

## 5CLIR Council Meeting

April 13, 2006

### MINUTES

Next Meeting: May 11, 2006

Present: Dorothy Gorra, Arnold Friedmann, Jonathan Hanke, June Guild, Charles Klem, Joyce Mazur; Hy Edelstein, John Gaustad, Joan Hastings, Gillian Morbey, David Moriarty, Dorothy Rosenthal, James Scott, Nina Scott; Mary Beth Bridegam, Joice Gare, Gail Gaustad, Charles Gillies, Sheila Klem, Peter Reitt, Eleanor Shattuck. Not present: Ruth Hooke. Guests: Callie Kendall and Katherine Hazen.

President Dorothy Gorra welcomed Kathy Hazen, who will succeed Joice Gare as chair of the Meetings Committee.

Minutes of the March meeting were approved as written.

Remarks by the President -- Dotty Gorra spoke about a meeting of the Executive Committee at which the newsletter was discussed, especially the timing of the newsletter itself and a supplementary news sheet with schedule of coming events. Also, she is asking committee chairs for information for the annual report. Dotty agreed with suggestions that the deadline for the next edition should be included in each newsletter and that the 5CLIR website be included on the newsletter masthead.

Vice-President's Report - Recently Arnold Friedmann talked about 5CLIR with the retired university faculty and received many blank looks.

-- Progress is being made on the new brochure.

-- The May 12th meeting will be an important time for us to be aware of new people and to greet them warmly.

-- With respect to saving money on mailings, perhaps couples can receive a single copy of the newsletter and other mailings.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE - Co-chair Eleanor Shattuck reported that 22 seminars have been approved for the fall semester, with others pending or promised. The topics cover a wide range of interests.

Co-chair Sheila Klem announced that the next co-chair of the committee will be Bobbie Reitt, who has been writing the seminar descriptions for the catalogs. Council approved Bobbie Reitt for this position.

Sheila also referred to the Lottery Sub-committee and said that the new Appendix VI of the Moderators' Manual will stand as discussed at the last meeting of Council.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** - Chair June Guild distributed the revised application for membership (copy for file). The committee decided to discontinue the possibility of paying the annual dues in two installments.

The committee decided to continue the fifty-dollar refund to members unable to enroll for one of the semesters, with a new deadline of March 15 of the current membership year. After discussion by Council, the sentence mentioning this refund was amended to read: "If a fully-paid member is unable to register for a fall or spring seminar, a refund of \$50.00 can be applied for in writing."  
**MOTION PASSED:** The Finance Committee's amended application/renewal form is accepted.

In other Finance Committee business, June distributed a handout with the Proposed Budget, with three columns - for F2005, F2006, and F2007 (copy for file). June carefully explained each item, emphasizing changes projected for F2007.

During the discussion there was concern about projecting an increase in membership, up to 245, contrasted to the present 228. As far as concern about difficulties in funding all our expenses, the committee has been considering other money-raising activities besides annual dues. They decided against a dues increase just now, considering that dues were raised so recently. In preparing the budget, the Finance Committee lowered all requests from other committees, thereby saving a good bit of money.  
**MOTION PASSED:** The Finance Committee's proposed budget is accepted as written.

Past-President Jono Hanke congratulated the Finance Committee for this excellent, useful budget document.

Finance Committee member Jim Scott distributed a 5CLIR Policy Statement about a donation in appreciation of the use of space (copy for file). This donation has been an ongoing practice, and the committee believes that it is helpful to have the policy written down. Council considers it a moral obligation to donate money to non-profits with marginal budgets when we are allowed to use their property for seminars or workshops.  
**MOTION PASSED:** The policy is accepted as written.

**JANUARY AND SUMMER PROGRAMS** -- Chair Gail Gaustad said that the summer offerings are nearly complete, and they will be listed in the packet that members will receive on May 12.

**LEARNING THROUGH COMMUNITY** -- Chair Joan Hastings spoke about the various programs that she and other volunteers are involved with.

The Treehouse Community in Easthampton continues to present interesting opportunities for volunteers - an intergenerational community, plenty of responsibility volunteering in the schools, with opportunities next year in the Treehouse Community Center. Joan also pointed out that the television program of psychologist Phillip McGraw will feature Treehouse on the Friday, April 14 show, when the Dr. Phil Foundation will present Treehouse with \$50,000 for its work with children.

The Petticoat Hill program will hold a special event on June 15.

Habitat for Humanity continues as one of the volunteer opportunities offered by the committee, with a redesign of the program by Sheila Klem. The committee is coordinating with the Habitat at Amherst College.

New programs being developed for Learning in Community are a Dickinson Museum project coordinated by Ruth Hooke and a Commonwealth Opera project of behind-the-scenes work coordinated by Peg Bedell.

Joan and the committee have prepared a pamphlet to be included in the May 12 information packet.

**MEETINGS COMMITTEE** - Chair Joice Gare distributed an attractive handout advertising the Meet the Moderators event on Friday, May 12, from 2-4 p.m. at the Amherst College Alumni House (copy for file). Refreshments will be passed around by members of the committee, since there is really no place to set them out for a serve-ourselves arrangement. This procedure was a great success at the November event. The committee is looking forward to a good turnout, since the Public Relations Committee has invited many people. The front rooms of Alumni House will be used to feature displays by the moderators of fall seminars.

The committee is also working on plans for the Annual Meeting on June first.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** -- No report.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE** - Chair Marybeth Bridegam announced that LIR members and guests will receive in the packet on May 12 a detailed listing of future programs. On that occasion a survey will be handed out to get ideas for programs and possibly volunteers. A film series is in the planning stage, and Marybeth commented that working with Gail Gaustad of the January and Summer Committee has been a valuable way to assure coordinated scheduling.

Dottie Rosenthal added that events are being planned for the new extra Wednesday time-slot, as well as for Thursday afternoons and Fridays.

**GREAT DECISIONS** - Chair John Gaustad reported that the current series of Foreign Policy Association programs is being well attended, with more than 100 people each time. The programs are going very smoothly and are being well received by the audience. The committee has heard many good comments about each of the offerings thus far.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE -- Chair Peter Reitt announced two computer workshops scheduled for the summer. The first workshop will be held on the mornings of June 5, 6, and 7, on WORD and the Internet, to be taught by Jim Harvey, who did such an excellent job with a similar workshop back in January.

The other workshop will be on PowerPoint, to be taught by Charlie Klem and Chuck Gillies, on the mornings of August 21, 22, and 23. Specific information will be included in the 5CLIR newsletter.

New members of the Technology Committee are Jono Hanke, Corrado Poli, and Bill Williams.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE -- Co-chairs Chuck Gillies and Jim Scott reported on the committee's current emphases. One focus continues to be media relations, and the committee members hope that LIR members will clip and pass on news articles that they read in local news outlets. At the first Great Decisions program in March, the committee distributed an informative leaflet that made an excellent impression on readers.

Members of the Public Relations Committee will become liaisons with other LIR committees, so that they can give Callie the correct information for the newsletter. This practice will especially affect January and Summer Committee and the Special Programs committees, and ultimately Learning Through Community as well.

The Spring Push, advertising the May 12 Meet the Moderators, has received particular attention. News articles appeared in the Amherst Record and South Hadley newspaper. Announcements were sent to all the Councils on Aging in the area. The committee prepared an eye-catching poster for LIR members to give to friends or to post in churches and other meeting places (copy for file). Callie will also be sending an e-mail reminder that we can forward to friends, or she will be willing to send e-mails directly to those whose names we give her.

The much-anticipated brochure has run into complications. The text has been completed but not the graphics. Our Vice-president Arnold Friedmann, an award-winning designer, is now working on the process.

The committee has also been examining a database of former members to invite back to 5CLIR, making sure that they are aware of our new programs, helping them to feel welcome to rejoin the organization.

#### OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT:

--- Callie said that she will send out the May first newsletter early, so that people will receive it well before May 12 and the Meet the Moderators program.

Deadline for copy is April 24.

--- Postage will be saved by sending catalogs by media mail rate.

--- Smith Faculty Cub can be a useful place for meetings, with the Red Room that can accommodate 20 people and Room A, suitable for 10-12 people.

--- Because of major construction at Amherst College, there will be many vehicles in the Alumni House parking lot. The construction and parking problems will also affect the Campus Center. Discussion centered on the possibility of changing afternoon seminar times to 3-5 p.m. Many members are unwilling to drive in darkness, though the new extended dates for Daylight Savings Time may ameliorate that situation somewhat. Maybe LIR can experiment with the new time on Wednesdays, when we already will have the new meetings slot around the lunch hour. Council decided to get input from members about any changes in seminar times.

At the end of Callie's report, she was praised for her extraordinary help with committee tasks, notably with the work of Public Relations and Great Decisions.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Nominating Committee chair, Dorothy Rosenthal, announced the names that have been put forth from the spring seminars as nominations for Council: Wil Hastings, Anne McIntosh, Philippe Meyer, Mary O'Brien-Irons, Frank Reilly, Peter Reitt, Leo Sartori, Eleanor Shattuck, Elizabeth Van Dyke, and Sara Wright.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Nina Scott announced a program called "The Thieves of Baghdad" about the looting of the museum there. The program will include a book-signing, with proceeds of the book sales to go to the museum in Baghdad - at Mahar Auditorium on April 18.

Jim Scott reported that Whole Foods has a policy of assisting non-profits in the Valley, and the Kestrel Trust will receive the assistance from sales on April 19.

President Gorra announced that the May Council meeting will be chaired by Vice-President Friedmann while Dotty is on her study-trip in Italy, a Lifelong Learning Program organized in Bristol.

Looking forward to the Annual Meeting on June first, Dotty Gorra said that the By-law changes have all been assembled for distribution to the membership and that a complete reference copy will be placed on each of the lunch tables. Dottie Rosenthal requested that there be a tally-counter at each table to facilitate the counting of all votes. Perhaps each member could have a card for voting in order to distinguish members from the numerous guests that are expected. Callie and Dottie will work together to expedite voting arrangements for Annual Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Mazur, secretary

