VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS MEETING MINUTES

May 11, 2018


Nancy Mather opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. by introducing a new Volunteer, Geri Sklarz. Nancy and Randi Ashton-Pritting organized a festive breakfast, including waffles, yoghurt, fruit and coffee/tea, to celebrate the completion of a successful year.

Nancy then announced that this will be the last meeting that she chairs. Nena Donavan Levine will take over in September as Chair, and Jenifer Noble will be the Co-Chair. Nancy asked for a volunteer to take over the Secretary position.

Nancy announced that the Volunteer Handbook is being updated by Jenifer and Nena, who will schedule an Orientation for new Volunteers in August. Marcia Cornell is retiring as a Volunteer, so a new Volunteer is needed for the Duncaster lectures.

Nancy explained that Retiree Volunteers will consist of those who no longer want to coordinate a class or come to meetings monthly, but who are still supportive of the Presidents’ College. Jenifer will be the go-to person for the Retiree Volunteers. The Retirees may be called upon in the event of need.

Nancy also explained her concept of a Speakers Bureau, consisting of Fellows and Volunteers who will reach out to organizations to communicate about the Presidents’ College. There will be scripted talks that participants will deliver to local organizations. Nancy will be working with this group of participants to get the program going.

Remarks and Report from Director Steve Metcalf:

Steve advised that planning has begun for a Volunteer Recognition Day on Thursday, October 25th from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. in the 1877 Club. He again thanked Meg Aldrich-Ward for her considerable work on the Survey.

He continues to review the Survey comments and noted that the University Administration was impressed by the Survey.

The April 22 Annunciation concert at Asylum Hill Church in Hartford was a great success with around 400 attendees.

Planning for the fall semester is almost complete. The Fall Kick-Off, Sept. 27th, will start with a 9:30 a.m. breakfast at the 1877 Club, featuring short presentations by some of the Fall teachers. An 11:00 lecture by Gina Barreca will follow in Wilde Auditorium. Please talk this up and bring your friends. Steve thinks the price may be about $20 for Fellows and $40 for non-Fellows. Among the Fall courses: Katherine McCrory, Laura Pence, and Amity Gaige will lecture. Humphrey will teach again and also lecture on Henry the Fifth. There is a possibility the PC will be able to use space in the Greenberg Center or the 1877 Club. The Greenberg capacity of +/- 100 is a good option between the KF room (49) and Wilde (around 200).

Steve is exploring bringing a celebrated figure to campus, possibly in conjunction with Trinity College. He has met with Leslie Desmangles, his "counterpart" at Trinity, to discuss combinbing-
forces. Lincoln Theater, capacity about 750 people, would be the venue. Steve will seek funding for this event, starting with the Hartford Foundation. He requested suggestions for possible speakers.

Report from the Director of Libraries Randi Ashton-Pritting

The Library is now open 24/7 hours prior to and during exams. There are three art shows currently in the Library. During the General Discussion, Randi said she will clarify the "Patrons" (no longer a term being used) and "Friends of Library" donation choices. The minimum "Friends" donation is $250. There were comments that some donors may wish their gift to go specifically to the Presidents' College, versus into a general Library fund. Steve will find out whether such donations can be directed to PC only.

Report from Business Manager Judy Kacmarcik

Judy reported a very successful semester with 186 Fellows and 2246 registrations for the academic year. This represents 700-800 unique individuals. There is a surplus of around $45,000. $10K will go to books; the balance to computer equipment, databases, and furniture. Judy emphasized the Presidents' College is an important source of funding for the Libraries.

Duncaster Lectures

Janet and Bob Bruner volunteered to be Coordinators for this series next fall.

Macauley Lectures

The last lecture on National Parks (also given at Duncaster) was not well received. Ron Epps, the presenter, mostly read from notes and did not stay on topic.

General Discussion and comments

Catherine Banbury asked about marketing for the Wilde courses to try to fill Wilde, and about growth. Steve feels that growth should be thoughtful and planned, with the logistics to support it. There was general agreement that benefits for Fellows are not clear to registrants; should be greater emphasis on the website and perhaps announcements by Course Coordinators.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenifer Noble, Secretary
May 25, 2018