

ESP Board Meeting October 8, 2025 (Draft prepared by Gloria Gery)

Members Present: Judith Slisz, Chair; Linda Frigon, Treasurer; Gloria Gery, Director of Fundraising and Acting Secretary, ; Olga Saubermann, Director of Scholarships; Deborah DeHertogh, Chair Emerita

Members Absent: Eileen Browne (Excused)

Observers: Penny Hein, Jeanette Santovasi, Barbara Dimberg, Mary Jane Peterson
Mary Ann Iadarola, Carole Otto, Deb Zurka

Judith Slisz opened the meeting at 1:04 pm.

Minutes of the September 2, 2025 Board meeting: Deb DeHertogh moved to accept the minutes; Gloria Gery seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurer Linda Frigon gave the September 30, 2025 Treasurer's Reports. The reports have been filed for audit.

- Money Market Fund Beginning Balance: \$54,190.62 Ending Balance \$55,338.91. **Of note:** Gloria and Bob Gery donated \$500 matched by Charter Oak Credit Union
- Business Checking Beginning Balance: \$8,181.39. Ending Balance: \$8,284.39
- Budget to Actual S
 - Starting Money as of 7/1/25: \$83,801.05. YTD Actual \$83,801.85
 - Expenses Annual Budget: \$67,956.06. YTD Actual \$21,774.78 (including first payment of Education Grants)

Liberty Bank determined the fraudulent \$120.32 credit charge was a Liberty Bank error. The funds have been restored to our account.

ESP Tax Accounting Firm. Carole Otto obtained a quote from Comer and Company of Middletown to complete and file our 2025-2026 tax returns of between \$1000 and \$1200 (\$200 to \$400 less than Grenier Lender, our current accounting firm. Linda spoke with Comer; the transition will be relatively simple since initial documentation of our 501 (c) 3 organization was obtained by Grenier Lender. Comer can work with our current use of Excel for accounting; we will not have to purchase and switch to QuickBooks. Gloria Gery moved to approve of hiring Comer & Co. as our tax accountants. Deb DeHertogh seconded. Motion a unanimously. Carole Otto will discuss a further fee reduction based on her long relationship with the firm's principal.

SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION COMMITTEE (SSC)

Scheduled Meetings: Olga reported that two committee meetings are scheduled: **October 13th** - to review/revise the Scholarship application, review, evaluate and propose revisions to the administrative processing of applications and submission of candidate packages to the SSC for review and decisions on grant recipients. Gloria will attend the meeting to assist in identifying potential use of technology to reduce manual activity and improve the candidate evaluation process. **November 12th** – to review eligibility requirement and selection criteria to further improve objectivity in recipient selection. The committee will build on the current

system developed by Linda Frigon that has been in use for two years. They will also consider whether different criteria/submission requirements should apply to those in Associate vs. Bachelor's degree programs.

Publicity: Sue DelVecchio has done an outstanding job in publicity. The Deep River Valley Courier may feature one or more of our grant recipients as "person of the week". Olga is following through with the assigned staff writer. Ava Frost has already been interviewed by phone for the article. Any article will be posted on the LCV website and Facebook page.

Succession Planning: Gloria proposed a succession plan be developed for future SSC openings. She emphasized the desirability of openly seeking interest from the entire LCV membership. Linda reinforced the need to select committee members with specific skills needed. Term limits might also be considered. Olga agreed to the need and will follow through with process.

Committee Member Publicity: Jeanette Santovasi recommended publishing the list of SSC members in the newsletter and on the website. Current membership is Olga Sauberman, Maura McGuiness, Sara Keaney, Judith Slisz, Sue DelVecchio and Linda Frigon and Nancy Fairchild. Olga agreed.

FUNDRAISING

Book Author Luncheon: Gloria Gery reported she will be working with Ann Lenz to solicit potential business sponsors whose business giving is done by year-end, earlier than our traditional January – March sponsor solicitation.

Soliciting Donations from LCV Membership Gloria will also gently approach LCV members who donated significant funds in 2024 to encourage 2025 donations, particularly through IRA-based Qualified Charitable Donations. Last year's member donations totaled \$20,000 and were critical in expanding the number and size of our education grants and the funding of the Trinity/York prison project. Request to consider making tax-deductible donations to ESP will be in the newsletters and at Branch meetings.

TPEP/LCV COLLABORATION

York Summer Courses: Judith consulted with TPEP faculty about results of the two summer courses, including student and faculty feedback. Students were uniformly enthusiastic about the learning and faculty presented rigorous program content and requirements that resulted in ½ Trinity credit for each completed course (equivalent to 3 traditional college credits) that can be transferred to colleges following release from York. Trinity, Quinnipiac and Three Rivers Community college share the fixed number of programs permitted by York. Judith will continue communications with Trinity or other college program coordinators to identify potential 2025 LCV funding opportunities should our fundraising support future LCV partnerships>

Cookbook Collection for York: Gloria Gery reported that over 100 cookbooks were donated by LCV members to support the York Culinary Arts instructor. Over 50 books were delivered to York. Esoteric cookbooks/duplicates were donated to the Acton Library for their annual fundraising book sale. A note of appreciation was sent by our York contact/tutor, Jackie Stacks.

Insurance - Directors & Officers' Liability

Judith and Linda attended a Zoom seminar on Risk Management and Insurance Basics in September sponsored by Pro Bono Partnership and had follow-up conversations about our specific risk factors and purchasing potential Directors & Officers Liability policy to supplement ESP's General Liability Policy purchased the AAAUW National's broker relationship. More research and evaluation is necessary by ESP before a recommendation is made as to need. Cost is about \$400; several brokers/agencies have been contacted during this process.

CT AAUW Meeting – October

Deb DeHertogh reported that October meeting has been cancelled and may be rescheduled at a future date.

LCV AND ESP BOARD SCHEDULING AND PARTICIPATION

Judith raised the topic of conducting separate LCV and ESP board meetings in the interest of board member time requirements. A very lively discussion followed. It was made clear that most LCV Board members value and want to attend ESP meetings as observers, with ongoing opportunity to ask questions and make contributions to the ESP Board. Gloria mentioned that the need to conduct detailed discussions on some topics might significantly extend meeting time; such discussions might best be done in sub-committee or working groups with recommendations and discussion held at board meetings. It was noted that any LCV member can attend and is welcome at any board meetings and it should probably be highlighted to the membership. All board meeting dates are published on the website calendar. Conclusions: Meetings will continue to be scheduled in sequence at the Acton Library or on Zoom, with LCV Board meeting at 1:00 pm and ESP Board meeting immediately following.. Those who wish to attend both board meetings may; others may leave at the end of their respective board meetings.

UNDERSTANDING RATIONALE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF INDEPENDENT LCV AND ESP BOARDS

Carole Otto suggested we orient the LCV membership about the organization and distinction between the two boards. While that information, including respective responsibilities and activities is on the website, it was concluded that specific effort to educate new members be made. Linda noted that for the past two years, information was in the membership booklet and was removed and was not included in the 2025-2026 booklet because it was (erroneously) assumed that understanding was widespread. It will be included again in the 2026-2027 booklet.

Adjournment: Gloria moved to adjourn the meeting. Linda Frigon seconded. Unanimous acceptance. Judith adjourned the meeting at 2:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Gloria Gery, Acting Secretary