



LLI Council Meeting

March 21, 2022

Via Video Conference 9:30 - 11:18 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, Felice Gelman, Carmela Gersbeck, Carol Goss, Rogbert Inglish, Nanci Kryzak, Deborah Lanser, Linda LeGendre, Jill Lundquist, John Mathews, Chuck Mishaan, Deborah Schwartz, Linda Stanley

Guest: Mary McClellan

Call to Order: Nanci Kryzak, President

President Nanci Kryzak called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed a guest, Mary McClellan.

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion by Carol and seconded by John, the minutes of the February 22, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved.

Executive Committee Reports

President's Report: Nanci Kryzak

The booster verification program before the start of in-person classes worked seamlessly. There are still 22 members whose status needs to be checked. Nanci and Kim Sears will follow up with them.

Nanci will appoint at least one person to act as a contact tracer for any LLI member who tests positive for Covid-19. This is in accordance with Bard's policy. LLI members still may not use the Down the Road Cafe or the Kline Commons dining hall.

We may use Olin Hall the morning of May 13 for our annual meeting. Nanci will be looking for someone to provide suitable entertainment at the end of the meeting.

First Vice President: Linda Stanley

Nanci, Fern, Kim, and Carmela are getting records on members' vaccination status. The ballot for the 2022 election was sent out and as of this meeting, there were 175 responses. The election will close at midnight on March 28, and Linda will notify Nanci of the winners.

Linda with the assistance of Mary McClellan will prepare the annual survey. Linda will send out an email to members of Council and committee heads requesting input about what questions should be asked.

Second Vice President: Felice Gelman

Felice anticipates sending out the revised amendments to the Bylaws plus an explanatory letter in the first week of April. Members will have 30 days to review the document prior to voting.

Secretary: Deborah Lanser

Deborah reported that LLI received two pieces of correspondence, an acknowledgement from Bard of our recent donation and a flier from the Dutchess County Office for the Aging.

Treasurer's Report: Robert Beaury

The only financial activity in March was our \$700 donation to the Big Read. Robert is working with the finance committee to develop a preliminary budget for next year. He expects to present that draft to Council in April.

Motion: Upon a motion by Carmela and seconded by Felice, Council voted unanimously to accept the budget for March.

Standing Committee Reports

Admin/Infrastructure: Deborah Schwartz

All proposals for SummerFest are due on March 26. The Catalog Team is still refining the process for getting the proposals into a draft for the catalog and editing document.

The MailChimps are being sent out efficiently. Registration for spring has gone well.

Navin has agreed to maintain and organize three databases, ProClass, MailChimp, and Google Workspace.

Registration for spring went well. It has ended for all courses except those with multiple presenters. Deborah will set up a new google administration group, which will include AI and Carmela Gersbeck.

At the request of Dave Brangaitis, we will set up two-factor verification for all Google accounts. Dave will come to the next tech meeting.

Google Workspace is now our standard platform. If presenters want to use something other than Google slides, they will be responsible for finding their own technical help.

The website catalog will just be text. Margaret has agreed to help with the refrigerator page.

MailChimp requests often only advertise some small special interest programs. Deborah suggests that it is not worth the team time to send out MailChimps for events involving fewer than 25 people. A small event can be advertised on the website or in the newsletter. Nanci pointed out that all member communications involve a lot of time. Felice and Robert suggested finding another program that would be simpler than MailChimp. Deborah added that one issue is that people who request help issuing invitations don't always include all the necessary information, necessitating follow-up. Deborah suggested we table this discussion for another time.

Curricular and Special Programs: Linda LeGendre

Although we previously agreed to start fall classes on September 22nd/23rd, Bard's schedule of events means we may have to start the semester on the 15th/16th. Linda will ask producers to notify their presenters about the earlier start date. Tom still has to work with Bard to get approval on the dates. The only question is when we can hold new member orientation, and Linda will work on getting Bard's schedule.

SummerFest is set with a nice mix of medium and large classes. The charge to nonmembers will be the same for 3- and 4-session classes, \$25. Linda will encourage presenters to use Google Workspace, since the A/V team is too small to handle many requests for assistance.

The idea of having some clubs for activities such as bocce, hiking, and pickleball should be considered. Nanci added that she would have to check with Bard's risk-management agent to see what LLI-sanctioned activities will be covered if LLI begins to oversee small special-interest groups.

Carol asked whether class room numbers could be posted near the elevators as they have in previous years. Deborah wants to train people to look up room numbers in ProClass. That information should also be included in the letter from the class manager.

Linda and Carmela will work together to send out the evaluation forms.

Governance: Nanci Kryzak

The collaboration with Oblong Books and CCE in support of the special program with Jamie Raskin was a success. Nanci thanked the behind-the-scenes tech crew who rose to the challenge of making it happen.

LLI is one of the sponsors of The Big Read, a series of programs in the Hudson Valley in March and April. Fifteen of our members will be invited to participate in a writing workshop on April 20.

Membership Development: Robert English

A reception for new members will be held at Grieg Farms on May 4. The emphasis will be on a social event, but volunteer recruitment may be discussed.

A Fisher Center tour for 50 members has been arranged for Sunday, April 24. Members can contact the box office to purchase tickets for the 2 p.m. concert at a 20% discount, if they wish. The consensus is that the tour should be limited to LLI members only, because of the need to verify vaccination status.

The April 11 collage workshop at the Starr Library has been finalized.

The committee is still working on setting up a winery tour, probably for June. Members will have to pay the winery's fee individually.

A volunteer reception is tentatively scheduled for May 20 at the Multipurpose Room at Bard. The details still need to be worked out, and other options will be considered. Robert will ask for formal approval of the plan in April once he knows how much money will be involved.

A major issue concerning volunteer recruitment is that people are not clear how much time will be involved. Deborah suggested asking them how much time they are willing to spend and then finding a task taking that into account. We need to work with people to give them an estimate of the time involved in each task. Felice added that we need to keep in mind the chief reward of volunteering is the social interaction.

Program Support: Carmela Gersbeck

David Edelson has agreed to take on monitoring the coffee/tea service in Olin for the spring. We need two people to manage the hospitality room for the fall.

We have three new session managers and enough class managers.

Ideally, all presenters will use the Google platform for their presentation. We will train those who aren't familiar with it. If presenters save their presentations to their Google MyDrive, they do not need A/V support.

The technology available in the Olin "smart" rooms is conducive to hybrid classes. We should encourage more presenters to try this option. It is necessary to take attendance for these classes. Curriculum needs to know whether there is a drop off.

Planning and Evaluation: Jill Lundquist

The writing workshop will be held on April 21 at the Alumnae Center. Jill encouraged us to look at the interesting events posted on the Big Read website.

The Raskin event reached 180 people. Carmela offered to work with Jill to find out who registered and who attended.

Old Business

We have no more information from Bard about the proposed meet and greet with Afghan students.

New Business

Deborah Lanser read the following policy for Council consideration:

PROG 01/13-A. Presenters may promote to their class members. Presenters may provide, to those attending their classes, a list of their upcoming scheduled events, shows, etc. Additionally, class members may sign up to be placed on the presenter's list to receive emails regarding events, shows, etc.

Council members agreed it is appropriate as it stands.

Deborah then read the following policy:

PROG 02/20. LLI will publicize only events directly related to LLI or Bard. LLI will not advertise other events or organizations, including those sponsored by members or presenters. Death notices of LLI members will be briefly mentioned in the newsletter under the heading "In Memoriam," with links to the member's obituary if available.

Nanci noted that the most recent newsletter contained an article about Thrift 2 Fight, whose website indicated the organization supported some initiatives that members might find problematic. She was concerned that by publishing the article, LLI could be construed as supporting those efforts. We have to be more diligent about not promoting organizations that are not part of Bard or LLI.

Action point: We need to draft a disclaimer. Robert B offered to write one for consideration.

Action point: The topic can be discussed at the next P&E meeting.

The policy will stand as it is for now.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Linda and seconded by Carmela, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Lanser

Secretary