

**Five College Learning in Retirement
Minutes of the Council Meeting
September 18, 2008**

Next meeting on October 16, 2008

The Council of Five College Learning in Retirement met on Thursday afternoon, September 18, at the 5CLR office on Spring Street in Amherst.

Present: Larry Ambs, Lise Armstrong, Jeff Caplan, Kathy Coulombe, Roger Coulombe, Peter Ferber, Mary Franks, Gail Gaustad, Wil Hastings, Kathy Hazen, Sheila Klem, Charlie Klem, Joan Laird, Anne Lombard, Callie Orszak, Pete Reitt, Leo Sartori, Eleanor Shattuck, Beverley Von Kries, Sara Wright

President Leo Sartori called the meeting to order at 2:35, and welcomed everyone back.

The minutes of the July meeting were accepted with a correction (the word ‘scheduling’ was inserted in the Tech committee report, which see.) The corrected version will be available via e-mail.

President’s Report: Leo thanked the people who helped out in the office this summer while Callie was on vacation (Laura Cranshaw, Shirley Brodigan, Joice Gare, Kathy Hazen, Sara Wright.) He also thanked Gail and John Gaustad for their hospitality in holding the September picnic in their garden (80 members attended.)

Leo then reported on the Gala which is coming up in two weeks on October 4. Plans are in good shape with approximately one hundred paying guests. Honore David has negotiated so well with UMass that we will probably not need to use any LIR money. Among the guests of LIR will be the president of Hampshire College and a reporter from the Daily Hampshire Gazette. There will be music during the cocktail hour. Ed Golden has written a piece that will be read by two of his actor colleagues; Eleanor Reid will speak, reminiscing about LIR’s early days; and there will be a slide show. All this will last no more than an hour. Honore has also arranged for souvenir pens to be handed out.

Leo finished by reporting that a grant has been received for Great Decisions; the fall programs will begin next week and are in good shape; Aging Wisely will take place on November 15 with an attractive set of workshops.

Vice President’s Report: Vice-President Sara Wright’s written report follows: *The meeting of all the chairs in July was an excellent idea. Thanks Jeff. My recommendation is that we continue this introductory meeting every year. I am looking for a time and place for the Preview Committee to meet; it will be the week of the 6th. All chairs who are involved, please let me know if you have a commitment beyond Special Programs and Seminars. I expect to meet with Curriculum, Meetings, Special Programs, January and Summer Programs, and Great Decisions. If other committees would like to attend let me know.*

Gail Gaustad and I rode the PVTA bus from Smith to Amherst (via UMass) and found it a very agreeable experience. Callie confirmed this morning that 5CLIR members may use the PVTA buses (38, 39, and B43) for free when traveling to their seminars. Don't forget your up-to-date ID card as this is your pass to a free trip. There will be an article in the newsletter with more details.

I have been attending some committee meetings; chairs, please, let me know when and where your committee is meeting.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: Treasurer Charlie Klem passed around the Annual Report (attached.) He stated that we have budgeted to a small loss; we must continue to be vigilant. He listed the members of the (July 2008 – June 2009) Finance Committee: Klaus Kroner, Helene Lambert, Jim Scott, Bill Williams, Sara Wright, Charlie Klem. He thanked last year's committee members as well as June Guild and Laura Cranshaw for their services.

Curriculum Committee: Sara Wright, co-chair, distributed the new Curriculum Committee's calendar, noting that the spring schedule is more compressed (the Fall Preview has been moved up to April.) Another problem is that under-subscribed moderators have cancelled their seminars too quickly; Sara suggests giving Callie three weeks to "smooth out" the numbers before canceling. The question was raised as to when the registration fee should be due and whether this fee should be tied in with the end of the fiscal year, or not.

Sara also distributed a page of statistics re the current seminars.

Joan Laird, co-chair added to the committee report that four seminars are firm and several more promised for next spring.

Public Relations: Jeff Caplan, Chairperson: *(Jeff recommended moving the next Council meeting because of the Jewish High Holiday, Yom Kippur. Leo said that he and Sara will make an executive decision instead of putting this to a vote.)* Jeff circulated the new LIR bookmarks. He explained the potential new program with the Amherst Cinema (Carol Johnson, executive director) as part of an effort to get 'the word' out into the community. As part of a special series, "Film at 68" (8 films, Monday night and Wednesday afternoon); LIR would be invited to provide an introductory speaker (5-10 minute commentary) for the Wednesday afternoon showing. A second series is also proposed for a first Thursday matinee, once a month. Eleanor Shattuck (who has moderated several movie seminars) will consult with her co-moderator Paul Rothery re finding LIR speakers. Leo said that there is enough LIR support to move this program forward.

Summer/Winter Programs: Anne Lombard, co-chair, reported that the summer programs went well. An oversubscribed program (Northampton walk) was run twice to accommodate everybody. January programs are pretty much all lined up. No bus

journeys have been planned for January because the weather is too iffy. Leo asked if smaller buses have been located, and Anne said that they are good for short trips only, being less comfortable and having no rest rooms.

Meetings/Membership: Sheila Klem, co-chair, also thanked the Gaustads for hosting the all-member picnic on September 10, one of the most beautiful days of the summer (fortunately the hurricane rains came & went the day before). New members were contacted and invited to the picnic and the Gala, and several attended the picnic.

Sheila noted that there are currently 254 full-time members and 16 associates, a total of 270; of these 35 are new members, 15 are trial members. The committee will compare the member lists to see who went from trial membership to full-time membership, etc. Several new members were welcomed formally and introduced at the picnic, but the committee wonders if we shouldn't have a special event to welcome new members. Callie will be asked to print the seminar lists in the newsletter and highlight the new members.

Sheila also submitted the following written report: *The committee was involved in helping with the very successful picnic at the Gaustads' home on Sept. 10. Our committee split the list of the 32 new LIR members and made welcoming calls, urging them to come to the picnic. At least four new members attended and were recognized by Vice President Sara Wright during Ruth Hooke's entertaining sing-a-long session. One woman, JoLayne Hinkel, is a former member who is happy to join anew, after being away from the area.*

The M/M committee will soon be scheduling a meeting to take place before the October Council. At that time we will be planning our agenda for the year, which will include a follow-up of membership patterns and ongoing steps necessary for the spring potluck brunches.

Special Programs: Gail Gaustad submitted the following report: *Special Programs met last Friday and got off to a good start. We are beginning to start work on the schedule-booklet to be distributed at the next Preview. We will request any proposals for new special programs be submitted in writing. Next Friday, will be the first of our Friday morning presentations.*

Office Manager: Callie Kendall Orszak presented her report at the beginning of the meeting as she had to leave. She brought several copies of the 2007 Annual Report to the meeting. Her written report follows: *During my vacations this summer I was very lucky to have Sara Wright, Kathy Hazen, Laura Cranshaw, Joice Gare, and Shirley Brodigan to volunteer in the office. Sally Edelstein was on stand-by. These volunteers did a marvelous job and I am very grateful they stepped forward to run the office while I was away.*

Hy Edelstein and I have been building an Access database for the upcoming Aging Wisely conference. Once we are certain that it contains all the elements we need and is put together in the most efficient way, we will import the present 5CLIR database into Access and make the necessary adjustments. Quite a bit of energy has been expended this summer on switching people in and out of seminars.

Great Decisions Committee: Co-chair Roger Coulombe reported the committee met on September 5 and will meet again on the 17th. He listed the current members: Bert Bandman, Sandy and Betsy Belden, Paul Berman, Jeff Caplan, Ginny Christenson (co-chair), Peter Ferber, Irv Howards, Claire Sherr.

The five topics will be selected from the following eight recommended: Afghanistan/Pakistan, Human Rights, US and Egypt, Global Food Supply, Cuba After Castro, US And Rising Global Powers, Energy and the Global Economy, The Arctic.

The first program is scheduled for March 27 and the next four will be scheduled over the next five weeks (to skip Good Friday on April 10.)

The income from the series may be used for LIR scholarships, or the Council on Aging, or to increase the speaker's honorarium (now \$200.) The grant requires some of the money to be spent on publicity. Also required: formal evaluations after every program as well as scholarships for the underserved. The committee can't apply for another grant for a period of time.

Development Committee:

Chairperson Kathy Coulombe reported that the Development Committee held its first meeting today. Joan Hastings has applied for a grant from Highland Valley Elder Services which hasn't come through yet. Kathy Coulombe attended a fundraising conference, of 75-80 non-profit agencies, and will represent 5CLIR at the Community Foundation Annual Meeting/Luncheon at the Log Cabin with others from Five College Inc. on October 16.

She listed the Development Committee: Mary Franks, Pete Reitt, Sara Wright, Roger Coulombe, Jim Scott, Betsy Loughran, Joan Hastings and Helene Lambert.

Kathy posed several questions: what is the purpose of the Development Committee? Issues: the need for fundraising, assigning homework, - if we were to receive a large gift or donation (of say, \$25,000), what would we use it for—Programs? Technology? A communications fund? Note: you cannot get a grant without a purpose as to why we need the money. Also, we need a sum of money in order to get matching grants. Where will we be in five years- will we need a van on either side of the river? A block of time will be set aside at the next Council meeting to discuss this.

Old Business:

Re: Preview committee: Leo noted that at the last Council meeting we made the Preview a permanent committee with a budget of its own. A meeting will be held in early October of the chairs of the committees involved (Curriculum, Special Programs, Meetings.)

Re: Parking in Amherst: Pete Reitt wants to get it in the record that getting a permit to park in Amherst is actually a pleasant experience. (Sara and Gail have checked out the buses re traveling to seminars in Amherst.)

Re: Gala: Mary Franks wants to offer Lorna Peterson of 5CLIR a membership next year, as she is retiring, a nice gesture. Mary will have a 'diploma' made.

Re: Social Work student program: Joan Laird announced that three Smith School for Social Work students are interested in doing a project with LIR. There are a lot of requirements to be met on both sides. Joan will meet with them this week.

Re: Memorials: Sara Wright said that we need to know when people have died. Should we have a memorial column in the newsletter? A memorial committee? Sara will ask all members to notify Callie when there has been a death. Keep track of sick people? (Sheila Klem) should the membership committee take care of this?

Sara again asked committee chairs to send both her and Callie a list of their committee members.

Discussions: Joan Laird suggested we put short pieces about people in the newsletter. Pete Reitt noted that we're not a social club. Lise Armstrong noted that Callie shouldn't be solving people's personal problems, e.g. who needs a ride- this should be dealt with inside the seminars. Jeff Caplan asks to what degree are we a social service organization? If X has a problem, where should he turn?

Leo Sartori said that if you want to take part in this discussion, contact Leo (Lise Armstrong, Peter Ferber, Jeff Caplan.) Later, we can call on the membership.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine Hazen
Recording Secretary

Attachments: Annual Financial Report