

Lifetime Learning Institute at SUNY New Paltz
Annual Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2018
Woodland Pond
9:00 AM

Present: 34 members

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM, following a social time.

Opening Remarks: Jessica Rothman, President
(9:30 AM Gavel meeting to order)

Good morning, fellow Lifetime Learners. It's hard for me to believe it's been just over a year since I was introduced to you as your President; today I pass the gavel to the next administration. But before I do that, I would like to talk to you about this year's challenges and accomplishments. I suppose this is my "State of the Institute" address.

My favorite playwright Uncle Will - that's Shakespeare to the rest of you - wrote "Talkers are not doers; be assur'd we go to use our hands and not our tongues." in Richard 3, and "And 'tis a kind of good deed to say well; and yet words are no deeds." in Henry 8.

I stand before you today to talk about the deeds accomplished by the hands of the remarkable doers I have had the pleasure of serving with this past year.

We began our second decade with a gala party at Garvan's, arranged for us by the Gala committee. 90 members and guests had a stupendous time - lots of fun, conversation, great food, and great company. My thanks to the planners and the participants.

The heart and soul of LLI is its curriculum - thanks to the dedication of the Curriculum Development Committee, the "doers" who recruit our presenters, select our courses, and put together all the information that goes into the colorful, detailed catalogues, produced by the Catalogue Committee, that you receive both Fall and Spring. This year there was a combined total of 59 courses to choose from in the areas of Arts, Music, & Performing Arts, Psychology and Social Science, Literature & Writing, History & Current Events, as well as other areas of interest.

The Volunteer Committee addresses, stamps, and mails the catalogues, as well as distributing them to various locations throughout our area.

Our classes don't just happen. They are carefully organized and scheduled through the efforts of our Curriculum Chair and our Classroom Management Chair. Classrooms are secured, technologies arranged for, and then the Classroom Assistants are recruited to work with both students and presenters. It is a massive endeavor, handled with aplomb by our Valued Volunteers. Would all of those mentioned thus far stand and receive your well-deserved recognition.

Our Events Committee is instrumental in programming special trips, as well as the many lovely brunches we have here at Woodland Pond. From getting speakers and/or entertainers such as The Tappers, Judy Swallow's Playback Theatre, our resident DNA expert Marny Jansen, and Jim Ottaway's discussion of Fake News, to scheduling the dates, to selecting the menu, these hard-working doers ensure that we have a wonderful time. Today's meeting is a lovely example of their efforts. The next brunch, to be held here on Tuesday, May 1, will feature Police Chief Snyder and a discussion of safety in our homes. Unfortunately, both trips planned for this year had to be cancelled, but we will renew our efforts for the coming year.

Your elected representatives to the Council are the members-at-Large. They are your link to the behind-the-scenes doings of the organization, as well as serving on many other committees. They are available to hear your concerns (and compliments, I hope), and speak for you at all Council meetings. I can assure you that you are well represented and advocated for.

Our Membership Committee keeps track of everyone who is an active part of LLI. As of our March count, we have 236 active members, 22 of whom are new to us this Spring.

Our incredibly active Public Relations Committee has done an outstanding job this year, holding informational sessions in many senior communities, as well as placing ads in local publications. Thank you to the committee for "getting the word out."

Our twice-yearly newsletter has been filled with interesting articles, great photos, and fun facts. Our Facebook page has gotten many, many hits and likes, and keeps members and non-members alike well informed. The same stalwart individual doer is responsible for those, and I give her my sincerest thanks.

Two representatives from Council participated in the third annual Hudson Valley senior learning conference, sharing ideas and strategies, and bringing back ideas for us to con-

sider. I have also been meeting with students in an upper-level Strategic Management class at the university, and am looking forward to their recommendations of ways to make LLI even more vibrant and relevant.

This is only one of the ways we have increased our interactions with the University. Our new liaison, Dr. Shala Mills, Assistant Vice President for Graduate and Extended Learning, and Dylan Hurley, her Program Assistant, have been very active in assisting LLI with the sometimes daunting task of navigating the halls of academia. Dylan is present at Council meetings and acts swiftly and efficiently on our concerns. We are hoping that Shala will find time in her very busy day to attend a class or two next year!

A new initiative with the Department of Theatre Arts was piloted this year. Season Ticket allowed 30 of our students to get a behind-the-scenes insight into two theatre productions, including attending rehearsals as well as performances, and the opportunity to talk directly with the faculty and students involved in the productions. I am pleased to report that this program will continue next year.

Running with the idea of increased visibility on campus and interaction with the University itself, this semester four members of the Science Department generously volunteered their time to present a course to our members. We are looking into other areas of contact, and hope to have some fresh ideas to present to you next year.

A note about our Scholarships - the Council has decided to award one two thousand dollar scholarship a year, a thousand dollars per semester. To ensure that our designated funds do not run out, it has been decided to raise membership fees from \$115 per year to \$120 per year. The five dollar increase will be designated for the Scholarship fund - assuring that we can continue to give those scholarships for a long time to come.

Overall, the current state of the Institute is sound - we have met a number of challenges - the retirement of Treasurer, Jay Bishop, the sudden and tragic loss of our Classroom Assistant Chair and Events Committee member, Barbara Hyde, and the retirement of our Curriculum Development Committee Chair, Sheyda Eversley. These devoted volunteers have all contributed so much to us, and we are deeply grateful to them. We have already overcome some of these challenges. Faith Nichols, previously our Secretary, stepped up to the plate as Treasurer and "hit it out of the park," if you will allow me a Springtime metaphor. Our new Secretary, Linda Paquin has been a superb replacement. Past President Marilou "I'll Do It" Abramshe has been a welcome pinch hitter for Classroom Assistants, and I promise that her very hard to fill shoes will soon be filled.

Which brings me to the latest challenge - our Curriculum Development Committee. As I said early in these remarks, there is no LLI without them. Sheyda is taking some well-earned and well-deserved time off. We need you to stop being talkers and start being doers. You will find a letter from Sheyda on your tables, expressing how important it is to have capable, interested, motivated people offer their help. To go back to my Uncle Will, in words from King John, "Strong reasons make strong actions." There is no stronger reason to act than the continuation of the Lifetime Learning Institute. Take strong actions to make it happen.

My thanks to you all.

Minutes of 2017 Annual Meeting: Faith Nichols, Secretary

Faith reported that the minutes have been amended to reflect the correct spellings of last names. No other corrections were noted and Alma Sloan made a motion to approve the minutes. This was seconded by Boyd Herforth, and passed.

Treasurer Report: Faith Nichols

Faith reported that the budget is in good shape, with a surplus at the end of the year. Steve Hirsch asked which account the Scholarship Fund money went into and Faith said it goes into the Foundation Fund.

The total budget in the CAS account is \$36,900.00. Changes to various accounts will be made as Faith sees how the monies are used throughout the year.

Gail Gallerie congratulated the Treasurer on having the budget numbers available and suggested that a comparison with the previous year's budget could be made available in the future.

A motion to accept the budget was made by Marilou Abramshe, seconded by Sheyda Eversley, and passed.

Bylaw Amendments:

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE LIFETIME LEARNING INSTITUTE BYLAWS 2018

1. Article V Sec 3- COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

- a. Rescind the amendment of 2016 changing the term limits for the president to two (2) years effective 2018 and return to original term limit of one (1) year

Rationale: Five year commitment (two as vice president, two as president and 1 as past president) is an unreasonable request for a volunteer position

2. Article VI Sec 2 – THE VICE PRESIDENT

- a. Change the description of Vice President to:

By Law Provision: The Vice President shall perform the President's duties in case of absence, and carry out other duties as delegated by the President. The Vice President shall automatically become President when the President's term ends.

3. Article VII – STANDING COMMITTEES

- a. Section 3 – Curriculum Catalog Committee
 - i. Change the title of the Committee to Catalog Committee

- b. Section 5 – Classroom Affairs Committee
 - i. Change the title of the Committee to Classroom Assistants Committee
 - ii. Change the description of the Classroom Assistants committee to:
By Laws Provision : The Classroom Assistants Committee shall provide assistance to Presenters, distribute information to participants in classes, and ensure that appropriate other materials are ready for classes

- c. Section 6 – Change the description of the Membership Committee to:
 - i. By Laws Provision: The Membership committee shall process membership applications, remind current members to renew their membership, welcome new members to the organization, and coordinate membership information with the Registrar.

- d. Section 7 – Change the description of the Public Relations Committee to:
 - i. By Laws Provision: The Public Relations Committee shall disseminate information about the organization to the community at large, assist in the recruitment of members, and develop and distribute promotional materials.

- e. Section 8- Events Committee
 - i. Change the description of the Events committee to
By Laws Provision: The Events Committee shall plan, coordinate and arrange special events, promote the social interaction of members

The amendment to each bylaw was read and accepted.

Proposed Slate of Officers and Elected Council Members for 2018 -2019

The nominating committee (Boyd Herforth, Alma Sloan, Alice Barner, and Marilou Abramshe) proposed the following slate of officers for the 2018-2019 membership year:

Vice President/President Elect: Diane Fiscina

Treasurer: Faith Nichols

Secretary: Linda Lee Paquin

Member-at Large: Ellen Berlin

Diane Fiscina (current Vice President/President Elect) automatically becomes next year's President; and Jessica Rothman (current President) will remain on the Council for one year as Immediate Past President.

Introduction of 2018– 2019 President, Boyd Herforth

Jessica Rothman introduced the new LLI President Boyd Herforth.

Thank you, Jessica and good morning. If you had told me a little over a year ago that I would be standing here... You see, I have about as much common sense as a young guy trying to waltz into heaven with a last second save.

When asked to be a safety in 6th grade, a hall monitor in 8th, a band officer in 11th, a fraternity counsel at Cornell, a department head of a high school math department, even a president of our local SSIP, I managed to express my reservations in a way which convinced the groups that maybe it was not in their best interests to have me.

But, LLI was not so easily put off.

I will need a lot of support. You see, I think that deep down I have always wanted to be somebody. I realize now that I should have been much more specific! You see, now that I'm in this position, I realize that I have just about as much experience in an administrative role as the guy we currently have in charge of the country. I'm also not very tech savvy. I was visiting my daughter and wanted to catch up on the latest LLI breaking news, I asked her for her password "Taped under the modem."

So I'm going to need a lot of help. Not a negative platform, but since I have a mathematical bent: I propose an Inverted platform:

These are things I promise not to do during my term:

4. Stop teaching
5. Sadly, I will not be endorsing plans to pressure SUNY to build an LLI only heated parking garage right next to the faculty tower

6. However tempting it may be, I will not be writing a LLI theme song/jingle nor will I be introducing presidential regalia this term
7. Restrict our Brunch menus to vegan-only items
8. Opening an LLI twitter account for late-night ideas
9. Endorse the recc. to start a inter-LLI curling league
10. Signing on to a local offer for a 2nd hour free at the tanning salon in town
11. Introduce any act encouraging LLI instructors to carry assault rifles while teaching in our classrooms
12. Support the proposed LLI Prayer led by classroom assistants at the beginning of each class: God please grant me a mature-functioning brain which, although failing, still has the ability to recognize people I like when I run into them, has completely forgotten the people I never liked anyway, and the eyesight to tell the difference.
13. Most glad to hear: Run for reelection (keep those campaign contributions in your pocketbooks.)

With your help, I pledge to do my best to avoid these, and many other temptations.

May you all enjoy your LLI experience this year, and always! And now I hand the meeting back over to Jessica.

Announcements:

Myra Sorin announced the upcoming One Book, One New Paltz schedule and had flyers and bookmarks on hand. A brochure was included in an earlier email to the entire membership.

Introduction of the new Vice President: Diane Fiscina

Jessica introduced Diane. Diane thanked everyone and gave an overview of her background.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Linda Lee Lane, seconded by Alice Barner, and passed. We adjourned at 10:10 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Lee Paquin

Secretary