



**LLI Council Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2021
Via Zoom
9:30 a.m. to 10:56 a.m.**

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

Council Members Absent: Marge Moran

Also Present: Felice Gelman, Carol Goss

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

Welcome: Nanci welcomed our guests.

Approval of Minutes: Upon a motion by Emily and seconded by Linda Stanley, the minutes of the April 19, 2021 regular meeting were approved unanimously.

Executive Committee Reports

President's Report: Nanci Kryzak

Nanci reported that the annual meeting was a success, including approval of both the draft as minutes from the 2020 Annual Meeting and the tentative as final budget for FYE June 30, 2022. Carmela and Jeff did a wonderful job hosting the business meeting, as did Navin Sharma, who worked with the director and a graduating student at the Flute Studio in the Bard Conservatory of Music to introduce a video program for the meeting's entertainment.

We had to decline the May lecture series that Jonathan Becker offered. A miscommunication resulted in our not receiving the necessary program information within an adequate time frame needed for implementation.

Nanci reminded us of the special Council meeting on June 9 to continue the discussion on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative proposal.

Since information about scholarship assistance has been publicized, one partial scholarship has been awarded, and a few other members have made inquiries.

Linda Still is stepping down as chair of Membership Development at the end of today's meeting, and she will be greatly missed. Robert English will replace Linda as MD chair of the end of this meeting. At the end of June, Anne Sunners will step down as chair of Curricular and Special Programs. Anne has asked numerous curriculum team members to replace her, but all have declined.

Action point: Council members should try to identify a possible replacement for Anne and contact Anne or Nanci with their suggestions.

First Vice President's Report: Linda Stanley

No members other than Felice and Carol will be invited to attend the Council meeting in June. The annual member survey was sent out today, and the results will be presented to Council in June.

Second Vice President's Report: Cathy Reinis

Linda Stanley is updating the workflow process for the nominating and election committees..

Secretary: Deborah Lanser

Deborah reported that she had not received any LLI correspondence.

Treasurer: Robert Beaury

Last month, we spent \$361.49 for the Senior to Senior Scholarships student gift baskets and some tech fees. The process for paying the gift bill was seamless. Carmela asked whether the bill for the Zoom licenses had been paid.

Action point: Robert will get back to Carmela with confirmation about payment.

Motion: Jill's motion to approve the budget report for April, seconded by Carmela, was approved unanimously.

Nanci said there are no specific criteria for giving member scholarships; it's a matter of judgement. In the past, Tom asked whether the applicant was receiving SNAP. The people who have been receiving scholarships have done so for a number of years. We will promote the possibility of receiving a scholarship, and Nanci will welcome confidential communication with any new or renewing member who is interested.

At the end of the fiscal year, David Shein will be in touch about Bard High School/Early College scholarships.

Standing Committee Reports

Admin/Infrastructure: Deborah Schwartz

The SummerFest catalog was released on schedule. The catalog team has devised a new set of guidelines for writing the document. Proposals for the fall courses are due on June 30.

Cathy noted that almost 70% of members opened the March newsletter. The next month will be busy for Communications because of the number of MailChimp emails to be sent.

Chuck asked whether we want to welcome nonmembers to SummerFest for a charge. Deborah said collecting the payments in ProClass would be difficult and suggested we look at the possibility next year, perhaps charging a fee per course.

Registration payments have been set up with ProClass. The one glitch is that members may inadvertently purchase a new membership rather than renewing. Deborah is working with Anne Davis to help with some of the registration tasks.

Action point: Council members should check the wording on the renewal page and let Deborah know if it is not clear.

Curricular and Special Programs: Anne Sunners

Anne encouraged Council members to think about someone who could replace her as chair of Curricular and Special Programs.

The fall schedule is almost finished. It may include some off-campus courses, including one with Skip Doyle.

Anne thanked Chuck and his team for their efforts in making hybrid learning possible for SummerFest and hopes that the gardening class will be successful. There is a possibility of another hybrid gardening class in the fall.

Governance: Nanci Kryzak

A highlight of the annual meeting was member approval of the budget for next year, with 10% of income set aside for the fund balance. She thanked Robert, as chair of the finance committee, for implementing the committee's recommendation to add to our fund balance annually to prepare for unbudgeted contingencies and future opportunities.

Chuck said that since most LLI members are probably vaccinated, he would like to get back to campus. Robert suggested that Chuck might like to spearhead that effort. Nanci noted that the Bard staff is focused on getting through commencement on May 29. After that, she and Jill will arrange to meet with the Covid response team liaison to ask when and under what policy LLI might return to campus. Robert said that getting back to campus for fall would be difficult since classes are scheduled for both Thursday and Friday. Carmela suggested keeping fall classes on Zoom, but consider setting up small in-person social gatherings so people can get to know one another. Deborah S said that a great deal of administrative work would be needed to get back on campus. We need to take that step slowly. Other LLIs are also on Zoom.

Membership Development: Linda Still

Barbara Burns is soliciting mentors for new members. Many current mentors have agreed to continue although more are needed.

The Sustained Leadership Development proposal will be tabled until later in the fall because of the many immediate tasks facing Membership Development.

Kim Sears will be in contact with Bard about parking and obtaining IDs.

Action point: Nanci will be in touch with Kim about workflow regarding parking.

Barbara has reviewed the survey questions to be included in the welcome letter to new members.

A social gathering with Lauren Rose is scheduled for July 8. Robert English would appreciate ideas for other gatherings in the fall.

Committee members have been distributing flyers about the new member application period at various locations, primarily libraries, across our geographic area.

Action point: Nanci recommended that next year, the Committee consider a more cohesive program for new member outreach. We may want to start planning our outreach strategy earlier.

Action point: Jill will put a notice on Rhinebeck Community Forum. Linda Stanley offered to be the contact person listed on the notice.

Action point: Carmela offered to send out a link to an app called Next Door that reaches out to local communities. This may enable us to reach a somewhat different demographic.

Linda Still asked how aggressive we want to be this year in recruiting new members. Ideally, we'd first determine how many members don't renew before planning our recruitment campaign. Tom commented that in the past three years, 60 people did not renew, which enabled us to take on many new members. That number may change after a year when all classes were conducted on Zoom. Deborah S noted that we can check the number of renewals on ProClass whenever we want. Some people may simply renew just to preserve their place, even though they are tired of Zoom.

We will also contact members who did not renew last year to inform them about the upcoming application period.

Program Support: Carmela Gersbeck

Spring went well and five people have volunteered to be sessions managers for SummerFest. She needs to recruit more people to be backup. A survey about the experience of being a session manager went out; there were 14 responses, and 3 people don't want to do it again. She will probably advertise for session managers again in July. She may set up a refresher course for session managers.

The hybrid team is returning to Adam Weiss's garden for another rehearsal before the SummerFest course starts.

P&E: Jill Lundquist

Jill said that everything that P&E discussed has already been discussed by the other standing committees.

New Business

Nanci announced that an updated policy manual, meeting schedule, and list of Council members and their contact information has been posted on the shared drive.

One member thought that a draft of the annual meeting minutes should be posted soon after the meeting itself. We don't have a policy on this.

Action point: Deborah L will draft the minutes and get them to Council for review. Once they have been approved by Council, they will be posted on the website and we will let members know where to find them for review and comment.

Nanci reminded us that we have a special Council meeting on June 9 at 11 a.m.

Old Business

We will not invite guests to Council in June. If any members ask Linda Stanley if they may attend, they will be welcomed.

Deborah S noted that the schedule for Bard LLI events is on the website. If anyone has any changes, contact her.

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