

2/14/2023

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING
LIFESPING BOARD OF DIRECTORS
February 14, 2023**

PRESENT

Susan Poretz, President
Natalee Rosenstein, Vice-President
Maureen Bybee, Secretary
Peg Nau, Treasurer
Laura Phillips, Registrar & Task Force for Online Learning
Connie Cuttle, Curriculum Committee Coordinator
Prudence Garcia Renart, Events Committee Coordinator
Susan Davis, Membership Coordinator
Susan Krompfer, Program Support Coordinator
Maureen Huben, Hospitality Coordinator
Lee Gable, Member-at-Large and Class Managers Coordinator
Diane McDowell, Member-at-Large
Anne Miller, Member-at-Large
Leslie Surprenant, Member-at-Large
Lydia Edelhaus, Member-at-Large
Rich Davis, Coordinator, AV
Leeanne Thornton, Lifespring Member and Saugerties Town Board Liaison to the Senior Education Commission

This regularly scheduled meeting of the Board was held on Zoom and presided over by Vice-President, Natalee as President Susan P. experienced technical challenges and could attend only through audio and the Zoom Chat function. Natalee called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

A. Approval of Minutes

- a. Susan K made a **MOTION** to approve the previously distributed minutes of January 10, 2023. Diane seconded the motion.
- b. **The MOTION was APPROVED** unanimously without discussion.

B. President's Report and General Updates: (see attached report).

- a. Maureen B and Laura P offered additional positive responses from attendees at our Winter Presentations.

C. Old Business

- a. Annual Meeting Planning
 - i. A time of day, whether refreshments will be served and entertainment still need to be determined.

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- ii. Prudence is waiting to contact performers until a decision as to whether the meeting will be in-person or by Zoom or both is made.
 - iii. Rahel of WJC has approved the use of WJC AV equipment, and shared the name of the person who operates the equipment for the Center. The person charges an hourly fee of \$60.00 per hour.
 - iv. Laura will contact her regarding the date and our requirements.
 - v. **MOTION** by Connie with second by Anne that Lifespring should hire the recommended person from WJC to run AV equipment for our annual meeting if she is available. Following a brief discussion, the **MOTION was approved** unanimously.
 - vi. **MOTION** by Laura with a second by Anne that if we cannot have a hybrid meeting that we meet by ZOOM. Following discussion, the **Motion was approved** unanimously.
- b. A DEI Meeting is being hosted by Vassar LLI Monday 2/27 at 2-4 p.m. by Zoom. Natalee called for Board volunteers to attend. Both Connie and Leslie will attend and report to the Board.

D. New Business

- a. Elections for VP, Treasurer, and 2 Members at Large
 - i. Susan P reported that she has asked Laura, Diane, Lydia, Connie and Susan D. to serve as the Nominating Committee with Diane and Laura as co-chairs. All have accepted. Natalee briefly described the work and process of past Nominating Committees. Laura with a second by Maureen B made a **MOTION** to approve these appointments. **MOTION carried** unanimously.
- b. Membership Fee for 2023-2024
 - i. Peg thanked members of the Budget Committee and reviewed the report submitted. (See attached report) The Committee proposed a fee of \$80 for the coming year. Discussion included positive responses from the Board Members and the possibility of applying for grants if needed in the future.
 - ii. Connie made a **MOTION** with a second by Maureen H. to increase the LS membership fee to \$80 for the coming academic year. **Motion approved** unanimously.
- c. Lifespring's COVID policy for 2023-24 – Natalee opened the topic of our COVID policy for discussion not necessarily resolution. Susan D reviewed the current policies of other local LLIs and reminded the Board that both the Curriculum Committee and the Catalog production team have time constraints. April would be a very helpful deadline for planning purposes. Board members expressed thoughts and positions on whether to alter COVID policy for the 2023-24 academic year. The discussion is to be continued at future meetings.

E. Other new business

- a. Susan P proposed that LS make a donation in memory of the spouse of a former Board member and then withdrew the proposal after a brief discussion by the Board.
- b. Connie suggested that we seek a person in addition to the one recommended by the WJC as an on-site AV tech for our future classes. It was noted that our AV Committee might be reactivated for the future. More discussion at future meetings is anticipated.

MOTION to adjourn was made by Diane with a second by Maureen H. Motion to adjourn approved unanimously without discussion.

Maureen G. Bybee,
Secretary

NEXT MEETING:

March 14, 2023 (on Zoom) at 9:30 am

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AGENDA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
February 14, 2023

A. Minutes: January 10, 2023

B. President's Report and General Updates:

NOTE: The format will be changed for **today's** meeting and some items from the Board Reports will be covered under New Business

C. Old Business

1. Annual Meeting Planning
2. DEI Conference

D. New Business (Looking Forward)

1. Elections (VP, Treasurer, and 2 Members at Large)
 - a. Creation of Nominating Committee
 - b. Terms expiring: VP: Natalee, Treasurer: Peg,

2 Members at Large: Anne Miller, Lee Gable.

2. Membership Fee for 2023-2024

Please read the Budget Committee report in the Board Report prior to our meeting

3. Lifespring's Covid policy for 2023/2024---Starting the discussion

Please read the 2 last pages in the Board Report on covid-policy prior to our meeting

4. Other new business

NEXT MEETING:

March 14, 2023 (on zoom) at 9:30 am

2/14/2023**Reports to the Board
Lifespring Board Meeting
February 14, 2023****PRESIDENT:**

Another (happily) “Spring in Winter” stretch of weather as I write!!!

Our last Winter Presentation on March 1st is a-coming and we keep getting or hearing second hand compliments about the previous Dec thru our Feb mini-series.

Sharing two unsolicited feedbacks about our February winter presentation that made me very happy. They said:

“Your Lifespring courses are so terrific. I'm so glad we joined. Ollie's Climate course was the best of all -- we've heard other climate talks -- by far. He's amazing and, while calm in presenting, doesn't hold back what needs to be said. It was incredible.” Alice

If we could figure out how to do it, I would trade your flocks of gold finches for the flocks of starlings and argumentative mourning doves! The February Lifespring classes were GREAT! Many thanks to you and everyone who made them possible.’ Jeanne

I am looking forward to hearing more compliments that you Board members have heard at our February Board meeting!!!!!!

Respectfully submitted and in solidarity,

Susan Puretz, President

VICE PRESIDENT:

No report
Natalee Rosenstein

TREASURER:

Please see the final pages of these reports for both Budget Committee Report and the Treasurer's MONTHLY report chart.

Peg Nau

REGISTRAR and On-line Task Force Report:**Registration Report for Lifespring Board Meeting February 14, 2023**

Registration for the Winter Presentation Visions of the Shakers: An Historical and Photographic Journey starts February 13.

The total registration for the February 2023 Mini-courses was 174, 55 guests and 119 members. Of the 55 guests, 23 signed up for the Interest List for future emails.

	Reg.	Attnd Wk 1	Attnd Wk2
A1 Climate Change	49	40	41
A2 Ferries and Pleasure Parks	75	61	48
B1 Discovering the Past/Living in the Present	69	40	38
B2 Birds and bears	93	76	59

Of those that responded to registration question abt where they FIRST heard about the courses-

96 received our LS email

40 said that a Lifespring member told them (including 17 Lifespring members!-I guess they don't read their email!)

8 saw it in Hudson Valley One

7 saw it in Kingston Freeman

Others were miscellaneous answers and blanks

Catskill 4

Hurley 11

Kingston 21

New Paltz 7

Port Ewen 6

Rhinebeck 7

Saugerties 52

Woodstock 20

All the other towns had 3 or fewer register. We had 2 from CT, 1 from MA and 1 from Wisconsin!

I don't have anything to report for On-line Taskforce.

Laura Phillips,

Registrar

STANDING COMMITTEES

CURRICULUM:

The Curriculum Committee is at work on the Fall 2023 semester and has already confirmed five courses.

Connie

EVENTS:

The only thing I have to report is that the information for the April 20 writing workshop has been sent to Susan G. She will send it back to me so that our events committee can proof, etc.

Prudence

HOSPITALITY:

Per Connie Cuttle and myself, I will setup donuts and coffee outside the WJC between 1st and 2nd period on the first day of the Spring 2023 semester.

Maureen H.,

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Coordinator Board Report:

The Winter Presentations and the February Mini-Series continue to be a successful way of introducing Lifespring to the broader community. Just today, in one of my classes, I noticed that a fellow attendee wrote into the Chat how pleased she was to be able to

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attend the “free” Lifespring programming this winter.(she is from Greene County) It is my hope that we can continue this policy in the coming years. It seems to fit nicely with our collegial relationship with the Town of Saugerties and our interest in reaching out to people in our broader community. (See also Laura’s registrar’s reports for the number of member and non-member participants)

All current members of Lifespring have been sent a “newsy” email containing some important dates for the Spring '23 semester as well as a notification of the update in the COVID policy (update on the LS Website is also complete). The spring catalog is scheduled to be revealed on March 15th. Registration begins on March 20th and the first week of classes starts on April 17th.

Susan Davis, Membership Coordinator

PROGRAM SUPPORT

Nothing to report
Susan Krompfer

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Nothing to report. Well, the snow conditions were excellent yesterday (Feb 7th)
Leslie Surprenant

AD HOC COMMITTEES***AV***

Nothing to report from AV.

Rich Davis

CLASS MANAGERS:

I have nothing to report this month.
Lee Gable

PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR

Susan Greenstein

Flyer completed. It will be posted online February 12th in the evening.

Spring Catalog

The spring catalog is being edited now. It will be posted online on March 15th.

Website

Updates continue as needed. Susan Davis continues to liaison with David Cartmell to post minutes in the vault. The Latest News section of the Welcome page has been updated to highlight the March winter presentation and the upcoming spring course catalog, Lifespring newsletter, News & Views TBD



Happy Valentine's Day to Lifespring!

BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 14, 2023 BOARD MEETING

In order to cover most of our anticipated expenses for the year 2023/24, we would need to raise the member fee to \$80. This would not cover additional LS sessions beyond what we had last fall. Since we anticipate a large surplus at the end of the year, we can fund unanticipated expenses from this surplus in July 2024.

To maintain the maximum amount of flexibility as we transition from the COVID years to the future shape and vision of Lifetime Learning at Lifespring, several things must be considered. We do know that there will be some fixed costs of running LS program that includes both in-person and on-line courses. For the current year, we know that our costs are exceeding our revenue acquired from the 2022/23 membership fee of \$50. We also know, that the rental fee at the WJC will increase next year. Other increases in costs can be anticipated due to inflation and to pay for some of our program support functions as we move back into a more traditional in-person experience at the WJC

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While we have had a great deal of interest in Lifespring this year and many “guests” at our winter programming, we do not know how many paying members we will have for 2023/24. It is important to note that the basic costs of putting on our program (Zoom licenses, rental fees, website/publications costs, program support costs) does not change appreciably. Having a fee of \$80 and a reasonable number of members should allow us to come close to “breaking even” for the 2023/24 year-even with some of the new expenses that we may incur.

If we want to return to a more robust in-person program in future years the price increase to \$80 is a necessary step. We submit an expense estimate as follows:

\$ 10,800	Actual Expenses Projected this Year
\$ 2,200	Increased Rent for the WJC (Using \$130 per hour, for morning classes and 4 performances per semester, starting Fall 2023
\$ 1,000	Additional equipment for AV, services and misc. expenses
\$ 14,000	Total

The Board should have a full and open discussion before deciding the fee. Knowing what the LS COVID policy for Fall, 2023, will be is a key element in attracting presenters for the Fall in-person program as well as returning and new members. We may be in a better position to make the final fee determination after we see the registration numbers for the Spring '23 semester (deadline to register in Monday, April 3), however our sense is that \$80 per member is both prudent and realistic.

Summary (as of 2-14-2023) of other local LLI's Covid Policies from Susan Davis

Bard LLI: " The page is updated frequently and includes the most recent information available. Bard currently requires all visitors to campus, including LLI members, to be fully vaccinated with at least one booster. Effective September 19, 2022 and until further notice, LLI members and guests have the option to wear a mask at their own discretion when they are inside a building on campus.

Bard College is a “mask-friendly” campus. With this policy, we have lifted the indoor mask mandate, but encourage anyone who wishes to wear a mask to do so.”

Note: Spring catalog due out in a couple of weeks

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Vassar LLI: from the Spring '23 Catalog: This Semester Classes Will Be Conducted In Person And Via Zoom.

Proof of Covid vaccinations MUST be submitted for attendance in ALL in-person ON and OFF CAMPUS classes.

Also from the Vassar College COVID page:

Masking

Masks will not be required on campus, although masks will be encouraged when indoors in large groups. Hosts of events may determine masking protocols, and faculty may require masking in classes or laboratories. We ask that people routinely have a mask available, and masking is always permitted and supported.

New Paltz LLI:

There is nothing in their Spring catalog or on their website about a COVID policy and we understand they are not enforcing one any longer.

COVID related Questions to Consider & for Discussion:

1. Should we have a COVID policy at all for 2023/24? Should we modify the existing policy? Should we maintain the existing policy?
2. Should Lifespring continue to require proof of vaccination for all in-person classes and events.....if so, which vaccinations and which boosters? Same as we have this past year?
3. Should the mask mandate be lifted making masks optional? (And perfectly acceptable for those who wish to continue to wear them)
4. Should there be any attempt at social distancing, even if it is not a written requirement? Should classroom capacity reflect a more "roomy" approach than our pre-covid standard?
5. If a member who has attended in-person classes or an event is diagnosed with COVID during the semester, should he/she report that to the registrar and should the registrar report that to members?
6. Should Lifespring return to offering a hospitality room? In what format? Just between morning classes? With reduced choices and no tables for sitting? Outside in good weather?

