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**Five College Learning in Retirement
Minutes of the Council Meeting
October 16, 2008**

Next meeting on November 13, 2008

The Council of Five College Learning in Retirement met on Thursday afternoon, October 16, 2008, in the meeting room of the Florence Savings Bank in Hadley.

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

President Leo Sartori called the meeting to order at 2:35. The minutes of the September meeting were accepted as sent via e-mail earlier.

The President's report: Leo Sartori said the Gala was a great success despite the sadness of the deaths of Manny Rubin and Jerry Rosenthal the day before. Jim Scott took pictures, which will appear in a Hampshire Life (Gazette) article, and Callie will put them on the web site. Stan Rosenberg came and spoke briefly, as did the President of Hampshire College. Lorna Peterson of 5 Colleges presented LIR with a plaque and was pleased with our gift of LIR membership and the scroll that Callie made for her. Eleanor Reid, past president of LIR, spoke movingly about LIR's history. Ed Golden's skit was delightful and Pete Reitt's slide show was 'hysterical.' Leo went on to say that there was a substantial LIR presence at both Jerry Rosenthal's Memorial service and Manny Rubin's funeral, for which Nina Scott and Syma Meyer organized food contributions, (as well as Kathy Coulombe and Sara Wright, Kathy C. adds.)

The Aging Wisely Conference is a month off. Due to a technicality no grant was received but last year's surplus can fund any deficit this year. (*Re the Aging Conference, Callie later asked how many people were coming; Wil Hastings noted that last year 150 people paid and 50 LIR members attended, and that there will be an article coming out in Hampshire Life.*) The WFCR fund drive started yesterday and several LIR members volunteered and the radio station gave us a nice 'plug.' Chuck Gillies has brought our statistical enrolment figures up to date and the printed sheet was distributed. Note that total membership is higher.

Vice President's report: Sara Wright reported that the Preview committee had just met and is going to pare back budget-wise. The Preview for spring 2009 will take place in the Amherst Alumni House on Sunday, November 23. The Preview for next fall's programs will probably take place in the Council of Aging senior center in April.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: Treasurer Charlie Klem is working on the Preview budget. He gave this secretary a copy of the 5CLIR Balance Sheet for the records.

Public Relations Committee: Chair Jeff Caplan (*written report below*) reported that the committee met on October 6 in the Sunderland Library, a likely venue for seminars perhaps. He expressed concern re LIR's web site, which could reflect us better and be more up-to-date. The website is important as it is an interface between LIR and 'the great out-there.' Jeff noted that the P. R. committee has a role in Great Decisions because publicity is required by the grant that was received. He also noted the tension between our good ideas and the implementation thereof; Jeff is not comfortable with how the implementation is being done. LIR should be out in the community doing something worthwhile. Jim Scott recommended that we find somebody with talent to work on the web site.

Public Relations Committee Meeting, October 6, 2008: Wil Hastings brought us up to date about plans for the Aging Wisely Conference. Sandy (Belden) made us aware of a program at the Sunderland Library where we might make presentations and which might be a model for other venues. Further suggested that the library might be a venue for seminars. We discussed the LIR website as a PR vehicle and suggested that we try to find ways to bring it more up to date and have it better reflect the organization. Kathy (Coulombe) brought us up to date on Great Decisions and explained the role PR will need to fill going forward. Joan (Laird) filled us in on the Smith Social work initiative. Some students have responded and we need to see how best to work with them. The committee feels a tension between the creation of ideas and programs and their implementation. PR releases and flyers are easy to take care of. Genuine PR programs are more difficult. Jeff Caplan, Chair.

Summer/Winter Committee: Chair Anne Lombard reported that the January programs are being finalized and asked for ideas for next summer's programs.

Meetings/Membership Committee: Co-chair Sheila Klem commented on Chuck's page of membership statistics (that LIR appears to have 250 members consistently.) The committee will meet on October 23. Callie will list the seminars in the newsletter and highlight the new members. Roger asked if we do an exit interview and Sheila replied that we do, and we will discuss it at our meeting. Lise Armstrong asked if we have an Emeritus membership status; it would be nice to just send them the newsletter.

Tech Committee: Jim Scott reported for chair Philippe Meyer. We will need additional equipment because of the expanding number of seminars, and we hope to incorporate more digital imagery into seminar presentations. Workshops have been scheduled for January; Jim Harvey has volunteered to direct them. The Tech committee wants more members.

Special Programs Committee: Callie Orszak read out Gail's written report, which follows: *The second meeting of the Special Programs Committee was October 10. After reviewing the current programs we discussed the possible addition of a needle-work and*

discussion group to meet in Amherst. Also, we are planning a spring trip to the Plymouth Plantation and the Mayflower on April 25, 2009. Gail Gaustad, co-chair.

Callie added that Paul Berman's lecture has been rescheduled to October 24 at Amherst College.

Office Manager: Callie's report follows: *The Council on Aging in Amherst was very willing to host a seminar, but they could only do it if we allowed anyone who wished to sit in on the seminar.*

I received a very nice thank-you note from Lorna Peterson, thanking me for making the scroll and card for her LIR membership gift that she received at the gala.

There are lots of routine matters to wade through at the moment, and very many questions from members on all sorts of things.

Great Decisions: Chair Roger Coulombe reported that their next meeting will be tomorrow. The committee has made five choices among the eight programs offered by the Foreign Policy Association: Afghanistan & Pakistan, Global Food Supply, Rising Global Powers (BRIC), U.S. and Egypt, and Human Rights. He will have a definitive list next month. Meetings are to take place in the COA Senior Center on 3/27, 4/3, 4/17, 4/24 and 5/1. Roger noted that the criteria of the grant received includes publicity; if they don't spend all the money they must give some back. (Receipts are required, with every I dotted.)

Development Committee: Chair Kathy Coulombe couldn't come to the Council meeting because she was representing 5CLIR at the Community Foundation Annual Meeting with Lorna Peterson and Nancy Goff. Leo Sartori noted that last month Kathy asked for ideas, and this discussion is postponed to next month.

Curriculum Committee: Co-chair Joan Laird reminded the council that a Moderator's reception is planned for the Smith Field House on October 30; potential moderators should be encouraged to come. Science and economics etc. seminars are needed. Co-chair Sara Wright noted that Amherst and Hadley are celebrating tercentennials and would make a great subject for a seminar. She also asked everyone to think about possible encore presentations. The new semester will start on February 9. A written report follows:

Fall 2008--As of 10/2/08, all first choices in the lottery have been met. Informal reports suggest all seminars are going well.

Moderators' Reception--This year's October 30th Moderators' Reception, to be held at the Smith college Field House, will be modeled after last year's, which was well received. An introduction will be followed with a small group format, groups to be led by Curriculum Committee members. The larger group will reconvene for reports and discussion. All moderators, potential moderators, and Council members are invited.

(Please ask anyone that you feel has potential as a moderator to attend.) Invitations with a copy of the questions will be sent out shortly.

Spring 2009—Eight seminars were approved at the October Curriculum Committee meeting, one approved last spring, and one to be revised, making a total of 10 accepted. In addition, we have at least four seminars “promised” and several other “possibles.” Since Amherst and Hadley will be celebrating major anniversaries, we are hoping for one or two seminars on the history of the area. The roster so far is dominated by literature, history, and the arts, so seminars in the areas of politics, economics, culture, and science would be particularly welcomed.

Joan Laird and Sara Wright

Old Business:

Re: the Social Work Student program: Joan Laird reported they are going forward with a research project and will tap senior centers, retirement centers etc. using a questionnaire and doing some interviews. They plan to do a three session seminar in the spring. Lise Armstrong stated that we hope for more collaborations between LIR and students.

New Business:

Leo Sartori reported that the small group planning to discuss LIR’s reacting to health emergencies has not met yet.

Mary Franks asks for volunteers for the Aging Wisely conference, to welcome people and show them where to go.

Leo Sartori would like to ask people to submit a short curriculum vitae in order to uncover new talents. **Leo added the following later:** Leo suggested that LIR members be asked to submit brief summaries of their life experiences, interests, etc., as a way of helping us get to know our colleagues better. The information would be filed in the office and be available to members, perhaps also put on the website. This would of course be entirely voluntary, with no pressure. The idea will be discussed at a future meeting.

Jim Scott suggested brief biographies in the newsletter. Jeff Caplan would put them on the web site, with permission. Pete Reitt noted the problem that all this personal information would potentially be permanently in the ether forever, available to whomever, and the cost of maintaining a topnotch website would be something like \$40,000 a year. Jeff hopes we can come up with a format to gather this information; Eleanor Shattuck and Sheila Klem noted that they used to do this when they ran the newsletter. Lise Armstrong felt that forms are ‘cold, sterile’ ways to gather information, and would recommend more social interaction.

There being no further business, the President adjourned the meeting at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hazen
Recording Secretary