Minutes of the Classical Association of Florida

Friday, October 17, 2014

Hilton – Miami Airport, Miami, Florida

CAF President, David Jackson, called the meeting to order at 2:09 pm with 13 members present. David asked for corrections or additions to the spring minutes. Craig Bebergal moved to dispense with a reading of the minutes, seconded by Generosa Sangco-Jackson. The spring minutes were approved.

David reported that this year’s American Classical League institute in Williamsburg was a good conference and he encouraged participation from organization membership in 2015 in Storrs, Connecticut. He promoted the event not only as a means for professional engagement but also as support of CAF.

David stated that FFLA is maintaining its financial health, boasting a balance of over $40,000. Through joining in programs like the Most Valuable Teacher Award, CAF continues to be a presence within the organization and an advocate for the relevance of the Classics in Florida.

David concluded his report with a remembrance of Rosie Grabowski. He acknowledged her contribution to her Orlando FJCL Region (Region 6) and expressed an intention to honor her again at State Forum in the spring. Daniel Robie and Aurelia Ogles also spoke on Rosie’s positivity and the esteem in which her students held her.

Generosa Sangco-Jackson, CAF Vice President, reported that Florida had a nice showing at this summer’s NJCL Convention, comprising approximately 170 of the 1800 people present at the event. She commended the delegation’s showing, particularly the conduct of the state officers, state scrapbook recognition, and victory in the spirit competition.

Meredith Borum, CAF Secretary, had nothing to report and any comments regarding the previous spring minutes were directed to her by David Jackson.

Craig Bebergal, CAF Treasurer, reported that 31 people have paid their CAF dues. The Marie Girardeau Memorial Scholarship is secure now that $5 of each membership dues payment is applied to that program. The opening balance was approximately $5000-5700 and the current balance is approximately $3000-3700, following disbursement of the CAF/FJCL Travel Scholarship for Teachers ($2000) and $50 for the CAF Teacher of the Year award.

David invited the group to congratulate Craig as this year’s CAF Teacher of the Year.

Aurelia Ogles stated her disapproval that FFLA is now requiring individual language organizations to pay for an award that bears its name and said that this was not always the case. David will inquire at the FFLA Board Meeting on Saturday.

Adam Mize, Florida State Chair, reported that there will be no FJCL bus trip to San Antonio, Texas this summer. He said he would canvas teachers whether there is interest in a smaller group excursion near the event but feedback at the 2013 Las Vegas NJCL Convention indicated people largely prefer to go out on their own.

Under standing committees, Craig Bebergal announced that the Travel Scholarship for Teachers was back on its normal biannual rotation with the next to be awarded for the 2016-2017 school year. The Scholarship Committee – Craig, Geoff Revard, and Daniel Robie – received three applications for the 2014-2015 scholarship. This year’s scholarship will be awarded to Generosa Sangco-Jackson to travel to Rome in the winter, investigating how to take students.

Craig also reported that applications for the Marie Girardeau Memorial Scholarship and the FJCL Scholarship are on the FJCL website and are due with State Forum registration packets in the spring.

In the absence of Leslie Perkins, chair, David Jackson spoke on behalf of the Nominating Committee. He reported that there will be at least one position open in the spring as Generosa will not be seeking a second term as CAF Vice President. Discussion followed regarding the strict requirements of the office, particularly mandatory attendance at the NJCL Convention.

On behalf of the Forum Planning Committee, Generosa Sangco-Jackson announced the theme of the 2015 State Forum will be, “Faber est quisque suae” and will revolve around an architecture theme. Coin Wars will benefit NAMI – National Alliance for Mental Illness. University of Florida newcomer, Dr. Biagio Santorelli, is this year’s speaker and his topic will relate to education in Imperial Rome.

Discussion followed on State Forum registration, new Ludi events, changes to existing ones, and other Forum activities. Generosa also requested teachers bring games like Cornhole to State Forum in order to help.

Aurelia Ogles, Financial Director of the Forum Planning Committee, announced that Janice Lee is in training to take over the duty. She stated that the account balance is currently about $42,000.

There was nothing else from the Forum Planning Committee.

David stated that the CAF Constitution must be reviewed every 5 years and he called for individuals willing to serve on a Constitution Committee and examine the document to recommend any needed proposals. Generosa volunteered to chair the committee. Geoff Revard, Janice Lee, and Craig Bebergal stated they are willing to serve.

A comment was made from the floor in response to the Nominating Committee’s report, clarifying that there will actually be two offices opening in the spring. In addition to the office of Vice President, the position of Treasurer is also due for election. The distinction was made that Craig Bebergal, Treasurer, intends to seek reelection whereas Generosa, Vice President, definitely does not.

Under old business, Jessica Bradshaw announced that the company slated to work on the Florida JCL academic testing database is bound by a collective-bargaining contract and anything it produces is technically owned by The Walt Disney Company. She does not feel such an arrangement is beneficial to our organization and is investigating other programmers to take on the project.

Jessica also reported feedback she has received regarding the impracticality of a student preparation feature within the program as well as the counterproductive nature of continuing to post old tests on the FJCL website. Discussion followed and consensus generally seemed that posting previous tests does not pose a legitimate threat to the utility of the database.

Regarding the old business of statewide AP results originally raised by Susan McDonald, David Jackson reported measures taken thus far: Generosa has become an AP reader (information to follow at a session later today) and there is ongoing work to build an online AP/IB group to meet regularly and share ideas and strategies.

As new business, David again promoted the value of Florida teachers attending American Classical League Institutes and called for the recruitment of participants. He proposed a CAF travel scholarship to attend the event. Discussion followed on the value of an incentive, parameters, and funding sources. Jessica Bradshaw moved that discussion continue after a definite proposal has been made and Geoff Revard seconded the motion.

Adam Mize requested dates and locations for regionals for posting on the FJCL website.

Craig Bebergal reminded the group that the deadline to pay CAF dues is October 31st.

Aurelia Ogles announced that only ten of thirty registered FJCL chapters have remitted dues and reminded those who still owe.

David called for a motion to adjourn, D.J. Holt moved for an adjournment and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Borum, CAF Secretary

Members in attendance:

1. D.J. Holt
2. Jessica Bradshaw
3. Sylvia Trein
4. Janice B. Lee
5. Maria Petosa
6. Adam Mize
7. Craig Bebergal
8. Geoffrey Revard
9. Generosa Sangco-Jackson
10. Aurelia Ogles
11. Kendal Ogles
12. Meredith Borum