



Council Minutes
June 29, 2023
9:30 - 10:23 a.m.
Via Zoom

Council Members Present: Robert Beaury, Kayla Bell, Carmela Gersbeck, Carol Goss, Robert English, Deborah Lanser, Jill Lundquist, Linda LeGendre, Mary McClellan

Council Members Absent: Jerry Brockett, Felice Gelman, John Mathews, Michael Weinstock

Also Present: Cathy Reinis, Susan Simon, Eleanor Wieder

Call to Order

President Robert Beaury called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.

Approval of Minutes: Upon a motion by Carol and seconded by Jill the minutes for the Council meeting of April 17, 2023 and for the annual meeting of May 12, 2023 were approved unanimously.

Secretary Correspondence

Deborah noted we received three pieces of correspondence: a flier from the Dutchess Council on the Aging, an acknowledgement of recent donations to Bard, and a notice from the Annandale Post office that they are closing down.

Treasurer's Report

In Jerry's absence, Robert reported that we had no income in May and only modest expenses. That will change after June 21, with the income from renewing membership dues.

Registration

Jill, who will help Carmela with registration, asked for a training session with Carmela. As of this meeting, there were 145 applications for membership and 273 renewals.

Action point: Give Linda L a list of the applications for membership, so she can identify any presenter who has asked to join,

Donation to Tribal Organization

Council has agreed to donate to tribal organizations as a thank you to some presenters for a fall course (Addendum A). However, Bard accounting wants to receive a W9 from those organizations, which they can't all provide.

Action Points:

- Write to Christian Crouch, asking for suggestions for a possible work around.
- Contact Jonathan Becker if there is no other answer.
- Talk with Tom Esposito about whether LLI ever had a slush fund.

Robert B noted that there has been a two-month delay in getting checks out. ProClass will cancel our account if they don't get paid soon.

Linda added that Bard accounting has said they will not reimburse her for the money she spent on an appreciation lunch for her team unless she provides a list of the meals that were served.

Action point: Talk with Jerry Brockett.

NYU Langone Study

There has been a discussion about whether to distribute information about the study to the membership in light of policy ORG 12/21 (Addendum B). Robert will work with Carmela to find a suitable method of disseminating the information.

Backing Up Key Roles

There is an urgent need to find someone to help or replace Carmela for the work she does on the newsletter. Robert has proposed reducing the number of issues to six a year. Cathy Reinis and Deborah Lanser appreciate the need to help Carmela but want to find a way to maintain the 12-issue a year schedule because they believe the newsletter is valuable for the membership. The July newsletter has been canceled, which will give Carmela more time to handle registration.

This item will be added to the agenda for Council for next month.

Annual Survey (Update)

Mary noted that 180 members responded to the survey, which is a high rate of response. She encouraged Council members to offer suggestions for next year's survey. She will try to talk with someone at Marist for suggestions about how to improve the survey and she will write an article about the survey for the newsletter. Specific results will be sent to the heads of each committee for their consideration.

Members at Large

Carol Goss, who is the incoming second vice president, has suggested that members at large be given the task of liaising with different committees.

In the fall, Carol will review the workflow documents with committee heads to see whether they are up-to-date and identify bottlenecks.

PO Box

Incoming secretary Susan Simon offered to set up a PO Box at the Red Hook post office.

Social Events

Robert I reported the Mailchimp invitations are being developed for the Hessel Museum tour and the gathering at Robert Post Park. Orientation will be held on September 7. He is willing to consider holding an event for new members.

Website

A link to the policies will be posted on the website after a discussion with Council.

Thank You

Robert thanked departing Council members Felice Gelman, Deborah Lanser, and John Mathews for their services. He welcomed Carol Goss to her new role as second vice president. And he expressed special gratitude for Jill Lundquist for her years as chair of Planning & Evaluations. She will continue to serve as a consultant to P&E and as a liaison with CCE.

Robert then appointed Eleanor Wieder to the position of chair of Planning & Evaluation.

Adjournment

Robert adjourned the meeting at 10:23 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Lanser
Secretary

Addendum A

PROG 05/18-B. LLI presenters are volunteers from LLI's membership, the community, and Bard College faculty. LLI does not offer honorariums. (Current policy)

Here is the record of our discussion about exceptions for donations to tribal organizations:

Proposal Re: Donations to Tribal Organizations

The DEI Team is developing a course about Native Americans with a focus on the Hudson Valley region. Dr. Christian Crouch, Bard's Dean of Graduate Studies, Associate Professor of History, and head of Bard's *Rethinking Place: Bard-on-Mahicantuck* project, is helping to develop the course. She has requested that LLI set aside a maximum of \$1,500 to donate to tribal organizations who employ Native American presenters.

Several Council members agreed that this is a worthwhile program. Our policies do not directly forbid donating to charities outside Bard. Some Council members expressed concern about establishing a precedent and about donating money that may actually be given to tribal governments, which are not charities.

Robert Beaury pointed out that LLI will be collaborating directly with Bard to develop the program. If other organizations ever request a donation, it would have to be along the same lines as the one proposed by DEI in conjunction with Bard and approved by Council.

VOTE: By a vote of 9 to 2, Council approved proceeding with this program and making donations to the tribal organizations that employ any Native American presenter. Jan 17, 2023 minutes

Addendum B

ORG 12/21 LLI recognizes the importance of making the public aware of our organization and supporting initiatives or events that are in line with our mission statement through purchasing and publishing advertisements.

Accordingly, any request from an LLI committee to place an advertisement in any form of media, including but not limited to print or online, shall be in accordance with the following:

1. A timely written request, including the proposed format and language, shall be submitted to the Planning & Evaluation Committee for discussion and recommendation to Council for final approval.
2. Advertisements should include reference to LLI by name and use the current logo.
3. Advertisements must refer to the Lifetime Learning Institute at Bard College and include a link to the website