This committee works hard for two or three months, twice a year, arranging for our twice-a-month lectures in six-month time frames including scheduling the dates for Cinema use with Gary Dreyer in the Student Center. These blocks are shown in the schedules we prepare. Then we can relax, except for the member who is to introduce the guest speaker at the next program. This member reconfirms plans with the speaker, arranges to meet the guest speaker in the Student Center, checks to be sure the AV equipment is setup to meet the needs of the speaker, and works out parking arrangements should the guest neglect to bring along the parking permit that has been sent by the ALL office. After the presentation, we give the guest a ball point pen with the ALL logo on it. We never pay speakers, though we can provide mileage at the University’s rate for guests who come from some distance, so the pen (in its velvety pouch) is just a token of our thanks and appreciation.

While the members of our committee do the actual arranging for our programs, we welcome all the suggestions of speakers and topics that members bring to us. With the experiences, knowledge, and contacts that members have, you have a host of ideas that can turn into fascinating programs for all of us. Along with the suggestions, we rely on the committee members’ knowledge of subject matter and potential speakers, as well on ideas that come from media sources (newspaper articles, magazines, etc.). Speaking well of ALL’s reputation, we now have people contacting us, volunteering to do a program for us. We sometimes find ourselves in the luxurious position of having more potentials than there are time slots, which also means that we can't include all the programs we'd like to.

ALL began its programming with lectures, rather than the classes that most learning in retirement groups feature, though we have since added classes and other activities to our increasingly busy calendar. We are one of the few groups that use the lecture format for a learning experience, and we believe we are the only group to do so in Wisconsin. When we go to the annual meeting of Wisconsin’s dozen or so groups, the others are always quite intrigued with our lectures and with our Week of Learning that was based on the idea that we wanted to explore a subject more deeply than can be accomplished on our 90 minute format. Many of the other groups have University staff that handle much of the planning of activities, whereas ALL is almost completely member run. We do have a part-time office assistant, Vanessa Greco, who arranges for having our schedules printed, sends parking materials to speakers and answers untold questions, in addition to her other duties.

The AV personnel, both staff and student, in the Student Center are good to work with. Students setup the computers used for PowerPoint presentations, operate the sound and lighting systems, setup tables for the Membership Committee, and in general make our programs in the Cinema work as smoothly as they do. They do this with friendly smiles.