

September 8, 1994 - Council Meeting, Learning in Retirement.

Present: Barondes, Laura and Ted Belsky, Braunthal, Dolloff, Egginton, Ann & Bob Grose, Keating, Lehman, Lieson, Navon, Posada, Quint, Rapoport, Reid, Unger, Wisneski.

Gladys requested a correction in the minutes of Aug. 11, 1994: the phrase "waiver of fees" to be substituted for "a paid scholarship", regarding Council's action on behalf of two members needing financial assistance. The corrected minutes, and those of June 9, 1994, were then approved.

Eve Posada presented the Treasurer's report (copy attached). The figures indicate (July 1, 1993-June 30, 1994 FY) a total income of \$25,247.68. Expenses totaled \$22,970.55, resulting in a surplus of \$2,277.13. Our total funds on deposit now equal \$16,495.67.

The question arose: can we reduce the cost of our receiving the monthly Five College Calendar? Five Colleges, Inc. currently bills us approximately \$675 per year for its first class mailing to all LIR members (nine times during the academic year). Several suggestions: individuals pick up their copy at the LIR office (Pat Keating); deliver them via the seminars (Gladys Rapoport); add the LIR address list to a 5C bulk mailing (Bob Grose). Eleanor Reid asked the Finance Committee to explore options and report at next Council meeting. Until an alternative is available, the Calendar will continue to be mailed as previously. ✓

The President's report: our fall membership meeting will be held Sept. 29 at the Red Barn, Hampshire College. To relieve parking pressures there during the work day, we have scheduled the potluck for 5-7 p.m., rather than at 11 a.m. (This is a one-time experiment, to be assessed.) Eleanor said Nicole Dunn has agreed to supervise arrangements.

The new photo copier is installed in the office. Karen's fall hours are 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Monday through Friday, and Eleanor urged everyone to try to ease Karen's workload at peak times like the present. We are trying some bulk mailings (e.g., the September newsletter) to cut postage costs. The waiver of membership fees for two LIR members was accepted gratefully.

Eleanor feels that as new policies are adopted by the Council, they should be clearly noted at the end of the monthly minutes. Is this an appropriate time to develop a "policy and procedures manual", incorporating key Council actions taken over the past 6 years? What about a "membership manual"?

Copies of an updated membership brochure have been completed by Collective Copies (500 for \$100). Priscilla Dolloff said a mailing to prospective members went out last week, and a few inquiries have been received at the office.

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Although Council last year approved the production of a new membership manual, present Council members like the photocopy version and voted to stay with the Collective Copies approach.

Eleanor said she expects the new Meetings Committee to be in place by December (the September 29 meeting being handled by an ad hoc group).

The Vice President's report: Harley has talked to all committee chairs and reported all committees are working well. Curriculum in good shape, plenty of volunteers, a membership rotation plan in effect. Finance has new treasurer and representatives from each of the other standing committees. Membership committee members also operating on a rotation system. Newsletter/publicity continues as a small but effective group. Meetings committee not yet implemented. Special events is looking for new approaches (see its task force report below). Community service not yet implemented (also, see task force report).

Reporting for Curriculum, David Navon said we have 15 seminars offered this fall, of which 13 are sure to go. Two are underenrolled and probably will be cancelled this time. Current members enrolled equal 120, which may be cause for some concern, as the numbers are down. Priscilla said we have 12 new members this fall.

Special Events chair Ted Belsky submitted the Special Events and Community Service Task Force report (attached). The 4 members (Ted, Laura Belsky, Jeanne Carritt, Gladys Rapoport) suggest the formation of (1) a Special Events sub-committee charged with developing and continuing relevant programs and activities; (2) a sub-committee to investigate PBS Adult Learning opportunities; (3) a Community Service sub-committee.

Ted requested, and Eleanor and Harley supported, Council authorization for his committee to proceed promptly with proposals (1) and (2), not waiting for completion of the full Long Range Planning Committee report. The Council voted to authorize the Special Events committee to implement these proposals (postponing temporarily the charge to the Community Service sub-committee).

For the Newsletter/publicity committee, Jackie Wisneski reported that the September newsletter has been sent bulk mail, thus reducing the cost from 29¢ (sometimes more) per newsletter to 11.7¢. Three committee replacements are needed; 1 place has been filled.

Mary Egginton reported 2 recent LIR news releases have appeared in the Daily Hampshire Gazette. The Aug. 17 item was incorrect, because the paper mistakenly used a 1993 release listing last year's seminars. The Sept. 3 article was correct, in listing seminars in which vacancies remain for the fall.

The Long Range Planning Committee report: chair Bob Grose said preparation of the report has taken longer than he anticipated. He now proposes submitting the preliminary draft at the October meeting. The format of the task force reports is not in the form of hard recommendations. Eleanor said the LRP report will be the chief focus of our October Council meeting.

Eve, for the Finance Committee, said she would like more members on her committee, some as volunteers from the general membership. The committee will be discussing development of a policy to deal with future requests for waiver of fees. She suggests a questionnaire to solicit members' comments on this.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 13 at 1:30 p.m. at Five Colleges, Inc.

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned.

Suzanne Lehman, Secretary