

2021 Council Nominee bios

PAUL COOPER

Paul Cooper has been taking 5CLIR classes since moving to Northampton five years ago, which has enabled him to indulge his curiosity about things geological, historical, and paleontological. He will be co-leading his first seminar in the fall. He values and appreciates 5CLIR's participant-driven model.

PAM DANIELS

I came to the Pioneer Valley for the LIR experience, seeking – and finding – like minds and hearts, totally enjoying participation in the peer-led seminar experience, moderating several, as well as serving on the Curriculum Committee.

Having spent 35 years in the public sector with New York and Connecticut state governments, I developed a skill in leading task force projects resulting in statewide policies. Somewhere during my professional life and raising two fabulous daughters, I secured a second masters' degree in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School. As Madeleine Kahn sang in *Blazing Saddles*, "I'm Tired."

MICHAEL MILLER

I am honored to be considered for membership on the 5CLIR Council. Since moving to the Pioneer Valley in 2019, I have been an avid member and participant in the 5CLIR: I have taken a handful of courses, moderated one (*Science in Film*; and I will be co-moderating *Death in Hollywood* in the fall 2021), led a summer 2020 conversation on *White Fragility*, served on the Encore Committee, and just joined the Technology Committee. I am devoted to sustaining, increasing the membership, and broadening the diversity of the 5CLIR.

ROBERTA PATO

I have been a member of LIR for the past 10 years. I have facilitated 2 seminars. I am a retired New York City Public School Teacher relocated to Northampton 20 years ago.

CLARISSE PATTON

After having to give up graduate school due to financial problems, I worked for 35 years in computers and 12 years as a life-guard. It has been marvelous to be back in a learning environment. I am willing to pay-forward by helping the council.

CATHARINE PORTER

Even before I retired from UMass as the University Ombudsperson, I attended the fall picnic in the Gaustads's beautiful backyard. It was there that I met so many interesting and energetic LIR members and felt the camaraderie that is at the center of the organization. When I joined, I attended numerous seminars. Even now, several of us continue to meet because of our interest in the subject. It was also at these seminars that I fully grasped the importance of a good moderator, having been exposed to a variety. My very first seminar was *Writing to Remember (Red)*, and I have stayed with that group, now sharing the moderator's position with Trish Callard. My other activity over the years has been serving on the Member Event Committee, giving me the opportunity to not only attend the fall picnic but help plan it as well! It would be an honor to participate as a Council member.

JEAN SHACKELFORD

After moving to Northampton two years ago I joined LIR as soon as I had a mailing address. I have taken classes each fall, winter and summer - delighted with the wide array of subjects and

intellectual stimulation. After retiring from Bucknell University in 2012 I became involved with Bucknell's Institute for Lifelong Learning as a student, sub-committee chair and Steering Committee member. In life before retirement, I taught economics for forty years, served on far too many committees, co-founded a day care center, quilt guild and the International Association for Feminist Economics, serving as president from 1993-1995 and executive secretary from 1996-2005. To maintain strength and viability non-profit organizations rely on an active and enthusiastic membership. 5CLIR is one of those institutions actively meeting our needs, whether in person or Zoom.

KATY VAN GEEL

As a longtime member of LIR, I have served on the Curriculum Committee and co-moderated (with Nina Scott) five seminars on food and cooking. I've also offered a workshop called "Things Financial" on personal financial planning, and with my husband a seminar dealing with the question of whether to age in place or move to a retirement community. I have two children and have worked as an accountant, financial planner, and librarian.