERS

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP

Section A. The Leadership Council shall be responsible for membership recruitment and promotion.

ARTICLE II: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section A. The Leadership Council will supervise nomination and election procedures. The Immediate Past President will chair the Nominating Committee.

Section B. Officers will be elected to two-year terms.

Section C. Members-at-Large will be elected to two-year terms, with three being elected each year.

Section D.

1. A general announcement of the upcoming elections will occur at the April meeting.
2. Election of officers and members-at-large will occur at the June meeting. Voting for the nominees will be by members present at the June meeting, with the nominee for each office receiving the plurality of votes being declared the winner.
3. Rotation of officers for the election process: President, Vice-President and three members at large will be elected in even years, Secretary, Treasurer, and three additional members at large will be elected in odd years.
4. Newly elected officers and members-at-large will take office on July 1.
5. In case of a vacancy in an office, the President will appoint a member to fulfill the unexpired term of office with the approval of the Leadership Council.

ARTICLE III: COMMITTEES

Section A. The Planning Council will establish such committees as needed, both standing and ad hoc.

Section B. The President of DMACC Pioneers will appoint committee members.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP DUES

Section A. No dues will be assessed to members of the DMACC Pioneers. In lieu of membership fees, members will be expected to make financial contributions and/or participate in fund raising activities to support the Pioneers Scholarship, Special Purpose and/or Endowment Funds through the DMACC Foundation.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS

Section A. Any provision of these procedures may be suspended, altered or amended by majority vote of the Leadership Council and approved by a majority of members in attendance at the meeting in which the vote is taken.

Revised September 2013

DMACC PIONEERS

PROCEDURES

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP

The Leadership Council shall be responsible for membership recruitment and promotion.

ARTICLE II: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section A. The Leadership Council will supervise nomination and election procedures. The Immediate Past President will chair the Nominating Committee.

Section B. Officers will be elected to two-year terms.

Section C. Members-at-Large will be elected to two-year terms, with three being elected each year.

Section D. Elections will proceed as follows:

- i. A general announcement of the upcoming elections will occur at the April meeting.
- ii. Nominations of candidates will occur at the May meeting.
- iii. Election of officers and members-at-large will occur at the June meeting.
- iv. Voting for the nominees will be by members present at the June meeting, with the nominee for each office receiving the plurality of votes being declared the winner.
- v. Rotation of officers for the election process will occur on a fiscal year basis: President, Treasurer, and three members at large (Communications, Programs, and Hospitality) will be elected in even years; Vice-President, Secretary, and Immediate Past President, and three additional members at large (Membership and Student Assistance) will be elected in odd years.
- vi. Newly elected officers and members-at-large will take office on July 1 of the new fiscal year.
- vii. In case of a vacancy in an office, the President will appoint a member to fulfill the unexpired term of office with the approval of the Leadership Council.

ARTICLE III: COMMITTEES

Section A. The Leadership Council will establish such committees as needed, both standing and ad hoc.

Section B. The President of the DMACC Pioneers will appoint committee and project members.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP DUES

Section A. No dues will be assessed to members of the DMACC Pioneers.

Section B. In lieu of membership fees, members will be expected to make financial contributions and/or participate in fund raising activities to support the Pioneers Scholarship, Endowment and Special Purpose Funds.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS

Any provision of these procedures may be suspended, altered or amended by majority vote of the Leadership Council and approved by a majority of members in attendance at the meeting in which the vote is taken.

Approved by Pioneers Leadership Council February 9, 2017

VOLUNTEERS

PIONEER DIRECTORS - 2017-2018

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	Carroll Bennett
VICE PRESIDENT	Sue Gibbons
SECRETARY	Ruth Wagner
TREASURER	Warren Pitcher

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL/COMMITTEES

COMMUNICATIONS PARTICIPATION Dee Johnson

FINANCIAL SUPPORT Warren Pitcher

HISTORY Judy Vogel

HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS Dana Zeiser

PROGRAMS Verlyn Noring

STUDENT ASSISTANCE Lois Kiestler

LIAISON Breck Danner

Fall Kickoff 2017



FRIENDS • FUN • SHARING • CARING

"The Pioneers are a dedicated group of retired and former DMACC faculty and staff.

With many diverse skills and talents, we have helped shape what the College has become today.

Pride in accomplishment is shared by all Pioneers. Our collective memories of past events and milestones is our legacy.

Association with the friends and family of DMACC is our strength."

PIONEER ACTIVITIES & INITIATIVES

PIONEERS SUPPORT ACTIVITIES TO DMACC IN 2016-17

- Pamela's Pantry (food donations and Holiday Food cards from members to DMACC students totaling over \$500)
- Read, ranked and reviewed scholarship applications for the DMACC Foundation Scholarships
- Allocated \$20,000 in scholarships to DMACC students in 2016-2017
- Co-hosted the annual DMACC Holiday Party with the DMACC Board of Directors
- Volunteered members' time to support many DMACC groups and activities

MAJOR PIONEER ACTIVITIES IN 2016-17

- Conducted our first all-day field trip to Sigourney, IA
- Held annual Veteran's Appreciation Recognition program
- Revised and updated major Pioneer documents (Constitution, Procedures and position descriptions)
- Conducted a retreat including leadership committee members and selected Pioneers
- Elected five leadership council members (four new).

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2017-2018

- Promote expansion of Pioneer volunteer activities to support DMACC
- Increase the number of Pioneers who participate in group activities
- Increase Pioneer organization's contributions to DMACC Scholarships
- Plans for 2017-2018 with DMACC Ankeny Campus Library to establish a history archive

DMACC PIONEERS 2006 SOUTH ANKENY BLVD
BLDG. 22 • ANKENY, IA 50023
515.964.6868 • PIONEERS@DMACC.EDU
WWW.DMACC.EDU/PIONEERS
FACEBOOK: DMACC PIONEERS



PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 5, 2017
4:30 PM
FFA ENRICHMENT CENTER
ROOM 107

- 4:30 Registration and Social Time
 - 5:00 **GROUP PHOTO** by Dan Ivis
 - 5:15 **DINNER** catered by Smoky D's
Music: Verlyn Noring, pianist and John Crabb, drummer
 - 5:45 **WELCOME: Carroll Bennett**
President, DMACC Pioneers
 - 6:00 **DMACC UPDATE: ROB DENSON**
President, DMACC
 - 6:30 **DMACC FOUNDATION UPDATE**
Tara Connolly
Executive Director, DMACC Foundation
- SOCIAL TIME**

Special Thanks to Ankeny HyVee North & Jodie Kinsey Floral Department Manager (former DMACC Graphic Design graduate) for the donation of the centerpieces.



Pioneers 2017-2018 Council: (Front)Carroll Bennett, President; Dana Zeiser, Hospitality; Ruth Wagner, Secretary; Breck Danner, Liaison (Middle) Dee Johnson, Communications; Lois Keister, Student Assistance; (Back) Warren Pitcher (Financial Support); Judith Vogel, History; Sue Gibbons, Vice President; Verlyn Noring, Programs.



DMACC Pioneers at 2017 Fall Kickoff Dinner. Photos taken by Dan Ivis in FFA Building.