

L.I.R. Council Meeting - 8/10/95

Next meeting will be 9/7/95 at 1:30 at the 5-College Office

The meeting was called to order at 2 PM by Harley Unger. Present: Florence Barondes, Mary Egginton, Pat Keating, Jay Melrose, Ella Melville, Eve Posada, Gladys Rapoport, Grace Rollason, George Snook, Harley Unger, and Jackie Wisneski.

The names of the newly elected officers were announced by the new President, Harley Unger: David Navon Vice President, and Grace Rollason Secretary, newly elected Council members: Ann Grose, Jay Melrose, and George Snook, and new committee chairs Ben Bowditch (Membership) and Suzanne Lehman (Curriculum). Those present were introduced.

Minutes of the 6/8/95 Council Meeting were approved.

The summer program has been very popular. Attendance so far has been: Festival of Earthly Delights 101, Smith Garden Tour 22, Resolution Conflict 17, Local Garden Tour 18, Play Review 50, Musicorda 17, Clay Workshop 3 (there were conflicts with 3 other offerings), Conservation Tour 16, Writing Workshop 23, Tower Hill Trip 36, Natural Food Tour 11, Jazz Session 7, Shaker Village Trip 23, Musical Morning 50, Miniature Theatre plays - 180 bought tickets through Pat Keating; others bought tickets directly from the theater and were also given the \$2.00 discount.

Jackie Wisneski urged attendance at the panel discussion on Conservation and the Environment on August 22 from 3-5 Stoddard Hall at Smith College. Members of the panel are some of the outstanding conservationists of the area. The news media have been notified.

Jay Melrose indicated that our present system of asking people to show an interest in but not a commitment to a given summer event at an early date has led to problems. People don't indicate their intention to attend as the date of the event approaches, and Jay, at least didn't receive a list of interested people so he couldn't contact them. The problem may have been exacerbated by the fact that we had no one in the office for much of the summer. Should we undertake the expense of having more summer office help. Harley also reminded us that this summer Amherst College charged us \$50.00 for each of the three programs that we had there.

Eve Posada indicated that the Finance Committee had discussed charging non-members a few dollars more than L.I.R. members for events for which there is a charge. This is routine procedure for other organizations. Eleanor Reid felt that we didn't need the money and that an extra charge would defeat the idea of enticing new members through the summer program. Others thought that a charge of a few extra dollars would be accepted as routine by non-members or that they might even be stimulated to join L.I.R. to avoid the extra fee. No action was taken.

It was suggested that the Curriculum Committee select its summer coordinator early so that plan can be well in hand before Karen goes on vacation.

Harley pointed out that this past year 5 C.L.I.R. undertook 3 special projects. The L.I.R. Long Range Planning Project, participation in the Elderhostel Institute Network Conference in Salem, MA, and institution of a much enlarged summer program. What special projects need to be pursued during this coming year? Review of the By-Laws? Discussion led to the consensus that specific changes deemed necessary be brought to Council and that every effort be made to avoid conflict. The Ed Lawton Memorial Lecture could be made a part of the January program will be a publicity opportunity that the Curricium Committee will be asked to pursue.

Finance Committee Report Eve Posada presented her annual Treasurer's report. It now differs from the 5-College's preliminary data because of differences in book-keeping procedures. Appropriate adjustments will be made. Some bills from special events are outstanding. The interest from funds on deposit goes to 5-Colleges, Inc. to help pay for their labors on our behalf.

So far, there has been only one financial assistance applicant. Possibly people are shy or the payment of dues by semester may alleviate financial stress for some people. Summer events expenses are not easily kept separate, but with Karen's help Eve may be able to arrive at an approximate total. Eve also indicated that every organization should have a contingency fund of 1/2 of its yearly expenses; thus ours should be \$9,000 to \$10,000. Since we have approximately \$14,000 on deposit we should decide what to do with the excess. Lower dues? Give a dues break to couples? George Snook indicated that organizations with which he is familiar have contingency funds to cover a full year's expenses. We also have to face the possibility at some future date of having to find different headquarters. MOVED by Pat Keating: That the Finance Committee be asked to suggest alternative policies to the Council for the maintenance of a contingency fund. Passed, unanimously.

Meetings Committee Report Ella Melville reported that the Committee would like to simplify the food service at membership meetings. A number of suggestions were made: each person bring a box lunch, have a catered meal at the Smith Faculty Club, or the Lord Jeff. If we continue having pot-luck meals, should we have appetizers, can we have only food that doesn't need a stove, would an additional coffee pot help? Suggested dates for the Fall Membership Meeting were Sept 23 at noon or Sept 19 or 20 from 5-7. The Committee will develop a plan that can be reported in the Newsletter, deadline for which is 9/15.

Curriculum Committee Harley reported for the Committee that many of the fall seminars are closed. The committee may want to come up with a solution to the problem of accomodating late registrants, particulary new members. There are 122 paid members to date, but this will grow in the next two months.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace S. Rollason
Secretary