Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Membership
Thursday, May 15, 2014
Wheeler Hall, Ware Student Center

Art Exhibit

“An Evergreen Year”
A photo retrospective by Maureen Rosen

Welcome
Joanna Henderson, president
Adventures in Learning

Remarks
Elizabeth Cahill, vice president for advancement
Colby-Sawyer College

Business Matters
Joanna Henderson

President’s Report
Joanna Henderson

Acknowledgements and Tributes
Julie Machen, Curriculum Committee co-chair
Van Crawford, Curriculum Committee co-chair

Wine and Hors d’oeuvres Reception and Art Exhibit
Music provided by Folk Fusion

Flowers at today’s meeting are from Spring Ledge Farm in New London.
Proposed Bylaw Change

The proposed bylaw change, if approved, will empower the board, rather than a vote of the general membership, to make future AIL bylaw changes.

Background and rationale for the proposed bylaw change:
Currently new board members are elected by the membership each year at the annual meeting. The board is accountable to the membership for the stewardship of AIL board members are limited to two three-year terms.

Compared to when the existing bylaws were written and approved, today AIL is a larger, more dynamic and complex organization to manage and lead. Decisions often have to be made quickly. Governance of AIL has to be able to evolve to meet future challenges and growth opportunities. In some cases, these may require AIL bylaw changes. The current bylaws could require the board to wait up to a year until the next annual meeting for such to occur.

The proposed bylaw change will ensure the timeliness, clarity, consistency and understanding of key policies governing AIL’s operations.

The board believes it must be required to keep the membership fully and transparently informed at the annual meeting of any bylaw changes made during the year, and that obligation is included in the proposed new bylaw.

The current AIL board unanimously endorses and proposes that this bylaw change be adopted by the membership.

Current bylaw:
Article 9: Amendments

These By-laws may be amended, repealed, or new By-laws adopted by an affirmative two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership present and voting at any annual meeting or special meeting, proved at least two (2) weeks written notice has been given in the announcement of the meeting.

Proposed bylaw:
Article 9: Amendments

These bylaws may be amended, repealed or new bylaws adopted by an affirmative vote of at least two thirds of the total number of board members, provided at least two weeks written notice has been given before the board meeting. Such actions shall be reported to the membership at the following annual meeting.
Adventures in Learning
Nominating Committee Report

Board of Directors

For election to begin a three-year term:
  • Sheldon Boege
  • Les Norman
  • Deborah Rucci

For re-election to begin a second three-year term:
  • John Ferries
  • Michael Moss
Adventures in Learning
2013-2014 Study Group Leaders

Our volunteer study group leaders are the capstone of the Adventures in Learning program. We are pleased to acknowledge the individuals below for their dedication and contributions during the past academic year. They graciously shared their knowledge and passion for a topic of their choice to enrich the lives of course participants from our community.

David Almond  John Ferries  John Raby
Sue Anne Bottomley  June Fichter  John Roberts
Chris Bowditch  Tom Galligan  Art Rosen
Charlotte Brook-Signor  Randy Hanson  Tom Stark
Charlotte Broughton  Joanna Henderson  Bill Tighe
Anne Chandler  André Hurtgen  Aarne Vesilind
Hilary Cleveland  Chuck Kennedy  Brenda Watts
Dale Conly  Gene Lariviere  Dwight Wilder
Bob Crane  Julie Machen  Robert Wood
Caroline Fairless  Buffy Draper McPhee  Diana Wyman
Joseph Fanning  Dick Pearson  Gardner Yenawine

2013-2014 Lecturers

The lecture series continue to be a popular element of the Adventures in Learning program. The individuals below were guest lecturers in the past academic year. We are delighted to recognize and thank them for taking time out of busy schedules to share their expertise with our course participants.

Jack Barrett  Joanna Henderson
Jay Barrett  Derek Hunt
Dick Cavallaro  Julie Machen
Morris Edwards  Mike Moss
John Ferries  David Pook
Tom Galligan  Dan Schneider
President's Report

If you were all shareholders in a for-profit company called AIL and I were the CEO of that company, there would be no better annual report that I could give you. Numbers-wise we are in the best shape ever with course registrations at an all-time high, with memberships holding steady, with our finances in excellent shape and with customer satisfaction with our products higher than ever. I know because I have read all your evaluations for every course offered this past year. So I think it is safe to say, that you, our customers and members, seem to be pretty happy campers!

This year marks the 16th anniversary of AIL, and it seems appropriate that our top achievement of this past year was not our numbers, product satisfaction or our outreach efforts. It was to have Adventures in Learning chosen to be the recipient of the college’s Town and Gown Awards. At commencement this past Saturday, Julie Machen and I, representing the AIL Board of Directors, were delighted to accept the Town Award, the honor Colby-Sawyer College bestows each year on that person or organization which has shown extraordinary involvement in, and made noteworthy contributions to, the college. The Gown Award, given to an individual or group from Colby-Sawyer College whose work and contributions in the New London area are extraordinary, was presented to Marianne Harrison and Janet St. Laurent who manage the AIL office. As you can imagine, all of us were delighted!

We were also pleased this year to learn that former founder and study leader Julien LeBourgeois gifted Adventures in Learning, $10,000. The AIL Board of Directors voted to contribute that money to the construction of the new art building on campus. Specifically, our hope is that a dedicated AIL classroom will be housed in the art center. These two recognitions, both unexpected but very welcomed, were the highlight of our AIL year!

As always, our deepest debt of gratitude is to our study leaders. They spend so much time and energy putting forth wonderful classes. Thanks also go to our board, its officers, all the volunteers on our Curriculum, Public Relations, and Long Range Planning Committees, and to our past presidents who continue to give so much to AIL.

And last but most important - our thanks go to you - our members. Thank you for your enthusiasm, your excitement over each term’s new catalog and your loyalty. Without you there would be no Adventures in Learning.

Joanna Henderson, president
Curriculum Committee Report

As we complete the 16th year of providing a stimulating and enjoyable lifelong learning experience to the community, Adventures in Learning, with 484 members and 1096 participants in courses, continues to embrace what is new. This includes 90 first-time members as well as first-time study leaders and lecturers who have joined the ranks of our veteran presenters.

We are extremely grateful to all those who devote their time and effort to developing diverse and exciting courses. If you have a passion for a topic you would be willing to share, please call the office at (603) 526-3690.

Also for the first time this year, two AIL courses – “The Mexico You Don’t Read About in the Headlines” and “Beautiful Winter Soup” – came together. Those in Randy Hanson’s Mexico course enjoyed delicious oxtail soup prepared and served by the cooks in Buffy McPhee’s course.

We also launched the first multi-lecture series to be presented over three years and honoring the late Vice Admiral Julien LeBourgeois, one of the founders of AIL and a champion of the multi-speaker lecture series. “The Italian Renaissance: A Closer Look,” held in Colby-Sawyer’s Clements Hall accommodated 139 AIL members as well as some of the college’s students and staff.

While we welcomed what was new, we were equally appreciative of those study leaders who were willing to repeat popular courses. Waiting lists for “The End of Life: A Conversation Among Friends,” the soup courses and Hilary Cleveland’s “Eighty Years of Social Change” filled those classes again and again. Hilary, another AIL founder, continues to demonstrate what life-long learning is all about.

The committee works hard to bring a varied and interesting curriculum to our members, and we look forward to your suggestions and your continued support.

Van Crawford and Julie Machen, co-chairs
Betsy Boege
Sheldon Boege
Dick Cavallero
Mary Doyle
John Ferries
Joanna Henderson (ex-officio)
André Hurtgen
Jim Moore
Mike Moss
Les Norman
Dan Schneider
Tom Vannatta
Aarne Vesilind
Public Relations Committee Report

The Public Relations Committee promotes the Adventures in Learning program both among its members and in the community. Courses, study leaders, special events and administrative happenings are highlighted in the digital newsletter, Horizons Extra, which is posted on the AIL website and sent electronically four times a year to all people on our mailing list. Although the electronic format is relatively new, there has been a positive upward percentage of members who are accessing the newsletter online, and our goal is to reach 100%. It may be accessed by going to www.colby-sawyer.edu/adventures/newsletter.

Each term, a one-page flyer with specific information about upcoming courses is distributed by the PR Committee throughout the Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee area in libraries, community centers, banks, bookstores and living facilities in an effort to reach those who may not know about AIL. For the past two years, about 90 individuals were first-time AIL members. Additionally the committee continues to distribute the attractive 4” x 9” rack card, which describes the mission and overall program of AIL and how to access the office and website for more information.

An improved AIL website is a work in progress. A special committee comprised of former AIL President Morris Edwards, AIL PR Committee member Sheldon Boege, and AIL Program Coordinator Marianne Harrison. They are working closely with Colby-Sawyer College’s Communications Coordinator Ed Germar who is responsible for the technical aspects of the Colby-Sawyer website. A new framework will be completed within the next several months, and the current goal is to have an improved website online during the 2014-2015 academic year. The objective is to update content and design to facilitate use by our members and access by mobile devices such as electronic tablets and smart phones.

I am pleased to announce that Deb Rucci and I will be co-chairs of the committee in 2014-2015 and Deb will take over the reins as chair in 2015-2016.

In closing, my thanks to the committee. They are a joy to work with, are willing to brave the New Hampshire elements to distribute flyers and rack cards, take photos and write interesting articles to keep each of you informed and continue to spread the word on AIL! If you, or anyone you know, like to write, talk with interesting people or want to utilize your creative side, please contact me at (603) 526-4104 or joyce.kellogg9@gmail.com. We are always looking for new and innovative ideas!

Joyce Kellogg, chair
Heidi Beckwith
Kathleen Belko
Betsy Boege
Sheldon Boege
Jennifer Mack
Maureen Rosen
Deb Rucci
It has always been difficult to present a financial statement at the annual meeting as our fiscal year runs through June 30. Thus, in May, we still have two months of financial information to incorporate into the finances. Rather than giving a brief budget as we have in past years, the above pie chart shows our actual expenses over the twelve months ending March 31, 2014. Below is a mini income statement.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
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<td>Donation to Colby-Sawyer</td>
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<td>Surplus</td>
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Tom Stark, treasurer
“If the harmonies of Simon and Garfunkel and the Indigo Girls give you goose bumps, it’s time you get to know Folk Fusion.” – Kearsarge Magazine, Spring 2013. Folk Fusion, comprised of Susan Cancio-Bello, Nicole Densmore and Laurie Reeder, is a Kearsarge-based trio celebrating nearly ten years of performing together as well as the release of their second CD “Hand Me Downs.” Folk Fusion is best known for their tight vocal harmonies; solid musicianship; and rich accompaniment of acoustic guitar, mandolin, keyboard, flute and djembe. They perform traditional and contemporary folk and light rock covers. Folk Fusion has performed at the Back Room at the Mill in Bristol, N.H., the June Jam at Musterfield Farm in North Sutton, N.H., and other local bandstands. Regardless of the venue, the result is a satisfying sound that has a playful and spontaneous feel that delights the ear and soothes the soul.