



**Minutes of LLI Council Meeting  
June 21, 2021  
Video Conference 9:31 - 11:08 a.m.**

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

**Also Present:** Felice Gelman, Carol Goss, Phyllis Heiko

**Call to Order**

President Nanci Kryzak called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. and welcomed the guests.

**Approval of Minutes**

Upon a motion by Linda and seconded by Jill, the minutes of the May 14, 2021 Annual Meeting were approved unanimously. Deborah L agreed to submit them for posting on the website. Nanci will mention that they have been posted in her message for the July newsletter.

Upon a motion by Emily and seconded by Anne, the minutes of the Council meeting of May 17, 2021 were approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Jill and seconded by Cathy, the minutes of a special meeting of Council on June 9, 2021, were approved unanimously.

**Executive Committee Reports**

**President's Report: Nanci Kryzak**

Nanci announced that with the approval of the Executive Committee a donation has been made to the gardens at Montgomery Place to honor the memory of Steve Lanser, LLI member and husband of Council Secretary Deborah Lanser.

Members of LLI will be allowed to return to campus grounds in groups of approximately 15 people. Before each visit, however, we will need to submit our plans to the Bard Covid Response Team, [responseteam@bard.edu](mailto:responseteam@bard.edu). We still will not be allowed in the buildings. We will stay in touch with Bard for further updates.

Nanci has awarded one full and two half scholarships. She has also received a request for a scholarship from someone who is applying for admittance, which she may grant if the applicant is admitted.

She is waiting to hear from Bill Hinrichs about the names and projects of the three students whom he recommends receive the BHSEC grant.

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

Linda attended the June 8 meeting of Membership Development. She has completed the annual member survey and compiled a report, which is in the shared drive. She encouraged Council members to read her report and also read the member comments in the responses.

She has started orientation for new Council members. She has gone over Felice's responsibilities as 2nd vice president. She will meet with Carol Goss in July..

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

Cathy thanked everyone who helped her update the workflow documents, particularly Linda Stanley and Deborah S. She has confidence that Felice will do an excellent job as 2nd vice president.

**Secretary's Report: Deborah Lanser**

Deborah was able to return to the Bard post office for the first time in more than a year. She found a bill for the PO box, which was due January 31. She immediately forwarded a copy of the bill to Robert Beaury for payment. There was no other mail for LLI. She went back again a week later, but the box was empty.

Cathy had forwarded an email to her from someone in the Development Office at Bard, who was concerned that some tax receipts for LLI were returned because the box was vacant. Cathy asked that the receipts be forwarded to Deborah at her home address. When Deborah received them, she forwarded them to Robert.

**Treasurer's Report: Robert Beaury**

Robert confirmed that as soon as he found out the bill for the PO box was overdue, he forwarded it to accounting, who cut a check immediately.

He has received membership renewal payments, some in May, some in June, which will be reflected in the monthly budgets. The fiscal year doesn't start until July.

There is some confusion about the seniors-to-seniors grants. There are five scholarships this year, but documents only show four students. The fifth student may be someone

who graduated last May, but the funding came through late. Robert will find out whether the request for payment came last year, but we weren't informed of it.

**Motion:** Upon a motion by Linda and seconded by Jill, the monthly budget for 6/30/21 was approved unanimously with a correction to move monies paid for BHSEC to the line for the seniors-to-seniors grants.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

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

Catalog under Bill Tuel has revised their process.

Cathy noted the newsletters are going well. The committee is trying to make them smaller.

Deborah S reported that renewals and applications were still coming in, right up to June 21, the last day. If all applicants are accepted, we will have 351 people. Usually about 10% of applicants don't pay. A couple of people have paid by check.

In general, the renewal process via ProClass did not go as smoothly as she had hoped. Several people submitted credit card information more than once, which meant we had to ask Bard to issue a refund. We don't yet know what the outside cost of issuing the refunds will be.

Tom pointed out that we may have more than the approved maximum of 350 people. Jill suggested that we simply admit everyone who applied, without having a lottery, since not everyone who is admitted accepts a membership. If we decide to admit more members, Council will have to approve the increase. Applicants have to pay by July 10, so we won't know until then how many will register.

Susan Christoffersen has updated the website to include the new Council members.

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

Anne thanked everyone for supporting her work as chair of Curricular and Special Programs. She reminded us that Curriculum is the most important part of LLI. The incoming chair of the Curriculum Team, Linda Legendre, will attend Council as a guest. She has an attention to detail that will benefit the committee.

The committee is finalizing the fall semester of about 20 courses. Most classes will be held via Zoom on Thursdays and Fridays. There will be three off-campus courses.

Chuck pointed out that the first day of class will be on Yom Kippur, which may pose a problem for some presenters, producers, session managers, and members.

**Action point:** Consider postponing the first day of class for a week and extending the course for a week into November when the religious holiday is an issue.

Producers, presenters, and session managers can discuss this possibility on an individual basis.

**Action point:** Bill Tuel and the catalog committee will need to know if changes are made to the schedule for any individual class.

**Governance: Nanci Kryzak**

The mandated bylaws review will begin after July 1. Nanci will speak with incoming 2nd vice president, Felice Gelman, about forming a bylaws review group. She asked that anyone who has previously worked on bylaws talk with Felice.

**Membership Development: Robert English**

Nanci will send out a President's letter on July 1 notifying applicants of their admittance and the payment deadline of July 10. Maddy Watterson has approximately 35 mentors lined up. They will be matched with new members July 11-15. Member Services will send out a letter to the new members July 15-20. New member/mentor socials may be combined with orientations, which will be held via Zoom September 1 - 15. Barbara Burns has developed a questionnaire about volunteer interest, which will be sent out with the Member Services welcome letter to new members. Cathy asked that Communications review all materials that will be sent out.

Kim Sears is working on orientation; when she leaves, Fern Fleckman will take her place. We are not sure about arranging for a Bard ID and parking permit or for campus tours, given the continuing Covid protocol. Deborah S recommended that orientation include tech training to cover ProClass, google, and LLI email.

As of this meeting, 51 current members did not renew, and 76 people have applied.

Robert has scheduled an online social event for July 8 with Lauren Rose, but she is not responding to emails. Cathy suggested phoning her.

If we are allowed back on campus, we may start with campus tours for members of the classes of 2020 and 2021. As soon as Bard gives the OK, we will reschedule the pre-COVID planned Hessel Museum tour and look for an event similar to the Beethoven Bash.

**Program Support: Carmela Gersbeck**

We need to recruit more session managers since only 15 or 16 people have signed up for the fall. She will reach out to Barbara Burns for help.

Chuck said the first and third sessions of the gardening class via hybrid learning went well. There were glitches with the second session. He recommends we do not use hybrid learning for future off-campus classes. Hybrid should be easier to handle in a classroom with equipment from Bard. Nanci said that if any of the tech team had been charged for

their data usage to deliver the hybrid course, they should submit a bill and be reimbursed.

Chuck will try to set up a meeting with Paul LaBarbera about Bard's equipment. The Covid Response Team will need to be notified in advance about any meeting. Jill suggested finding out from Curriculum whether we can have small classes with hybrid learning on campus. Cathy suggested we start out with small social events if we can get on campus rather than gearing up for hybrid learning.

Chuck brought up the issue of how much time volunteers are devoting to being constantly available to meet any demand made upon us. We go out of our way to rehearse the presenters and make sure everyone is satisfied. Deborah S agreed that we may be overly solicitous in terms of meeting the needs of our members. That is particularly true for the tech help team. Robert B pointed out that the number of renewals is a testament to the quality of the people who work behind the scenes. Nanci added that we have to balance leadership and personal responsibility while respecting our limitations.

#### **Planning and Evaluation: Jill Lundquist**

P&E members unanimously agreed to add the following sentence to the mission statement:

LLI strives to be an inclusive organization and welcomes applicants and members of all backgrounds.

**Motion:** Upon a motion by Nanci and seconded by Cathy, Council voted unanimously to include the sentence in the mission statement.

**Action point:** Jill and Nanci will talk after the meeting and send the updated statement to Susan for posting on the website.

The mission statement is not in the bylaws. We should consider adding it for the sake of consistency.

P&E also recommended formation of a DEI/Social Justice Task Group to:

- promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice at LLI
- explore member interest in a significant range of DEI and social issues, as detailed in extensive annual member survey comments and other feedback from LLI members and presenters
- develop and propose specific plans to respond to member interest through our courses, new educational programs, exploration of Bard and other LLI resources, etc.

- research appropriate pathways to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion among our presenters and membership.

**Motion:** Upon a motion by Robert English and seconded by Marge, Council members voted unanimously to approve the formation of a DEI/Social Justice Task Group.

Nanci added that formation of the group was dependent upon identifying a chair or co-chairs.

There is a proposal to ask for new members' age range and retirement status on the new member questionnaire that will be attached to Member Services' new member welcome letter.. Council members objected to gathering this information. Cathy asked that the questionnaire be shown to Communications before it is sent out.

#### **Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

#### **New Business**

Nanci thanked the three departing Council members, Anne Sunners, Cathy Reinis, and Emily Michael, for their dedication to LLI and many years of service.

The remaining guests, Felice and Carol, were given an opportunity to comment.

#### **Adjournment**

Upon a motion by Cathy and seconded by Anne, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Lanser  
Secretary