

Five College LIR Council
Minutes of the meeting of June 11, 1998
Five Colleges, Inc.

Present were Ted Belsky, Ben Bowditch, Ann and Bob Grose, Anne Keppler, Jay Melrose, David Navon, Eleanor Reid, Jane Sherman, Lora Simon, Barbara and Diedrick Snoek, George Snook and Charlotte Winston.

I. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 by President Bob Grose, and the minutes of the May 14th meeting were approved, with the addition of our immediate Past President to the list of those retiring, and a correction of the source of the comment attributed to Jane Sherman.

II. The President offered thanks to all those whose terms of service are over. He asked that information on regularly scheduled meetings be sent to Karen or to Diedrick by early fall, so that a calendar for the year can be prepared and publicized. Noreen Burke, an Ada Comstock Scholar at Smith, will hold the fort at Mason Hall from 9 to 12 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the summer. Karen leaves on June 23rd and will be back on September 8th. Since two members received parking tickets near the office, Karen has prepared "Visitors' Passes" at the suggestion of the Director of Security. These can be obtained from the office when parking there.

Bob asked if Council thought the Brochure needed to be updated. It is well written and still accurate, but could use clarification of cost information. Ben reported that the Membership Committee felt that the cost of a new brochure was not justified at this time, and it was the sense of Council that a new brochure might be prepared after the Membership and Moderators' Manuals are completed. The "Tree" designed for us by Tekla McInerney was noted with appreciation, and will be retained.

Diedrick announced that, with the approval of Council, we will meet in July this year and not in August.

III. a. *Curriculum*: Eleanor said that the committee will meet in August rather than in July, and named the new members as of this date: Nicole Dunn, Florence Barondes, Harley Unger and David Navon, all veteran members of LIR, and Eleanor Shattuck, a newer member. There already are five proposals for spring seminars, and additional ideas will be welcome.

With 135 members (including 11 new ones) having paid dues for 1998-99, all seminars offered have participants. One is oversubscribed and must be lotteried, and three have fewer than six enrollees. Most are apt to be large enough by fall, and there was anecdotal evidence that some seminars have done very well with six or seven members. Although some moderators have no objection to larger groups, most of our meeting rooms won't accommodate more than fifteen, and a larger group may discourage active discussion. The Curriculum Committee will consider the pros and cons of limiting seminar size, and the possibility of using a term other than "seminar" to describe forms of study which depend more on lectures, slides or participation other than research.

b. *Finance*: Charlotte distributed the Income and Expense Report for May and the year to date, and noted that no amounts for dues or for interest are shown. The first will show up on the June report, and the second is reported at intervals by Five Colleges, Inc. Great Decisions and the Creative Aging Workshop both show net profits, and the latter generated some new LIR members. It was agreed that the Newsletter should carry regular reports on the outcome of Special Events, including attendance, costs, and profit or deficit.

c. *Summer Programs*: Jack reported good attendance for the Introduction to the Chester Theatre season and its new director, in spite of parking difficulties. The limited-attendance events on flower arranging and parquetry are both oversubscribed, but Alan Ladd has kindly agreed to do two sessions in succession, which will take care of all who have signed up so far. Verda Dale can do only one. The trips to Fruitlands and to White Flower Farm are well along to full subscription. In response to questions, Jack said that Dr. Johnson's topic will be the influence of opera on other forms of music.

There was considerable discussion of Jack's request that all events during the summer be under the control of the Summer Events Committee (rather than having Special Events handle trips), so that any surplus or deficit could be credited or debited to them for decision as to its use or coverage. Ted stressed the value of flexibility in setting charges and budgeting for events, and Charlotte noted that the budget approved by Council for Summer Programs was intended to cover events which are free, rather than trips which are planned to be self-funding. Bob asked that the Finance Committee consider this request, with the assistance of the Summer and January Program

Committees, and asked if they could have reports of actual costs in detail. Details of charges for such items as piano tuning, chair placement, rental of space, etc. would be useful to future committees. Charlotte says these can be retrieved, although bills sometimes arrive long after events.

d. *Special Events:* 2. The brochure on the trip to Spain is due from Elderhostel next week, and we will duplicate and mail it to all members at a total cost of about \$100. The planning committee will bring speakers to inform registrants, rather than having a seminar for this purpose. More than 30 people have indicated interest in the trip, and Bilbao will be available as an add-on. The minimum number required is 28, the maximum that can be accepted is 42, and the deadline for deposit probably will be July 25th.

3. The net profit from the Workshop on Creative Aging will be divided with Highland Valley Elder Services, and it was suggested that our \$300 should go to the Memorial Fund for other special occasions.

e. *Membership:* Ben reported that he is looking for additional committee members for the coming year.

g. *Meetings:* Lora reported that there were 140 in attendance at the Membership Meeting, and that we will need more tables next time. The containers scraped clean indicated the quality of our members' contributions!

IV. a. Jay presented a report on his research into assistance for members with some hearing loss. He estimates that one-third of our membership use or could use hearing aids, but that these work best in one-on-one situations, and allow a good deal of distracting noise. A microphone worn by a speaker and directed to a dedicated aid would provide much better reception in a seminar. We would need a microphone and amplifier, both to be worn by the speaker, and a "shrimp" receiver with an ear button for each participant with hearing difficulty. These items are available, with disposable button caps, at the following costs:

Microphone and amplifier	\$430
Receiver	77
Button	9
Replacement caps	4 per dozen

Jay suggests that we buy one mike and amp, six receivers and buttons, and two boxes of replacement caps, and give it a try this summer and possibly in a fall seminar. If it works well, we can purchase another set. Transfer of the equipment from one seminar to another can be worked out as necessary. Diedrick asked that Jay gather more detailed information on costs and equipment and report in July for a Council decision. Barbara and Jay will prepare instructions for moderators on the use of the equipment, and Jay agreed to be a presenter at a "Conversation over Coffee" in the fall.

There were some questions about the adequacy of our own PA system, after using the Hampshire College equipment at the Membership Meeting, and as to whether we should consider the purchase of a better set. A good one would cost \$2000, and Jay, Barbara and Diedrick will call the five colleges and Five Colleges, Inc., to ask if we can use their equipment when needed.

b. *Decennial Celebration:* We need early LIR members for the planning committee, and history or anecdotes from anyone who has them. There should be a member from the Meetings Committee, and Lora said that she would nominate one.

c. We are still waiting for the computer from Smith, but it is said to be on its way.

VI. Bob handed on the gavel and block and Robert's Rules of Order to Diedrick, who then led thanks and applause for Bob. The meeting was adjourned at 3:25. The next meeting will be held at Five Colleges, Inc., at 1:30 on Thursday, July 9th.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Keppler, Secretary