

January 30, 2012

Dear ICLers,

On behalf of the Executive Committee, thank you for your participation in the Town Halls meetings we held last week.

Perhaps you are wondering what an executive committee does. It has many functions which include planning the work of the board, helping the board focus on key policy decisions, and assisting the board in developing a clear vision for the future of the organization. In addition to these general responsibilities, the ICLRU Executive Committee, comprised of Sue Harty, president; Joan Reisen, vice-president; Harry Trumfio, secretary and Don Carlson, treasurer, recognize the talent and experience of our members, and so we decided to hold a series of town hall meetings in order to hear your comments, ideas, concerns, and questions.

At the meetings, we discussed an immediate and crucial issue facing the ICLRU Board. At the present time there are no apparent candidates ready to take over from the present executive officers. We, the officers, will have served two years in June and our terms will be over. Joe Maladra is the Chair of the Nomination Committee and the committee will be aggressively searching for “fresh faces” – ICLRU members interested in serving on the Board and willing to serve as officers if elected. Please contact Joe Maladra if you are interested. (j.maladra@att.net)

Another concern raised is the size of the ICLRU Board. Currently there are 17 people on the Board, including every committee chair. In order to operate most efficiently, research recommends that a non-profit organization of our size should consist of between five and eleven members. Don Carlson is the Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee and the committee is working on bylaws changes, including reducing the size of the board. If changes are approved, the ICLRU president will have the responsibility of addressing necessary organizational changes.

An additional concern facing ICLRU is room constraints. Roosevelt has cut back on the number of class sessions it offers tuition-paying students and subsequently increased the maximum number of students in each class. This affects ICLRU because Roosevelt may need the larger classrooms previously used for our study

groups. We may be forced to limit our study groups to a maximum of 36, rather than 48, based on the rooms we will be permitted to use. Roosevelt does not charge us any rental for classrooms or for Alumni Hall but this means we are only allowed to use rooms Roosevelt does not need and that varies from semester to semester

Something else to consider is the use Alumni Hall for events involving food service. The room capacity is 150 members. We have an enrollment of 535 so over 350 members are excluded from our Annual Meeting and Holiday Party. I asked the Town Hall participants if they would be willing to go off-campus to Chandler's Banquet Hall in Schaumburg for these events. This facility would accommodate 350 of us. The resounding reply was "yes" even if it might result in a fee to offset the increased expense.

Money issues raised a question about ICLRU dues. There has not been a dues increase since 2002 when the dues were increased by \$10.00. After we incorporated in 2010, we became an autonomous entity. This is a two-sided issue. It is advantageous because we now control our own funds and policy decisions, but it also means our costs have increased. We now must pay for accounting services, liability insurance, and technology needs, both hardware and software. We also pay our ICLRU Center Manager's salary. In the very near future, we will need to replace some of our computers and projectors. We also anticipate the need for a more fully developed website which will necessitate hiring a website designer. If we go off-campus for our larger events, we will have to pay for the space we rent. While there is no immediate plan to raise our dues, I hope you agree that our present \$110.00 fee is the "deal of the century". If the Board decides to consider an increase, we will keep you informed of the facts regarding the need.

A few town hall participants voiced concern about the difficulty of gaining admission to some study groups. In order to be as fair as possible, we hold a lottery for the over-filled study groups and those not admitted are wait-listed. Those lists are given to the coordinators. We have been fortunate that some coordinators have been willing to offer more than one session of their study groups. Others have offered to present the same study group during the following semester. I do want to mention that we usually offer 25+ study groups each term so if you are not able to get into your first choice, please consider trying something different. There are always open study groups.

As always, we are looking for new coordinators. However, we realize becoming a coordinator can be daunting. The Program Development Committee will work on offering training sessions on a consistent basis. We may also develop the role of AV coordinator – a person who trains coordinators on the use of our AV equipment.

We offer ICLRU clubs as a proud new addition to our program. We now have a Mah Jongg club, Book Ends, a non-fiction book club, and a travel club. What else are you interested in? I would like to get everyone together with interests to share and start some additional clubs. One suggestion I just received is to start the ICLRU chorus club. Of course this means we need someone willing to coordinate this activity. Anyone interested in coordinating an acting or improv club? How about the ICLRU walking club or bowling club? What about a camera/photography club or bridge club? The subjects are limited only by our imaginations. Please contact me at fillmore1980@aol.com if you would like to meet with like-minded members and I will reserve a meeting room.

Thank you again for your participation in the Town Hall meetings. Because of your interest and involvement, we have a terrific program. I look forward to working with you to make it even better!

Regards,

Sue Harty
President, ICLRU