

**FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 8, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Council was held at the Five College Center at 2:15 pm.

Present Council: Paul Berman, Dorothy Gilbert, Michael Greenebaum, Jim Harvey, Chris Hurn, Carol Jolly, Jim Perot, Ellen Peck, Dean Poli, Gordon Wyse

Absent Council: Susan Beer, Betsy Loughran, Jim Scott, Zina Tillona, Fran Volkmann

Present Committee Chairs: Ruth Kosiorek, Honore David, Janet Price, Diane Liebert, Larry Ambts, Joan Mckelvey, Marybeth Bridegam, and new office manager Liz Tiley

President's report: Carol read a thank you note from Callie praising the party we had for her retirement.

We then took a memorial minute to honor the late Peter Ferber who was a faithful member of Council until this summer. Paul Berman will replace Peter on Council.

Carol then introduced our new office manager Liz Tiley to the Council and committee chairs present.

Office Manager Report: Liz summarized a report that she had sent about her activities so far this summer (see attached sheet). She has been collecting annual reports, revising the newsletter format, constructing new application forms to be put on line, putting seminars and places onto a new spread sheet, redoing the calendar for the website, gathering Gazette memorials into a new folder, examining an OSCA application possibility, constructing an invitation for new members, exploring the possibility of members using college gyms, putting bills onto a new spreadsheet, and exploring a new web site with Wordpress. This has been a busy summer so far.

Tech Committee on Website: Jim Harvey, Janet Price, and Liz Tiley have been exploring the possibilities offered by Wordpress for our website. Larry suggested asking the colleges to host our website. We may also need to pay to block ads which seem to come up automatically.

The summer/winter committee would like a new form of application for trip proposals. This could go onto the web site.

Carol offered to write a president's letter for the newsletter explaining all the changes and proposals associated with our communications.

5C Inc. is still working on using credit cards for payments. Since our finances go through 5C, our treasurer will have to work with them if we want to be able to accept credit card payments.

Obituaries: There has been an on-going issue with notices when members die. In the past family members have asked the office manager to notify the membership, but sometimes they forget or do not realize this is a possibility. We will put an announcement in the newsletter along with a simple form to remind members and their families to notify the office. We don't want to miss anyone. We do keep track of yearly deaths for the memorial service in January. There is a folder in the office with newspaper obituaries.

The Council voted 9 to 1 to invite members to notify the office about deaths of members.

Various Issues: Carol invited the Council to bring up issues that are still unresolved.

- Larry and Jim Harvey explained that several years ago 5CLIR had applied to the Osher Foundation which supports organizations like ours. They turned us down because they usually give money to pay lecturers for lecture-based programs. Since we have mainly peer-led seminars, we did not qualify. It might be worth looking at them again, however, to see if they requirements have changed.
- Registration forms for winter/summer trips and programs. Honore stressed that the committee needs a more formal application form so that we can assess and schedule trips and activities. Major trips need to be planned well in advance so that conflicts do not arise.
- Chris reminded us of the lack of seminars on Thursdays. Is this distribution due to lack of available spaces? Liz said she would check on Sara's report on spaces and costs.
- The Midday window, which was scheduled on an experimental basis, has not been used much for committee meetings or other activities. Do we want to revise this scheduling? We will take this matter up in Sept.
- Joan McKelvey reported that the membership committee did not want to take a survey to find out why so many members are not taking seminars. They felt it was usually a matter of illness.
- Michael Greenebaum wondered if we need more discussion of the various possibilities for participating in seminars. Having to give seminar presentations is a perennial issue since some people do not like to speak in public. Perhaps the word "presentations" is a problem. People often wonder if this requirement is costing us membership. Jim Harvey replied that we have addressed this issue several years in a row at moderators meetings and have tried to get the word out in the newsletter and in the catalogue that there are various ways to do presentations. Perhaps we need to be more pointed in our catalogue descriptions of individual seminars.

Winter/Summer Report: Ruth and Honore reported on the successful summer programs this year. We had over 200 participations in the trips and activities, with some members participating in more than one activity. Mother Nature operating on the Ct. River forced the cancellation of the scheduled boat trip, but all other trips went as planned and seemed to be enjoyed by all. The last activity of the summer is the potluck picnic on Sept. 17 at the home of the Gaustads. Money made by the summer activities pays for rental of tents, chairs, and tables for this picnic.

Next Meeting: The next Council meeting will be on **Thursday, September 12. Note that we will meet in Lathrop, Northampton instead of the 5 College Center.** Our room was not available that day.

Respectfully submitted, Ellen Peck, Secretary