

Mentha Bolton-Bakari

Mentha Bolton-Bakari was born and raised in Mississippi. She moved to Chicago, IL and completed her schooling to become a Licensed Practical Nurse. She then moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where she began her nursing career concentrating on children. She also completed training to become a parent educator and a classroom teacher. She was nominated by her principal to be a member of "Who's Who in American Education." Mentha loved working with special needs youth and their families.

Upon retirement, Mentha moved to Jefferson City. She has volunteered for the Boys and Girls Club and provided service work at the Clark Senior Center and the NAACP. Mentha has been involved with LIR for several years and has served on the LIR curriculum committee for the past four years.

John Gulick

John worked for 45 years in the field of community development. His last position was as Community Engagement Specialist with the University of Missouri Extension based in Osage County. He also worked for MO Department of Economic Development, MO Department of Health and Senior Services, MO U.S.D.A. Rural Development, along with other related organizations.

John retired in 2020 and joined LIR serving on the Travel Committee. John's other retirement volunteer activities include Secretary/Group Tour Coordinator for Osage County Agritourism Council and volunteer Grant Coordinator for Building Community Bridges (a Jefferson City non-profit working to support low-income youth). In 2021, he was appointed as a Board member to the MO River Regional Library non-profit board.

John is a native Nebraskan but has lived in Jefferson City, MO since 1987. He and his wife Sharon have two children – Rachel, and 8th grade special ed teacher at Lewis and Clark and David who is a manager at Culver's Restaurant.

Steve Newman

Steve Newman graduated from Jefferson City High School. He attended the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri where he earned his undergraduate and law school degrees. After 40 years in the private practice of law in Jefferson City, Missouri, he retired from the law firm of Newman, Comley and Ruth PC effective October 1, 2020. He and his wife Tammy enjoy traveling, reading and following the St. Louis Cardinals, Kansas City Chiefs and MU Tigers. Steve is active in the Christopher Casey Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. He is currently helping to build an online national database of approximately 160,000 compatriots and their patriot ancestors. Steve and Tammy are the parents of three adult daughters who live in London, England, Washington, DC and Columbia, Missouri.

Jenny Smith

Jenny Smith is retired from the Highway Patrol Crime Laboratory where she worked as a forensic chemist for 28 years. Prior to that, she worked in the clinical lab at C.E. Still Hospital for 14 years in the capacity of a Medical Technologist. She and husband Tony moved to Jefferson City in 1974 and have two grown daughters. In her retirement she enjoys her grandkids, hiking, biking and reading a good book. She currently coordinates and helps write history articles for a weekly history column in the News Tribune. She is an active volunteer for Historic City of Jefferson and Habitat for Humanity.