

Acadia Lifelong Learning Centre

Advisory Board

Harriet Irving Centre

AGM Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 16, 2014

Present: Teresa Patterson, Susan Cargill, Jessica Bradley, Grant Lohnes, Brenda Murray, Vicky Dekker, Yvette LeBlanc, Susan Surette Draper

Regrets: John Owen, Brian Jones, Darrell Slauenwhite

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 pm by Teresa Patterson

2. **Minutes of the AGM Meeting of April 17, 2013**

Susan Cargill motioned to approve the minutes of April 17, 2012. Seconded by Vicky Dekker.

3. **Items Arising** - There were no items arising from the previous minutes.

4. **Reports**

The committee reports were presented by each Committee Chairman and are attached herewith.

5. **New Business** - There was no new business.

6. **Board Nominations**

- Yvette LeBlanc has agreed to another term on the Board, continuing to lead the Programming and Partnership Committee.
- The nominations for new Board Members are: Susan Surette Draper, Gerald Parker, Rae Winkelaar, Anne O'Dell, and Michael Kustudic. The Board was provided with bios of the prospective Board Members. Vicky Dekker moved to accept the nominations. All Board members were in favor. Motion seconded by Yvette LeBlanc
- Yvette LeBlanc moved to appoint Susan Cargill to the Board as the Chairman, replacing Teresa Patterson whose term has now expired. All members voted in favor.⁷

7. **Program Suggestions**

- Gisela Westphalen, an ALL member, suggested a possible liaison between ALL members and community/volunteer organizations in the area.
- Susan Surette Draper suggested the topic of social media for either a lecture or a course.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:35pm. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 15th at the Harriet Irving Centre at 2 pm.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Submitted by Teresa Patterson

This is my final meeting with ALL Advisory Board. It has been my pleasure to serve on this board in the capacity of chairman for the past year and as Communications leader and a year as secretary.

I wish to thank the members of the board for their commitment to lifelong learning in their respective capacities. We welcome the new board members and look forward to success in the coming year. A special thank you goes out to Yvette LeBlanc who has generously decided to continue as chairman of the Programming and Partnership committee. Thank you also to Gordon Haliburton who filled in a position this past year.

The Advisory Board would not be able to function properly without the continued and unwavering support of Jessica Bradley and Grant Lohnes.

During this past year we have seen much success with the courses we have been able to offer. There are always bumps that we encounter along the way, but success manages to override the bumps.

We did have one disappointment with the proposed hosting of the 50+ conference which was to take place in May of 2013. Due to very low enrollment and interest we felt it necessary to cancel. We did receive funding to be used for this conference through the efforts of Ramona Jennex's office in the amount of \$500.00. When we asked about returning the funds, we were told to keep them and use them toward other projects. We are grateful for this generosity. We also hope that the conference will be taken up again in the coming years and will prove to be a success.

Annual Potluck early registration/calendar release will be held in August. The date will be confirmed later. We hope you can all attend this event.

Thank you.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Yvette Leblanc

ENROLLMENT AND COURSES

- Total enrollment of 208 members. Exactly the same number as enrolled last year.
- Offered 12 courses in the fall, with one field trip and 11 during the winter season.
- Cancelled two of the fall courses and four of the winter session for the following reasons: insufficient enrollment or the instructor declined due to other commitments
- Number of registrations for audits for university courses: 29. These came from 14 different members.
- For all the courses that ran this year, there were 197 registrations.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Summer Potluck held August 28, 2013, had the highest attendance over the past few years. Credit for this could be due to the fact that we had a booth at the Wolfville Farmer's Market the week previous, where advertising was handed out for the potluck.
- Two of our most popular courses were "Early Medieval Europe Through Material Culture" taught by Jennifer MacDonald and "Vanishing Frontiers: The Polar Regions" by Graham Daborn. These had the highest enrollments in paid courses in recent years.
- Brown Bag lunches have certainly grown in popularity this season. We've had to change our location to a larger room

NEXT SEMESTER

- The two-semester program that was set up to align with the university format – Fall and Winter, appeared to be well received. Next year, we hope to offer more in the way of one-day seminars, nature walks and travel talks.
- In the area of medical science, we hope to offer a course in brain health which is a topic which was very well received during one of our BBL's.
- In writing and literature, we hope to have Ami MacKay who is a Canadian journalist and novelist, author of *The Birthing House* and *Virgin Cure*. The ALL program is credited for some of her success as she benefited from a course which she took from Ed Thomason, several years ago.
- Travel talks with our well-travelled board member, Brian Jones will be sure to tap our interest as well.

PARTNERSHIP

- We will soon be sending 3 of our board members to the Atlantic 50+ Conference in Halifax.
- We will be liaising with our local public library for our own version of the popular book club.

THANK YOU

- We want to extend a sincere thank you to our faithful, regular instructors: Maurice Tugwell, Graham Daborn, Peter Riddle, Susan Haley, Bob McCarthy, Bruce Matthews, Anthony Harding, Twila RobarDeCoste who continue to attract a wide range of participants, year after year.
- Duncan Keppie and Aaron Taylor gave new courses this year that were especially well received. These courses were based on archeology and both provided fieldwork and hands on experience.
- Bruce Matthews, whose usual forte is Comparative Religion and Asian Cultures, diverted his efforts to the Fur Trade in 18th century Canada to offer a most interesting course that was applauded by all who attended.
- A special thanks to Jessica & Grant for their constant attention to this program. In conjunction with the university printers, they produced our attractive brochure.
- To all the instructors, for without their input, ALL would not exist.
- Vicky Dekker who has donated her time and expertise to help develop this program.
- However, the committee has not worked alone. It has been through the constant input of the board, the university and the ALL membership, through surveys and conversation, that we have this selection of courses and positive participation. Thank you to all who have supported us.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Susan Cargill

The 2013/2014 ALL calendar was launched at the annual August potluck held in the picnic grounds of the Research Station in Kentville. Weather cooperated and more than 90 guests, both returning and new ALL participants, enjoyed the highly successful event.

This year, additional promotion was done to draw attention to the ALL program. A week prior to the August picnic, board members staffed an ALL table and display at both the Wolfville and Kentville Farmers Markets. Both events provided an excellent opportunity to highlight the benefits of ALL membership and to invite people to the August picnic potluck. Posters promoting the picnic were placed on numerous community billboards throughout the Wolfville, New Minas and Kentville areas. Event listings were also placed in Scoop magazine, The Register/Advertiser, Grapevine, Valley Events and on AVR.

The December potluck lunch held at the Centre Baptist Church provided a festive opportunity to distribute the December newsletter and to promote the upcoming courses for the winter/spring ALL courses. Guests enjoyed a tasty buffet while exchanging season greetings with old and new friends. A special thank you to Dorothy Walker Robbins for leading her lively and entertaining quiz challenge.

In January board members attended the Saturday Wolfville Farmers Market to distribute the newsletter and ALL calendar featuring upcoming ALL courses. Course calendars and newsletters were again distributed at several key public locations.

As the 2013/2014 ALL season comes to an end, we wish to thank retiring ALL board members Teresa Patterson and Darrell Slaunenwhite for their positive energy and considerable commitment to lifelong learning. Board member Yvette Leblanc, who has also completed her three-year term, has generously decided to stay on in her position as chair of the partnership and program committee where she will continue to develop and coordinate new and engaging course offerings. The involvement and support of dedicated volunteer board members such as Teresa, Darrell and Yvette make a vital contribution to the Acadia Lifelong Learning program. They are greatly appreciated. As we begin to plan the 2014/2015 program, we welcome new board members.

BROWN BAG LUNCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Grant Lohnes

This year brought significant changes to the administration of the Brown Bag Lunch. After several board members completed their terms, Open Acadia took over the management and scheduling of speakers, and our ALL Advisory Board collectively split the duty of introducing speakers each week and managing their time.

This year, we endeavored to align our choice of topics more closely with the areas our members expressed the most interest in. We also incorporated many more Acadia faculty topics, all of which were well attended. Members were very engaged this year, with most BBL's averaging 25-30 participants. Our largest BBL had over 70 attendees, with our smallest audience roughly 12 people. We often unexpectedly outgrew the Alumni Boardroom, which we understand was inconvenient. In the winter term, we were able to secure a larger venue on a consistent basis, and in 2014-2015 we will do our best to consistently schedule a large, comfortable space.

We appreciate the continued enthusiasm our membership has demonstrated, and we look forward to next year's lunches. As always, we appreciate your feedback and speaker suggestions.