

# LLLAC MEMBER News and Information

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**October 15, 2011**

In the interest of expediency the Board of Directors is issuing this Member Communication/Update in lieu of our usual newsletter format in order to keep the membership informed to various events and business of the club. We currently have no newsletter editor volunteer and hope someone in our membership might have an interest in taking such a commitment. Our hope is to develop 2 types of newsletter. One would be for internal news and business our members want to be informed of and another that is outward facing to the community that can be distributed more widely in the community to highlight what we do and events we are having. If you are interested in helping with this please fill out a volunteer application at the snack bar and we will contact you.

Our last newsletter was in March of this year so this communication is long overdue with much news to report. If you want detail on anything mentioned here please see a board member and/or inquire at the snack bar to direct you to a board member. You can also send email to [membership@lllac.org](mailto:membership@lllac.org).

## **CURRENT EVENTS**

**Club Management and Finances.** The biggest news this year of course was the dismissal, for budgetary reasons, of our long time **Manager Kris** July 1. Kris worked for the club for 18 years and served us very well. We have been able to determine from old records that he started with the club in the summer of 1993 between June and August. He saw the club through many ups and downs and we are all deeply indebted to him for his long term service to the club. This unanimous decision by the Board of Directors was a very difficult one, was purely financial and was done to stabilize the club financially. The decision was made based on operating cash only which was precariously low. The club could simply no longer afford to pay salary and benefits for a full time manager and not deplete our cash before year's end. Our housing fund of 64000.00 was never considered as a source of operating funds since it is restricted to the purchase of a building and would require legal process in front of a judge to use for any other purpose. As a result our operating cash has remained stable since July at approximately 24k and we were in the black for September and expect to be for October. In July the Board voted to create an ad-hoc volunteer operations manager position on the board to execute the duties previously done by our manager. It is headed by David S. with Choo Choo as backup. Other Board members and volunteers have stepped up to cover shifts and perform all manner of tasks to keep the club going. We also thank many members who continue to offer their help, advice and expertise as we go through this transition.

The next biggest news presently is our upcoming **Elections October 23-29 and annual General Membership Meeting**. Elections begin Monday Oct 23 and run for a week. The **General Membership Meeting is at 7pm on Sunday Oct 30<sup>th</sup> at 3pm at the club**. Members are encouraged to attend to provide the Board with feedback and concerns on the directions and priorities of the club. A special issue that will appear on the ballot for members approval is a change to the Board members term of

office from 2 years to 3 years as it was originally written by our founders until it was changed by a board in 1996.

This Board believes that the current **2 year term of office**, with half the board rotating every year has contributed to a lack of stability and consistency that would be corrected with the **3 year term of office**. Under the 3 year term only 3 board members would rotate each year leaving 6 experienced members continuing which we believe would stabilize the board's direction and priorities and consistency of operation. Your approval is sought and is mandatory for this type of change to the bylaws.

**LEASE NEGOTIATIONS.** The Board of Directors recently renegotiated our lease with the landlord. Research was done on rents in the areas and it was found that we were paying a reasonable market rate for the property. The current lease was to July 2013 and the landlord asked us to renegotiate early and he would offer incentives. It was decided with our current financial state a move would not be cost effective and that our best opportunity was to renegotiate the lease. The result was that our rent will be rolled back to what it was 4 years ago. This reduction begins in January 2012 and there will be no increases for two years. We expect the net savings on this over two years will be approximately eight to ten thousand.

**MAIN ROOM FLOOR REFURBISHING** As you may have noticed we are in the process of replacing the carpet in the main room with a hard surface floor. Maintaining the carpet was a cost we wished to eliminate and a hard surface would facilitate events like our upcoming HALLOWEEN Dance which we are sure you will all want to attend on Saturday October 29 from 10pm to ?. For more details on the Halloween event see the [www.illac.org](http://www.illac.org) website.

**SATURDAY AT THE MOVIES EVENTS** Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday the club has been hosting a Movie screening fundraiser in the afternoons from 230 to 5. The next event will be Nov 12. None are scheduled in Oct due to work on the floor. We have had 3 screenings ("Chicago" "Peaceful Warrior" "Sordid Lives") so far and attendance is growing. We hope this will be a popular event for all our members. Check out the next titles and dates on our website.

**NEW MEMBERSHIP and Club SUPPORTERS OPTIONS.** Membership is the backbone of the clubs finances. Without it the club will close. Many individuals who do not even attend the club regularly or at all have maintained their memberships for years in order to give back to the community that gave them their start and to keep the doors open for those who are new or cannot afford membership. Many individuals who do use the club regularly are not members and may not realize how important regular, consistent membership can be to the short and long term financial health of the club.

In order to include as many as possible to membership we have created options for those who are unemployed and reduced the number of volunteer hours from 16 to 8 for a one month membership. Other arrangements such as deferments or reduced rates can always be worked out for those who seek them. For those new in recovery we also have a short term complimentary membership available.

There are also many in our community and families who realize the importance of this community asset and would like to help and might like another option besides membership to contribute. We have

created a new club supporter option on our website which would allow others to help with one time donations or subscriptions which would be 100% tax deductible. (Memberships, unless for professional reasons are not ordinarily tax deductible.) *If you know of any individual or business that would be interested in supporting the LLLAC please direct them to our website donate page.*

**MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORTER SUBSCRIPTIONS** On our website members may now subscribe their membership and save. We are offering incentive discounts for members to use this option since it is more convenient than paying in person, is more efficient and less costly to the club to administer and it greatly improves consistency of membership and membership income. Non member supporters also have the option to subscribe.

**WOULD YOU CONSIDER JOINING A COMMITTEE?** The club regularly has many people willing to volunteer behind the snack bar but there are many other ways members can volunteer. The bylaws require that we have committees in order to involve as many members as possible in the operation of the club. Over the last few years we have had active committees for months at a time but it is very fluid and we would like to see this be more consistent. The first step is interested members who have some spare time. The committees are: Housing, Fiscal, Public Relations, Membership, Events, Rules and procedures and ad-hoc committees on operations and archives. Can you help us get these committees going and/or coordinating volunteers?

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**HALLOWEEN!!!! AND THEN** The holidays are approaching as usual we will be having our usual events on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. Keep abreast of these by checking out our website.

**Miscellaneous Business News:**

In closing the Board of Directors thanks all our members for their support and efforts in keeping the LLLAC going. This has been a difficult year with much change, but also with many positive opportunities for change ahead. They say the necessity is the mother invention and the board is encouraged that so many of our members have seen the need and been willing to step up and help us as we keep going and invent new solutions for new (challenges) opportunities.

**THANK YOU** to all our members and volunteers for all your support from the Live and Let Live Board of Directors, staff and volunteers.

