Minutes of the Classical Association of Florida

Friday, April 12, 2013

Orlando Wyndham Resort

President Susan McDonald called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m. There were forty members present. A list of members in attendance can be found as an attachment to the bottom of the minutes. Susan welcomed the CAF members and reminded all that the agenda, the fall minutes, and the sign-in sheet were located on the back table, along with some food and free teaching materials.

Susan reminded all to sign in and get a copy of the fall minutes. Phil asked if there were any corrections to the fall minutes. Timothy Kandel noted two minor typos in the fall minutes. Line two of the second paragraph should read: the exam will be themed. Line three in the third paragraph should read: will be in November. Julia Roper noted that the fourth paragraph should read LFA not LAF. Leslie Perkins moved that the corrected minutes be accepted, Craig Bebergal seconded the motion. The corrected fall minutes were approved.

Susan reminded all that registration without an extra fifty dollar fee for the ACL institute in Memphis was due April 12th. Many teachers from Florida will be going and Susan encouraged all to attend.

Susan reminded all that this year, ACTFL and FFLA will have a joint meeting in November. FFLA would like all the Florida teachers to stay in the same hotel, which will most likely be the Rosen Centre. She reminded all, that if you join FFLA before July you will get the early bird price.

Under Project Proficere, Susan stated that seven teachers on the Project Proficere committee were present at the CAF meeting. The new ACTFL standards now apply to Florida public school teachers and the Latin curricula. Orange and Lake Counties will be pilot sites for the new standards, which are funded by Race to the Top money. An emphasis will be placed on performance rather than vocabulary and grammar. Aurelia Ogles mentioned that college appropriate standards are being imposed on the new foreign language curricula.

Susan reminded all that Adam Mize started a CAF Facebook group. She continued that the advisory committee is trying to receive helpful feedback on the National Latin Exam. She asked all members present who administered the exam to write some helpful feedback on sheet that was being passed around the meeting.

Silvana Wilbur, CAF Vice President, mentioned that the hotel’s current construction is less than ideal, but all concerns were expressed to the hotel, and they assured her that the renovations will be complete by October of 2013. She asked for feedback on the convention. Meredith Sitz asked if anyone was having trouble with water pressure in their rooms. Generosa Sangco-Jackson stated that showering during peak times is rough on the water pressure, and may have been the cause of low water pressure.

Phil Dillinger, CAF Secretary, reminded all to write their name on the attendance sheet.

Craig Bebergal, CAF Treasurer, stated that as of last week general fund had $5198.69, the Marie Girardeau scholarship fund had $808, the Essay contest account had $300, with a total of $6306.69. Expected expenses for the upcoming year will be: $300 awarded to the essay contest winner, paying for a Nationals packet for the recipient of the Marie Girardeau scholarship, and the $2000 for the teacher travel scholarship. He stated that he would have the Florida Latin teacher of the year ballot sent out very soon and he reminded all of the requirements of eligibility for being teacher of the year.

Adam Mize, Florida State Chair, stated that some missing money had been turned in to him at convention, and if anyone had a student missing money to notify him. Adam stated that this year’s National Junior Classical League convention in Las Vegas was completely booked. Adam would like all Florida teachers who are disappointed about registration being closed prior to state convention, to please inform Sue Robertson at the email address, [convention@NJCL.org](mailto:convention@NJCL.org). He stated that nationals this year will begin on July 22nd (with the 21st being the start of preconvention housing). Adam encouraged all teachers to attend the National Convention in 2014, as it will be at Emory University.

Under standing committees, Alan Blessing, announced that there were no applications for the teacher travel scholarship, even though the deadline was extended to January. Since no one has applied, Alan asked if it should be offered again. Aurelia Ogles suggested that it be offered again this year. Dave Jackson moved that the scholarship be offered this fall. Jeffrey Satriano seconded the motion. Susan asked for discussion. Generosa Sangco-Jackson asked if it could be split. Dave Jackson stated that overseas travel is expensive, and it would be best to keep it as is. Meredith Sitz asked if this would change the year that we would offer the scholarship. Alan said it would not change the year. Leslie Perkins stated that it would be nice to have the scholarship submission in the fall, which would allow teachers all of the summer to compose an itinerary. Susan asked if all were in favor of moving the scholarship to the fall, without any nays, the motion passed, to offer the scholarship again this year.

Susan announced that she had two cards circulating the meeting, one for Silvana Wilbur, who is expecting a child and another for Linda Mishkin who is absent from State Forum this year. Susan announced that there is a winner of the Marie Girardeau scholarship and that Adam would announce it in the closing ceremony tomorrow. She stated that Linda Mishkin would be renouncing her post as chair of the scholarship committee. Susan stated that the position is appointed and asked if anyone would be interested. Leslie Perkins outlined the work involved in holding the position, which consists of: composing a test, mailing it out, grading it, and also reading essays for the Marie Girardeau scholarship. Craig Bebergal inquired about the FJCL scholarship. Generosa stated that the scholarships need to be advertised more, and asked if it was possible to roll the scholarship chair into another position, particularly one that involves student out reach. Leslie Perkins inquired if it was possible to involve the University professors in the grading process. Generosa stated that she thought that the criterion that requires the recipient to go to a Florida school to be limiting. Aurelia argued that since it is an FJCL scholarship, it should be a scholarship to a Florida school. Jessica Ballantine-Bradshaw stated that it is limiting to restrict students to the state of Florida. James Sickinger stated that he will try to get interest within the Florida University system to grade or create material for the scholarship application. Susan asked if someone could make a proposal about amending the student scholarship process and criteria for the fall meeting. Leslie Perkins moved that any votes about the scholarship either be done in a Spring CAF meeting or online over survey monkey. Craig mentioned that online voting has been done in the past. Amy Hornick asked about the origin of the scholarship. Lois Ann Bowers mentioned that it was to encourage students to become Florida Latin teachers. Geoff Revard asked if the exact wording of the scholarship could be read aloud to garner more information about the group’s opinion about the scholarship. Susan asked again if an online poll should be conducted about the scholarships. Geoff moved that an online poll about the scholarship be created, Alan seconded the motion, there were no nays and the motion passed. Susan stated that Craig would add this poll to the bottom of the teacher of the year ballot.

Under nominating committee, Leslie Perkins, stated that Craig Bebergal consented to continue in the role of Treasurer. Leslie stated that for the office of vice president that there are three nominated candidates: Joanna Piris, Meredith Sitz, and Generosa Sangco-Jackson.

Under Forum planning committee, Aurelia Ogles, Treasurer, stated that after all forum expenses are paid, there is approximately $30,000 in the FJCL account. Next year the hotel has agreed to a four dollar per room increase. She stated that the first weekend in April will be reserved for the next two years. Aurelia stated that the hotel is giving us a more than reasonable rate. She stated that if the new design of the hotel proves to be uncomfortable, there will be a twelve month period to opt out. Aurelia stated that she has been doing our taxes for the past four or five years. Kathy Sturgill stated that in the year 2015, the first Sunday would be Easter Sunday. Adam Mize stated that they would investigate the 2015 date and have it changed if it fell on Easter weekend. Aurelia stated she would tell them that the date would be moved to the second week in April.

Alan Blessing, Facilities Liaison, stated that there had been no discipline problems.

Generosa Sangco-Jackson, Certamen Chair, thanked Silvana for her hard work and stated that certamen ran smoothly.

Under old business, under the essay contest, Jim Sickinger, stated that more essay submissions were received this year than the year prior, he continued that the winners and honorable mentions would be announced tomorrow. Generosa asked what level of Latin is appropriate for students who wish to submit an essay. Jim stated that it was an upper level essay, so Latin level II and above would be appropriate.

Under the sunshine committee, Susan McDonald, stated that she would continue to send cards, and if anyone was aware of someone in need, to contact her. Concerning the raffle basket for FFLA, Susan thanked Meredith Sitz for creating the basket last year and asked for her feedback. Meredith asked that if anyone had ideas about the basket, to email her at sitzm@bolles.org.

Under elections, Susan, asked for any nominations for treasurer. Aurelia moved that Craig Bebergal be reelected for Treasurer. By unanimous verbal consent Craig was reelected to his position as CAF Treasurer. Susan asked for the three nominees for CAF VP, to stand and introduce themselves. Joanna Piris, from Lincoln High School stated that this was her fourth FJCL state Forum, and that she has enjoyed getting more involved in the FJCL. She has been creative chair for her region the past few years. Generosa Sangco-Jackson introduced herself, stating that she is the upper school Latin and Greek teacher at Oak Hall; and she has been involved in the JCL since 1995 and that she has served on numerous planning committees, including the National Convention planning committee when the convention was held in San Antonio. She continued to say that she also served as hotel liaison for CAMWS. Meredith Sitz stated that it is her thirteenth year teaching Latin in Florida, and she has been at the Bolles School the past two years, that last year was her first National convention, and that she has enjoyed getting involved with the JCL. Susan stated how impressed she was that they were three excellent candidates willing to serve the FJCL. Adam echoed Susan’s statement, and encouraged them to seek positions on the committee no matter the outcome of the election. Susan stated that there would be a written vote. Leslie Perkins asked about packets for Nationals and candidates. Generosa said that a state of emergency packet could be given to the elected Vice President. Votes were cast.

Dave Jackson announced that some have shown interest in his digital textbook, and asked that if anyone was interested to contact him.

Under new business, Susan McDonald stated that Velvet Yates would not be in attendance, so her spot should be stricken from the agenda.

Craig Bebergal announced that after having examined the regions, the only region that was extremely large was region seven. Julia Roper and Jennifer Frank stated that finding a host school is difficult and splitting the region would make this even more difficult. Geoff Revard echoed this sentiment. Region seven teachers voted that the region for region seven should remain the same.

Susan recognized new CAF members. Kyle McGimsey stated that this is his second year teaching in Florida. Jackie Hutchins stated she has been at the Episcopal school of Jacksonville for a month. Harrison Sepulveda stated that this was his first time at a FJCL State Forum. A small group of University of Florida students introduced themselves.

Jessica Ballantine-Bradshaw, academics co-chair, would like the CAF members to think about a test bank computer program. A generator could be used for creating state and regional tests. It would cost upwards of seven hundred dollars, and she thinks it would take approximately two years to completely create. She would like the group to think about opening this subject for discussion. Jeffrey Satriano mentioned that many people do not volunteer to write tests and we need to discuss this also. Jeffrey also stated that two years to build a test bank is a gross under estimate of time.

Susan asked that the discussion about tests be tabled until the forum planning meeting. Susan requested that the group finish announcements and announce the winner of the vice presidential election.

Under announcements, Generosa stated that she knew of teachers looking for work, that the new Greek test was a success, the extra delegates added to state Forum were a success also, and that there would be a 100 question classical Greek language test at Nationals the summer. Craig stated that the FLVS was looking for Latin teachers. Aurelia stated that she and Amy Hornick are now talking about a trip to Croatia over the summer of 2014. Megan announced that Mary Malpas won Windermere Prep teacher of the year.

Susan announced that the new CAF Vice President would be Generosa Sangco-Jackson. Susan stated that there would be five minutes allotted in this CAF meeting to discuss tests banks. Adam was concerned about students memorizing the bank questions and he was also concerned about unique tests such as classical art. Generosa stated that often the academic testing coordinator has to write many tests themselves and a test bank would alleviate their strain. Kathy Sturgill stated that there are other states that have successfully used test banks and she agreed with Generosa about relieving the strain from the testing coordinators. Susan stated that with the technology we have today, we need to examine how we write tests and consider the test bank generator. Generosa stated that the bank could be used on a trial basis. Craig Bebergal asked if new questions could be entered into the bank little by little each year. Julia Roper stated that we would need to reconsider the format of the tests. Susan stated that these ideas could be discussed at Forum planning.

Susan stated that we might have an additional fall meeting virtually, if the fall meeting was poorly attended. Tony Haakman moved to adjourn, Jeffrey Satriano seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:47pm

Respectfully submitted

Phil Dillinger, CAF Secretary

Members present, who signed in

1. Christy Tucker 21. Tony Haakman
2. Laura Sroka 22. Alan Blessing
3. Jim Sickinger 23. Mary Malpas
4. Phil Dillinger 24. Megan Wallis
5. Tim Kandel 25. Nick DeGroot
6. Meredith Sitz 26. Kyle McGimsey
7. Jacqueline Hutchins 27. Kristen K. Youngblood
8. Joanna Piris 28. Lisa Bunge
9. Julia L Roper 29. Jeffrey Satriano
10. Megan Daly 30. Harrison Sepulveda
11. Maria Petosa 31. James Buchanan
12. Sylvia Marini 32. Daniel Robie
13. Adam Mize 33. Geoffrey Revard
14. Keith Stafford 34. Jessica Ballantine-Bradshaw
15. Jennifer Frank 35. Susan McDonald
16. Shane Lieffers 36. David Jackson
17. Amy Hornick 37. Aurelia Ogles
18. Christopher Nitti 38. Silvana Wilbur
19. Leslie Perkins 39. Judy Hahn
20. Craig Bebergal 40. Generosa Sangco-Jackson