

ESP Board Meeting September 2, 2025

Members Present: Judith Slisz, Chair; Linda Frigon, Treasurer; Gloria Gery, Director of Fundraising; Olga Saubermann, Director of Scholarships; Eileen Browne, Secretary.

Members Absent: Deborah DeHertogh, Chair Emerita

Observers: Orlene Gallops, Penny Hein, Jeanette Santovasi, Barbara Dimberg, Margie Rice, Loraine Cortese-Costa, Jan Furman, Carole Otto

Judith Slisz opened the meeting at 1:01 pm.

Minutes of the previous meeting, which had been emailed to Board Members prior to the meeting, were verbally corrected for two typos by Linda, who then moved to accept the corrected Minutes. The motion was seconded by Gloria and a unanimous acceptance vote followed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Linda Frigon gave the Treasurer's Reports for the months of June, July and August. They are now on file as required. The reports include the closing of accounts at M&T Bank and opening accounts at Liberty Bank. Notable activity in the Money Market (MM) account included the disbursement of six 'first half' of the Education Grants to grant recipients in July and the remaining two in August. All grants were awarded by decision of the Scholarship Selection Committee (SSC) and announced in the Newsletter and at the prior ESP and LCV Board meetings.

Additional expenditures included payment to the accounting firm Grenier Lender for their work in filing the 2024-2025 Tax Return. The return was accepted by the IRS. Additional minor reimbursements for supplies and tuitions were made.

Linda negotiated a \$100 fee reduction from the accounting firm as she had done much of the work preparing the tax return. She is seeking a firm that will file for ESP at a lower price. Several observers offered to contact Tax Preparers they know to get pro bono preparation. The MM account had a post-disbursement balance of \$54,190.62. Linda reminded Board members that second half Educational Grant expenditures of \$20,000 were committed for winter disbursement. She also reminded the Board that they had previously decided to retain \$25,000 as a Rainy-Day fund not to be spent unless

fundraising was unsuccessful. Thus, available funding from the MM account is \$17, 372.01 plus accruing interest. One fraudulent use of the ESP debit card to Amazon on August 6 for \$120.32 is being investigated by Liberty Bank. Banks must investigate fraud claims on debit cards. Linda suggested obtaining an ESP credit card as fraudulent activity can be stopped [and refunded] directly by merchants.

Judith announced that she and Linda and Chair & Director Emerita Deb DeHertogh performed the required audit in July.

By-Laws and Position Descriptions

Judith announced that she and Linda and Deb performed a review of the By Laws and determined no changes are needed. The By Laws will remain as they now exist.

Judith announced that she and Linda and Deb performed a review of and revised the job descriptions for all Board positions and timelines for scholarship submissions and awards as well as Book Author Luncheon. The revisions were emailed to all Board members, reviewed by them and their suggested changes considered and incorporated as appropriate. Gloria moved to accept. Eileen Browne seconded the motion. It was unanimously accepted.

Scholarship Selection Committee (SSC)

Scholarship Director Olga Saubermann reported on the luncheon of members of the SSC with fall grant recipients during which committee members and recipients got to know each other. Olga said committee members were excited to interact with such a committed and focused group of students. She said committee members felt reinforced that their decisions were sound and gratified that their numerous hours of review produced such good results. She also announced that she reminded recipients of three things: their proposed course work for 2nd semester and their grades for 1st semester are due and that they can collect their second half grant money (once grades and proposed courses are submitted) at the January Tea on January 10, 2026. Several people praised the photo and write up that SSC member Sue DelVecchio created. It is in our archive and has been included in the latest newsletter prepared by Loraine Cortese-Costa. Gloria has also distributed it to auction donors and large donation makers.

There was a short but lively discussion of SSC policy clarification and the need to automate the scholarship work -flow process to automate as much of it as possible while leaving policy considerations separate. It was determined that discussion was appropriate to the SSC.

Fundraising

Fundraising Director Gloria Gery reported that all committees are started and that activities will gear up in January.

TPEP/LCV Collaboration

Judith reported that 11 students completed the first course, and 9 students completed the second course of the two ½ credit courses ESP sponsored at York Correctional Institute. Judith wrote congratulatory notes. The 9 students will be joined by two other York women to study biology this fall at York in a Quinnipiac -sponsored program.

Insurance

Judith and Linda will attend a Zoom seminar on Risk Management and Insurance Basics in September sponsored by Pro Bono Partnership, the organization that assisted Linda to obtain non-profit status for ESP.

CT AAUW Meeting

Judith reported that Elaine Quayle may represent LCV at the CT AAUW meeting slated for November 8. No one present knew the agenda.

Olga moved to adjourn the meeting. Eileen Browne seconded. Unanimous acceptance. Judith adjourned the meeting at 1:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eb

Secretary