

5/24/08

**Five College Learning in Retirement  
Council Meeting Minutes**

**May 8, 2008**

The Council of 5CLIR met at the Five College offices in Amherst on May 8, 2008. President Mary Franks called the meeting to order at 2:35.

**Present:** Philippe Meyer, Jeff Caplan, Chuck Gillies, Sheila and Charlie Klem, Ruth Hooke, Nina and Jim Scott, Bobbie and Pete Reitt, Gail Gaustad, Wil Hastings, Arnold Friedman, Eleanor Shattuck, Kathy and Roger Coulombe, Leo Sartori, Mary Franks, Callie Orszak, Kathy Hazen.

The minutes of the April Council meeting were approved with three corrections: 1. Treasurer Charlie Klem changed 'variable' to 'favorable' variance in his April financial report, 2. Kathy Coulombe is the new Development Committee Chair, and 3. Honore David is directing the Gala party in October and Kathy Coulombe is helping her.

**President's Report:** President Mary Franks reported that Kathy Coulombe, the new Development Committee Chair is visiting (applause.) Roger Coulombe will chair the Great Decisions Committee (applause), which was unanimously approved, and Ginny Christenson will co-chair which was also approved unanimously.

Mary noted that the major issue of parking at Amherst College has been solved, by Mary and Callie. (See Office Manager's report, below.) Parking is allowed at the Hills lot down College Street on the right. Hang your parking permit on your rear view mirror. After 1:00 or 1:30 p.m. the crunch on the Alumni lot is over- but don't linger- especially not long enough to have lunch. There are five-hour meters by Emily Dickinson's house and on route 9: twelve on one side and thirteen on the other.

**Vice President's Report:** Vice-President Leo Sartori reported that the Gala committee is making good progress. A discount has been negotiated, an invitation has been drafted. The committee is raising extra money by soliciting sponsors to be listed only: the committee voted to exclude ads from the program. Extensive discussion followed. Among the questions raised were what date would be the watershed for a member to be classified as a 'founding member.' Should the price of the Gala ticket be \$30, \$45, or left up to the discretion of the payer. Council agreed that these questions should be left up to the Gala committee.

**Finance Committee:** Treasurer's report – for the period ending April 30, 2008

Attached is the ten month "profit and loss" statement; Our fiscal 2008 operations continue to track ahead of budget. (*This Excel spreadsheet accompanies these minutes as another attachment.*)

Last week, with Callie's assistance, the Finance Committee distributed the Accounting Procedures Manual. While we think that it covers all that is appropriate, we welcome your input.

I do not intend to ask for any Council actions at our May meeting, but would like to complete the process at the June meeting. Charlie Klem, Treasurer

**Curriculum Committee:** Sara Wright reported: Attached is the final list of the 27 seminars and workshops that will be on offer in the Fall of 2008. The Curriculum Committee completed the approval process at its meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup>. All the moderators have been notified and reminded about the need to be on hand at the Preview on June 1. I think the list can serve as our report this month! 5CLIR Seminars, Fall 2008:

Starchitects and Architects Today, Arnold Friedman  
A Choral "Tour" of Europe, Laura Cranshaw  
Election 2008, Hy Edelstein & Virginia Christensen  
Yiddish Literature: Comedy, Tragedy, and Irony, Gerald Goldman  
Richard Wagner Part 1, Peg Bedell  
Shakespeare Reading, Jane Hovde & Kathy Hazen  
Historical Mysteries, George Snook  
Meet the Classical Gods and Goddesses, Ellen Peck  
Four Books: The US and the Middle East, Chuck Gillies  
Life: Fact and Fiction, Joan Hastings & Ina Luadtke  
Alexander the Great-and the Impact of Greek Culture, Jim Harvey  
Historical and Social Themes in Broadway Musicals, Hill Boss  
A Layman's Understanding of Banking, Capital Markets, and Macroeconomics, Sandy Belden, Jim Scott  
Autobiographical Writing, Sally Wilbur & Joel Halpern  
Painting & Drawing, Sally Lawton  
Leaving This World: The Traditions of Ecstatic Poetry, Wil Hastings  
The Immigrant Experience in Literature, Peter Ferber  
American Transcendentalists, Shirley Brodigan, Gillian Morbey  
The Age of Newton, Leo Sartori  
Food Politics, Lise Armstrong  
Romantic Love in the Renaissance, Helen Dysinger, Rachel Mustin  
Writing Workshop, Sue Case  
What Is It About Science? John Armstrong  
World Demographic Problems, David Yaukey  
Health Care: A Search Around the World, Philippe Meyer & Pete Reitt  
George Eliot: The Middle Period, Michael Wolff  
A History of Business: Industrial Leaders and Their Innovations, Dean Poli & Larry Ambs

Sara Wright noted three title changes: 1. World Demographic Problems is changed to World Demographic Trends; 2. History of Business is changed to 19th and 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Business Innovators, and 3. Painting and Drawing to Watercolor and Drawing. Sara added that this unusual and broad list of titles showcases us very well.

**Public Relations:** Chuck Gillies' report as of April 10 follows:

1. We are recruiting new members for the PR Committee for next year. We have two prospects visiting at our next meeting (April 28th) to "check us out." Volunteers welcome!
2. Our priority is still getting the maximum turnout of new 5CLIR prospects to the June 1<sup>st</sup> Preview. **Our current plan is to announce the meeting for 2:00 – 3:30 with Annual Meeting at 3:30.** (see Orange Invitation) Letters will be going to (1) drop outs from last year (2) Trial Members who didn't "re-up" for second term and (3) new members this year encouraging them to bring friends and neighbors. Other plans are in the works, but we invite new ideas!
3. A slightly revised brochure is at the printers and, hopefully, available at the end of the month.
4. As a result of the luncheon we held for Senior Center leaders in January Jim Scott and Lise Armstrong will be speaking and showing our PowerPoint at the Bangs Center on May 14, 12:30 and Chuck and Evelyn Chesky in South Hadley on May 1. We are working on Hadley and Easthampton. The hope is that these sessions will attract new prospects to the June 1 Preview.
5. The Committee has sought a "photographer-coordinator" to take the lead in soliciting and organizing photos of 5CLIR events. We believe that Sandy Musprat has agreed to do this. The "job" is still to be better defined.
6. Our relationship with the WFCR fund raising events is growing. Wil Hastings has collected 20+ names of 5CLIR folks willing to help both organizations. Listen again on the first morning (05/08/08) from 6 – 9 AM and on the last afternoon (05/16/08) from 4 – 6:30 PM. and "save" your contribution for the day that 5CLIR is on the air! Kill two birds with one stone – help WFCR and 5CLIR! Any more volunteers? (speak to Wil).
7. Thanks to Arnold Friedman we are expecting an article in the UMass alumni "glossy." Thanks to Nina Scott (related to a PR Committee member) we will have an article in the Gazette's "Learning" supplement on Monday, April 14.
8. New ideas always welcome from anyone!!!! - Chuck Gillies, co-chair, PR Committee

Mary Franks thanked Nina Scott for all the excellent writing she has done for 5CLIR in the past year, especially the recent lengthy article in the Hampshire Gazette.

**Summer/Winter Programs:** Gail Gaustad, co-chair, reported: The Summer Programs catalog has been submitted to Callie. Look for it in your packet on June 1 and be sure to return the registration form by June 20 . We look forward to many happy outings this summer. The Committee will gear up again in the fall with the new co-chairs Anne Lombard and Carol Jolly. (Gail showed the council a long list of programs/events planned for the summer which will be included in the packet at the Preview.)

**Meetings/Membership:** *Meetings component:* Co-chair Katharine Hazen reported: As to meetings, plans for the June 1 Preview are well in hand (Leo's Ad Hoc committee met at Gail's last Friday.) The refreshments will be catered by a different branch of the Smith food services, and will cost a couple of dollars more per guest, but will be essentially the same as at the last Preview in November, 2007, (crudities & dips, crackers & cheese, fruit, cash bar for wine and beer.)

The date of the All-Member Pot-Luck Picnic at Gail's house in September has been changed from the 4th to Wednesday, September 10, because Ruth Hooke, who has kindly agreed to take on the task of musical entertainment for the picnic, will be at her place in Maine through Labor Day week.

*Membership component:* Co-chair Sheila Klem reported that a list of new members will be made available at the picnic so that they can be warmly welcomed by all members. Sheila passed around three new membership forms (a new information page, a Trial membership and an Associate membership application form.) Discussion followed: Recommended that "lottery preference" be asterisked and explained below on the page. Noted that Trial membership is a one-time membership, that can be chosen in either the spring or the fall. So moved and was accepted. Discussion followed as to whether the voting privilege should be accorded to Trial members, as we need voting members to make a quorum. At present, Trial members will be voting members for this coming Annual Meeting, but not next year. A motion was made to remove any mention of the refund (\$50 if no seminar taken) from the Information sheet. Voted and passed.

**Tech committee:** Pete Reitt, chair; no report

**Special Programs:** Marybeth Bridegam, chair; no report

**Office Manager's Report:** Callie Orszak reminded the group of the parking situation in Amherst, noting it is okay to park for a two-hour seminar only, but do not linger. We must carpool to come to the 5CLIR offices for meetings; e.g. Northampton people could meet in the Big Y parking lot. Callie will organize this. The balance of Callie's report follows:

Thanks to the efforts and not inconsiderable charm of our President, Amherst College is allowing us to park in the morning, using the Hills Lot on Route 9 just beyond the RR overpass. This may mean that seminar participants will do a bit of shuttling to get less mobile members to the seminar, but beats the alternative by a long way. The attitude and behavior of a few LIR members had ruined our relationship with the college's parking supervisor, Michael Abbatessa, but I think we are clawing our way back into his good graces. If only we can keep members from complaining and parking where they

shouldn't! I am to submit our seminar schedule for Michael to check before finalizing our plans for fall seminars at Amherst College.

Some statistics (for Chuck) from the questionnaire I emailed about parking alternatives:

- 84% of the people who answered said 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. would be fine (in fact, more recent decisions by Amherst College would have pushed us to 3:30–5:30)
- 87% said they would not mind street parking, though 10% of these respondents said they were worried about the 2-hour limit so could not endorse it wholeheartedly
- 52% said OK to Saturday morning seminars. Reasons that the 48% no-responders gave included being away most weekends and having other commitments like voluntary work or a job
- 64% said NO to Saturday afternoon seminars. They gave the same reasons as those who voted against Saturday morning
- 12 people said they would moderate a seminar on Saturday (3 specified a.m.), while 26 said they would not because of other commitments, fear of reduced participation, or keeping Saturdays free
- One person objected to Saturday seminars “because they are reserved for Special Programs.”

Callie Orszak, Office Manager

**GREAT DECISIONS** Mary Franks thanked outgoing chair Philippe Meyer for a job well done. *The Council had already approved the appointment of Roger Coulombe to take Philippe's chair for next year (see the President's report.)*

Philippe Meyer's Preliminary final report as of April 30, 2008 follows:

Great Decisions 2008 is over, let us prepare for Great Decisions 2009. I expect to be accompanied at the May meeting by the proposed 2008/2009 chairman. By then the 2008/2009 committee should be close to fully staffed (we may be missing one member to reach the usual figure of 9). We do not yet have all the final figures and the answers (30-35) to the questionnaire are still to be analyzed. I'll provide complementary information on both the figures and the questionnaire the day of the council.

Overall figures are as follows:

Total number of guests 161: 91 LIR members 70 from the outside

Numbers of seats sold: 627

Number of luncheons sold: 142 (plus 6 offered to our speakers)

(Notes: Union Station is nice enough to always low ball the number of coffees and luncheons served in their invoices)

Profit before office costs apportionment should reach a bit more than \$1,500.00.

**OVERALL:**

--4 out of 5 speakers were outstanding

--The PC (although a bit underpowered and the operator not fully in sync with his new computer) was a useful tool both for us and for the speakers. With some fine-tuning and with access to Internet it can become a major asset.

--The confirmation/registration system worked very well and was appreciated. It should be simplified and/or more automated for years to come. In its current form it requires a tremendous amount of work by the "back office", in the instance the chair.

--Although we had a paid audience of 142 people for the first session, the highest ever, the average over five sessions (126) is not different from last year. The outreach to the public has improved with 70 non-5CLIR participating to at least one session.

--The massive usage of email all along the process has considerably increased the quality of communication, allowed for many early registrations and should allow considerably reducing the cost of mailing next year.

--Things which will need more attention next year:

---Improve our contacts with the press. Visit the senior centers.

---Give more attention to the catering if any. The quality was not always up to par. (But participants might be discreetly reminded that they pay only \$14 per lunch when our cost is a bit more than \$22)

--Rehearse even more than we did this year with all the "gear" in place

--We had little success recruiting new members during the Great Decisions; should we abandon the idea or offer more incentives? We do not yet have all the final figures and the answers (30-35) to the questionnaire are still to be analyzed. I'll provide complementary information on both the figures and the questionnaire the day of the council.

**In addition, please find attached: 1) Evaluation (The feedback from the audience to our questionnaire,) 2) Great Decisions Data: numbers for Great Decisions 2008, 3) History GD: major figures for GD since 2003 (very small print, I am afraid) Philippe Meyer, chair**

**Development Committee:** Kathy Coulombe reported that the committee is looking into a grant from the Mass. Foundation for the Humanities and checking with all five colleges to make sure that they are not pursuing the same grant. They are looking for a one-to-one match for \$2500, and planning to bring in a speaker at some point and house him/her.

Re the **Gala:** the committee is soliciting money from the community. The committee decided against selling advertising in the program. The Council on the other hand is in favor of advertising and would ask the committee to review their decision, and perhaps sell quarter-pages or place business cards in the program.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Annual Meeting Ad Hoc Committee Report:**

Leo Sartori reported that the Preview committee met, and the Preview party arrangements will be pretty much the same as last time. For the Annual Meeting we need a podium and a microphone. This committee should become a regular committee with its own budget. A motion to do this was postponed to the July meeting when we can vote on reallocating the money in the budget.

**Bylaws:**

Wil Hastings, who will make the motion to accept the Bylaws at the Annual Meeting, noted that we have no Rules Committee, in contrast to Congress, and no provision at present for proxy or absentee ballots. He discussed how amendments will be handled and asked Council to approve him stating that “this is an up-and-down vote.” Motion made and approved by Council. Wil will consult Rachel Mustin as an advisor and Mary as the authority. Asked re a “Plan B” in case the vote fails (or quorum is lacking), Wil would call another meeting of all members because we would have “no officers, no budget, no seminars.” Wil would ask Mary to authorize an e-mail to the membership. It was noted that we need to keep a record of everyone who comes in to the meeting.

**New Business:**

The chair of the Nominating Committee, Eleanor Shattuck, will choose three voting members to act as tellers to do the ballot count. Members of the Nominating Committee and candidates for Council membership may not be appointed as tellers. Other members of the Council are not excluded (correction by Nina Scott.) It was pointed out that first we vote on the bylaws, which become effective immediately, and then the Nominating Committee appoints tellers. Callie pointed out that the ballots to vote for council people will go out on June 3, and must come in by June 16. The telling of the ballots then comes on Friday, June 20.

There being no further business, the President adjourned the meeting at 4:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine Hazen, Recording Secretary

*Accompanying documents: Treasurer's spreadsheet, Great Decisions (3)*