



**LLI Council Meeting Minutes  
March 15, 2021  
Via Zoom  
9:31 a.m. to 10:56 a.m.**

**Council Members Present:** Robert Beaury, Tom Esposito (ex officio), Carmela Gersbeck, Nanci Kryzak, Deborah Lanser, Jill Lundquist, Emily Michael, Chuck Mishaan, Marge Moran, Cathy Reinis, Deborah Schwartz, Linda Stanley, Linda Still, Anne Sunners

**Council Members Absent:** John Mathews

**Also Present:** Barbara Burns, Mindell Dubansky, Suzanne Holzberg, Cary Lachmund

**Call to Order:** The regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by President Nanci Kryzak at 9:31 a.m.

**Guest Welcome:** Nanci welcomed guests and asked the Council members to introduce themselves and the guests to comment on their experience with LLI. They generally enjoyed their classes, although they wanted the opportunity to attend classes in person.

**Approval of Minutes:** Upon a motion by Emily and seconded by Linda Stanley, the minutes of the February 21, 2021 regular meeting were approved unanimously.

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**Executive Committee Reports**

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**President's Report: Nanci Kryzak**

Nanci acknowledged the passing of Steve Lanser, who actively participated in all the classes he took. Deborah L thanked the many LLI members who reached out to her with sympathy and offers of help.

Nanci welcomed Carmela as chair of Program Support.

Nanci and Jill will meet with Jonathan Becker, Director of Bard CCE, at his request, on March 17, to talk about a soft return to campus. He is proposing a truncated lecture series in a large room on campus for a small number of LLI members. Nanci is grateful that he thought of us and will report back to Council about the conversation. She will ask that we might have access to a space that supports hybrid learning.

The Dean Stuart Stritzler-Levine Seniors-to-Seniors Scholarships presentation is set for Tuesday, April 6, from 3 to 5 p.m. Bard will host the event online. There are five student scholars who will describe their work. This will be the first presentation since the passing of Dean Stuart Levine. Nanci asked all Council members to attend.

The annual meeting will be held on Friday, May 14, at 9:30 a.m. The agenda will include the president's remarks, the introduction of newly elected Council members, the presentation of and request for member approval of the 2021-2022 budget, and a presentation about hybrid learning. There will be time for questions and discussion. The meeting will conclude with a short entertainment.

Nanci has reached out to the four area libraries who are sponsoring the Community Read this fall to discuss LLI being a cosponsor. We want to make it available to the entire membership, publicize the event, and offer our support for this diversity effort which was suggested by four members of the ongoing Who Us? group.

Nanci is having ongoing confidential discussions with LLI officers and standing chairs about possible replacements in anticipation of future needs.

Stephanie Semler, a law professor at the law school of George Mason University, has said she believes her law clinic students can help us develop a policy about class video recording. We will be asked to sign some agreements. In addition, Stephanie advised that we will need to consult a NYS attorney about the privacy issue.

#### **First Vice President's Report: Linda Stanley**

Linda Stanley said the Nominating Committee has finished its work and the election is underway. The votes will be tallied on March 30, and she will inform Nanci of the results then.

Linda is working on the annual member survey and has asked for input from Council members and committee chairs. Tom noted that Road Scholar has periodically asked for demographic data, such as age and income, from its member LLIs, although we have not recently, if ever, collected that data from our members.

**Action point:** Refer the question of obtaining demographic information from members to P&E.

#### **Second Vice President's Report: Cathy Reinis**

Cathy commended Deborah Schwartz for her extensive work helping to update the registration workflow document. The revised version should accurately reflect necessary steps, as needed with ProClass, and the timing.

#### **Secretary: Deborah Lanser**

Deborah reported that she had not received any LLI correspondence.

#### **Treasurer: Robert Beaury**

Robert is calling a meeting of the Finance Committee to discuss the draft of the 2021-2022 annual budget.

Regarding this month's budget report, Robert notes that we spent very little money, and we have enough funds.

Deborah S thanked Robert for his work with the Bard staff so that our invoices will be paid directly by Bard without need for member payment and subsequent reimbursement..

**Motion:** A motion to approve the treasurer's report by Linda Stanley and seconded by Jill was approved unanimously.

## Standing Committee Reports

### **Admin/Infrastructure: Deborah Schwartz**

Deborah commended the many members who are willing to learn new tech skills, such as use of google docs and the shared drive. Tech help has spent many hours helping members register. She has developed a series of training videos, which are now on the website. She will be writing about those videos in the next newsletter.

The biggest hurdle she faces immediately is managing the waitlists, which are needed for 5 or 6 courses this spring. She also is assessing how to get reports to the producers.

Entries for the SummerFest catalog are due on March 15. The team is looking into changing their processes so that presenters and producers can review their course entries prior to posting.

Cathy Reinis reported that the last newsletter had an open rate of more than 70% among members. Communications is now working on the April newsletter and would welcome additional story ideas.

Deborah said the website has a revised and updated section, Joining LLI, under Membership, thanks to the efforts of Nanci, Jill, Kim Sears, and Linda Still. The organizational chart on the website will be revised next.

### **Curricular and Special Programs: Anne Sunners**

As of now, all classes for spring are ready. The four limited enrollment classes have been filled. Discussions are ongoing about how to enroll session managers, producers and presenters in limited enrollment courses.

SummerFest will have two hybrid courses.

The fall schedule looks like a nightmare, since we don't know whether we will be on campus, only on Zoom, or adapt a hybrid model.

Nanci added that Bard determines when we can return to campus. We should be able to do so as soon it is safe, but Bard's primary commitment is to the students, faculty, and staff.

### **Governance: Nanci Kryzak**

Other committee chairs have covered the basic topics contained in the governance report.

### **Membership Development: Linda Still**

In keeping with the goals of Sustained Leadership, Linda has discussed the possibility that Robert English will step in as chair if she needs to step down. Kim Sears expects to be relocating later in the year, and her position as Chair of Member Services will need to be filled.

The limited-time Sustained Leadership group is looking for ways to better implement the idea of member ownership of LLI and to support volunteerism. There need to be good pathways and better entry points for new members to undertake meaningful roles. The group is looking to rebrand the title Volunteer Coordinator. The group is also considering putting together a

package of past articles about SLD and may even develop a course on leadership. Some new ideas may be in place by the end of the month.

The decline in attendance at Council meetings by new members is puzzling. Barbara has suggested four questions to be added to the membership survey to assess interest in volunteering. Zoom may be a factor, since person-to-person contact is important. We may consider some limitations in the information requested on our applications because of privacy issues.

The Mad Hatter tea party went very well, and Linda encouraged Council members to attend other social gatherings. One more gathering is being planned for after the spring semester.

The Committee is encouraging mentors to stay in touch with their mentees.

### **Program Support: Carmela Gersbeck**

Irene Esposito has submitted a preliminary budget for hospitality, assuming we are back on campus in the fall. Martha Nickels has resigned her position in hospitality and she needs to be replaced. Tom noted that she has done a terrific job, ensuring the table was well stocked with food and keeping the place clean.

We have enough session managers to cover the spring classes, with 24 active participants. Some are managing more than one class.

The Hybrid Team will meet today with Paul LaBarbera to see what equipment Bard has to offer for our hybrid classes.

### **P&E: Jill Lundquist**

The P&E Committee discussed the possibility of raising the membership cap to 350. The Committee will present their recommendation for next year's membership cap to Council in April, after we have more information about our return to campus, spring course attendance, and Bard's hybrid capabilities,

The Who Us? class last fall considered issues concerning racism in our culture, white privilege, and what we as individuals might do to make a difference. As a result of continued discussion through the winter, class members have created a diversity initiative proposal, which will be presented to Council at a special meeting on Monday, April 12. That will give Council members information they need to vote on some of the specific recommendations at the next regular Council meeting on April 19. We will need a session manager for that meeting.

The April P&E meeting will be moved to Wednesday, April 14.

### **New Business**

No new business was presented.

### **Old Business**

Deborah Lanser read the following policy for review:

PROG 10/18. LLI members who volunteer and therefore have access to our database of membership emails, addresses, and telephone numbers may use this information only for their assigned volunteer needs, and not for any other purposes.

Council accepted this policy as read.

Next Deborah read the following policy:

FIN 06/10. LLI Council establishes need-based scholarships to LLI members for partial or full coverage of annual membership fees. The amounts of said scholarships shall not exceed the cost of registration fees per individual, and the cumulative amount given shall not to exceed \$1000 per year. Members who wish to apply for said scholarships shall petition the Council President, in writing. The President shall be authorized and empowered to award such scholarships, at his or her discretion.

Nanci noted that, if we follow through on recommendations from the diversity initiative, we may expect more membership applications from a broader range of applicants, some of whom may need financial assistance for payment of the membership fee. The highlighted scholarship information now on the website may also increase requests for assistance. Tom pointed out that, as written, someone has to be a member before they can apply for a scholarship. We don't want financial concerns to stop someone from applying. Nanci said that information about the scholarships is now highlighted on the website and will also be clarified in application and renewal communications. Scholarship recipients will be advised to request scholarship assistance before they pay their membership fee.

Council members suggested that the policy be amended to:

- Clarify that the funds are available for new and renewing members,
- Add that the scholarship payment will be made directly to LLI on behalf of the member.

**Action point:** Robert will rewrite the policy accordingly and present the new version to Council.

Nanci asked that the annual cap on scholarship funds be raised from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

**Motion:** Upon a motion by Robert and seconded by Linda Stanley, Council unanimously approved increasing the available scholarship funds to \$2,000.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion:** Upon a motion by Cathy and seconded by Deborah Lanser, the meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Lanser  
Secretary