

## Coastal Senior College

Part of the 17-member Maine Senior College Network, Coastal Senior College (CSC) was organized in the summer of 2001 in response to a newspaper ad placed by the Director of University College at Thomaston. A steering committee was formed, and we offered our first eight classes at Thomaston Academy to 141 members in the spring of 2002. The steering committee drew up bylaws, recruited instructors, and organized publicity. Coastal remained part of University College until 2021, when it became an independent 501 (c) (3) nonprofit.

Now celebrating our 25th year, we remain an all-volunteer organization. We have a Board of Directors, each of whom must first serve for at least one year on one of our committees. Coastal's committees are the workhorses of the organization. Our committees include: curriculum, nominating, media outreach, activities, technology, and marketing. Our curriculum committee recruits and liaises with our instructors, many of whom are retired university professors. Our instructors lead classes that meet for about two hours during the week, usually for eight weeks during spring and fall semesters, and for a shortened four- to six-week winter session. The success of the college is directly tied to seniors who are willing to help in many different ways.

Today CSC provides intellectual stimulation and comradery through classes, member-led neighborhood walks,\* noontime lecture series, affinity groups, and special events for seniors 50 and older throughout Lincoln and Knox counties. We offer on average 10 to 15 courses each spring and fall, as well as 8 to 10 courses each winter. Our classes are offered on Zoom and at many locations throughout Lincoln and Knox counties. In addition, we were one of the first colleges to pioneer hybrid courses through the use of the Meeting OWL, thanks to the generosity of MSCN.



\* One of our "Village Volunteers" leads a tour of the Finnish Heritage House in South Thomaston.

In just the past year, we have offered courses on algebra and trigonometry, experiential anatomy,\*\* the music of Philip Glass, singing,‡ Benedict Arnold,‡‡ the plays of Oscar Wilde, the loyalists and the Revolution, astronomy, art, poetry, genes and epidemics, and literature. With the continued support of our volunteers, we look forward to many more years to come.



\*\* It's digestive week in instructor Susan Borg's experiential anatomy class!



‡ Instructor Susan Borg leads a singing class at the Waldoboro BugTussle.



‡‡ Students in the Benedict Arnold class make a field trip to the historic Reuben Colburn House and Boatyard in Pittston.



CSC's current Board of Directors