



**Bard LLI Online Annual Meeting
Held via Webinar
May 14, 2021, 9:30 - 10:42 a.m.**

Meeting Hosts: Jeff Christensen and Carmela Gersbeck

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

Introduction

President Nanci Kryzak thanked the meeting hosts and welcomed 74 LLI members.

Motion. The first order of business was to approve the minutes from the annual meeting of May 15, 2020. Linda Stanley moved to approve the minutes, and Robert Beaury seconded. There was no discussion. Of 61 people who voted, 55 approved the minutes and 6 abstained from voting. The motion carried.

State of the Organization

In reviewing the events of the last year, Nanci commended the Council and committee and team members who ensured our success in a time when everything was transitioned to online delivery. Our first online event was last year's annual meeting. Since then, members have mastered Zoom and learned how to use ProClass. We have been forced to recognize our 20th anniversary online, but we hope to celebrate with an in-person gala next summer, after our anticipated full return to campus next spring. In the past year, we have commemorated our 20 years through our newsletter and now have a detailed archive of LLI remembrances from our founders, some past presidents, and stories about our programs and events. We continued to donate to Bard College in gratitude for our long relationship. Nanci also acknowledged the passing of Dean Stuart Stritzler-Levine, who did so much to support the founding and growth of LLI.

SummerFest and the fall semester will be mostly online. While we would like to return to the campus as soon as feasible, we can only do so under Bard guidelines. We will know more about our possible return to campus by midsummer, when Bard finalizes their fall planning. The membership cap has been increased to 350, with an annual membership fee of \$175. New member applications and membership renewals will be accepted starting June 1. Nanci asked us to renew our memberships and to encourage others to apply; the application information is on our website. Confidential scholarship assistance is available for new and returning members.

LLI is a fully volunteer-run organization, and Nanci asked meeting attendees to consider how they can each contribute. We are looking for the most efficient ways to present our programs, and we encourage all members to serve as volunteers to support LLI.

Nanci mentioned several ongoing discussions to be continued next year. One is the scheduled review of our bylaws. We also expect a report this fall from the law clinic at George Mason University's law school

on how we might proceed should we decide to record our classes. LLI Council is also considering how to appropriately address the issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion at LLI.

Nanci asked members to respond to the annual member survey when it is sent on May 17. All comments are welcome, and all comments are read.

She added that all LLI members have been given membership in the newly formed Friends of Stevenson Library at Bard in recognition of our attendance at and support for the library's programs.

Nanci concluded her remarks by thanking departing Council members Cathy Reinis and Emily Michael for their valuable contributions on Council and continuing efforts on LLI teams.

Questions

Jerry Brockett was concerned about the parking issues that may arise once we are back on campus. And he hoped to hear more about the hybrid classes.

Nanci said other options for parking may become available. And the hybrid classes may help serve members who have trouble navigating the campus or who choose not to drive.

Introducing New Council Members

Linda Stanley, First Vice President and chair of 2020-21 Nominating and Election Committees, thanked all LLI members for voting. The results of the election are:

Felice Gelman: 2nd vice president, 1st term

Deborah Lanser: secretary, re-elected, 2nd term

Carol Goss: member at large, 1st term

John Mathews: member at large, appointed November 2020, elected for 1st term

Each newly elected Council member then spoke briefly about their pleasure in serving LLI.

Questions

Jackie Olivet asked why we will not be back on the Bard Campus in the fall. Nanci pointed out that this is Bard's decision, not ours. Right now, Bard is focused on Commencement. Once that is done, she will contact the Covid response team to discuss LLI's return to campus.

Another member asked what were the most significant short- and long-term challenges facing LLI. Nanci said that in the short term, our challenge is to be more efficient and make our decisions easier to implement to ease the workload on our volunteers. Our long-term challenge remains developing programs to bring learning experiences and opportunities for social interactions for our members.

A third question concerned the percentage of the membership who enroll in classes. Nanci noted that of 325 members, 295 enrolled in classes in the spring. That is a testimony to the quality of our courses. When we return to campus, we will develop more opportunities for social interaction. We may also investigate venues that are off campus.

2021-2022 Budget

Robert Beaury, Treasurer, presented the tentative budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. The estimated fund balance by June 2021 will be just under \$75,000, since we did not incur many of our usual expenses. This will enable us to consider future programming options and cover unexpected expenses.

Question

One member asked why the budget for entertainment was so high. Robert answered that since we hope to get back onto campus in spring 2022, we budgeted for refreshments and social events. This figure is a placeholder.

Motion. Carol Goss moved to approve the budget as presented and Deborah Lanser seconded the motion. Of 61 people who voted, 58 approved the budget, one person did not approve, and 2 abstained from voting. The motion carried.

Program Support and Hybrid Learning

Carmela Gersbeck, chair of Program Support, talked about the many challenges faced last year by the session managers, AV team, online team, and hybrid team. Chuck Mishaan, hybrid team chair, explained that hybrid learning is not just one thing, but a complex web of different educational strategies. The team is experimenting with how to produce quality hybrid courses. The team will meet with Bard AV in June to see what equipment and tools will be available on campus. He is looking forward to developing new kinds of classes. Nanci added that as our team learns from Bard AV, we expect that they will also learn from us.

Questions

One member asked whether other LLIs are using hybrid learning. Nanci responded that very few are doing so.

Another member asked whether we can use Montgomery Place. Nanci said that we are keeping open different options for gathering there, depending on conversations with Bard and the in-house team.

Conclusion

Nanci concluded the business portion of the meeting and Navin Sharma introduced videos offered by the director and students from the Flute Studio at the Bard Conservatory of Music.