

MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING OF THE ART STUDENTS LEAGUE OF NEW YORK, HELD WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2019, PURSUANT TO NOTICE DULY GIVEN, IN THE GALLERY OF THE LEAGUE'S BUILDING AT 215 WEST 57TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

I. Call to Order

President Thomas Harvey announced that there was a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. President Harvey reviewed the meeting agenda and then asked Director of Special Projects Ken Park to explain the election process. Mr. Park then initiated the casting of ballots.

II. Appointment of Election Inspectors

President Harvey appointed members George Nader, Yuki Kano and Andy Reiss as election inspectors.

III. Reading of the Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of December 5, 2018, were read by Tom Tacik, staff member acting as recording secretary, and accepted. The minutes of the Business Meeting of October 16, 2019, were read and accepted.

IV. Election of New Members

A list of candidates applying to become members was projected. The new members were approved without opposition.

V. Address of the President

President Harvey read the following statement:

Tonight is the annual election of officers and three members of the Board of Control. You know the candidates — we have all written to you. Several of us have posted notices in the Cafe. I believe that each of us is running because we have a vision of what the League could be.

Artists running the League for artists is a fond memory some of the candidates and others supporting them have expressed. Indeed, all of us running are artists and students here at the League. Some aspire to a career as an artist. Others, like myself, are avocational, enjoying the opportunity to be creative after a long career in law and government.

What some seem to forget is that in 2003, the League very nearly went bankrupt. There was serious discussion at the time of selling the League to Columbia University to use as its School of Art. Had that happened, this place would have been very different from what it is today.

Rather than the mix of students you see in the halls, all of whom thrive under the atelier system of study here — which is available at very reasonable cost, highly subsidized by our endowment and the generosity of many of our donors — we would be a department in a great, albeit very expensive, university.

How did we avoid that fate? We sold our first tranche of air rights over our building. That gave us some breathing room.

Then, some years later, among much drama, the League sold another tranche of air rights plus the right to cantilever over our landmarked building.

The result of all of this is that we are now a \$12 million dollar a year enterprise, with a nearly \$100 million endowment. Such an institution requires experienced, professional management with skill sets often not found in your typical artist. A few members have complained that the League has become too “corporate.”

I myself have been criticized for referring to the League as a business. People have pointed out to me that “we are not a business. We are a not-for-profit.” That is true, but just like a business, we have certain expenses to cover — payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. And if we don’t have the revenue to do that, we will “go out of business,” as the League came so close to doing in 2003.

So, thank you all for participating in this election. Whoever wins will be taking on the leadership of an organization that is in excellent condition, in large part because of the competent, professional management we have in place. There can, of course, even in the best of organizations, be improvements. Certainly, I, and I am sure the other candidates, with your advice and guidance, look forward to moving in exactly that direction.

VI. Treasurer’s Report

Finance Committee Chair Mary Jo Anzel presented the Treasurer’s Report, providing an overview of Fiscal Year 2019 finances, including an update on investment funds. Ms. Anzel also reported on the recent change of portfolio management to the firm Colonial Investment, and on the activities of the Investment Advisory Committee. Ms. Anzel noted the success of the Seeds of the League program, provided an overview of the Model to Monument program, and closed her remarks by thanking the staff of the store and of the cafeteria.

Chief Financial Officer Karen Gaines provided an overview of the financial trends of the League regarding revenue and expenses.

The floor was opened to comments. There followed questions and discussions among the members and staff regarding salaries, the administration, the League’s investment draw-down policy, the League’s gala event, and the League’s website content.

VII. Election of Board Members

At 8:50 p.m. MK Elections official Caleb Kleppner explained the process of scanning and counting ballots.

The election results were announced, as follows:

(Elected candidates are listed in boldface.)

	<u>Total</u>
For President	
Robin Frank	427
Thomas Harvey	361
Jaron Newton	76
For Vice President Nominated by Women	
Charlotte Bialek	384
Lola de Miguel	227
Luz-Mary Harris	216
For Vice President Nominated by Men	
Ezra Bookstein	578
Judah Feigenbaum	181

The following top three vote-recipients were elected to the Board of Control:

	<u>Total</u>
Julia Salinas	344
Beth Berns	365
Cathy Blake	361
Jeff Sundheim	337
Robert Morris	319
Nelsena Burt-Spano	232
Jack Gordon	207
Val Brochard	206

VIII. Miscellaneous Business

There was no miscellaneous business.

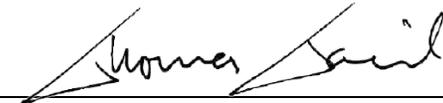
Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.



Robin Lechter Frank, President

12/2/2020

Date



Thomas Tacik, Staff Member (Taking Minutes)

12/2/2020

Date