



MEMBERSHIP FEE FAQs

OLLI is fine the way it is – why do you have to charge a fee now?

Answer: The membership fee is needed to bring our OLLI into alignment with The Bernard Osher Foundation's best practices. Other OLLI membership fees range from \$600 to \$45 per year, but we have decided that \$5 per quarter is sufficient to satisfy the Foundation's guidelines. The fees generated each quarter will be used to fund our new offerings (including evening events and programs that don't require weeks of commitment) and offset costs that impact all OLLI activities.

What do other OLLIs charge for membership fees?

Answer: OLLI at Bradley's membership fee is a great value! For instance, OLLI at Northwestern (Chicago) charges \$600 a year, OLLI at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) charges \$180, and the University of Wisconsin (Milwaukee) charges \$45. **With a fee of \$5 per quarter, OLLI at Bradley is the best deal around.**

Why do we need a fee when we have \$2 million from the Osher Foundation?

Answer: The money from the Osher Foundation is an endowment invested by Bradley University, and we receive 5% of the value of the fund each year. That amount has hovered around the \$110,000 level for the past several years, and **all of it is used to fund the salaries and benefits** of OLLI's Director, Program Director, and Program Coordinator. This staff is responsible for working with our volunteers to develop all of OLLI's programming.

Why should I pay the fee and become a member?

Answer: We are firm believers that a membership-based program can help our OLLI build a stronger sense of community and belonging. **Only members will have the opportunity to sign up for our quarterly programs and receive additional benefits** (discounts, etc.). Your membership fee will also enable us to better plan future programming and maintain the current pricing structure for classes, study groups, and trips.

How will I know I'm a member?

Answer: Your registration receipt will serve as your proof of OLLI membership. We are a lean program, and chose not to spend staff time (and money) on membership cards that would require frequent updating.

Watch your weekly newsletter for more information as the Fall season approaches. If you have any questions, please contact OLLI Director Michelle Riggio at (309) 677-3900 or mriggio@bradley.edu.