

**14th Annual
Cannon Valley Elder Collegium Spring Meeting
St. John's Hall
May 1, 2011**

As has been a tradition at annual meetings, refreshments--pie, ice cream, and coffee--were served from 2:00 until the Board Chair called the meeting to order.

At 2:10 with the tinkling of a schoolhouse bell, Board Chair Jane McWilliams called the spring meeting of the Elder Collegium to order. Before turning to the formal business of the meeting, she not only welcomed and thanked the many members who came but also expressed a thank-you on behalf of the organization to the many who worked in planning the annual meeting. During this opening period, the Chair first turned to Ron Ronning, a co-founder of the CVEC, to stand and be recognized. Ron spoke briefly on how this organization came to be named, moving from "Elder College" to its current name, "Cannon Valley Elder Collegium." He also expressed appreciation that the acronym--CVEC--was not pronounced "civic" whenever speakers alluded to the Elder Collegium. Then asking each to stand, the Chair singled out individual Board and Staff members for their service to the organization. The Chair closed this opening segment by informing the membership that, as a result of the Board and Staff's fall retreat, the usual annual meeting's format would be altered somewhat in order to elicit their input on matters of future importance to the Elder Collegium.

The formal portion of the meeting saw two matters dealt with expeditiously at the outset: 1) the agenda was altered slightly to recognize retiring Board members before the election of the new; 2) the formal reading aloud of the 2010 minutes was set aside. Those wishing to read them were directed to the CVEC website which now posts all formal meeting minutes of the organization. The latter was agreed to by motion: Bill Parsons Second: John Hagen Unanimous approval.

CVEC's new Executive Director Ed Lufkin then came forward to thank and to recognize two retiring Board members: Shirlee Madow and Charles "Chuck" Carlin. Ed first singled out Shirlee not only for her service to the Board but also for her unequalled participation in taking CVEC classes. He then spoke briefly of Chuck's value to CVEC, citing both his service as a Board member and as an instructor.

Teresa Ballentine, Chair of the Nominating Committee, replaced Ed at the podium. As chair, she reminded the membership that the committee had four specific charges, the first of which was to replace the loss of Carroll Flaten as a member of the Board. Mike Harper, her replacement whose term ends in 2012, was introduced to the assembled membership. Teresa then directed members' attention to the placemat on which three separate election slates were listed: Board Membership; Board Officers; 2012 Nominating Committee. Nominees to serve three year terms on the Board were Anne Aby, Diane Hagen, Bruce Roberts, and Jon Rondestvedt. Teresa read a brief biography for each nominee and asked each to stand and be recognized. With no additional names coming from the floor seeking placement as a nominee, Teresa moved election of the slate as presented. Second: ReJean Schulte Unanimous approval. She then turned to the election of Board officers for one year terms. The following slate was advanced: for Chair: ReJean Schulte; for Vice Chair: Susan Roosenraad; for Treasurer: Richard Noer; for Secretary: Jon Rondestvedt. Teresa moved election of the slate as presented. Second: Elizabeth Olson Unanimous approval. Turning to the fourth and final charge, Teresa submitted the slate for the 2012 Nominating Committee: Lowell Johnson, Lydia Moe; Kathy Mroz. Note: Jim Holden, its fourth member and a member of the CVEC Board, is Board-appointed. Once more Teresa moved election of the slate as presented. Second: John Hagen Unanimous approval.

The Board Chair then turned to Board member ReJean Schulte, Curriculum/Instruction Task Force Chair, to direct the next segment of the agenda entitled: "Using a New Lens – CVEC Looking Ahead." ReJean explained that the afternoon's all-member work session had its genesis during the fall retreat for all Board and Staff members. Four

specific questions seeking input from the membership appeared on the placement. To facilitate the process, each Board and Staff member had a number on his/her name tag (1,2,3,4) and had been asked to sit at separate tables to serve as recorders. The information gleaned would be collected and refined, discussed by the Board and Staff, and finally made available to the entire membership. After twenty minutes, ReJean asked for a sampling of responses. Board Chair Jane McWilliams shared ideas from a table discussing the first question. Judy Cederberg spoke for a table discussing the second, Jim McDonnell offered input from a table looking at the third, and Jim Holden and Diane Hagen each delivered a brief summary from their respective tables which dealt with the fourth question. ReJean closed by expressing thanks and by reiterating the importance of this information as the CVEC looks forward.

The meeting then turned to reports from the Financial Director and Operations Director of the Elder Collegium. Financial Director Barbara Jenkins spoke first. Barb directed members' attention to the placemat on which appeared the abbreviated financial report comparing "Academic Years 09-10 and 10-11." She readily acknowledged that the report was but a "snapshot," for the actual financial status of the organization changes daily. She did, however, specifically point to two line items for the 2010-2011 academic year: 1) unlike 2009-2010, we did not apply for nor did we receive the \$2500. Minnesota Humanities Grant; 2) a decline in expenditures for publicity of slightly more than \$2000 (the result of members choosing the "e-mail only" option for the newsletter). Clearly the printed comparison attests to the organization's overall financial health.

Operations Director David Halsor then spoke, indicating his intention to "be brief." Spring 2011 saw 178 students enrolled in CVEC classes with some students taking two classes and several three! He noted that these courses filled up "fairly well," the result, he believed, lay with the "variety of subjects" offered. He then turned to clarify the registration process. First of all, file early. In doing so, students almost always get their first choice. In addition, no longer does the registration blank ask for a second choice. David always telephones those not receiving their first choice and gives them the option of making a second choice or of receiving their registration check back. The mention of registration checks triggered a segue. David applauded those who sent a separate check for each course for which they sought admission. This strategy "works well," for doing so allows him to return the registration check should the course be cancelled. He closed by reminding members to inform him of any change of address.

The agenda then moved to a traditional part of the spring annual meeting: the introduction of the fall term courses and their instructors. Before doing so, Curriculum Director Jim McDonnell first wished to recognize those who had taught five or more classes: Richard Bodman (7); Bill Carlson (6); Ruth Hansen (6); Eric Nelson (5); Riki Nelson (5). Underscoring that such instructors were "very important" to him personally, Jim asked those who were present to stand and to receive applause from the membership. Two additional items preceded the unveiling of the Fall 2011 course offerings and instructors. First of all, Jim reminded the membership that he would be wearing a "number of hats"—Curriculum Director; fall term instructor; a spokesperson for several instructors not in attendance. He then issued an apology, noting that there were no women offering courses in the fall term. Women, in fact, had been contacted and had been unable to accept. While it had never been his intention to exclude them, he promised he would work very hard to ensure a "reasonable representation" in the future.

Speaking on their own behalf (or having Board members read from prepared statements from instructors unable to attend), the following will offer courses Fall 2011: Jim Cederberg; Hartley Clark; Richard Collman; Robert Flaten; Keith Harrison; Robert "Obie" Holmen; Stephen Kelly; Jim McDonnell; Bruce Roberts; Gary Wagenbach. Jim McDonnell closed this program segment with words of sincere thanks, citing not only those who have agreed to teach for the Elder Collegium but also those who have assisted him in his role as Curriculum Director for this organization.

Executive Director Ed Lufkin returned to the podium to share information sent by Robbie Wigley, our new webmaster who has given the CVEC website a fresh look. She has made several improvements, among them: 1) a larger font size for improved readability; 2) the increased use of photos; 3) more detailed classroom reporting; 4) an improved organization of archival materials.

The bearer of several "housekeeping details," Board Secretary Jon Rondestvedt closed the meeting. Individuals whose birthday came closest to May 4th were to take the gerbera daisy centerpieces home. In addition, Collegium members could also take home either an extra pie slice or--should temptation prove too strong--purchase one of the several unused pies.

Shortly before 4:00, Board Chair Jane McWilliams again thanked everyone for coming and declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon D. Rondestvedt, Board Secretary