

5CLIR Council Meeting
March 9, 2006

MINUTES

Next Meeting: April 13, 2006

Present: Dorothy Gorra, Arnold Friedmann, Jonathan Hanke, June Guild, Charles Klem, Joyce Mazur; Hy Edelstein, John Gaustad, Joan Hastings, Ruth Hooke, Gillian Morbey, David Moriarty, James Scott, Nina Scott; Mary Beth Bridegam, Joice Gare, Gail Gaustad, Charles Gillies, Sheila Klem, Peter Reitt, Eleanor Shattuck. Guests: Callie Kendall and Barbara Reitt.

President Dorothy Gorra welcomed Marybeth Bridegam, who succeeds Janet Brongers as chair of the Special Programs Committee.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved after President Gorra requested that the text of the Special Programs Committee's schedule of alternative experiences be included verbatim.

Vice-President's Report -- Arnold Friedmann spoke about his encouraging contacts at the University of Massachusetts. He cited the possibility of our having space in the future catalog of the Continuing Education Department.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE - Co-chair Sheila Klem spoke about the fall seminars that are being planned. Eight seminars are definite and about twenty are possibilities, with an interesting range of topics in the mix. Sheila also mentioned the Moderators' Reception on Thursday, March 16 at the Smith College Field House.

The Opera Workshop will now be in the hands of the Special Programs Committee instead of with the Curriculum Committee as it has been in past years.

FINANCE COMMITTEE -- Chair June Guild and committee member Jim Scott distributed drafts of a new membership application and a membership assistance application (copies for file). In the discussion there was concern about the effect of a tighter financial policy on people who want to become members and who do not have the funds to pay the fee in one lump sum.

Charlie Klem said that the Finance Committee will continue to discuss the issues raised in today's conversation and will report to Council at a later date.

JANUARY AND SUMMER PROGRAMS -- Chair Gail Gaustad reported that the committee is planning a strong schedule of varied summer programs, including Tanglewood and a Habitat work day. Other items being scheduled will be a play

at New Century Theater and a museum trip. She also said that Arnold Friedmann will lead a walking tour of architectural highlights at UMass.

LEARNING THROUGH COMMUNITY -- Chair Joan Hastings announced the possibility of two new areas for LIR volunteer involvement -- the Commonwealth Opera and the Dickinson Homestead. She will announce details at a later Council meeting.

MEETINGS COMMITTEE -- Chair Joice Gare and her committee are preparing for the Annual Meeting in June.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE - New chair Marybeth Bridegam announced that Gail Gaustad will meet with Special Programs in order that the two committees can coordinate their offerings more efficiently.

Marybeth pointed to a number of programs that have been scheduled for the spring - Jerry Rosenthal and Lisa Colt on Insight Meditation, Cliff Mathews on Science and Religion, Jim McReynolds demonstrating Nantucket Baskets, and an outstanding theatrical production at Hartford Stage.

President Gorra commented on the convenience of having the complete schedule of all 5CLIR programs listed conspicuously on the front page of the recent newsletter.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE - Chair Peter Reitt will report next month on the results of the committee's scheduled meeting.

PUBLIC RELATIONS - Co-chair Chuck Gillies distributed a comprehensive chart of 5CLIR growth statistics for the past ten years. He said that outreach has been less energetic in recent years than it was at the outset. Discussion included the suggestion of holding an open house at each of the retirement communities.

The Public Relations Committee is emphasizing media relations. One example is the upcoming Gazette article about the Great Decisions programs. The committee is investigating the possibility of notices in the newsletters of all the area's senior centers.

At the first Great Decisions program on March 24, a brochure will be distributed with a pitch for 5CLIR and the Meet the Moderators program on May 12. The committee considers it very important that a large number of members and their friends attend the May 12th program. Also mentioned was a possible notice in the UMass Alumni publication, since many of the university's retired alumni reside in the Pioneer Valley.

The new 5CLIR brochure is still in progress and will be ready by mid-April. The committee is also looking into ways to encourage more communication with LIR members, hoping that we will speak to our friends and neighbors about joining the organization.

Co-chair Jim Scott reminded Council about the excellent public relations involved in our good relationship with the Weissman Center at Mount Holyoke College, pointing to the three remaining programs in their Acts of Reconstruction

series of lectures. Jim called attention to Dottie Rosenthal's informative article about the Center in the current 5CLIR newsletter.

It was noted how helpful it is to have LIR liaisons with the colleges -- Dottie Rosenthal's work with Lois Brown at Mount Holyoke College and Arnold Friedmann's contacts with the University of Massachusetts. It is hoped that the other three colleges will be able to provide an ongoing relationship as well.

Vice-President Arnold Friedmann congratulated the committee on its energetic and creative work.

OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT:

--- Callie Kendall spoke about recent newsletter items that appear to be advertisements. Extra care will be taken in the future to avoid such problems.

--- Callie will email the membership to remind everyone about the special programs on March 23 and March 30.

--- Only one more newsletter is scheduled for this spring. There was considerable discussion about the timing of newsletters and the importance of being able to inform the membership about forthcoming programs. A suggestion was made to have a simple flyer listing dates of events to be mailed out in months between newsletters. Particularly important are notices for Meet the Moderators on May 12 and the annual meeting on June first.

OLD BUSINESS:

STATUS OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS -

MOTION PASSED -- The Special Programs Committee as presently constituted will be an experimental committee for a period of two years.

NEW BUSINESS:

REPORT OF THE LOTTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE -- Chair Bobbie Reitt distributed a handout about Appendix VI of the Moderators' Manual, the explanation of the current lottery procedure for oversubscribed seminars (copy for file). The committee's goal was to see if this procedure helps or hurts LIR, with particular reference to moderators' receiving guaranteed places in oversubscribed seminars.

The committee did extensive research in LIR office records and in conversations with moderators and seminar participants. They recommend continuing the past practice of guaranteeing admission to LIR members who did not get their first-choice course in the preceding semester because of a lottery and to those who are moderating seminars in the current semester.

Additionally, the committee proposes a guaranteed admission to their first-choice seminar to new members in the first semester in which they are able to submit their registration form before the lottery deadline. Furthermore, the committee suggests some new sign-up procedures that will make it possible to avoid lotteries entirely.

Discussion involved whether or not the guarantee for new members should be restricted to the first semester a new member applies. A policy provision was added:

"Anyone who has ever been a member of 5CLIR as of today, March 9, 2006, is ineligible for this new member benefit."

MOTION PASSED: The recommendations of the Lottery Review Committee and the added policy provision were accepted by Council, and these changes will be reflected in The Moderators' Manual, Appendix VI.

In addition to Bobbie Reitt, members of this temporary committee are Gloria Ayvazian, Peg Bedell, Suzanne Lehman, Jim McReynolds, Eleanor Shattuck, Sara Wright, and Dotty Gorra, ex officio.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Committee member Gillian Morbey made the report in the absence of chair, Dorothy Rosenthal.

Nominated are - President, Arnold Friedmann; Vice-president and President-elect, Mary Franks; Treasurer, June Guild; Assistant treasurer, Charles Klem; Secretary, Joyce Mazur. Dorothy Gorra will be Past-president.

The committee will meet again to prepare for the election of three new members to the LIR Council.

CIVIC VENTURES -- President Gorra distributed copies of the email she sent to the Executive Committee in February, asking prior approval of her nominating LIR Council member, Joan Hastings, for the Purpose Prize of Civic Ventures (copy for file). Leaders of Treehouse Community had proposed that Joan be nominated for this award and asked if Dotty would send in the nomination. If Joan receives the prize, a portion of the money will be awarded to 5CLIR and a portion to Treehouse Community. Joan herself clarified the nomination, which Executive Committee did approve at Dotty's request.

BY-LAW AMENDMENT - Copies of Joan Hastings' proposal for amending the 5CLIR By-laws was distributed to Council (copy for file). Discussion involved some concern about the two-thirds number required. It was noted that several by-law changes are being proposed this year, and these changes will be sent to the membership along with the slate of officers.

MOTION PASSED: The new section V. AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS will also be put before LIR members in June. "A proposal for amending the by-laws can be passed into law as follows: Any member may submit a proposed amendment, in writing, to the Council. At a regular meeting of the Council or a special meeting called for that purpose, a motion to amend must be supported by a two-thirds vote of the Council. Upon such approval, the proposed amendment is submitted to a vote of the General Membership in writing, in conjunction with the vote for Council members and officers. If the motion passes by a yea-vote of two-thirds of those members responding, the amendment is enacted."

The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Mazur, secretary