

# 5CLIR Council Meeting

December 9, 2004

## Minutes

Next Meeting: January 13, 2005

**Present:** Jono Hanke, Dotty Gorra, Elizabeth Armstrong, June Guild, Charles Klem, Peg Bedell, Hy Edelstein, John Gaustad, Suzanne Lehman, Sheila Klem, Gillian Morbey, David Moriary, Dorothy Rosenthal, Jim Scott, Jean Curran, Eleanor Shattuck, Joice Gare, Harley Unger, Chuck Gillies

**Announcements:** President Hanke read a letter from Karen Tatro announcing her plans to retire as of June 30, 2005. She has notified Lorna Peterson of Five Colleges, Inc. Jono said we would discuss her replacement at a later date.

The minutes of November 11, 2004 were **approved** as circulated.

### Committee Reports:

Finance – June will have reports in January.

Curriculum – Jim thanked council members for their enthusiastic participation in Sunday's moderators meeting. He reported that there were 51 registrations to date for spring seminars. The handbook will be revised; copies of the one currently available will be given to moderators of the spring seminars.

Membership, Meetings – Jean noted that a number of new members attended the Sunday meeting. The refreshments, which included canapés from the Elks Lodge, were particularly attractive and tasty.

Newsletter - deadline for next issue is December 10.

### Subcommittees:

Hy announced that ten people had signed up for the January workshop. The new computer is installed and running. The cost was about \$1300. It includes Microsoft Publisher software. He will be updating the website with photos from fall activities and also include the new calendar. Dottie Rosenthal urged that the website address be included on all LIR printed materials, where appropriate.

Great Decisions: The first meeting will be March 25. Most of the speakers for the series have been lined up.

### Old Business:

Slavery Project- Chuck distributed a draft leaflet with information on the series. He expects to call on volunteers to host and facilitate the various events.

Next Steps for 5CLIR - Since the last council meeting, a small group has met three times and discussed various ideas emanating from the reports on the recent EIN conference in Portland. Jono opened the meeting to discussion and feed-back from Council members who had been asked to review reports previously distributed. A summary of comments and questions which arose follows:

How do we deal with a big increase in membership?

How do we best use our relationship to Five Colleges, Inc?

Recent contacts with campus faculty and administration and Five Colleges personnel have been very positive. How do we build on this? Recognizing that support goes both ways, how can we provide services to our sponsors. The five separate members of Five Colleges are prestigious institutions. How can we use this to our benefit?

Is it time to take this discussion to the membership as a whole?

Do we want to consider changing our name to eliminate the word “retirement”? How far do we want to go to attract younger potential members?

We must always keep in mind that the invariable part of our name is “learning”.

Regardless of other activities we might consider engaging in, our peer-led seminars are the foundation of our organization.

The President appointed a task force with the following members to continue working on these issues :

Dottie Rosenthal, chair, Dotty Gorra, ex-officio, Pat Keating, David Moriarty, Chuck Gillies, Sheila Klem, Win Firman and Elizabeth Armstrong.

Their charge is:

- 1) developing a list of suggested improvements to LIR practices and procedures that can be acted on in the short term, including By-Law changes that would need to be brought to the annual meeting for vote;
- 2) long-range planning regarding staffing requirements for the organization following Karen Tatro’s retirement;
- 3 ) continuing negotiations with Hampshire College and the Osher Foundation.

This group will give an interim report to Council at the January meeting.

#### New Business

There was some discussion about the idea of offering free or reduced-rate membership for newly retiring faculty and staff of the five colleges. Until the task group’s work has been completed, however, it seemed premature to talk about ways of increasing membership so this suggestion was tabled.

Change in definition of Associate Member. Dotty Gorra proposed that the definition of associate membership as described in the By-Laws be revised to eliminate the requirement regarding previous full membership. Jim Scott seconded the motion. Council **approved unanimously the motion to propose at the next annual meeting a By-Law change which enlarges the definition of associate membership to make it open to any interested adult.**

Karen has traditionally made monetary gifts to the non-profit institutions which host seminars. Council **approved authorizing her to do so again this year, consistent with past practice, with a limit of \$500 to cover all gifts.**

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Armstrong, Secretary