Moderated Discussion Groups to be Added to Making the Most of Retirement Programming

Since March 2013 when Making the Most of Retirement was established, the vast majority of the monthly programs have been speaker presentations, generally followed by a question-and-answer session. In February 2016, a second type of program was introduced, the armchair traveler series. During these sessions, presenters have shown slides of their trips, accompanied by a narrative of the contents of their slides.

On October 17, 2018, (1:30 – 2:30) a third type of program will be initiated: Moderated discussion groups. During the offering of these programs, moderators will lead the discussion that focuses on a topic of interest to them as well as to retirees. Thus, these discussions will focus on one or more of the five areas on which programming for Making the Most of Retirement is based: Finances, security, daily living and accommodations, volunteering, personal interests/self-fulfillment. Future monthly programming will involve a mix of speaker presentations, armchair traveler series programs, and moderated discussion groups.

It is intended that these moderated discussion group sessions will appeal to three categories of attendees: (1) those who wish to share their experiences/knowledge with/about the topic of the session; (2) those who wish to learn from the experiences/knowledge of others about the topic; (3) those who wish to ask questions, primarily as a means of becoming more knowledgeable about the topic. Moderators will strive to lead their session in such a way that the three categories of attendees will have their goals for attending the session satisfied and fulfilled. Moderators are not necessarily expected to share a wealth of information about their topic; rather, their role is to facilitate the discussion.

Examples of topics appropriate for coverage during a moderated group discussion session include the following:

1. Estate-planning tips (To be offered on October 17, 2018)
2. Tax-planning tips for retirees (To be offered on January 16, 2019)
3. Caring for the caregiver
4. Downsizing
5. Techniques designed to help one retain his/her memory skills
6. Protecting personal information
7. Content to include in a document created to assist one’s heirs in dealing with the decedent’s estate

Other points:

1. The topic of the moderated discussion groups sessions will be identified in the various mediums by which Making the Most of Retirement monthly programs are announced to the public.
2. Guest moderators are invited to volunteer as a moderator of a discussion group session covering a topic of interest to them. The topics they choose need to fit into one or more of the five broad areas mentioned above.

3. When appropriate, moderators will be encouraged to provide a suggested reading list of Internet-based articles as part of the announcement of their upcoming program. Attendees are not obligated to read the material prior to the discussion session but doing so may result in a more meaningful session experience.

4. An attempt will be made to capture the main points of the discussion and subsequently to put this information on the Internet where it can be readily accessed by others.