

-January-

The Face of Aging in Minnesota

Tuesday, January 10, 1:30-3:30 P.M.

By the end of 2030 the oldest boomers will be starting to turn 85, the youngest will be turning 66. Minnesota's over 65 populations will double between 2010 and 2030, and by then more than 1 in 5 Minnesotans will be an older adult. This will present new challenges to communities for the delivery of services such as health care, transportation, recreation, public safety, housing, employment and education. While these services affect all residents, they have a major impact on quality of life issues for older adults. This presentation is designed to help communities better understand the impacts of the demographic shift that is underway.

Kathleen Gilbride, M. Ed, works with the Central MN Council on Aging St. Cloud, MN. She provides technical assistance to state-funded grantees and leads the way in strategies to connect health systems with community resources in central Minnesota. She is active on several committees such the Crow Wing County Aging Coalition, the Central MN Home Safety Coalition and seven ACT on Alzheimer's communities in Central MN. Kathy resides in St. Cloud where she and her husband are caregivers for her 84-year-old mother who has lived with them for 14 years.

-February

Crosby Police Chief Coughlin: Crimes & Drugs

Tuesday, February 13, 1:30-3:30 P.M.

Kim Coughlin took over as Crosby's Chief of Police in January 2004. Kim has 15 years of experience with the Minneapolis Police Department, including patrol, investigations, vice and internal affairs. She earned the rank of sergeant during her tenure at Minneapolis. Kim is originally from this area and has a great interest in making the area a safe and hospitable place to live and vacation. She will discuss the challenges of her job and the issues that she has experienced in her 13 years in Crosby. Audience questions will be encouraged.

Great Decisions:

Session 1-The Waning of Pax Americana

Monday Feb 19, 11 AM - 1:30 PM

-March-

For Peat's Sake

Tuesday, March 13, 1:30-3:30 P.M.

Peat is decayed plant matter that has accumulated in low-lying depressions, (wetlands, bogs or swamps). Peggy Jones, vice president of sales and research at American Peat Technology has worked with APT for the last 10 years. She will explain the procedures and significance of peat in the horticultural turf and agricultural industries and some of the challenges in this industry. APT has developed a state-of-art manufacturing facility that supplies most of North America with peat based microbial carriers. This innovative company is the only one of its kind in the world.

Great Decisions:

Session 2-Russia's Foreign Policy

Monday, March 19, 11 AM - 1:30 PM

-April-

The History, Science and Politics of UFOs

Tuesday, April 10, 1:30-3:30 P.M.

Bob Schultz has been involved in UFO and Paranormal research for 27 years. He is a member of the Mutual UFO Network. Minnesota's chapter website is mnmufon.org. Bob obtained his HAM radio license while in high school and built his own personal cell phone system. He is a retired electrical engineer having designed computer equipment for 30 years. He helped design the Navy's first portable aircraft simulator and the Navy's first transistorized digital computer (NTDS). He designed a graphical display system used by the government to analyze nuclear fusion reactions. Bob is a private pilot having logged 1800 hours including a flight from St Paul to Scotland in a single engine Mooney MK21. He has also been an amateur TV producer for 20 years having produced more than 150 shows on UFOs and the Paranormal and will provide some of this

Great Decisions:

Session 3-China and America: the new geopolitical equation

Monday, April 16, 11 AM - 1:30 PM

-May-

Anecdotes and Insights: Working in Kuwait

Tuesday, May 8, 1:30-3:30 P.M.

After 39 years as a teacher and administrator in the Brainerd School District, Jeff Devaney embarked on an exciting role as principal of a private international school in Kuwait from 2010-2014. While working as principal for 4 years, he also took advantage of opportunities to travel to 28 countries including, Lebanon, India, Tanzania and many Gulf countries. Jeff hopes to clear up some of the misconceptions of the Middle East that Americans have regarding its people, culture and religious practices.

Great Decisions:

Session 4-Media and Foreign Policy

Monday, May 21, 11 AM - 1:30 PM

Special Course: Elderquest Film Series-Year 10

Fridays, May 11 & 18, 11:00 A.M-3:00P.M.

Enjoy films featuring mature adults with their challenges. Come view and discuss thought provoking themes and techniques with Robert Yahnke, PhD Film Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota. This popular course fills up fast. Registration fee required. Bring or buy your lunch at Heartwood Senior Living.

-June-

Life Experiences: Alan Page

Tuesday, June 12, 1:30-3:30 P.M.

Alan Page recently retired after 22 years as a justice on the Minnesota Supreme Court. He will reminisce about early experiences growing up in Canton, Ohio, his sports career with the NFL, and his legal career and active retirement. Mr Page has developed and is involved with the Page Education Foundation focusing on creating educational opportunities for Minnesota students of color. He will also entertain questions from the audience.

Great Decisions:

Session 5-Turkey a Partner in Crisis

Monday, May 2, 11 AM - 1:30 PM