

5CLIR Council Meeting

November 11, 2004

Minutes

Next Meeting: December 9, 2004

Present: Jono Hanke, Dotty Gorra, Elizabeth Armstrong, June Guild, Charlie Klem, Naomi Yanis, Peg Bedell, Hy Edelstein, John Gaustad, Sheila Klem, David Moriarty, Dottie Rosenthal, Jim Scott, Eleanor Shattuck, Jean Curran, Joice Gare, Mary Franks, Chuck Gillies, Harley Unger.

With a small correction pointed out by the Secretary, the minutes of the meeting of October 14 were **approved** as circulated.

Remarks: President Hanke announced that Pat Keating had resigned her position on Council. The council **approved** unanimously the motion to appoint Suzanne Lehman to finish Pat's one-year term. Gerry Braunthal has secured the use of a room on the UMass campus for the spring semester.

Committee Reports:

Curriculum: Jim Scott reported that there would be twenty seminars for Spring '05. There are some repeats – autobiographical writing, digital photography. The line-up offers a number of literature seminars including poetry and drama, and some history seminars, among others. The Curriculum Committee had discussed the issue of seminar out-of-pocket expenses, which had been brought up previously. After some discussion and revisions to the original proposal, Council **approved** by unanimous vote adopting the following policy:

“Out-of-pocket expenses associated with a seminar, such as copying charges and video rentals, are to be borne by the participants of the seminar. The catalog description should include information about anticipated costs of this nature. Individual participants who find the additional cost a burden are invited to contact the treasurer for financial assistance. Furthermore, general information about seminars in the catalog will include the statement that seminar members in any seminar *may* be asked to contribute up to \$2.00 each for copying costs incurred by the moderator, whether or not such cost has been stated in the catalog.”

Jim said the moderator's reception on October 28 had been successful. About fifty people engaged in a stimulating conversation which brought out a number of ideas and suggestions that the committee will take up at future meetings. The committee plans a new edition of the moderator's handbook, which will be ready for the May seminar introduction meeting. It will include an audio-visual section. Meanwhile additional copies of the 1999 edition will be made available for this coming semester. Barbara Riett has volunteered to help with production of the Spring catalog.

Finally Jim said he had met with Johan Brongers of Hampshire College and will be meeting again.

Membership: Jean Curran reported on the members' meeting at Lathrop at which seventeen or more new members and their guests attended along with a few Council members. Dotty Gorra urged that more council members attend these events to get to know new members.

Meetings: Joice Gare and a sub-committee visited the Elks Lodge and compiled information on a few options available for LIR meetings and social events. There were varying costs and requirements, and council members were not agreed on whether there should be a dinner as part of the meeting. Jono will meet with Joice to help decide on the particular format of the meeting. The event needs to be on or around May 10, 2005 in order to have information on the fall seminars available. Jean Curran volunteered the assistance of her membership committee to work with Joice on the event.

Volunteers: Dotty Gorra reported that volunteer assistance worked well for the week Karen was out of the office.

Winter programs: Mary Franks reviewed the plans for three January meetings. Details will be provided in the December newsletter.

Publicity: Eleanor would like to turn this job over to someone else. She said Karen does the routine tasks involved in sending out news releases, but Eleanor urges Council to give the publicity function more attention. She said we need a plan that recognizes the purposes to be served by publicity and public relations. Jono recounted recent presentations to outside groups and would like to have more speakers ready to take the LIR story to the public.

Newsletter: December 10 is the deadline for the next issue.

Sub-Committees:

Hy Edelstein reported that the new computer will be installed this week. He is planning another January computer workshop to be held at Smith. He requests council members to share their ideas about improving the website with him.

Great Decisions: John Gaustad announced that there will be five Friday programs, beginning April 1, using material from the Foreign Policy Association.

Special Events: The trip to Old Lyme was enjoyable, well-attended, and made a small profit.

Old Business:

Slavery Program. Chuck gave new dates for the program, which will now start on Wednesday February 16 with Tony Marx as keynote speaker.

EIN Conference.

Council members recalled the 1997 EIN Conference held locally which 5CLIR sponsored. It was organized by Harley Unger and Ann Grose. Harley worked with EIN and the participating ILR's on setting up the program and Ann worked with UMass on the logistics of the conference. Many LIR members worked behind the scenes to facilitate the conference. It had been a major effort on the part of our organization and everyone worked hard to make it the big success it was.

The 2004 EIN Conference was attended by Chuck Gillies, Eleanor Shattuck and Dottie Rosenthal. (Bob Romer attended for the portion that included his presentation with Chuck on the upcoming slavery program.) Dottie gave an oral summary which was followed by brief remarks from the other two. They then distributed a full written report and material about Osher funding of LIR's across the country.

Dottie reported that the conference had been professionally run with substantive sessions which make good use of time. Her main conclusions are:

- 1) many LIR's have reciprocal relationships with their host institutions and most pay for space used on campus.
- 2) many groups are well-integrated into the community and are partnered with other institutions.
- 3) again, many groups have various kinds of interactions with younger people –college and high school students.
- 4) they make good use of networking with their fellow LIR's and with EIN.
- 5) LIR's are a big and growing movement and are becoming international in scope. There is significant potential for growth in the coming retirement of the baby-boomer generation.

Eleanor remarked that the conference was inspiring and dynamic. She observed that the membership sizes of LIR's range from under 100 to over 1,000, and that most do not use the word "retirement" in their name.

Chuck said that while neither he personally nor the three of them together were in a position to make recommendations for action to 5CLIR, he urged that we think seriously about the points made in the written report. He said there is a "mature education movement" happening in the country and he is concerned that we may fall into a backwater unless we do some work on our organization. He recounted his introduction to the Osher Foundation support of LIR's at the Salem conference several years ago and said that Osher is more and more providing support around the country.

Jono Hanke appointed a group consisting of Dottie Rosenthal, David Moriarty, Dotty Gorra, Chuck Gillies, Pat Keating and Elizabeth Armstrong to confer together over the written report and prepare a report for the December Council meeting. The mandate of the group is to come up with very specific ideas, which can be instituted within a year. Additionally the possibility of Osher funding is tied in with our near and long-term plans, especially in relation to the proposed Hampshire/LIR collaboration.

Chuck will be responsible for seeing that Lorna Peterson is fully informed of our actions and possible plans.

Other: In accordance with long-standing practice, Karen Tatro will present small holiday gifts to her campus contacts who assist her with space needs during the semester. It was unanimously **approved** to allow Karen up to \$150 for the purchase of these token gifts.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Armstrong, Secretary.

