

## **FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT**

### **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**March 14, 2019**

**Five College Office, 97 Spring St., Amherst, MA**

Council Members Present: Ellen Kosmer (President), Jake Greenburg (Vice-President), Kathy Campbell (Treasurer), Cynthia Barker (Secretary), Bob Cohen, Linda Honan, Chris Hurn, Gene Fisher, Jonathan Jay, Terry Rosenfeld, Jay Russell, Margaret Russell

Committee Chairs and Others Present: Larry Ambs, Jim Harvey, Prunella Fiddian-Green, Mary Franks, Gail Gaustad, Wendy Parrish, Nina Scott, Sara Wright, and Tisha Ferguson

Council Members Absent: Gordon Wyse (Past President), Kip Fonsh

The meeting was called to order by Ellen Kosmer at 2:17 p.m.

The Council accepted the minutes, as amended, of the February 14, 2019 Council meeting.

#### **Officers' Reports:**

##### President

Ellen reported that there will be a meeting with the committee chairs and co-chairs after the April Council meeting. Seminar moderators have been asked to poll seminar participants for nominations of at-large Council members for the coming year. If Council members know of someone who may be interested in serving, they should talk with them and encourage them to volunteer.

##### Vice President

Jake has recently attended many committee meetings. Jake reports that the committee chairs are well organized, and the committee members are working very hard. Jake is searching for a committee chair for the new

Membership Services and Outreach Committee; please contact Jake if you are interested in this position.

## **Committee Reports:**

### Nominating Committee

Jonathan Jay thanked the members of the Nominating Committee for their great work, and presented the slate of candidates for the 2019-2020 year:

President: Jake Greenburg  
Past President: Ellen Kosmer  
Vice President: Nancy Denig  
Treasurer: Nancy Mihevc  
Assistant Treasurer: Bob Cohen  
Secretary: Bev von Kries

### Curriculum Committee:

Jim Harvey reported that we will be offering 23 fall seminars; these seminars cover a great diversity of topics. The seminar descriptions have been sent to the LIR office for inclusion in the catalog.

The committee has also sponsored moderator meetings to enhance the quality of our seminars and encourage participation.

In the fall, the committee expects to offer a workshop about preparing power point presentations; they will discuss technology challenges, as well as overall presentation design. In the future they also anticipate providing training to people who have not used power point in the past, as well as discussing the differences in using Apple vs. PC products.

### Finance

Kathy Campbell reported that financing of Special Events will be funded in the immediate future with the transfer of available Reserves. Our estimate of revenue from dues is up about \$2,000; it is not necessary, yet, to use Endowment funds to supplement our dues to pay expenses.

### Great Decisions

Prunella reported that we expect to mail brochures on March 18 and have posters available for distribution in the area. Tickets will be available for sale next Monday. An article has been prepared for submission to the Gazette, and we expect announcements in Events Calendars throughout the valley. We expect the Hadley Farms venue to be especially welcoming for the Great Decisions program.

At some point before the next 2020 season, Rich Parrish will be seeking an opinion from the Council about the appropriate honorarium amount for our speakers.

### Member Events

The LIR Anniversary Celebration will be held April 4, 2019 from 4 P.M. to 6 P.M. at Hadley Farms. The estimated cost of the event is \$4,500. Invitations have been mailed, and Tisha will be asked to send a request to moderators to find out how many people are planning to attend. We will have a musical trio to entertain, a banner is being made, and Katy van Geel has assembled a marvelous history of LIR. Arrangements will be finalized next Thursday. Special thanks to Nancy Clune and Catharine Porter for all of their work in organizing the Anniversary Celebration.

The committee also hosted a new member coffee in February. The event went well, despite the poor weather conditions that day.

### Public Relations/Publicity

Nina Scott passed around Gazette articles featuring Jim Harvey and Honore David; another article will be published soon.

A series of recipes from the Appalachian seminar will appear in Hampshire Life.

### Special Programs

Wendy Parrish reported that the Book Interest Group, Theater Interest Group, "Viewpoints", Opera Prep, and Encore presentations are going well. Wendy's detailed report is attached to the minutes.

## Activities (Formerly Summer/Winter Programs)

Eight summer programs are planned; three will be nearby.

## Special Projects and Events

The speakers and field trip are now confirmed for the Edith Wharton program.

## Office Manager

Tisha Ferguson reported the following:

Planning for the fall seminars is going well; we have 4-5 venues to be decided.

The Great Decisions website is up, with ticketing available.

Final planning for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration is going well.

The Bach Festival includes a special lecture at Grace Church-unfortunately, the scheduled time conflicts with a Council Meeting.

Ticketing for the May 4 Theater Trip to Bushnell is available.

The Edith Wharton program will have its own web page.

Tisha has heard concerns from members about technology. There are still many active members who are not using power point, and Tisha wonders if we can be more proactive in helping members. Jim Harvey believes that the Moderator's Handbook may need to be updated, as it says very little about technology. Margaret Russell suggested that it would be a good idea to have a table at the Preview staffed from people on the technology contact list.

## **Old Business**

### Discussion to formulate a price structure for LIR trips and events

Mary Franks volunteered to form an Ad hoc committee to prepare a proposal for Council review. Margaret Russell and Jake Greenburg agreed to help. The general consensus was that we should have a 2-tiered pricing structure for members vs. non-members.

## **New Business**

LIR outreach to membership and the community. Paid advertising? Should we have a Facebook page?

After some discussion, there was general agreement that some paid advertising is appropriate; for example, an ad in “Live Well”, a publication targeted to our demographic. Tisha agreed to research prices charged by a number of publications. The new Member Services and Outreach Committee should be the group to further strategize our approach to paid advertising. The Council also recommended that the new Member Services and Outreach Committee should further discuss the possibility of creating of an LIR Facebook page, and bring recommendations to the Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 P.M.

Cynthia Barker, Secretary

## Special Programs Report to Council – March 14, 2019

The Book Interest Group's last meeting was held Friday, March 9. *Euphoria*, by Lily King was the topic. The next book will be *Gilgamesh*, by Joan London. The group is open to new members, but the hostesses have limited space, so it's first-come-first-served for each meeting. For further information, contact Naomi Yanis.

Nancy Mihevc and Glenn Swanson have organized our Winter-Spring Encore Presentations. The schedule will be available in the 5CLIR Reporter. Our venue is at the Applewood Retirement Community from 10 AM to 12 PM. The fall presentations were well attended due, in part, to the change in start time to 10:00 AM. Reminders will be emailed to our membership, listed in the 5CLIR Reporter, and available on [www.5CLIR.org](http://www.5CLIR.org).

Opera Prep, with Peg Bedell, meets on the Fridays preceding the HD Live Operas shown at the Hadley Cinemark. The schedule continues into May 2019, and will be online at [www.5CLIR.org](http://www.5CLIR.org). The next meeting is March 29, for *Die Walküre*, leading to a showing on Saturday. Meetings take place at the Inn at Easthampton Lathrop, Garden Room, from 2:00- 3:00PM.

Viewpoints, moderated by Hy Edelstein, continues to meet on the first Thursday of every month at 12:30 PM at Highland Valley Elder Services in Florence.

The Theater Interest Group is hoping to plan an excursion to a performance for late spring or early summer. Date and show TBD.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Parrish, Chair