



LLI at Bard College  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
May 15, 2025  
10:16-10:36am  
Olin Hall

*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.*

**Call to Order**

*Robert thanked Joan Tower and the two fabulous musicians, Alexandra Balog and Tianxiang Ni for their performances for LLI members prior to the meeting*

President Robert Beaury called the meeting to order at 10:16am and welcomed LLI members, reminding us this is our 25th Anniversary year and our celebration in July.

**Request for Approval of 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes - Robert Beaury**

- Confirmed everyone received the 2024 minutes and budgeting summary via email
- Motion to approve 2024 Annual Meeting minutes by Dale Ziegenfelder, seconded by Mary McClellan, All in favor

**Amended Bylaws - Carol Goss, Second Vice-President**

- Carol reviewed the reasoning behind the 3 amendments which were voted on and passed by LLI members (99 to 5) earlier this month
  1. Bard Liaison right to vote
  2. Members at large reduced from 4 to 2
  3. Reduction of Standing Committees from 4 to 3

**Presentation and Request for Member Approval of Preliminary 2025-26 Annual Budget - Karen Kane, Treasurer**

- The 2024-25 budget will be achieved and the proposed 2025-26 budget we are voting on today is very similar
- Karen reviewed the details and there were no questions
- Motion to approve 2025-25 Annual Budget by Carmela Gersbeck, seconded by Arlene Fawcett, All in favor

### **Council Member Recognitions - Mary McClellan, First Vice President**

- Recognition of term ending Council members - Thank you to Carol Goss, Second Vice President and Member at Large and Thank you to Lynda Christensen, Member at Large
- Recognition of reelected Council members Susan Simon, Secretary and Eleanor Wieder, Member at Large
- Introduction of new Council members Grace McKay, Second Vice President and Chuck Mishaan, Member at Large

### **Proud moments from the 2024-25 school year and Looking Forward - Robert Beaury, President**

As we gather today to reflect on the academic year 2024-25, it is with immense pride and gratitude that I acknowledge the tireless efforts, outstanding achievements, and unwavering dedication of our committees and teams. This year has been nothing short of remarkable, and it is your collective contribution that has made it so.

Let us begin with our **Curriculum Committee**, under the exemplary leadership of **Mary McClellan**. This committee organized an impressive total of eighty-three classes, each thoughtfully designed to enrich the learning experiences of our participants. The breadth and depth of these classes reflect a commitment to fostering knowledge and creativity, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to Mary and her team.

Equally vital to our success has been the **Program Support** led by **Carmela Gersbeck**. Managing 40 to 50 class and session managers and ensuring seamless Audio-Visual support for presenters is no small feat, yet Carmela and her team have executed these responsibilities with precision and excellence. Your dedication to ensuring smooth operations has been instrumental in our achievements.

A special acknowledgment goes to **Ann Green, Alan Katz, and Pat DeHaven** for their stellar contributions to our MailChimp communications. The efficiency and creativity with which you have managed this pivotal tool have amplified our outreach and connected us with our members in meaningful ways.

Our **Technology team**, also under **Carmela's** leadership, deserves unreserved applause for their exceptional work in handling membership renewals, managing new applications, and resolving inquiries related to ProClass, email, and registration. Your efforts have not only streamlined processes but have also greatly enhanced the user experience for our members. This is a testament to your expertise and commitment. Special thanks to **Susan Christofferson**, who works quietly in the background managing tech problems and LLI's website.

**Hospitality** matters deeply in creating a sense of belonging, and our Hospitality Chair, **Betti Steel**, has excelled in this regard. The warm atmosphere you have cultivated through food, drinks, and thoughtful arrangements for semesters and events has truly made every gathering memorable. Thank you for making hospitality look effortless yet impactful.

The **Communications Team**, under **Cathy Reinis**, has set the standard for excellence in producing first-class monthly newsletters. The professionalism, creativity, and humor you bring to your work have made collaboration delightful and effective. **Cathy** and her hands-on team, particularly **Deborah Lanser** and **Margaret Shulala**, your contributions are invaluable.

The **Membership Development Committee**, chaired by **Robert Inglish**, has demonstrated innovative thinking and dedication in fostering volunteerism and mentorship. The implementation of a new member orientation program through online videos, campus tours, and luncheons, has not only welcomed new members but also strengthened the fabric of our membership. Your initiatives have been both forward-thinking and deeply impactful.

Our **Social Gatherings Team**, under the leadership of Fern Fleckman, helped organize well-attended events such as the Robert Post Park picnic, Montgomery Place luncheon, Blythewood Holiday party, Hessel Museum tours, Fisher Center tour, film events, and 25th Anniversary Gala.

**Planning and Evaluation**, led by Eleanor Wieder, developed a Five-Year Plan and planned the 25th Anniversary Celebration, culminating at the Spiegel tent this July.

The **Civic Engagement Team** has brought interesting courses and films to LLI. There are big plans in the works for more collaboration with Bard CCE, Berkshire Olli and others to develop courses and a special speaker series.

Next month **LLI's leadership** and members of the **Civic Engagement** team will be meeting with the leadership of Marist's Center for Lifetime Study to begin conversations about collaborating on courses and events and sharing our respective lists of presenters.

Finally, thank you, **Susan Simon**, LLI's secretary for your dedication, professionalism and terrific sense of humor. In addition to maintaining the official record of Council meetings, Susan lends her organizational skills and amazing musical and dancing talents to various LLI events.

As we celebrate these accomplishments today, I want each of you to know that your work inspires and empowers. Together, you have created a year filled with learning, growth, and connection. You have set the bar high, and I am confident that your talents and dedication will continue to propel us toward even greater heights in the future.

Thank you for your commitment, your passion, and your teamwork. It is an honor to be part of this incredible organization in community with Bard College for the last 25 years.

Here is to continued success and excellence in the years ahead! Thank you.

**Acknowledgment of the passing of LLI member Deborah Schwartz, and what she provided for the advancement of LLI technology**

### **Business Meeting Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Kathy Reinis, seconded by Mary McClellan, all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 10:36am

Submitted by,  
Susan Simon, Secretary