

5CLIR Council Meeting August 10, 2006

## MINUTES

Next Meeting: September 14, 2006

Present: Arnold Friedmann, Mary Franks, Dorothy Gorra, Joyce Mazur; Hy Edelstein, John Gaustad, Joan Hastings, Wil Hastings, Peter Reitt, Eleanor Shattuck; Marybeth Bridegam, Gail Gaustad, Charles Gillies, Katherine Hazen, Barbara Reitt, Sara Wright; Callie Kendall.

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by President Arnold Friedmann.

Welcome: President Friedmann welcomed the three new Council members -- Wil Hastings, Peter Reitt, and Eleanor Shattuck.

Minutes of the June meeting were accepted as written and distributed.

Remarks by the President: President Friedmann postponed his remarks until the end of the meeting.

Vice-President's Report: Mary Franks announced that she has attended several meetings of committees in her ex officio status and is most impressed by all the work that LIR members accomplish for the organization.

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE -- New co-chair Bobbie Reitt distributed the schedule for the year (copy for file) and called attention to a few events. The fall Moderators' Reception will be held on October 27. The committee sees this event as a way to recruit moderators, to receive feedback about seminars, and to hear ideas for new seminars.

November 19 will be Meet the Moderators, to be held at Davis Student Center at Smith College.

June 3, 2007 will be the date of the spring Meet the Moderators. Some discussion centered on the date and place of Annual Meeting, since the two spring events are separated once again. The decision will be made later.

APPROVED: Curriculum Committee Calendar 2006-2007.

Bobbie then distributed copies of Appendices for the Moderators' Manual, which was revised last year (copy for file).

Concerning the fall seminars that begin the last week of September, Bobbie said that 29 seminars were offered, and three were canceled for lack of enrollment. Some of the small seminars will be held as announced, especially those in which size is not an issue, and some other small seminars will be held in private houses. Jim Harvey has agreed to hold two sessions of his seminar in world religions. There were five lotteries and a number of waiting lists.

Looking ahead to spring semester, Bobbie said that the due date for seminar proposals will be October 27. The committee already has five proposals in hand. Bobbie distributed the committee's new proposal form (copy for file), which will also be on the 5CLIR website.

FINANCE COMMITTEE -- A complete report will be available at the September meeting.

JANUARY AND SUMMER PROGRAMS -- Co-chair Gail Gaustad reported that the varied schedule of summer programs has been going very well, with enthusiastic participation. The committee will begin work soon on the January programs. Gail said that new members will be welcome on this committee.

LEARNING THROUGH COMMUNITY -- Chair Joan Hastings announced that the committee will meet soon to prepare the schedule of spring programs and referred to the extensive offerings for the fall semester. Arnold Friedmann mentioned some interest from the Big Brothers and Big Sisters organization and said that the word is apparently getting out about the outstanding LIR volunteer programs that Joan's committee has been creating.

MEETINGS COMMITTEE -- New chair Kathy Hazen listed the many companies she has consulted about the catering of our fall social event. A suggestion was made to hold the event at the UMass Fine Arts Center, and Kathy said she would look into this possibility.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE -- New co-chair Sara Wright announced that Pat Keating has consented to be the other co-chair, bringing her considerable experience to the committee. Sara and Pat will have a meeting soon to plan the reception for new members. Also, the Membership committee will work closely with Meetings and Public Relations as they plan the year ahead.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS -- Chair Marybeth Bridegam distributed an attractive handout detailing the many special programs for the fall semester (copy for file). Marybeth refers to the handout as Green Pages that will be easily recognized amidst all our other papers and that can be conveniently displayed on refrigerator door or bulletin board.

There was a question about whom to call if a member wants to set up a special program that is clearly not a seminar or workshop. Callie has a large wall calendar in the office, where everything can be conveniently listed. Discussion continued about times for special programs and scheduling procedures. Past President Dotty Gorra emphasized the long-standing policy that seminars always take precedence over any other activities, and this policy needs to be kept in mind when scheduling special programs.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE -- Chair Peter Reitt announced a workshop on Friday, September 29, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Field House. The workshop will

feature the opaque projector that is so useful for seminar presentations. This is the first Friday of the fall semester, when all the seminars will have met and members will have some idea of their media requirements. It is expected that a representative from each seminar will attend the workshop.

Also Pete reminded Council of the Power Point workshop to be led by Charlie Klem on August 21, 22, and 23 at Smith. Seventeen people signed up for this workshop.

Finally Pete announced the formation of a sub-committee that will redesign the 5CLIR website, under the experienced leadership of Hy Edelstein. Robyn Cutler, the designer with Five Colleges, Inc., will work with the sub-committee on this project.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS --** Co-chair Chuck Gillies began by reading some comparative membership statistics, including the fact that there are fifty new members to date. A slight drop in former members may be attributed to some new policies, such as dues paid before lottery this past spring and lottery preference for new members.

Chuck spoke of 5CLIR representation at Taste of Amherst during the summer and a meeting with the director of Highland Valley Elder Services. In early September all the Lifelong Learning Institutes in the area will participate in an educational forum at Longmeadow Elder Services.

**OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT:** Callie began by saying that Gillian Morbey will be checking the telephone messages while Callie is away, August 21 -25.

- The Summer Programs policy of no refunds makes the administration of bus trips an efficient process.
- Seminar lists are changing daily, with many members switching seminars.
- Inquiries about LIR indicate that some people are reluctant to join the organization if they cannot be assured a place in a particular seminar.
- Callie will be in touch with last year's members who have not yet registered for this year.
- She will send out the directions leaflet and membership directory before the seminars begin.
- A record number of calls came into the office regarding Nina Scott's interview of Callie and Jim Scott's accompanying photograph of Callie and Tom in the August newsletter.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Past President Dorothy Gorra asked that information for the Annual Report be sent directly to the LIR office. She also reminded committee chairs that they are expected to assist Callie with mailings and other work connected with their own committees.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Nominating Committee - President Friedmann announced a change in the makeup of the Nominating Committee. The chair will be a member of Council.

The chair will select two Council members and two regular members to comprise the committee, which will be removed from the list of volunteer options.

Bylaws and rules ad hoc committee -- Wil Hastings will work on an improved procedure for changing bylaws.

Dreyfus Affair co-sponsorship. Eva Sartori, moderator of a recent seminar on the Dreyfus Affair, has invited 5CLIR to be a sponsor of a lecture at the Jewish Community of Amherst. It is an important program that will provide good publicity for LIR.

MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Conference on Creative Aging -- Joan Hastings reported on a conference that she is arranging with the Smith School of Social Work, to be held in April 2007. Joan is looking for an outstanding keynote speaker for the conference, which will have workshops on life-changes people face as they age - including housing, financial plans, leisure activities. This is expected to be an important outreach in this valley.

The conference will include a research component with a survey available at the pre-registration and a five-year research study planned. There will also be book sales at the conference. Public Relations committee will be involved in publicity.

Other members of the planning committee are Mary Franks, Frank Reilly, Barbara and Peter Reitt, Barbara and Diedrich Snoek, and Wil Hastings.

EIN Conference, June 2007 -- Delegates from 5CLIR to the conference will be Vice President Mary Franks and Council members Dorothy Rosenthal and Eleanor Shattuck. Perhaps someone else will volunteer to attend as well. The conference will take place in Potsdam, New York, June 1-3, 2007.

Task Force on Associate Membership and fee structure -- President Friedmann has appointed Chuck Gillies to chair this group, which includes Vice President Mary Franks and Jonathan Hanke. Chuck is looking for volunteers for the Task Force.

Project at Hampshire College - President Friedmann and Council member Wil Hastings reported on a meeting they held recently with officials of Hampshire College about the residential community planned by the college in the near future. A memorandum from Arnold and Wil states that Hampshire College has identified three themes that might attract seniors to the facility -- lifelong learning, a growing community, and environmental sustainability. The idea is for 5CLIR to become involved with the lifelong-learning theme, including having a sort of branch office at the central building. Arnold and Wil are soliciting feedback from Council members about this incipient plan. They will meet again with Hampshire officials before the next Council meeting, where information and discussion of this project will be a major topic on the agenda.

Executive Committee's wider role in routine decisions -- Arnold plans to meet regularly with Executive Committee throughout the year.

PRESIDENT'S CLOSING REMARKS -- Arnold spoke about an Amherst College grant for interns, and he hopes that 5CLIR might have the services of one of the interns in our office.

The meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Mazur, secretary