

Colorado Classics Association
Draft Minutes of the 2024 Fall Meeting

October 5, 2024
10:00 - 11:30 AM
Boulder High School

Compiled and submitted by Elizabeth Bowman, CCA Secretary (elizabeth.bowman@jeffco.k12.co.us)

After informal socializing over a generous spread of bagels, pastries, and coffee, the business meeting commenced at 10:09 AM.

Meeting Agenda

- I. Carole and Helen welcomed all and acknowledged the Boulder High School Latin Club students who assisted with parking and directing traffic. Members present were: Carole Newlands (CU-Boulder, CCA Co-President), Helen Vickery (Boulder High School, CCA Co-President), Isabel Koster (CU-Boulder), Reina Callier (CU-Boulder); Jackie Elliott (CU-Boulder, CCA Vice-President); Pierre Habel (D'Evelyn Jr/Sr High School, retired, CCA Communications Director); Elizabeth Bowman (D'Evelyn Jr/Sr High School, CCA Secretary); Amanda Sherpe (Mullen High School, CCA Treasurer); Tim Smith (Loveland Classical Schools); Andy Perez (Loveland Classical Schools); Emma Halverson (Skyview Academy); Kristjan Johnson (Ascent Classical Academy, Brighton); and Amy Rosevear (Cherry Creek High School).
- II. Amy moved to approve the April 2024 meeting minutes. Tim seconded. The motion passed with eight votes in favor, none opposed, and one abstention due to meeting absence. Approved minutes will be posted to the meeting archives on the CCA website.
- III. Treasurer's update: Amanda reports that CCA currently has 27 members (18 lifetime) and \$2446.41. Further reminders to the membership regarding dues are not needed. Information regarding paying dues may be found on the [membership page](#) of the website. Pierre clarified that checks should be made out to Amanda directly.
- IV. Secretary's updates:
 - A. Elizabeth encouraged nominations for CCA Teacher of the Year (due by January 1) and for postsecondary co-president (due by April 1, self-nominations welcome). [The Teacher of the Year nomination form](#) may be found on the CCA website. Completed nominations should be sent directly to Carole and Helen. Teacher of the Year nominations are good for three years. Elizabeth encouraged colleagues to work together to complete nominations of worthy candidates. Tim suggested inviting school administrators *vel sim.* to contribute to nominations in order to include broad perspectives on worthy candidates. Pierre noted that the CCA Teacher of the Year award is often a starting point for further recognition on national stages, such as ACL or CAMWS.
 - B. Elizabeth noted that Richard has done, and Pierre continues to do, excellent work maintaining the CCA website. It has become a font of information, especially regarding upcoming Classics-related events and performances. Members are encouraged to check the website out if they have not done so in awhile and to send further updates to Pierre.
 - C. Elizabeth suggested an informal virtual "CCA Happy Hour" for 5 PM on Tuesday, October 22 in order to network with colleagues around the state. The suggestion was received positively. An invitation will be sent out via the listserv.

V. Latin advocacy video project update:

- A. Amy re-introduced the project, outlining the lengthy process from inception in spring 2023 to its current initial completed state and identifying a few of the project goals, e.g. to publicize students' perspectives on Latin programs and to share how engaging and exciting Latin classrooms can be.
- B. Reina acknowledged Timothy Ratliff, CU-Boulder Cinema Studies alum, as the project video editor. Timothy oversaw the creation of a 5 ½ minute "compilation" video plus six "shorts" (under a minute each) highlighting focused questions of the project.
- C. Pierre, Amy, and Reina shared the final product, which met with a very enthusiastic response and inspired considerable excitement and profuse thanks.
- D. Pierre outlined sharing options for teachers and community members:
 1. All videos are posted to the CCA website under the new "[Advocacy for K-12 Latin](#)" page, accompanied by a user guide with recommended uses. Suggested hashtags are included.
 2. The YouTube playlist of all videos is linked on the CCA website. Comments have been disabled on the [CCA YouTube channel](#).
- E. Pierre outlined potential next steps for project continuation:
 1. The website includes a contact form which members may use to provide feedback so that CCA may gather data regarding how the videos are being put to work. Data will be shared and more ideas crowd-sourced at the spring meeting.
 2. News sources (Colorado Matters, Chalkbeat Colorado, CU-Boulder news media, *etc.*) may be interested in investigating the project once viewership is established.
 3. Given the focused nature of the project, numerous potentially fruitful avenues were not explored at this time but may be tackled by future iterations of advocacy working groups, e.g. introducing spoken Latin programs or elementary programs, or highlighting heritage speakers choosing to study Latin in undergrad.
- F. Amy identified funding for the project: A CAMWS grant will pay \$300, and several private donors will contribute \$150. Amy moved that CCA contribute an additional \$150. Amanda supported the motion enthusiastically. Carole seconded. The motion passed with 10 votes in favor and none opposed. If members would like to donate additionally to future renditions of the project, contributions may be paid to Amanda via the usual methods.
- G. Additional discussion inspired by the video project unveiling:
 1. Jackie suggested that outside organizations, including in other states, may be inspired to add on to the project.
 2. Elizabeth noted that sharing the project with undergraduate institutions with whose faculty current CCA members are still in touch might be fruitful.
 3. A small concern was raised about the mention of "Western civilization" among the interviews. The consensus was reached that this was acceptable as a student perspective and that ultimately it's impossible to avoid negative feedback entirely.
 4. Carole appreciated the video's emphasis on Latin as a community-building tool that helps students find their place in schools and life. This seems especially relevant for parents in a post-pandemic world.
- H. Amy concluded the discussion by thanking Pierre in particular for being the rock of the project whose copious Google Docs and attention to detail saw the project through. Members expressed immense appreciation to Amy, Reina, and Pierre for creating what promises to be an excellent promotion and recruiting tool.

VI. Co-Presidents' update:

- A. Carole has been in touch with the CU-Boulder School of Education regarding their decision to end teacher certification programs in all languages except Spanish. The interim School of Education dean is not making large programming decisions at this time. The CU-Boulder faculty will keep an eye on the situation.
- B. A spring meeting date of April 26, 2025 was set, venue TBD. Carole and Helen propose highlighting creative Latin projects at that meeting. Isabel, Reina, and Helen will give short presentations on projects such as consular mock elections and adaptations of ancient genres into modern contexts. Carole invited teachers to present projects that have worked for them. Interested teachers should reach out to Carole and Helen by Thanksgiving.

Close of business meeting (11:12 AM)

Talk by Tim Smith, "Comedy at SALVI: *Errare hilare est.*"

Helen introduced Tim Smith, President of SALVI (*Septentrionale Americanum Latinitatis Vivae Institutum*).

Tim introduced his talk by noting that, while spoken Latin draws considerably from Plautus and Terence for authentic Latin idiom, lower-case "c" comedy—a spirit of humor, lightheartedness, and fun—has a much broader place and appeal in all levels of spoken Latin environments.

Now in his second term as SALVI president, Tim narrated his own experiences with spoken Latin. He attended his first immersion event reluctantly and with considerable reservation in 2014. He quickly began to appreciate the value in spoken Latin upon realizing the extent to which spoken Latin allowed him truly to read—versus translate—Latin poetry. That "insider" perspective has inspired his spoken Latin journey since.

Humor in Latin classes creates connection, community, and friendship; it reduces tension, increases enjoyment, and fosters student-teacher interaction; it's required for creating memories of Latin class being "fun"—our best hope for creating lifelong Latin learners. SALVI strives for *Latinitas, Iucunditas, Humanitas, Amicitia* in order to bring more Latin into more lives. Tim notes, as a point of success, the increasing number of non-teachers who have joined SALVI. The spoken Latin community is not a small, niche group.

Participants at recent SALVI events have written and produced their own skits (described as "Sesame Street meets Saturday Night Live") and have enjoyed Broadway-style cabaret performances of Latin songs for the final nights of immersion weekends. These and many other SALVI activities allow participants to interact with Latin actively, learning for themselves while contributing to a living tradition.

Tim noted that, "Latin is a language like any other, but Latin teachers are unlike any other teachers": Latin teachers often hold themselves to impossibly high standards, expecting to know everything and feeling safest when they do. Learning to speak is an ambitious and scary endeavor, but SALVI events create a safety net for participants where Latin teachers can be vulnerable and grow.

The 5th annual *Biduum Coloratanum* is upcoming at the end of October at the Sunshine Mountain Lodge in Allenspark, CO. An atmosphere informed by humor, comedy, and camaraderie makes *Biduum* "the safest place in the world" to learn to speak Latin. Tim invited interested CCA members to learn more and register at <https://latin.org/wordpress/biduum-coloratanum/>, with the final plug of *O tempora! O s'mores!*

Meeting conclusion: 11:30 AM, with thanks to Tim for preparing this thoughtful and inspiring talk!