

**FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**  
**DECEMBER 11, 2014**

The regular meeting was held at the Five College Center, Spring St. Amherst, at 2:15 pm.

**Present Council:** Jim Averill, Susan Beer, Michael Greenebaum, Carol Jolly, Sheila Klem, Betsy Loughran, Ellen Peck, Jim Perot, Dean Poli, Jim Scott, Zina Tillona, Tyll Van Geel, Fran Volkmann

**Absent Council:** Marybeth Bridegam, Rafe de Lima

**Committee Chairs/Others:** Jacob Greenburg, Henny Lewin, Liz Tiley

**Minutes:** The minutes of the November meeting were approved as presented.

**Vice President:** Sheila Klem reported that the PR committee is now being reconstituted.

**Past President:** Carol Jolly asked for feedback about the **Preview**. There were 30 guests.

- Do we want to stay with Saturday or Sunday in the future?
- Snacks were okay because the food lasted the whole time.
- Was the newspaper publicity worth the price?
- Were Senior Centers notified?
- Should people who come to the Great Decisions Programs be notified?

The **Memorial Program** will be held on January 8 from 10 to 12 at the Amherst Alumni Club. There are now 8 people to be memorialized.

**Treasurer:** Betsy Loughran explained that the Finance Committee had met to consider the wording of the membership form and the proposal for payment plans. They would like to eliminate the amount of income specified for the discount. They also want to make clear that payments plans are only for those who require special help with dues. We also want to use checks rather than Pay Pal which has an extra cost. We still do have a scholarship fund for those who need help.

The Council voted to accept the new wording for two entries on the Membership Form: "\$125 Discounted Full Year: July 1—June 30 **for individuals of low or moderate income.**"

The second entry reads: "My circumstances create a need greater than above. I will contact the 5CLIR Treasurer through the Office Manager (Liz Tiley 585-3756) to discuss additional dues **reduction and/or a payment plan.**"

The dues for this year have been coming in. The Preview was on budget. Two budget figures for Liz's benefits from 5C, specifically unused vacation time, will put the current budget

into a deficit of \$1700. If we are to have a balanced budget, next year's budget will probably require a dues increase; this will be clearer by March when we will have a better idea of the budget needs.

The **Fund Raising Committee** has met once and will meet again to explore further possibilities. This committee will act as a sub-committee of the Finance Committee. Its mandate has three parts:

1. Soliciting **simple bequests** via will. They would like the Fund for the Future to be large enough to produce income to keep the dues level. Its income could also fund special projects.
2. Initiating a **challenge campaign** among members to raise the level of investments.
3. Creating a **memorial donation form** which could be distributed at the annual Memorial Service.

The Council voted to approve this new sub-committee and its activities.

**Office Manager:** Liz Tiley told us that we now have 298 active members. Ten trial members renewed. There are 22 new members for the spring semester. Most of the new people interviewed, said they had heard of the Preview by word of mouth.

The **driving study**, which was advertised to us, had a number of participants who gave it positive feedback. They say they learned a lot from it.

There has been a policy question about pictures of deceased members that are still on the web site. Should they be removed in a timely fashion?

### **Committee Reports:**

For the Member Service Committee, Henny Lewin reminded us that the **New Member Coffee** will be on February 13 from 10 to 12 am, this year at Loomis which has an attractive dining room. We do not have to pay them for this event. Parking is plentiful.

**Great Decisions** now has five topics and four and a half speakers confirmed. One is returning and the rest are new, Jacob Greenburg told us. He thanked Fran Volkmann for writing the manual for Great Decisions operations.

The **Curriculum Committee** liked having the Preview at MHC, Dean Poli reported. They were unhappy with the Saturday date only because it conflicted with the Opera which had changed its date after we had set up the Preview.

The **Nominating Committee** will be composed of Zina Tillona (chair), Ruth Elcan, Prunella Fidian-Green, Arnold Friedmann, and Fran Volkmann. They must select a vice president, secretary, and assistant treasurer. They manage the election of Council Members and appoint tellers to count the ballots. The Council approved the members of this committee.

## **New Business—brainstorming about various issues that need attention:**

### **Committee membership—how to get more volunteers**

1. Put forms in preview packets
2. Hand out volunteer forms at seminars
3. Give personal invitations to join a committee, especially from those already on the committee
4. Making sure people who do sign the forms are contacted. If the committees they want are full, then other committees can be suggested.
5. At the annual meeting committee chairs can stand up and give a brief summary of what their committees do.
6. At the May or June Council meeting committee chairs can come and tell us what they need—numbers and types of people.
7. At the fall picnic there could be short committee recruiting speeches.
8. A free membership raffle could be offered to those who join committees.
9. A form letter or email could go out to those not chosen for a particular committee or for those who volunteer for more than one.

### **Seminars and Program**

- Consider segments other than ten-weeks. Perhaps some topics could be done in two to four week segments.
- Have a greater variety of programs for those who will pay full dues but do not want seminars.
- Have more special programs
- We could host informal conferences for LLI's in our area so that we could compare programs and share ideas.
- Have mini-seminars scheduled especially for the snow birds and others who go away in the winter. We did offer this once but not many took up the option. The Curriculum Committee has talked about this but has had a problem finding moderators. We could call them “short seminars” rather than “snow-bird.”
- Perhaps we could create a special task force to examine the problems of scheduling more special events. We could have a fall lecture series in the format of Great Decisions but this would require organizing.
- For the perennial issue of people not wanting to give “presentations,” we need to keep stressing the variety of ways in which members participate in seminars. The Curriculum Committee already does this at its moderator training sessions. In the program we could make more effort to show which seminars do not require formal presentations. We need to market variety.

No Council Meeting in January. **Next meeting, February 12.**