



Annual Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2023

10:10 - 10:36 am

Call to Order

President Robert Beaury called the meeting to order at 10:10 am and welcomed the LLI members who were present.

President's Opening Remarks: State of the Organization

This past year we slowly put the pandemic behind us, but we still need to be vigilant. The virus is still around, and LLI members have gotten shots and boosters and we will continue to follow Bard's Covid Team guidelines as well as CDC recommendations for our age group. When the pandemic began, our Tech Team brought Zoom to LLI to present courses to our members, and we have held our committee and team meetings on that platform ever since. The convenience of meeting virtually has paid off in a big way. Nobody needs to travel anymore for a meeting unless necessary.

As a result, we get nearly 100% attendance. Meeting in person does have its benefits, but I have been told by certain members that they will not attend regular meetings in person anymore.

This past year we were able to bring more courses to the membership both on Zoom and in-person, and we continued our experiment with hybrid classes. We received positive feedback for both Zoom and in-person classes this last semester. Unfortunately, the equipment and room set up presented hurdles that made presenting hybrid classes very challenging. The feedback from members watching class via Zoom this last semester was not positive overall, and Council decided that hybrid is not a good fit for us. We will continue to offer Zoom only and in-person classes as well as off-Friday classes. LLI has been compared to a small "private school," that has many moving parts. The classes, activities, and events we enjoy are top-quality products, and would not be possible without all the volunteers working behind the scenes.

I have had the pleasure of attending a few Curriculum committee meetings and if you want to get an idea of the amount of work involved in getting a course from concept to production, check this committee out.

Planning courses for the fall is well under way, planning for Winterfest 2024 has already started, and a couple of proposals are on the table for Spring 2024.

Two years ago, the DEI/Social Justice Team was formed and has been very busy since its inception, producing interesting and timely courses, collaborating with other local LLIs, and contributing articles for the Newsletter.

DEI/SJ team members are currently working with Bard Prison Initiative staff and can look forward to a course during Summerfest. DEI/SJ members are also working collaboratively with the leadership of Bard's Center for Indigenous Studies, and courses are planned for Summerfest and the fall. Great accomplishments in only two years, with more to come.

Our Communications team does an outstanding job keeping members informed about all things related to LLI, both past and future. They do great work with the written word and timely mailings. Like all our committees and teams, the Communications folks work hard on behalf of our membership.

We had two major events for members this year, one at Montgomery Place last summer, and the party at Blythewood last fall. That was in addition to events at the Hessel Museum and Fisher Center to name just a couple.

Our Membership Development committee has arranged a tour at the Hessel Museum of a new Native American exhibition on July 13th. Details to follow next month. The all-member picnic (including "plus ones") is set for July 19th at Robert Post Park, Ulster. And planning is under way for a special dinner for all members celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day on October 9th.

Those members interested in sporting events will be pleased to know that LLI is keeping up with the latest trend sweeping the nation. Starting later this month members will have the opportunity to play pickleball, a very popular sport. We also offer bocce and hikes of varying degrees of difficulty. These special events were all started by members who are the coordinators, and I thank them for the initiative and managing these activities.

Our Program Support committee, specifically the Tech Team, has kept a lot of what we do stitched together. From managing our single most important software program, ProClass, to resolving tech issues large and small across all that LLI does, Carmela's tech team keeps the lights on, and the LLI trains always run on time.

Some reminders:

- The annual survey has been distributed. Please take the time to fill it out. Every comment helps us plan.
- June 1 - 21 is membership renewal and new-member application time.
- Council decided that the membership cap will remain the same as will the annual membership fee for 2023-24.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Upon a motion by Fern Fleckman and seconded by Carmela Gersbeck, the minutes from the 2022 annual meeting were unanimously approved.

Departing Council Members

Robert acknowledged departing Council members: Felice Gelman, second vice president; Deborah Lanser, secretary; Carol Goss, member at large; and John Mathews, member at large. He thanked them for their work on behalf of LLI.

Newly Elected Council Members

Robert then introduced Council members, whose two-year terms start July 1: Carol Goss, returning as second vice president; Susan Simon, secretary; Lynda Christensen, member at large; and Eleanor Wieder, member at large.

Bylaws Revision

Second vice president Felice Gelman noted that the bylaws needed to be changed when the number of standing committees was reduced from six to five. The revision was sent out for an e-vote; 122 people responded, with one person opposed, three people with an unclear response, and the remainder in favor of the revision.

2023-2024 Budget

Treasurer Jerry Brocket explained the tentative budget for 2023-2024 (Appendix). The income will be similar to that of last year. Expenses will be similar to those of 2022-2023, with some increases in hospitality and social gatherings. Donations will also be slightly higher.

Motion: Upon a motion by Robert English and seconded by Felice Gelman, the membership unanimously approved the proposed 2023-2024 budget.

Robert Beaury's Comments: Looking Forward

I am very confident that LLI will continue to function at a very high level thanks to our dedicated volunteers that give so generously of their time and expertise. These leaders focus on the present and the future as well and learn from mistakes and successes alike.

He then acknowledged the contributions of the following chairs: Linda Legendre, Curriculum; Cathy Reinis, Communications; Robert English, Membership Development; Carmela Gersbeck, Program Support; Irene Esposito, Hospitality Tom Esposito, Former President and the Obtainer of Rooms for LLI; and Jill Lundquist, Planning and Evaluations. He noted that Jill is stepping down from P&E but Eleanor Wieder has agreed to become chair.

Appeal for Volunteers

If you think you want to be a part of running this terrific organization, contact Robert English.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Cathy Reinis and seconded by Felice Gelman, the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Lanser
Secretary

Appendix

Proposed Budget for 2023-2024:

Bard Lifetime Learning Institute Tentative Budget FYE June 30,2024				
Fund Balance as of 6/30/22	97,043			
Estimated Fund Balance as of 6/30/23	107,465			
	Tentative	Adopted	Projected	Actual
INCOME	FYE 6/30/24	FYE 6/30/23	FYE 6/30/23	FYE 6/30/22
Membership Fees	61,250	61,250	12,775	58,895
Allocated Fund Balance			47,138	51,798
Summerfest	900		900	825
Donations			100	100
Total Income	62,150	61,250	60,913	111,618
EXPENSES				
Hospitality/Coffee	5,000	5,000	5,121	3,331
Meals/Catering (Committee Luncheons)	5,000	5,000	3,000	1,340
Social Gatherings	5,000	5,000	200	2,211
Annual Events (formerly 20th Anniversary Event)	8,500	8,500	1,530	
Gifts	500	500	127	636
Supplies	700	700	113	719
Postage	126	85	126	35
Printing, copying, and faxing	250	250	14	187
Rentals	165	165	-	126
AV		-		
Technology	6,000	4,570	5,786	4,726
Pay Pal Fees	-	1,800	-	

Scholarships (Members)	2,000	2,000	-	888
Advertising	1,000	1,000	173	173
Operating Expenses	34,241	34,570	16,190	14,370
Retained Earnings	3,300	3,300	3,300	6,125
Total Operating Expenses/Retained Earnings	37,541	37,870	19,490	20,495
DONATIONS AND SCHOLARSHIPS				
Dean's Discretionary Fund:				4,000
(1) Dance			1,000	
(2) Experimental Humanities			1,000	
(3) Photography			1,000	
(4) Architecture			6,000	
<i>Subtotal</i>	9,000	4,000	9,000	4,000
CCE (Center for Civic Engagement):				5,500
Bard Student Emergency Fund				2,930
Afghan Student Fund				1,200
STEAM Explorers program (science/math)			5,000	
Engaged Liberal Arts & Sciences courses			4,000	
<i>Subtotal</i>	9,000	9,600	9,000	9,630
Joan Tower Composition Scholarship	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Fund for Visual Learning	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Dean Stuart Stritzler-Levine Senior to Senior	3,750	3,000	3,750	2,963
Bard HS/EC	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Bard Big Read	-		-	700
Hessel Museum	1,000		1,000	

Fisher Center	1,000		1,000	
Indigenous People donations to tribes	1,500			
Remainder TBD	1,250	780	1,250	
<i>Total Donations and Scholarships</i>	32,500	23,380	31,000	23,293
<i>Total Expenses</i>	70,041	61,250	50,490	43,789
<i>Net Income (Loss)</i>	(7,891)	-	10,422	67,829