

5CLIR Council Meeting

September 9, 2004
Minutes

Next Meeting: October 14, 2004

Present: Jono Hanke, Dorothy Gorra, Elizabeth Armstrong, June Guild, Charles Klem, Naomi Yanis, Peg Bedell, Hy Edelstein, Pat Keating, Sheila Klem, Gillian Morbey, Dorothy Rosenthal, Hal Stubbs, Jean Curran, Eleanor Shattuck, Joice Gare, Harley Unger.

The minutes of August 12 were corrected to indicate that the Look Park picnic is planned for noon to 2 p.m., not to 4 p.m. The minutes were approved as corrected.

President Hanke announced the death of David Navon on September 8. A tribute to David will be part of the January Memorial program. Jono requests Council members to car-pool or use street parking rather than utilizing the visitor parking spaces at the Five Colleges building. He mentioned that Amherst College is concerned about providing parking permits for our class members. Clearly parking will be more and more of a problem for all LIR events.

Committee Reports:

Finance: June plans to give a full report at the October meeting.

Curriculum: the committee is actively seeking proposals for Spring '05. They are discussing extending the function of the Curriculum Committee liaison to provide on-going support for moderators once the semester begins. It has not been determined whether this would be primarily for first-time moderators or all.

Meetings: Joice reported that 108 people were registered for the picnic on September 9, many more than last year. There may be additional people coming if last year's experience is any indication. Joice asked for volunteers to help with cooking and cleanup.

Membership: Jean reports 28 new members this fall. The committee has given all new members a welcome call. Eleven of them are coming to the picnic and will be given a special nametag identifying them as newcomers. There will be a new member tea on Sunday October 31 from 1:30 to 3:30 at Lathrop in Northampton (if the room is available). Members who have joined since the last new member tea will be invited.

Volunteers: Twelve people are standing by to help when asked.

Summer Program: the last two events were successful. Habitat Day drew twelve people and thirty went to Williamstown. Both were enjoyable events.

Publicity: Eleanor has placed articles in two newspapers advising of available seminars. Jono will be talking about LIR on September 15 to the UMass retired faculty club. He will give a similar talk to the Amherst Club.

Newsletter: the next deadline is October 15. Sheila wants to include interviews with some new members and news about the fall seminars, which will then be underway.

Sub-Committees:

Computer – no news

Audio-Visual: Harley Unger is taking over the responsibility for this function, which David Navon had had for some years. His group will be available to moderators for giving operating instructions for equipment close to the date when the equipment will be used. They will be providing clear written instructions and label various parts of the machinery to make it as easy as possible for members to use. Whether there would be interest in a separate training session is unclear.

Conversations: Naomi hopes to have programs on October 21 and November 18.

Great Decisions: no news

Special Events: the bus trip to Old Lyme and Essex previously announced is still planned.

Old Business:

EIN Conference- Dotty Gorra will coordinate the delegation. There is \$1000 to cover registration costs for 8 to 10 people.

Hampshire College project – no news.

Computer and Copier purchases: The computer described by Hy at the previous meeting is the campus standard, which will tie in with the Smith College system. It should be possible to easily transfer all the data from the old machine to the news. The copier Jerry Rosenthal reported on several months ago turns out not to be a good choice since it is a refurbished model with some unknown characteristics. Charlie Klem and Naomi Yanis will work with Jerry in formulating just what our copier needs are and what is the best way of taking care of them.

Slavery project: June Guild reported in Chuck Gillies absence that the steering committee has been enlarged to include some community members. They expect to kick off the series of talks on January 22, 2005 and have events through April. For the most part, events will take place on Saturday mornings. Chuck has solicited a \$1000 contribution from Florence Savings Bank and is pursuing funding with the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts. He welcomes assistance from LIR members on this program.

New Business:

Eleanor questioned the accuracy of reported membership figures in comparison with the number of newsletters she is mailing. There appear to be 50 dropouts since last year. This number is somewhat compensated by the new members reported by Jean. Council members do not think it is appropriate to delve too closely into people's reasons for dropping out. The finance committee is asked to provide a floor for membership, which is necessary to support our overhead. Sheila suggested we rethink the purpose and requirements of the associate member status.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Armstrong, Secretary