

Reminder: Next Council meeting: Feb. 14@ 1:30 p.m. at 5 Colleges, Inc.

Five College LIR Council
Minutes of the meeting January 10, 2002
Held at Five Colleges, Inc., Amherst

Present at the Council were: Barbara Snoek (President), Nick Leras (Treasurer), Jim Scott (Secretary), Ted Belsky (Past President), Karen Tatro (Administrator), Connie Anderson '03, Ed Buck '02, Hy Edelstein '03, Bob Grose '04, Pat Keating (Membership Chair), Doris Leonard ('04 & Winter and Summer Programs Chair), Alex Leras (Curriculum Co-Chair), Linda Stairmand (Newsletter Editor), Norman Winston '03.

Not Present: Chuck Gillies (Vice President), Peg Bedell (Publicity Chair), Nylda Glickman '02, June Guild ('04 & Meetings Chair), Naomi Yanis (Curriculum Committee Co-Chair).

The meeting was **Called to Order** by **President, Barbara Snoek** at 1:30 p.m.

I. Previous Business:

1. **Review of the Minutes** of December 13, 2002.
Voted unanimously to accept the minutes.
2. **Remarks by the Previous President:** Ted Belsky thanked Doris Leonard for the first winter program yesterday with the memorial comments by Chuck Gillies, followed by comments and readings by Vincent Dowling.
3. **Parking along 5 College Bus Routes:** Jim Scott distributed schedules of the 5 College bus routes. He commented that free parking places in the centers of Amherst, Northampton and at UMASS are not available, especially near the PVTA bus stops. However, along the routes away from the campuses and town centers some parking is available at various locations. Another problem for LIR members using the PVTA buses is that the campus bus stops are usually at great distance from the classroom buildings. Car pooling in private cars seems to be the most efficient form of transportation for LIR members.
4. **George Snook's Request:** As reported last month, George Snook requested financial support for a publication produced by his seminar on Historic Persons of Western Massachusetts. Barbara Snoek reported that she and Karen Tatro had been in communication with George, and that this request is on hold for the time being. Karen reported that there are 15 persons signed

up for this seminar.

5. **ILR/EIN Liaison:** Barbara read a letter from ILR/EIN {Institute for Learning in Retirement/Elderhostel Institutes Network}. This organization is a support group for Learning In Retirement institutes throughout the country. Our LIR has worked with them over the last dozen years, and we have paid dues for membership during this current year. The letter requested the voluntary appointment of local person to act as Liaison between LIR and EIN. This person would receive electronic mail communications and distribute them to our organization. When Barbara asked for such a volunteer, no one responded.

Ted Belsky commented that last year he investigated EIN to determine the benefits we received from it. He found that the staff had been cut back and that services to local LIRs have been greatly reduced. Bob Grose and Pat Keating recounted how EIN had helped our LIR in the past. Karen Tatro told that EIN makes available current lists of LIRs around the country. Bob reflected that in the past EIN discouraged independent contacts and cooperative programs among individual LIRs. It was suggested that at a future meeting, continued participation with EIN would be studied.

6. **ILR/EIN Regional Conference:** As noted last month a conference at Salem State College will take place March 17, 18, 19. Pat Keating and Chuck Gillies have indicated a desire to attend at least one day. Karen Tatro will be unable to attend. Ted Belsky expressed an interest to attend, if his schedule allows it. Barbara Snoek suggested that attendance at this conference would offer an opportunity to present our dissatisfaction with the current service. Karen will investigate the registration fees, etc., and if "home hospitality" is available through Salem LIR members. She will report back later.

{ **LATE REPORT:** Karen determined that the registration fee is \$100 per person. Hotel costs are approximately \$99.00/night for a double room. Salem has no plans for "home hospitality" accommodations, but thinks it an interesting idea.}

II. **Current/New Business:**

1. **Curriculum Committee:** Alex Leras distributed a summary of the enrollments for the **Spring Semester '02 Seminars**. There are 166 members registered for the 18 seminars. One seminar had to be cancelled due to illness of the moderator, and another is questionable due to low enrollment. Five seminars are full and

closed to further enrollment. Three of the seminars had to be lotteried.

In the future the **Lottery System** will be conducted by the Chair or Co-Chairs of the Curriculum Committee and the Vice President. This will be done so that the knowledge of the mechanics of the lottery system will be consistent and passed on to future personnel. The Council expressed its thanks to Harley Unger and Ann Keppler for their more than ten years of running the lottery.

The **Catalog of Fall 2002 Courses** will be distributed at a special meeting on Thursday, June 6 at the Red Barn, Hampshire College at 10 a.m. Light refreshments will be provided by the Membership Committee, according to Chair, Pat Keating. There will be a separate **Spring Membership Meeting/Pot Luck Dinner** in the evening at the St. John Cantius Parish Hall in Northampton on Thursday May 9.

A trial **Special Summer Program** will take place for 6 weeks on Tuesday afternoons to read **short stories**. This will be led by Linda Stairmand and Lise Armstrong.

Alex also announced the possibility in January 2003 for **extended Winter Programs** due to the later starting date (Feb. 14, 2003) of the Spring Semester Seminars. Next year's Winter Programs Chair will take this under advisement.

Barbara read a letter from **Norm Winton** in which he outlined a **Proposal for New Lecture Courses**. He suggested courses for LIR members, similar to the Genome Project, be led by professors and graduate students of history or political science at UMASS through the Adult Education Department. Alex Leras read a letter of response from Naomi Yanis, Co-Chair of the Curriculum Committee. In it she cited such points as the difference in format from the usual LIR seminar and the costs associated with such courses. In conclusion she stated that the Curriculum Committee could not recommend the pursuit of such a course format. Norm commented that he had had a discussion yesterday with Robert Swasey, Registrar of the Graduate School, UMASS, and the question of costs was a main stumbling block for such a proposal. Members of the Council thanked Norm for his efforts to broaden the LIR experience and his continued imaginative suggestions. Ted Belsky expressed his desire that the Curriculum Committee continue to be open to new ideas from the membership.

2. **Treasurer's Report:** **Nick Leras** distributed the Financial Reports (Balance Sheet, dated 12/31/01; the Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual, dated July through December 2001; the Schedule of

Equity, dated 12/31/01; Schedule of Equipment, dated 12/31/01). He also distributed copies of the **Budget Planning Sheets** to the Committee Chairs who were present. These sheets are to be completed and returned to the Finance Committee by March 1, 2002, in order that the Finance Committee can create a 2002/3 Budget in time for action at the June 2002 Council Meeting. Any questions by the Chairs can be directed to members of the Finance Committee.

Nick's comments about the **Financial Reports** were that:

1) LIR's financial position continues to be strong; 2) Profit & Loss Statement was based upon estimates that do not take in to consideration the timing of certain expenses; some estimates were equally pro-rated throughout the year, where the actual expenses were concentrated in small time periods. This resulted in several negative anomalies; and 3) he also stated that the **Schedule of Equity** sheet needs work in the definition of the different funds, as to which expenses and incomes should be credited to which accounts.

Bob Grose asked if the beginning of the **fiscal year** for LIR could be changed to ease the job of the Treasurer. Nick responded that no matter when the end of the fiscal year comes, there will always be carry-over expenses into the next fiscal year.

3. **Winter Program: Doris Leonard** reported that there were at least 90 in attendance at the **2002 Memorial Program** and the **Morning with Vincent Dowling** yesterday. Members of the Council congratulated her on her success. She announced that she will not be able to continue in this Chair position next year. Doris reminded everyone of the upcoming events in the Winter Program on each of the following Wednesdays in January.
4. **Computer Activities: Hy Edelstein** reported upon a variety of computer related LIR activities. ******Beginners Computer Workshop** will take place at Smith College Jan. 15 & 17 and Jan. 22 & 24 in Seeley Hall. Parking available in the new Smith Parking Garage. 20 people have signed up for the PC workshop and 7 for the Mac. ****The **Computer Circle** had its first meeting in December which was a great success. The second meeting is scheduled for a Friday in late February: 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Jones Library Community Room, in Amherst. Harley Unger will make a presentation on MSWord. ****The **LIR WEBSITE** is now going to be under the WebMastership of Hy Edelstein and his happy band of geeks. John Armstrong will be away much of the Spring. Questions were raised about the number of people that visit the website and for what reasons. He reported that the annual number is greater than 1,000 visits, and the visits increase strongly after photos are posted of LIR events. Hy suggested that the site could also act as a forum for discussion of topics of

interest -- a "bulletin board" where opinions of many individuals can be posted.

The **5-College Website Address:** <http://people.ne.mediaone.net/5clir/>

It was suggested that the 5 College LIR website address should be communicated to the Reference Librarians in the area as well as the various Councils on Aging in our communities.

- 5. Great Decisions:** **Ted Belsky** reported that the Great Decisions Committee (Jono Hanke Gerry Braunthal, Chuck Gillies, Ted and Laura Belsky, Wayne Cowan, and Erwin Millimet) has made great progress. The sessions will take place for 6 weeks every Friday morning 10a.m. to noon at the Union Station Restaurant in Northampton, followed by a lunch at the restaurant. The schedule:

Date	Topic	Speaker	Coordinator
3/15	Terrorism	??	J. Hanke
3/22	Aids in Africa	??	W. Cowan
3/29	India	Srirupa Roy (UMASS)	Gillies & Braunthal
4/5	Middle East	Mazen Qumsujeh (Yale) & David Mednicoff (UMASS)	Gillies & Cowan
4/12	Energy & Envir.	Wm. Sweet & M. Klare	T. & L. Belsky
4/19	Russia Rexamined	William Taubman (Amherst)	W. Cowan

Members of the Council congratulated Ted and his committee for their good work in creating this fascinating program.

6. Other Business:

Newsletter: **Linda Stairmand** announced that the next edition of the newsletter will appear about February 1st.

Membership: **Pat Keating** announced that there were currently **212 members with 8 new members.** More are expected in the next few weeks before the semester starts. A discussion followed about ways to solicit new members. Word of mouth seemed to be the most effective. There were comments upon the article about the LIR Spring Seminars that appeared in the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* this past week. It had been greatly edited from the original form.

Publicity: **Peg Bedell** was congratulated for the post card announcement from 5 College Inc. about the January Programs.

Use of 5 College LIR Images: Karen Tatro mentioned that she was surprised to see a picture of members in a LIR seminar in a fund-raising brochure of the Northampton Historical Society. After discussion, it was suggested that when pictures are taken by

organization of seminars, that those organizations secure permission from 5 College LIR before using them for publicity purposes.

Barbara Snoek announced that at the February meeting the **Long Range Planning Report** (which was distributed at the December meeting) will be discussed. She is also looking for a volunteer for the **Nominating Committee Chair**.

There being no further business, the **Meeting adjourned at 3:15!!**

Respectfully submitted by

James E. Scott, Secretary
January 11, 2002

Distributed at the meeting were:

Agenda
Spring Seminar Report
Financial Report as of December 31, 2001
5 College PVTA Bus Schedule