



Minutes of the LLI Council Meeting

October 18, 2021

Video Conference 9:30 - 11:27 a.m.

LLI at Bard College Mission

LLI provides educational and social opportunities for our members to share their love of learning and to exchange ideas and experiences. LLI offers noncredit and noncompetitive courses and other events under the sponsorship of Bard College. LLI strives to be an inclusive organization and welcomes applicants and members from all backgrounds.

Council Members Present: Robert Beaury, Tom Esposito (ex officio), Felice Gelman, Carmela Gersbeck, Carol Goss, Robert Inglish, Nanci Kryzak, Deborah Lanser, Linda LeGendre, John Mathews, Deborah Schwartz, Linda Stanley

Council Members Absent: Jill Lundquist, Chuck Mishaan, Marge Moran

Visitors: Barbara Ciccone, Chris Compton, Gary Lachland, David Offil, Jane Offil, Marge Roberts

Call to Order

President Nanci Kryzak called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Upon a motion by Linda Stanley and seconded by Felice Gelman, the minutes from the meeting of September 21, 2021, were unanimously approved.

Executive Committee Reports

President's Report: Nanci Kryzak

Nanci said that the success of the Hessel Museum tour showed how much our members appreciate the opportunity to get together in person rather than on Zoom. Nanci added that the Hybrid Team is to be commended for their efforts in keeping us connected with the hybrid classes.

Nanci has signed a new agreement with the George Mason University Law School Arts and Entertainment Advocacy Clinic for their work in helping us develop a video recording policy. She expects to receive an update shortly.

On September 24, Nanci accepted the Bard CCE New Generations award on behalf of LLI. She suggested we read Jill Lundquist's report as CCE Liaison in the Governance Committee Report.

Flowers were sent to Carol Lee, one of our founders, who was recently hospitalized.

First Vice President's Report: Linda Stanley

At the October 12th Membership Development meeting, Barbara Burns again asked that all volunteers be acknowledged in the newsletter and said she would take responsibility for anyone left out. She would like to plan other events based on the year members joined.

The banner will come down at the end of October. She thanked Bard's Buildings and Grounds Department and Horticulture Department for their help in getting it up. The banner will be stored for future events.

She is still updating the workflow documents.

Second Vice President's Report: Felice Gelman

The Bylaws Committee has completed its first review of the bylaws. Felice will review the draft with Nanci and have a draft for the November P&E meeting.

Secretary's Report: Deborah Lanser

Deborah reported we have received one piece of correspondence, a flyer from the Dutchess Council on the Aging.

Treasurer's Report: Robert Beaury

We had \$175 in membership income for November. The bills were all paid on time. He is planning to have a Finance Team meeting in November.

Motion: Upon a motion by Carmela and seconded by Linda Stanley, the budget report was unanimously approved.

Standing Committee Reports

Admin/Infrastructure: Deborah Schwartz

Bill Tuel expects to have the WinterFest catalog ready by mid December. The Catalog Team has received a list of key dates.

The October newsletter went out to 670 recipients, including 350 members. The open rate was just over 57%.

We are still waiting for the next version of ProClass, which is supposed to be available in October. The invoice will be for about \$1,300.

The Tech Team is working on ways to reduce the risk that ProClass messages go into spam. However, prevention of this problem is mostly controlled by the recipients.

Deborah will write a newsletter article trying to recruit more people for the tech team.

We now have a Twitter feed that can be used if the website is down.

Class managers can now take attendance in ProClass, using their phones, which means we have accurate class lists. This lets volunteers focus on actual work they do.

Curricular: Linda Legendre

Feedback about the fall classes has been strongly positive. The WinterFest schedule has been filled.

We need to decide when to start the spring classes. Originally, the plan was to start on March 17/18, but that would mean we run six classes, take a one-week break while Bard hosts a Writers' Conference, and then come back for the final class. We may consider starting one week earlier.

Discussion: This issue will be discussed at P&E next month.

With regards to the question of how to thank your presenter, given that we cannot hold an event at Blithewood, Council members suggested that the President and Linda jointly send individual letters, and producers send a personal note to their respective presenter(s).

Governance: Nanci Kryzak

Nanci asked us to read the governance report and the report about the CCE award, which are in the shared drive.

She was pleased to announce that Linda Stanley has agreed to chair the Nominations and Election Committees for the 2021-2022 election cycle..

Membership Development: Robert English

Linda Still and Jan Kohn will work on the new member survey to be distributed in December.

Barbara Burns and the Membership Development Committee request that the newsletter publish a list of names of the volunteers in the newsletter. Barbara will ensure the list is accurate. She is communicating with Cathy Reinis about this.

The October 13 event at Hessel and Greig Farms was successful, thanks to the efforts of Casey Robertson at Hessel and Kayla Bell who liaised with Greig Farm. The committee hopes to arrange another event around a concert at Bard. Tom added that the Fisher Center has been eager to work with us as a way of promoting their sponsors.

Action point: Tom and Robert will be in touch regarding a contact at the Fisher Center.

Action point: Instead of publishing the list in the newsletter, the volunteer thank you can be sent out via MailChimp. Barbara Burns can oversee the list and organize.

Program Support: Carmela Gersbeck

Class support is going well. More session managers will be needed for WinterFest.

Irene will work with Parkhurst Catering for future events and use her own judgement about the amount of food to order.

Hybrid has been successful, but to improve the experience, we may need special training for presenters and session managers.

P&E: Jill Lundquist.

In Jill's absence, Nanci encouraged Council members to read the P&E report, which has an update on DEI activities. The team is working to clarify and condense their goals and tasks and they are beginning to get a lot done. The process for communicating with other LLIs was clarified. The team has come up with good ideas for new courses.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

Deborah Lanser read the following policy for discussion:

FIN 05/15-B. LLI at Bard contributes up to \$3750 to Bard College annually to support senior students' projects. This program is known as "Dean Stuart Stritzler - Levine Seniors-to-Seniors Scholarships."

Nanci advised that David Shein, Dean of Studies, allocates the scholarships. The policy will stand.

Deborah then read the following policy:

FIN 10/19A. In the Fall semester, members who withdraw prior to the first day of class may request a refund. (Other) Requests will be considered by the President on a case-by-case basis.

Council members thought the time frame for withdrawal needed some modification, with a definite limit set.

Action point: Nanci will rewrite the policy and propose it for approval at the next Council meeting.

Prior to adjournment, the Council guests were given the opportunity to comment, if they chose.

Adjournment

Motion: Upon a motion by Carmela and seconded by Felice, the meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Lanser
Secretary