

 *Five College*  
*Learning in Retirement*



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2016-2017**

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## President's Report, 2017

Gordon Wyse

The year started with the hiring of a new Office Manager and will end with the move of the LIR office to a new location on the Smith College campus. We are delighted to have hired Tisha Ferguson as Office Manager effective July 1. My thanks to the search committee: Marybeth Bridegam, Kathy Campbell, Joan Wofford, and um, Gordon Wyse, chair.

Much of the real work in LIR is done by the committees, Council, and officers. Most of the rest is done by the Office Manager. The President coordinates and oversees. I will touch on highlights for the year, without pretending that I am responsible for them.

We offered our usual mix of about 25 seminars each semester, plus Special Programs, Great Decisions, and Summer/Winter events. This was the first year of the Emeritus Member experiment, where formerly-active members could opt to attend seminars as observers rather than as full participants. This experiment seems to have started off well. The next experiment will be Short Seminars during the summer and winter periods. The Curriculum Committee has invested a lot of energy in supporting our seminars and in planning these innovations.

The Campaign for the Future finished successfully, having raised over \$200,000. The entire Development Committee, and especially its chair Chuck Gillies, deserves our heartfelt thanks for their tireless efforts to provide LIR with an endowment-like cushion and income source to augment our offerings and keep down fees.

Social and outreach functions are going well. The Member Services Committee smoothly organized the fall picnic, newcomers' coffee, and (with the Development Committee) the April event with John Lombardi. Nina Scott has kept us in the Daily Hampshire Gazette with attractive articles about LIR events.

Tisha has moved smoothly into the Office Manager role. She is a fast learner and, in addition to skillfully managing all aspects of the job for the first time this year, has brought in many innovations and streamlining of office functions, including automating the lottery process, augmenting record keeping, and improving the newsletter and outreach.

The LIR Office will move to Henshaw 101-C2 on the Smith Campus, presently scheduled for June 15. My thanks to Tisha, Sara Wright, Sheila Klem, and Pete Reitt for their work in preparing for the move.

Finally, a plea for members to join committees. As I have noted, the committees are the life blood of LIR. They are also social centers of the organization; members have told me that they have more social interaction with people in committees than in seminars. At the annual meeting the committee chairs will describe the work of their committee and indicate how many openings they have for next year. I urge all members to volunteer for committee service.

## **Secretary's Report, 2017**

Mike Brooks

I had two assignments as this year's Council Secretary. The first, of course, was to prepare and distribute the minutes of all Council and Executive Committee meetings. The second was to bring the Operations Manual up to date, a task being carried out jointly with Sara Wright, LIR's Historian. All committee chairs were invited to review those parts of the Manual that pertain to their committees' functions, and several recommendations for changes have been received. The proposed revisions will be reviewed by the Council at its May meeting.

## **Finance Committee Report, 2017**

Kathy Campbell, Treasurer and Chair *ex officio*

Members: Kathy Campbell (chair *ex officio*), Larry Ambs, Chuck Aulino, Sandy Beldon, John Gaustad, Betsy Loughran, Gordon Wyse (*ex officio*), Marybeth Bridegam (*ex officio*)

The Committee met twice during FY17 (May 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017).

At its September meeting, the Committee reviewed the closing reports for FY16 prepared by Treasurer Kathy Campbell. We also prepared motions for the October Council meeting, several to amend the Council-approved FY17 budget and one to transfer of funds from the Campaign for the Future Fund to our Investment Fund.

At its February meeting, the Committee prepared a budget for FY18 to be presented to Council at its March meeting.

## **Curriculum Committee Report, 2017**

### **Tyll van Geel and Miriam Whitney, Co-Chairs**

#### **Activities**

- a. Recruited, received, tracked, reviewed and approved fall and spring seminar and workshop proposals.
- b. Sent emails to the moderators about Preview attendance and expectations about their role before the beginning of each semester.
- c. Created and mounted a new workshop for future and current moderators, held on March 3. Approximately 24 people attended, including a number of new moderators who submitted spring 2017 proposals.
- d. Developed and conducted survey to evaluate the auditor experiment for the fall 2016 and spring 2017 semesters (report due to Council at the end the spring 2018 semester).
- e. Completed and posted revised Moderator's Handbook and new Participant's Handbook. Began working on updates.
- f. Evaluated and revised the seminar/workshop on-line and paper proposal submittal form.
- g. Submitted to Council updates and revisions to the Curriculum Committee portions of the Operations Manual.
- h. Worked with the Office Manager and Past President on the fall 2016 and spring 2017 Previews, including providing volunteers for key tasks (final catalog proofing, packet stuffing, set-up/clean up, and packet distribution).
- i. Held an extra CC meeting in March, just after the proposal deadline, to review proposals.
- j. Developed and implemented a trial short-term seminar/workshop program (July 17 – August 31, 2017).
- k. Drafted and submitted to Council for approval a 2017-2018 calendar. Submitted revisions adding new short-term seminar/workshop program.
- l. Reviewed and verified the fall 2016 and spring 2017 lotteries. With members of the Technology Committee, reviewed development of a new computer-based lottery system for fall 2016, and redesigned software for spring 2017.
- m. Proposed to Council an LIR member survey.
- n. Adopted and proposed to Council a policy limiting the number of co-moderators except in unusual circumstances approved by the CC.
- o. Proposed to Council a waiting list policy to provide moderators and with information about seminar/workshop waiting lists.
- p. Proposed to Council a policy regarding Yom Kippur.

## Data

	FALL 2016	SPRING 2017
Total Number LIR Members (varies throughout the year)	267	297
Number of Associate Members	9 For The Year	
Number of New Members During Year	27	36
Number of Discounted Members	n/a	13
# Offered Seminars/ Workshops	25	25
Total Members Registering for Seminars/Workshops	240	252
# Enrollees in Seminars/Workshops	330	326
Average Enrollment (enrollment/# seminars run)	Average: 13.75	Average: 13.6
# Members Who Dropped Seminar/Workshop After Enrollment	n/a	15
# Emeritus/ae Members Who Audited a Seminar	6 (4 seminars)	4 (2 seminars)
# Members Who Withdrew From LIR	n/a	2
Total Seminars/Workshops That Met With Fewer Than 8 Members Enrolled	2	0
# Seminars Cancelled Due to Low Enrollment	1	1
# Lotteried Seminars/Workshops	(est. 18)	19
# Members Who Did Not Get First Choice and Will Receive Priority Next Semester	5	4
# Short-term Seminar/ Workshop Proposals Submitted for Summer 2017	n/a	3

## Development Committee Report, 2017

### Chuck Gillies, Chair

In the fall of 2015 a small group of 5CLIR members (Larry Ambs, John Armstrong, Sandy Belden, Chuck Gillies and Betsy Loughran) were authorized by the 5CLIR Finance Committee to “explore the possibility of raising significant funds for the organization.” Soon Kathy Campbell, Carol Jolly and Joan Wofford were added to the group and all were appointed by Council as the “5CLIR Development Committee.” After numerous meetings, much discussion and several drafts of a Case Statement, Council approved in August of 2015 the “5CLIR Campaign for the Future,” with a goal of \$250,000. The target was to raise an additional \$200,000 for our endowment (about \$40,000 at the beginning of the effort) and \$50,000 “to support the budget as the endowment was growing.”

The Committee was ably joined on a regular basis by our *ad-hoc* leaders over the three years of the Campaign -- Sheila Klem, Gordon Wyse and Marybeth Bridegam. Funds were being raised for essentially five purposes – ensure our long term financial viability, strengthen our office support, enable better outreach, encourage new ideas within the organization and keep fees as low as possible to attract the maximum number of senior members. A \$70,000 challenge pool was established to match all gifts over \$250.

By May 1 2017 we had raised \$213,186 in commitments of which \$201,736 has already been received.

In March of 2017 we informed Council that since we had raised over \$200,000 and that the \$50,000 “to support the budget” had not been necessary that we could happily declare victory and we decided to retire the Committee at the end of this fiscal year.

Early-on the Committee had decided to follow with a “Legacy Campaign,” encouraging all 5CLIR members to include 5CLIR in their estate plans and wills. A brochure and an introductory letter are being prepared and will be ready for distribution in the fall of 2017.

We believe we have accomplished our goals: our long term financial viability has certainly been strengthened, we have added some support help to our office, we have seen additional outreach efforts, encouraged members to think on new ideas and we have not had to raise fees and seen our membership grow.

- Chuck Gillies for the Development Committee (Larry Ambs, John Armstrong, Sandy Belden, Kathy Campbell, Carol Jolly, Betsy Loughran and Joan Wofford with *ad hoc* members Sheila Klem, Gordon Wyse and Marybeth Bridegam.

## **Great Decisions Committee Report, 2017**

**Jake Greenburg, Chair**

Using materials from the Foreign Policy Association, the Committee sponsored five morning-long sessions during spring, 2017. This year's topics and speakers were:

March 31: Latin America's Political Pendulum; Professor Javier Corrales from Amherst College

April 7: Conflict in the South China Sea; Professor Michael Klare from Hampshire College

April 14: Saudi Arabia in Transition; Visiting Professor Steven Simon of Amherst College

April 21: Trade, Jobs and Politics; Professor Vincent Ferraro of Mount Holyoke College

April 28: The Future of Europe; Professor Eric Einhorn of University of Massachusetts in Amherst

Members of the Committee met monthly throughout the year to secure the speakers, organize the sessions, publicize the program, and manage its financial and logistical aspects. Unfortunately, the first program on March 31 had to be canceled due to weather conditions. All of the other programs were highly successful. All speakers were clear and informative, stimulating spirited question and answer discussions. Attendance at the sessions averaged in around 80. We attribute the stable numbers to a wide ranging publicity campaign that included a brochure, information placed in LIR materials, and announcements in a number of local media sources.

The total cost of the operation included purchasing materials from the Foreign Policy Association, rental of the Northampton Senior Center for the sessions, honoraria for the speakers, publicity, and postage. We have yet to consolidate the financial situation, but it is assured that we will have a small net surplus. It would have been higher except for the cancellation of the March 31 program. There were a number of refunds that had to be paid.

We have made several improvements this year including a better audio visual system by using the Senior Center's equipment and more publicity through articles written to the Hampshire Gazette by Nina Scott. We have also discontinued the use of "postcard" announcements and replaced that with printing more brochures and placing them in a number of retirement facilities and public libraries throughout Western Massachusetts.

Communication between the committee and the speakers will need to improve. The easiest solution would be to ensure we get the speakers' cell phone numbers. Also, we are looking to make improvements for next year based upon the feedback forms from this year's programs.

Jake Greenburg, Chair, Ann Brooks, Prunella Fiddian-Green, Lyn Howe, Ray Moore, Dick Stonberg and Joan McKelvey

## **Member Services Committee Report, 2017**

Gail Gaustad and Nancy Clune, Co-chairs

The Member Services Committee provides several opportunities throughout the year for members to meet one another and socialize with new and old friends alike. An annual Potluck Picnic was held in committee co-chair Gail Gaustad's backyard garden in Northampton in September. Members enjoyed beautiful weather and camaraderie at tables with fresh flowers. In February, a successful New Members' Tea held at Lathrop in Northampton allowed 30-plus LIR newcomers to enjoy coffee and baked goods while getting to know one another. More than 80 members attended the Spring Social in April at Hadley Farms Meeting House in Hadley. Following a social hour with hors d'oeuvres and wine, members enjoyed former U Mass Chancellor John Lombardi's remarks on the future of higher education.

## **Public Relations Committee Report, 2017**

Nina M. Scott, Chair

Joan Wofford. "The Joys of Learning in Retirement" *Living Well*, Spring 2016.

Jim Scott. "Like Science? Check This Out." (about the Science Round Table), *Living Well*, Fall 2016

Nina M. Scott and Katy van Geel. Published a series of 13 "Tasting Circle" articles in *Hampshire Life*, based on their course "A Thousand foods to Eat Before You Die." July 2016-Feb. 2017

Nina M. Scott, with photos by Katy van Geel. "Learning in Retirement Gears up for Spring." *Daily Hampshire Gazette*, Dec. 5, 2016

Long article about 5CLIR-sponsored Legislators' Forum, *Daily Hampshire Gazette*, Feb. 10, 2017

"Great Decisions" announcement, *Daily Hampshire Gazette*, March 30, 2017

## **Office Manager's Report, 2017**

Tisha Ferguson

Rounding out my first year as the administrator for LIR, I am glad to report that the organization continues to grow and thrive, attracting new members and expanding programs. My goal is to continue management improvements to support the increasing demands of the organization, now having 300 active members. The scope and volume of administrative work has increased proportionately each year, and the office handles multiple functions, from daily administration and communications to website maintenance, database management, activities scheduling, editing and print production and financial record keeping.

### Communications

Website: Online catalog enhancements were implemented. The seminars section of the website has been updated to add detailed information about each seminar, including map directions to each location. Additional pages/links include in-depth, multi-page seminar

descriptions, including venue details, moderator's bio & photo, and relevant information. Many thanks to Kathy Campbell, who did much of the website maintenance during the interim between Office Managers, and who has provided ongoing assistance.

Constant Contact newsletter sign-up button has been added to the home page, and has gotten 25 signups in 2 months. Additional widgets for news, announcements and highlights are being considered for the home page. Continued upgrades are ongoing, including improved navigation and archive reorganization. The updated Operations Manual will be added when available.

Newsletter: The reporter is published monthly, and has now been moved to the Constant Contact platform, although it is being sent as a PDF for download.

Print materials: A new brochure, as well as revised stationery and related materials, will be produced and distributed following the office relocation. The office has prepared "kit" for members who wish to represent 5CLIR at local events. Letters of thanks and brochures and catalogs are supplied to our venues and to local libraries and institutions.

Photo archive: Photos submitted to the office are now kept in Google Docs. Additions welcome!

### Bi-Annual Program Catalogs

Design and production of the Spring 2017 and Fall 2017 5CLIR catalogs and associated pages: The catalog production includes planning seminar logistics and booking venues, within the schedule requirements of moderators and available locations, then compiling all content, editing and printing. Many thanks to Miriam Whitney, Curriculum Committee Co-chair, Betsy Siersma, Nancy Clune, Joice Gare and Naomi Yanis, member volunteers, who spent many hours proofing and assisting with the process.

### Program Registration and Lottery

Following the fall lottery process, I proposed to the President, Treasurer and Curriculum Committee that LIR hire a software developer to automate the lottery, in order to save time and increase accuracy. This was easily covered by the budget for software and website development. I developed the program analysis, and worked with the contracted programmer to complete the new system. A review was held on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the new program will be used for the 2017 fall seminar lottery. Many thanks for input and feedback from Larry Ambs, Kathy Campbell and the Miriam Whitney, Tyll Van Geel and Ellen Kosmer.

### Smith Intern

Our intern this year is Sabrina Ko, a Junior who is both an English major and poet, and an accomplished website programmer. We are lucky to have her continue with us next year.

### Office relocation

The 5CLIR office will move after June 15<sup>th</sup> from Neilson Library to the Henshaw complex off Elm St. More details will be provided as they become available.

## Special Programs Report, 2017

Kay Klausowitz, Chair

### Summary

During the past year 2016-2017 there have been ten groups meeting regularly. One group will discontinue, Family History, and a new one has formed, My Favorite Poems. Total number of members who regularly attend at least one of the groups is around 200. Average attendance for any one group is 10-15. Many more members attend irregularly or for a one-time event

The **Special Programs** committee meets just twice a year, Spring and Fall. Each member is a liaison to one of the groups below to communicate needs and problems and to request entries for the Spring and Fall catalogs. The committee also receives requests for new programs and attempts to schedule them at a time that does not conflict with other events. This is a very undemanding committee and a great way to meet people. We would like to add *four new members* for this committee, beginning in September. Please consider joining us. E-mail Kay at [kayklausowitz@gmail.com](mailto:kayklausowitz@gmail.com) or fill out the form in the catalog and submit to the LIR office. Terms are for 3 years. This is Kay's last year; new incoming chairperson is Ilene Rosenfeld.

### Report from each Group

#### An Afternoon of Poetry and Prose – Kay Klausowitz & Bob Barker (*last year*)

An Afternoon of Poetry and Prose featured fifteen LIR authors reading works of their own creation. It was held on April 7 at the Northampton Lathrop Community Meeting Room from 2-4. The emcee was Robert Barker. "Bob" also made cookies for the event. Musical Interludes were provided by Chuck Aulino on piano and Amanda Stenroos on violin. There were approximately 35 attendees. This is the last year for this event unless someone would like to retrieve it for next year.

#### Book Interest Group – Naomi Yanis

This year we met at 2:00, mostly at people's homes, but sometimes at the Lathrop meeting house for members who live there. The particular Friday of the month varied. Because we now have TWENTY-ONE members, and few of our members have homes that can accommodate us all (and such a group would be unwieldy for discussion anyway), we experimented this year with having the host decide on a limit, and once that many members have responded, no more of them can attend that session. We have not had to turn anyone away. We usually have about 12 of our members come to any one meeting.

#### Encore Presentations – Larry Ambs & Katy van Geel (*new leaders in the Fall*)

The Encore Program met 12 times during our 2016/2017 year. Two outstanding seminar presentations of general interest were presented at each meeting. The presenters were nominated by the moderator or other members of the original seminar. Topics ranged widely and in 2016 included subjects such as The Misery of User Licenses, "Proofiness," The Book of Kells, The Graphic Novel, Human Services in Western Massachusetts, The Electoral System, The Trump Phenomenon, Gerrymandering, The Second Amendment, Gun Rights, and the NRA, Is Capitalism Sustainable? Also Andy Kaufman, The World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, the Big Band Era, and a special program on World War 1. In 2017 we enjoyed Richard III, 17th-century England, the Sunni-Shia

Split, Syrian Refugees, Viking Ships and Sailing, Life Beyond Earth(?), Street Cops, Boxing, Religion and Politics, and the First Amendment, God, and U.S. Law.

All meetings were held at Applewood and were open to the general public. Katy van Geel and Larry Ambs, the co-moderators, have done a terrific job for many years. They are both retiring from Encore this year and we thank them for all their hard work. Of course this means we are also looking for their replacements. Anyone interested in learning more about this great opportunity to contribute to 5CLIR should contact Larry, Katy or Kay Klausewitz the chair of Special Programs.

#### Favorite Poems – Martha Nelson & Lise Armstrong

Join us on the fourth Thursday of each month from 2 – 4 pm for an afternoon of sharing favorite poems and the conversations they inspire. The group meets in participants' homes and is co-facilitated by Martha Nelson and Lise Armstrong. The group can accommodate a limited number of participants.

#### French Conversation – Judith Poole

The Francophiles meet every Friday from 1:30 to 3:30 except when Judith is away for whatever reasons. We are between 10 and 13 in number. We usually follow a routine: members tell about their week, their lives, events, or tell a story. We listen to audio CD with information about the latest developments in France; we listen to articles about French people past and present; we close with a song in French, popular or classic. The class is called "Tout en Français", so everyone can speak and understand French at an intermediate level.

#### Opera Prep – Peg Bedell

Each Metropolitan Opera that was scheduled for live streaming in HD at the Cinemark theater was preceded by a talk designed to introduce the opera to newcomers and even to old opera lovers who were familiar with the opera in question. The talks included the director's intentions, the artists' backgrounds and specialties, the staging, etc. The attendance varied in accordance with the familiarity of the opera, but was generally attended by 8 to 10 people.

#### Photography Near & Far – Marty Espinol

Photography Near & Far special sessions have occurred on the second Tuesday of each month at the Amherst Media Center. We typically have between 4 and 7 people attending. Each person shares up to 10 images and comments on them. Feedback from the group is provided with sensitivity. Members with special knowledge of a photographic or post-processing technique may do a demonstration. New members are always welcomed.

#### Salon Music – Chuck Aulino

About a dozen amateur musicians have participated in this group, including a banjo player, a cellist, a couple guitarists, a harpist, a couple pianists, a recordist and singers. All musicians are welcome regardless of level of proficiency. Meetings were held between September and May on the third Friday of the month at The Northampton Community Music Center beginning at 10:30 am. Each meeting began with socializing followed by informal "performances", typically solo, but member collaborated on duos from time to time. The number attending any given meeting ranged from three to ten. The participants have always been entirely supportive of each other and completely

non-judgmental. All amateurs, so lots of mistakes and start-overs were expected. A popular (involuntary) phrase seems to have been “no, wait...” The result has been increasing camaraderie and a gradual reduction in “performance anxiety”.

#### Science Roundtable – John Armstrong & Larry Ambs

This year, the Science Round Table has been meeting monthly in the Community Room of the new Hitchcock Center for the Environment. The presenters at our meetings are drawn from local college science faculty, from LIR members with a science background or interest, and from local retired scientists and engineers. Recent presentations have included: The Environment Impacts of Biomass Burning; The Science of Sky Diving; Using Nuclear Magnetic Resonance as a Tool in Science and Medicine; and Adventures of a Rocket Girl—and the Exploration of Jupiter. We typically have 15 to 20 members attending the presentations. All LIR members are welcome to attend these meetings and to participate in the lively Q&A sessions, which are part of each presentation.

#### Theater Interest Group – Gary Roodman & Kay Klausewitz

The theater group, new this past year enjoyed paying reduced prices for three excellent professional plays over the year: Fiorello at The Unicorn Theater in Stockbridge, A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder, and Jersey Boys, both at the Bushnell Theater in Hartford, CT. Transportation was offered by bus or van for those who wanted it.

#### Viewpoints – Hy Edelstein

Viewpoints is a spontaneous discussion group open to all LIR members. There are no preparations and 4 to 5 topics are proposed and discussed over the hour and a half meeting. Generally, topics concern political and social issues of the day. Some recently have been --- The Supreme Court, The Effect of President Trump on the Republican Party, Compromise in Democracy, The Town of Easthampton as a Refugee Haven, Women in Revolt, the "War" on the Media, Artificial Intelligence, The Legacy of President Obama - - - Meetings are and have been held at 12:30 on the first Thursday of every month throughout every month of the year, and continuously for many years. Attendance averages between 10 and 15 members. The discussions are invariably well informed, civil, of good humor, and spirited!

*The preceding committee reports are based upon information submitted by the group facilitators and compiled by the Special Programs chair.*

## **Summer/ Winter Programs Report, 2017**

Nancy Denig, Chair

### **Winter Programs**

Dec 4	Mount Holyoke Christmas Vespers Concert and dinner
Jan 4	Memorial Program
Jan 11	Hockey game and dinner at the Student Prince, Springfield
Jan 10-12	Tech Series: Email Questions, Computer Organization, and Computer Safety Questions
Feb 10	Legislator's Forum
Feb 16	Let's Play: Fun 'n Games to Chase February Blues

### **Committee**

We had a skeleton crew – a new committee member, Bob Barker, and yours truly, Nancy Denig – developing programs for the Winter. Others were instrumental: Past President Sheila Klem led the Memorial Program; Piet Reitt and other members of the Tech Committee sponsored the computer workshops; and Carol Jolly moderated the Legislator's Forum.

### **Evaluation**

Most of the Winter programs – the traditional Memorial Program and Legislator's Forum excepted – were sparsely attended this year. Adding a sports event was a departure, which may account for the small response this time. A mix-up in the catalogue's listings most likely took its toll, as well.

### **Summer Programs** (scheduled for this upcoming season):

Jun 14	MassMoCA Magical Mystery Tour
July 7	Lyra Music Festival Master Class, at Smith College
Aug 5	Yo-Yo Ma at Tanglewood rehearsal
Aug 27	Take Bob Out to the Ballgame! (Red Sox v. Orioles at Fenway Park)
Aug 29	Providence (Rhode Island): History, Little Italy and Art

### **Committee**

We have new active Committee members. The roster as it now stands is:

Michael Adelman (2017-2020)  
Bob Barker (2016-2019)  
Nancy Denig, chair (2015-2018)  
Mary Franks (2017-2020)  
Faina Zilberberg (2017-2020)