

**Five College Learning in Retirement  
Minutes of the Council Meeting  
July 10, 2008**

**Next meeting on September 18, 2008**

The Council of the Five College Learning in Retirement met on Thursday, July 10, at the Five College offices on Spring Street in Amherst.

*Present:* Elizabeth Armstrong, Kathy Coulombe, Peter Ferber, Mary Franks, Gail Gaustad, Wil Hastings, Carol Jolly, Philippe Meyer, Callie Orszak, Pete Reitt, Leo Sartori, Eleanor Shattuck, Bill Williams, Sara Wright, Kathy Hazen.

*Absent:* Jeff Caplan, Roger Coulombe, Doris Holden, Sheila Klem, Charlie Klem, Joan Laird, Anne Lombard, Jim Scott, Beverly von Kries.

President Leo Sartori called the meeting to order at approximately 2:30, and welcomed the three new members of the Council as well as the new committee chairs and co-chairs. The minutes of the June Council meeting had been distributed electronically and were accepted as written.

President's Report: The President also reported, with deep regret, the recent death of former member Dr. Frank Reilly, and the serious illnesses of two of our current members.

Leo also reported that we have 26 new members, only a few of whom are Trial members, since the Preview on June 1. The Summer Programs are underway, mostly very successfully. Plans for the Gala in October are coming along nicely too: Mary Franks noted that we have one special guest coming to the Gala; Callie added, however, that none of the Five College presidents has been able to accept our invitation so far. Work is needed on the program for the Gala. The Aging Conference ("Creative Aging") is in good shape: Joan Hastings has reported that an outstanding group of workshops is planned, and the Rev. Dr. Peter Ives will be the keynote speaker. **(see more under Old Business.)**

Vice President's Report: Vice President Sara Wright reported that the Committee chairs will meet tomorrow morning, to make their duties and obligations known, as well as their expectations of each other, as a good way to start off the new year. The new chairpeople should benefit especially.

**Committee reports:**

Finance: Assistant Treasurer Bill Williams reported for Treasurer Charlie Klem: Although the year end statements are not ready yet, for fiscal 2009 we already have 90% of the membership on which the year's budget is predicated.

Curriculum Committee: Co-chair Sara Wright's report follows: *Lottery results and seminar status as of 7/7/08: All privileged first choices were met. Six first choices were not met*

*(some seminars had 26 requests.) Seven seminars were lotteried and 40 people are on waiting lists. 12 seminars are still open with 51 available openings. 14 seminars are closed and 2 seminars were cancelled when the moderator was informed of low enrollment.\* Sara added: \*Perhaps Curriculum Committee should discuss how soon moderators should be notified of the number in their seminar. If we did not have places available during the summer, this could be very discouraging to new members and also to members who choose not to meet the lottery date but wait for 7/1 to send in their check and selection sheet.*

**Public Relations:** Lise Armstrong reported on behalf of Chairman Jeff Caplan that a film series, with speakers, at Amherst Cinema, is being planned as a community service and as publicity for 5CLIR. Sara Wright and Gail Gaustad are involved, and this will come under Special Programs from here on.

**Summer/Winter:** Carol Jolly, co-chair with Anne Lombard, reported that the bus trip to the Mount (Edith Wharton's) had to be cancelled due to low enrollment, but the trip to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts sold out. There is a waitlist for Tanglewood and the History Walk in Northampton (*Kay Sheehan later agreed to run it twice.*) Carol is looking for smaller vehicles than the Strong's smallest bus which holds 47 people. Carol noted that our member Ed Golden is directing a play at the New Century theater this summer.

**Membership/Meetings:** Kathy Hazen, co-chair, reported that the committee planned to meet in August to finalize the plans for the September picnic at the Gaustads, and that co-chair Sheila Klem is still adding to the list of hosts for the April 2009 brunches, and will put recipes in the newsletter to keep the brunches in everybody's awareness. The membership registration forms have all been redesigned to be more efficient and attractive.

**Tech Committee:** Philippe Meyer is the new chair of this committee. No report at this time. *Jim Harvey is in charge of the Audio-visual equipment.*

**Special Programs:** Co-chairs Gail Gaustad and Doris Holden. Gail referred the Council to the green pages included in the Preview Packet that list the many special programs already scheduled for the fall. *Friday mornings are reserved for encore presentations and lectures.*

**Officer Manager's Report:** Callie Orszak's report follows: *All seminar confirmations are out and changes are being made daily to the seminar lists. I am going to England and Wales on Sunday and will be back on August 4<sup>th</sup>. I have four volunteers who are going to share the workload while I am away: Shirley Brodigan, Laura Cranshaw, Joice Gare, and Sara Wright. Sally Edelstein is a stand-by in case anyone can't make it on their appointed day. The training session is Thursday morning. The office will be open as usual, from Monday to Thursday. All phone messages and email will be dealt with while I am away.*

Callie added to her written report that she has joined a carpool as a good example for the rest of the group. She also added that we have three new members from the Rockridge community. Callie explained some of the complications involved in determining the

final number of participants in a seminar. Leo expressed appreciation to the volunteers who will be standing in for Callie while she is away.

Great Decisions Committee: Kathy Coulombe reported for Chairman Roger Coulombe that it looks like the Northampton Senior Center will be a fine new site for the Great Decisions programs. Their biggest room will accommodate 270 people; if the COA sound system isn't upgraded by next March we can rent a sound system at a reasonable rate. The Senior Center can provide a nice lunch (on round tables at the back of the big room, with three menu selections) cheaper and simpler than the last venue (The Depot.)

Development Committee: Chair Kathy Coulombe submitted the following report electronically, and explained the complexities of the grants for which the committee hopes to apply. (Later she added that the Humanities grant is a matching grant, for which we must raise an equal amount of money.)

*We (Roger and I) are submitting a draft of a grant proposal to the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities which will hopefully help to underwrite the costs of the Great Decisions Program—i.e. the DVD's and booklets that we purchase from the Foreign Policy Forum in New York and the honorariums paid to our speakers. The total amount could run as much as \$1800-\$2000. If so, that amount which we currently spend might be needed to rent a speaker system and large screen at the Northampton Senior Center.*

*Another grant proposal is being submitted to the Highland Valley Elder Services along the same lines as the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities grant.*

*Hopefully one of these two grant requests will be fulfilled.*

*I am hoping that we will have several more volunteers who want to serve on the Development Committee. We will hold our first meeting in early September.*

*Roger and I have been invited to attend the Community Foundation Annual Meeting in October at the Log Cabin. Since Five Colleges Inc. attends, we feel it is also important to have representation from 5CLIR. The grant deadline for the Community Foundation is August 25, which we will also apply for if the other two do not come through.*

The motion was made and passed unanimously that both the Development and the Aging Conference Committees go ahead and apply for the grants.

### **Old Business:**

Re the Aging Conference: Joan Hastings, who initiated this program, is eager to have it continue, but not to lead it herself; so far no one has come forward to volunteer to do this. The conference would take place yearly, or perhaps every eighteen months or two years, on a Saturday, so as not to interfere with the Great Decisions schedule. Committee member Wil Hastings noted that they hope to have a 'perfected outreach mechanism' relying on collective e-mails. This was very effective last year, with no brochure, 'a roadmap for bringing in 150 people (paying) last year.' The WFCR ad was unproductive. Another grant from the Highland Valley Elder Services (HVES) may be applied for.

Wil also noted that leading this Conference is not a mechanical task, and should be done by somebody who cares about the opportunities of aging. A lead time of ten months is needed to plan the conference; there is great scope for creativity in planning the workshops and speakers. Two hundred people attended the last conference in April 2007; no vendors were included. The Aging Conference is good for 5CLIR. Past President Mary Franks recommended that we postpone a decision until after the second conference this November.

### **New Business:**

President Leo Sartori asked the Council to approve of the appointments of the new Committee Chairs: *Joan Laird (Curriculum Committee); Carol Jolly and Anne Lombard (January and Summer Programs); Gail Gaustad and Doris Holden (Special Programs); Philippe Meyer (Tech); Jeff Caplan (Public Relations); Kathy Coulombe (Development) and Roger Coulombe (Great Decisions)*. A motion was so made and passed unanimously.

Next, the question was put to the Council whether the Preview Committee should become a standing committee with a budget of its own. Bill Williams, Assistant Treasurer, noted that this is a matter of transferring funds. Lise Armstrong raised the question of the Annual Meeting being piggy-backed on the spring Preview: the Annual Meeting is an important institutional event in itself. Discussion on this question was postponed and the motion to make the Preview committee permanent was put to the vote and passed unanimously.

Finally, the question was posed as to alternative venues for this 5CLIR Council meeting. Given the persistent difficulties of parking in the area, the proposal was made that we meet elsewhere. Council member Jim Scott's argument for continuing in our present site follows: *Reactions to the suggestion to change our meeting room from 5 Colleges Inc.:*

- 1. I am disturbed by calls to change the meeting place, and of complaints about parking and seating problems and of not feeling welcome.*
- 2. Nina has worked with 5 Colleges Inc. since its inception, and has experienced nothing but cooperation, generosity and helpful staff in almost 40 years. As far as feeling "not welcome" is concerned, there are many, many groups which meet in this space, of which we are but one, and the receptionist (Nancy) has much to do. Nina has known Nancy for many years, and she is very nice.*
- 3. We are given a fine meeting space and free refreshments every time we come. To try to duplicate this at any of the colleges would be very difficult, as we meet at prime teaching time, when meeting space and convenient parking are not available to outside groups. During the summer months parking at Five Colleges, Inc. is in any case not an issue, as street parking is permitted. And if we begin to carpool in earnest, the parking problem can be solved without too much difficulty.*

*The Florence Savings Bank space is smaller than the one at Five Colleges, and parking is also an issue.*

*4. Besides all of the above logistical reasons, I think it would be a political mistake to pull out of the present space. Being visible and interacting with Marie Hess, Lorna Peterson, etc. is very important to maintaining their support of our organization. Good will and appreciation is of the essence for keeping a good thing going, so, as Callie has pointed out, be creative in carpooling and realize what a boon this place is for us.*

Mary Franks recommended that Leo talk with Lorna Peterson of Five Colleges about this problem.

Office Manager Callie Orszak passed around a very large book, "Older Americans Information Directory" which we have for 30 days inspection. Council was dubious that anybody would use it; it's not as good as Google.

The President asked if there was any more business. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine Hazen, Recording Secretary