

Minutes of Quest Council Meeting April 10, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 2:38 pm by Bob Gottfried, President. In attendance were Council members Steve Allen, Marian Friedmann, Pam Gemelli, Phil Gisser, Bob Gottfried, Bob Hartmann, David Judlowitz, Eileen Kelly, Ruth Kovner, Frieda Lipp as well as Michael Wellner (former Quest President). Jane Lubin was unable to attend.

Invited Guest Leslie Goldman; Chair of the Communications Committee, accompanied by Wayne Cotter, who oversees most of Quest's communications, spoke first at the meeting. She opened her remarks with an overview of the mission of her committee: Responsibility for the maintenance and updating of the website (questlifelong.org). Under the supervision of our superb Webmaster, Steve Allen, our website is kept accurate, timely and relevant. It is the first to come up in any Google search for "Lifelong Learning NYC," and now includes electronic archives of all Quest courses and lectures. And it has been recently updated to appear more welcoming to a larger array of prospective members. The Committee also oversees the two Google groups (Quest Business and Quest Community) as well as NWAQ, Next Week at Quest. That is so ably handled by Nina Dioletis and Sharon Krutzel under Wayne's supervision.

It was noted that at present not every piece of printed material that Quest produces is reviewed by this committee. There was a general sense of the Council that the Committee should have a quick look at each piece before it is printed, with the possible exception of Q News and the Q Review.

There was some discussion about the idea to possibly merge the Marketing and the Communications Committee with the Diversity Committee. Leslie presented the consensus of her committee that the Diversity Committee continue to be a separate and distinct committee at Quest; the Council readily concurred. Of course the committees will coordinate their efforts together.

2. Treasurer's Report: Steve Allen, the Quest Treasurer, indicated we continue to be in reasonably good financial shape. Our annual revenues from membership fees cover our annual expenses. And we have a reserve fund of approximately \$285,000 that has primarily been built from charitable contributions, and that is available for emergencies (such as the unlikely loss of our lease here at CWE).

This year's annual revenue from membership dues will be just about \$128,500, somewhat less than originally expected, because our membership now stands at 240, less than the 260 or so originally anticipated. Our expenses are also a bit less than originally budgeted, resulting in the small surplus this year.

Note that the \$5,000+ expense to install the hearing loop in Room 15-17 was charged to our reserve fund, and not debited to our annual operating budget.

3. General Meeting: April 25th is the date of our next General Membership Meeting. All members are urged to attend. Lead Coordinators of major committees will make brief presentations describing their committees and their mandates. These include:

Doreen De Martini.....Emergency Response Team
 Roy Clary.....Membership Committee
 Arlynn Greenbaum.....Wednesday Afternoon Guest Speakers
 Carolyn McGuire.....Q News and the Travel Committee
 Steve Allen.....Treasurer's Report
 Frieda Lipp (In lieu of Mary Ann Donnelly).....Curriculum Committee
 Linda Downs.....Quest Culture Trips

4. Summer Schedule: This year's summer classes (Tuesdays & Thursday mornings only) begins on June 5th and ends July 31st. There are no classes the week of July 4th. The final summer schedule will be distributed shortly.

5. Nominating and Elections Committee (NEC): The Quest Elections this spring will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 1st and May 2nd. We will elect a Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three at-large Council Members. Candidates for the at-Large Council positions will be available to speak to Quest members assembled at noon in Room 15-17, April 16th through the 19th, and candidates for Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer will speak on April 23rd and 24th.

Officer Candidates include:

Vice President – Marian Friedmann
 Secretary – Ellen Gottfried and Carolyn McGuire
 Treasurer – Steve Allen

Candidates for the three at-Large Council Positions include:

Betty Farber Philip Gisser
 Jennifer Jolly David Judlowitz
 Ruth Ward Mary Beth Yakoubian
 Joyce West

Finally, Steve proposed that the Council designate the Marketing & Communications Committee as one that requires a degree of technical expertise (thereby relieving it of the requirement that the Chair and Committee members be replacement every three years). The Council unanimously agreed.

The Next Council Meeting will be on May 8th, and the newly elected Council members, whose terms do not formally begin until June 1st, will be invited to sit in. The June meeting is scheduled for Thursday the 28th.

All business having been concluded, President Bob Gottfried adjourned the meeting at 3:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Ruth

Ruth Kovner, Secretary