

**Lake Currents Article**  
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**MEMBERS JOIN LOWLINC FOR MANY REASONS**

By Carolyn Rourke, Chair, Communications Committee

LOWLINC recently reached its six-month mark as a service organization dedicated to helping Lake of the Woods residents remain in their homes safely and comfortably for as long as possible. To mark the milestone, we interviewed some LOWLINC members to find out what attracted them to the organization and what their experience has been like since they joined.

Joy Boles is one of LOWLINC's founding members...the second person to join. Joy was drawn to LOWLINC by the wide variety of services LOWLINC volunteers perform and the social activities offered. "My birthday is July 4th, and I'm as independent as the day I was born on," said Joy. She likes being a member of an organization she can call on and count on for many of her needs. "The membership fee is very reasonable for everything they do," says Joy.

One third of all services LOWLINC performs each month have to do with driving...to medical appointments, the grocery store and other shopping, and everyday activities like haircuts and pharmacy pickups. Transportation was the main impetus for Tom and Ruth Styles joining LOWLINC. "We have many friends who are glad to drive us," said Ruth, "but we like not having to call upon our friends all the time." LOWLINC has 35 volunteers who have been cleared for driving. All service requests, including transportation, are coordinated by LOWLINC's part-time coordinator, Sparkle Capitano. Ruth says of Sparkle: "She is really 'with it'! Every time I've called her for a ride she's gotten back to me quickly."

For Carol and Lynn Hein, one of LOWLINC's attractions was the light home maintenance services volunteers perform, like changing light bulbs, opening and closing the crawl space vents and watering plants. "There are some things that are more difficult for us to do," says Carol, "and now we don't have to worry about it. That's what we have LOWLINC for. I think it's wonderful." Members also can count on LOWLINC for referrals to professional service providers whose references and backgrounds have been checked. That list now numbers more than 30 preferred service providers.

Peggy Grella, a LOWLINC volunteer, recently became a member. Peggy doesn't need much help now, but if she does in the future, she wants LOWLINC to be here for her. "I'm glad to be both a LOWLINC member and a volunteer. I don't need services now, but there may come a time I need more help, like with transportation. I'm supporting LOWLINC now so it will be here when I need it....People shouldn't have to move just because they don't drive anymore."

If being independent and continuing to live at the Lake is important to you, please visit LOWLINC at [www.lowlinc.org](http://www.lowlinc.org) or call us at 1-855-LOWLINC (569-5462).