

5CLIR Council Meeting June 8, 2006
MINUTES

Next Meeting: August 10, 2006

Present: Marybeth Bridegam, Dorothy Gorra, Jonathan Hanke, June Guild, Hy Edelstein, John Gaustad, Joan Hastings, David Moriarty, Dorothy Rosenthal, James Scott, Nina Scott; Marybeth Bridegam, Joice Gare, Charles Gillies, Peter Reitt, Helen Seyfert, Eleanor Shattuck, Callie Kendall.

Guests: Mary Franks, Katherine Hazen, Barbara Reitt

Absent: Arnold Friedmann, Charlie Klem, Joyce Mazur, Ruth Hooke, Gillian Morbey, Gail Gaustad, Sheila Klem.

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by President Dorothy Gorra.

Minutes of the May meeting were approved as written and distributed.

Remarks by the President: President Gorra said that her remarks would come at the end of the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE - Co-chair Eleanor Shattuck said that the lottery for fall seminars will be held on June 13. A search for a larger venue for Meet the Moderators is underway. The moderators of the Shakespeare Seminar want to start on Wednesday at 10 a.m. instead of at the new Wednesday morning time of 9 a.m. Because they may not have been fully aware of the new schedule, a one-time exception will be made by Dorothy Gorra and Arnold Friedmann. However, so as not to interfere with special programs scheduled for 11:30 - 1:30, members of the Shakespeare seminar will be allowed to leave at 11 if they are involved in a special program offering.

FINANCE COMMITTEE - No report.

JANUARY AND SUMMER PROGRAMS - No report.

LEARNING THROUGH COMMUNITY - Chair Joan Hastings reported that 12 people have signed up for fall projects. The only one that has no enrollees is the outdoor education project with the Trustees of Reservations. Members will have an opportunity until September to sign up for projects.

MEETINGS COMMITTEE - Chair Joice Gare reported that financially the Annual Meeting broke even.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE - Chair Helen Seyfert reported that the committee has been involved in the Meet the Moderators events and the Annual Meeting.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE - Chair Marybeth Bridegam said that in response to a questionnaire members expressed greatest interest in book discussion, overnight trips to historic sites, Hartford Stage performances, ethnic eating, and travel. Some expressed interest in more seminars on nature and art. She asked for guidance on who was eligible to attend Special Programs. The By-Laws allow all members and associate members to attend all special programs. In addition, the committee can use its discretion on a case-by-case basis as to whether to allow members to bring guests. The committee may also wish to open some events to the public at no charge. A question about how to administer sign-ups for special programs was referred to the committee.

GREAT DECISIONS - No report.

TECHNOLOGY - Chair Pete Reitt reported that the computer workshop earlier in the week was excellent but drew only 10 people. He reminded Council that Charlie Klem will be giving a workshop on PowerPoint in August.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE - Co-Chairs Chuck Gillies and Jim Scott reported on the work of the committee, now only six months old, and remarked on all it has accomplished. Chuck read a letter from Robin Cutler in response to his thanking her for her work on design of the new brochure.

The Co-chairs reported that 92 guests came to the Meet the Moderators event while another 29 people had contacted the office for information. Callie estimated that 20 new people have joined 5CLIR as a result. One hundred-forty regular members attended.

The committee submitted suggestions for improving the Meet the Moderators event. These were referred to Arnold Friedmann for attention in 2006-07.

Chuck, Jim, and Mary Franks attended the Highland Valley Elders Services Expo on June 5 at the Garden House in Look Park and displayed information and brochures about 5CLIR. Jim Scott has arranged a similar effort as part of the Taste of Amherst event on June 17. 5CLIR will have use of the information booth from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Chuck distributed data about membership. He expressed concern about the process of collecting data. For example, the 2005 gender data is missing and the percent reporting age dropped from 85% in June 2004 to 67% in 2006. In summary, the data for 2006 indicates that we are slightly more female, slightly older, and slightly more "east of the river." He recommends that although our data set is small, if we follow it over time we will be able to see trends.

OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT: Callie reported that the date for the fall opera performance has been changed so the dates of the Opera Prep Workshop will need to be changed. Members will receive information about the change as soon as it is available.

She is looking into the Davis Ballroom at Smith College as a possible venue for Meet the Moderators. She reported that some people have complained that there were too many papers in the packets distributed at Meet the Moderators. She will be working on making the package more user-friendly and less work for the office.

Callie reported that some people were not aware that paying dues in two installments was no longer allowed. Dorothy Gorra said this was partly because June 5 was the deadline for registering for lottery seminars while July 1 is the beginning of the fiscal year. She will allow exceptions for those few people this year.

OLD BUSINESS: Dottie Rosenthal cautioned that future vote counts, whether for a simple majority or a 2/3 majority, should not consider abstentions when determining whether a motion or amendment passes (per Robert's Rules).

NEW BUSINESS:

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Dissemination of Information at 5CLIR events: Chair Pete Reitt reported that the committee (including Jim Scott, Ruth Hooke, and Dottie Rosenthal) had agreed on a draft policy statement (see attached). After some discussion, it was moved by Nina Scott and seconded that the policy statement be adopted. Motion passed.

Conference Proposal: Joan Hastings presented a proposal for a conference on "Creative Aging" to be held in April, 2007 in conjunction with the Smith College School of Social Work. It was moved by Jim Scott that Council approve the proposal. Motion passed.

Clearance of Work Requests of the Office Manager: Dorothy Gorra said that there are at times requests for office support that go beyond the normal work load of the office and requested a policy that would pass such requests through the president. After considerable discussion, it was suggested that Callie feel free to refer such requests to the president.

Letter from Diedrick Snoek: June Guild read a letter from member Diedrick Snoek asking for information about the budget over the past few years. June was asked to share a copy of the budget with Diedrick. In addition, John Gaustad pointed out that the budget should be published to the membership on a regular basis. Dottie Rosenthal also suggested that every issue of the newsletter or news leaflet include a column describing decisions made by Council.

Closing Remarks from the President: In closing this final meeting of her year as president, Dorothy Gorra offered her appreciation to all the members of Council, committee chairs, and committee members for their hard work. She said that 5CLIR had accomplished a number of new things this year. She also mentioned the valuable contributions of the Executive Committee. Finally, she expressed her appreciation for the wonderful job that Callie Kendall has done in her first year as Office Manager. Callie replied with generous praise for the help she had received from President Gorra.

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Rosenthal, Secretary Pro-tem