

Lifetime Learning Institute at SUNY New Paltz
Annual Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2019
Woodland Pond
9:30 AM

Present: 25 members

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 AM, following a social time.

Opening Remarks: Boyd Herforth, President
(9:45 AM GAVEL meeting to order)

Good morning. In the next few minutes, I would like to let you in on some of the changes that have taken place in LLI during the past year. I must apologize for a campaign promise I made last year that I have not been able to keep. That 4-level heated LLI parking garage on campus has not yet been approved. I also must inform you that those email messages that have appeared in some of your mailboxes, appearing to originate from the LLI president directing you to buy gift cards are not legit. So, we've had our own little email scandal. On the positive, I have been able to restrain myself from late-night twitter tirades, and with the aim of improving personal connections and overall general health, I have instituted a "Presidential break" during Council meetings. I'm hoping Diane will expand that into a presidential nap. Meanwhile, LLI Collaboration with SUNY has continued to grow:

- 1) The Theater program started last year by Jessica is thriving in its 2nd year.
- 2) We've enjoyed a very popular course on aspects of Native American culture, designed by a SUNY professor
- 3) My astronomy class will be treated to a planetarium show next week given by Raj Pavda of the Astronomy Department
- 4) I still hope to get the arts and culture folks to explore ways increase our presence at the annual Piano summer Program in July by possibly reduced prices or season packages.

This past year, there have been trips and excellent brunch presentations, from adult playback theater portraying the challenges and joys of aging, to Bosnia, to the history of the Hudson River Valley and most recently highlighting local theater programs at Denizen and Shadowland.

One of my regrets has been my lack of success in getting oatmeal added to our brunch menu.

Under the encouragement Jean Poirier, our new and very energetic Registrar, LLI technology is currently being upgraded, vaulting us (finally) into the 21st century and beyond. In our council meetings, I've heard talk of data migrations, online registration for courses and evaluations, streamlining categories of membership, a Beta 0.9 version, the cloud replacing disk storage and lots of other concepts I don't understand. I have been content this to join with other presidents who don't completely comprehend what goes on during their time in office.

The curriculum committee, even after the departure of long-time chair Sheyda Eversley, has had continued success in their efforts presenting interesting and varied courses for our members to enjoy. Among those scheduled to be offered this fall:

Ukelele, Poetry of Leonard Cohen, Ulster County rail and trolley, Gods of the Revolution, Investing, Civility, Understanding Alzheimers, Goddesses in Religion (My course on how to be sure that you are a superior personage was unfortunately, not approved.)

There are Positions currently open on the Curriculum and Classroom management committees.

We are looking for an IT (information tech) person willing to help negotiate tech issues at St. Joseph's on Fridays.

Consider giving a talk at one of our Brunches

I'm happy to let you know that some of your registration fees go to provide financial support to an adult student at the college. Today, I have the privilege of introducing the recipient of this year's grant, Celia-Ann Dye. I've invited her to tell us about her journey. It also happens to be her birthday today.

Now to the annual business issues:

Approval of last year's Minutes and the Treasurer's report

Proposed slate of officers 2019-20

Vice President/President elect: Linnea Masson

Introduction of incoming President Diane Fiscina

Minutes of 2018 Annual Meeting - Linda Lee Paquin, Secretary

Gail Gallerie made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Diane Fiscina,

and the motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Faith Nichols

Phyllis Sturm made a motion to approve the report. It was seconded by Joe Trapani and was the motion was approved.

Proposed Slate of Officers and Elected Council Members for 2019 -2020

The nominating committee (Boyd Herforth, Diane Fiscina and Joe Trapani) proposed the following slate of officers for the 2019-2020 membership year:

Vice President/President Elect: Linnea Masson

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

A motion to approve the slate of candidates was made by Margaret McDowell. It was seconded by Puja Thomson, and was approved.

Scholarship Winner:

Boyd introduced the 2019 LLI Scholarship winner, Celia-Ann Dye and as it was her birthday, led the meeting in singing 'Happy Birthday' to her.

Celia-Ann spoke of the challenging journey which has taken her from high school graduation to within 4 weeks of college graduation at age 31. She adapted and overcame many obstacles, but through determination and the desire to be a role model for her daughter, she has succeeded. Celia-Ann thanked LLI for her scholarship and for helping her to make her goals. She has decided to attend an accelerated nursing program to give back to the communities who have helped her.

Introduction of 2019– 2020 President, Diane Fiscina

Boyd Herforth introduced the new LLI President Diane Fiscina.

Thank you, Boyd. Hello everyone! What a hard act to follow, Celia-Ann. God bless you in your endeavors.

I am still not sure how I got myself into this position, but I'm sure serving as president of this organization is a great place to be. You know, the so-called experts agree on three things that will help you make it through retirement, and dare I say, old age. Those

things are: KEEP MOVING, KEEP LEARNING, AND KEEP SOCIALIZING. Well, LLI hits all those points.

In trying to find parking, and then walking to and from classes on campus—you complete a fair amount of steps and if you have to walk up THE HILL you meet the aerobic requirements for the day, maybe even the week.

Learning, of course, is what we are about---just last semester I learned about Tennessee Williams' Women and Weapons of Mass Destruction—and that was just at the Council meetings.

Socializing is a piece of cake—just watch and listen in classrooms, and halls during semesters. People are greeting old friends and making new ones—it is a sight to behold. So thank you, LLI, and my friends, KEEP MOVING, KEEP LEARNING, AND KEEP SOCIALIZING!

And what will my contribution as president be??? For one thing I plan on staying out of the way of the various committees so as not to botch up their well-run organized tasks. You cannot believe how efficient they are. Secondly, I will try to increase participation in the organization in order to get a broader perspective and give some relief to the volunteers who work so hard.

That's about all I have to say right now. But I do have my first official task as president before I turn the meeting back to Boyd, and that is to present Boyd with a certificate of appreciation as well as a token gift as a thank you for his work as president.

Boyd thanked everyone and asked for a motion to adjourn.

Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by Phyllis Sturm and seconded by Faith Nichols. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Lee Paquin

Secretary