

Corrected version, April 2008

5CLIR COUNCIL MEETING

February 14, 2008

MINUTES

Next Meeting: March 13, 2008

Present: Mary Franks, Arnold Friedmann, Chuck Gillies, Gail Gaustad, Joan Hastings, Will Hastings, Kathy Hazen, Charlie Klem, Sheila Klem, Philippe Meyer, Peter Reitt, Bobbie Reitt, Serene Rubin, Leo Sartori, Jim Scott, Nina Scott, Eleanor Shattuck, Bill Williams, Sara Wright
Guest - Joan Laird

The meeting was called to order at 2:32 p.m. by **President Mary Franks**.

Minutes: Minutes of the December meeting were approved as sent in by email.

President's report: President reviewed LIR recent activities, including the lecture series given by Leo Sartori. It is important that all committee reports be posted into the office in advance of the meetings. Please e-mail them to Callie by the Monday before each meeting to include what you are going to say.

Treasurer's Report: Charlie Klem submitted a balance sheet, profit and loss statement, and a program activities statement covering June 30, 2007 to Jan 31, 2008. Some expenditure levels have been reclassified, but no expenditure is out of line. The Finance Committee has met two times this year and expects to have a manual by April or May. Charlie requested time at the end of the meeting to discuss building next year's budget.

Special Report: Joan Laird attended council meeting with a special proposal. She reported that Community Practice Projects are sponsored by the Smith College School of Social Work. Students spend four hours a week doing community level work. These projects last seven months and LIR could play a liaison role to any project we submit to this program. Ideas that we would come up with would go to be approved by the School of Social Work and be offered to the students. Joan presented three ideas for consideration.

1. People in LIR are not a very diverse population. This project would send a student to find out if minority communities would be interested in joining LIR and participating in it's programs.
2. Making a movie about LIR.
3. Learning the needs of elders in the valley.

LIR members can propose other ideas. Council endorsed Joan's proposal unanimously, and asked Joan to go forward. Joan offered to coordinate any projects LIR members would submit, and to get the proposals to Smith. Ideas/Proposals should get to Joan by mid-summer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum Committee: Sara Wright reported that there are currently 19 classes {seminars} running. Three classes had to be cancelled. Two classes have been approved for the upcoming fall session, and five more are in the hopper. An up-to-date proposal form was passed out. The fall "Previews" session has been moved to Sunday, June 1st, to be followed by the Annual Meeting at the Smith Campus Center. The Moderators Reception will be March 20th, from 2-4pm including a training session for current and future moderators.

A panel discussion will be held on "How to Plan a Seminar." The panel will consist of Chuck Gillies, Jim Harvey, Dottie Rosenthal, and Nina Scott. Joan Laird will become the co-chair next year because Bobbie Reitt cycles off at the end of at the end of this year. A motion made to this effect and passed unanimously. Naomi Yanis has been asked to fill an empty seat on the committee. According to current rules, she would only be able to spend three months on the committee, and would have to cycle off for a year. The committee would like to have her serve a full three year term plus the extra three months. Naomi has agreed to do this for us. A motion was made to approve this and it passed unanimously.

Public Relations Committee: Chuck Gillies reported that the committee is continuing to function as reported before. Will Hastings, who is heading up the group of LIR members helping with the WFCR campaign on Thursday, March 6th and Friday, March 7th, needs one more person for Friday morning. A Council member agreed to help.

Summer/ Winter Programs: Gail Gaustad reported that only one January program was cancelled, and the rest went very well. More people are needed on this committee, and co-chairs are working on it.

Membership and Meetings Committee: Kathy Hazen reported that the January Holiday Luncheon, at the Willits-Hallowell Center of Mt. Holyoke College was a success. 72 tickets were sold: we made \$300.00. The yearly memorial service was well attended. People spoke about the members who had died this past year. Sheila Klem said that the coffee hour at her house was a wonderful afternoon. Sheila also gave a membership report. As of February 12th, LIR has 281 members of which 26 are Associates. Of the 33 trial members, 13 signed up again. Sheila surveyed the remaining trial members by phone to gain some idea of their reasons for not rejoining. After the survey, she is not sure she personally would support trial memberships. The committee will meet and will bring their recommendations back in March for council discussion.

Technology Committee: Pete Reitt reported that the January computer workshops on how to use the Internet were a complete success, and that an extra session was scheduled to accommodate all of the 38-40 participants. Pete is also working out bugs on e-mail function of the LIR website.

Special Programs: Gail Gaustad read MaryBeth's written report to council. Two new Special Programs are taking place this spring: Bridge with Leo Sartori and A Wisdom Seekers Knitting Circle following the fall seminar of the same title. This is taking place at the home of Susan Gerstle. A profit was made on the bus trip in January, which went into the treasury. A reminder was given of the two lecture series being held at the Council on Aging in Northampton.

Office Manager's Report: Callie reported that there were the usual numbers of drop and adds for seminars. She had a number of phone calls from people who were delighted with LIR. One Wednesday morning seminar had to be cancelled because of bad weather. A wireless doorbell was purchased for the outer door of the LIR office. The Northampton Senior Center has not charged us for the use of the Center because they consider our lecture series a pilot project. Callie asked if we could give the Senior Center a gift *in lieu* of a remuneration. A motion was made to gift the Senior Center of Northampton \$125.00 for the use of their facility for six spring lectures. Motion was seconded and passed. Callie noted that the current membership form states that a member may receive a \$50.00 rebate of their dues on request under a certain set of circumstances for second semester. There is a deadline for this rebate. The Council may wish to revise this policy when updating the membership form. Two pictures for last year's annual report are still missing. Nina Scott will supply the missing pictures so she can complete last year's report.

Great Decisions: Philippe Meyer asked members to register ASAP. He is currently inquiring about a Mass. Council for the Humanities grant and will meet with the person in Northampton to gather further information. He already has the forms and guidelines to submit a proposal.

Nominating Committee: Eleanor Shattuck announced the slate of officers for next year:

President - Leo Sartori;

Vice-President - Sara Wright;

Treasurer - Charlie Klem,

Secretary - Serene Rubin.

She acknowledged the helpfulness of her committee members thanking them for their hard work

OLD BUISNESS

Leo suggested that the cost for special guests at the Anniversary Gala on October 4, 2008 be paid out of the treasury. Moved, seconded, and passed unanimously. He also noted that Honore David was able to arrange free music for that affair.

By-Laws: Wil Hastings reported the process of getting feedback on the new by-laws. A special meeting is called for February 28th from 2:30 – 4:30pm at the Smith College Field House. This meeting is open to all members, focusing on giving information to them and getting feedback on the updated by-laws. Wil thanked his committee for their hard work over January and requested that half of the March council meeting be devoted to council discussion of the changes. By April the updated by-laws will go out to the general membership so that this can be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

The rules {Bylaws} committee will set the parameters of the debate at that meeting and Wil will manage the process, but wants advance notice of what we want to discuss at the meeting. Joan Hastings moved to leave our name as Five College Learning In Retirement, based on the unacceptability of the proposed name change by Five College, Inc. This motion was seconded and passed.

Budget Development for 2008-2009: Charlie Klem announced that the new budget will be presented to council at the April meeting. Next fiscal year programs need to go into budget development process in addition to special events such as the Gala and any others being planned. Forms were sent to chairs whose committees are affected. The forms should be back to Charlie by March 5, 2008.

Mary Franks urged all council members to attend the February 28, 2008 Bylaws meeting. The Council meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Serene Rubin, Secretary