

Minutes of the Quest General Membership Meeting

April 25th, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by President Bob Gottfried. Bob opened the proceedings by graciously thanking Michael Weller, past president, for his assistance during this past year, the first of Bob's term as President, and also thanked his fellow officers (Marian Friedmann, VP; Steve Allen, Treasurer; and Ruth Kovner, Secretary). He gave a special acknowledgement to Nina Dioletis and Sharon Krutzel for their excellent efforts in preparing and distributing Next Week At Quest (NWAQ) each and every week of the semester (not an easy task!).

Bob next reminded everyone that our Gala Year-end luncheon is set for Wednesday May 9th, at Battery Gardens Restaurant, at 12:30 PM. That will be preceded in the morning (10:30 AM) by a dramatic production of "Spoon River Anthology," by Edgar Lee Masters, which will be performed by members of our Acting Class.

Next Bob noted the fine work done by the many Quest committees. To begin, he indicated that the Diversity Committee, despite several efforts, has made few inroads in attracting new minority group members. Despite this, he emphasized that attracting more minority members remains a priority at Quest, and this committee will be reconstituted and its efforts will be continued. They will coordinate their efforts and work closely with the Marketing & Communications Committee.

Next, several committee chairs addressed the meeting:

First, was Doreen De Martini, Chair of the Emergency Response Team (ERT): She emphasized that their only goal is to keep the Quest members safe. To this end the committee conducts periodic drills throughout the year, to prepare members in case of unexpected emergencies such as fire, chemical spills, explosions, smoke conditions, terrorist attacks, riots, active shooter(s) in the building, and who knows what else. Unfortunately such instances have been all too common around the world.

Possible responses with which we must become familiar include:

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- > Shelter in Place: The safest course of action may be to remain where we are.
 - > Evacuate to another floor in the building: Under the direction of the Building Safety Personnel.
 - > Evacuate the Building entirely: Only if so directed by the Building Staff.

In all cases it is critical for everyone to remain SILENT so that we all clearly hear the instructions provided over the emergency loud speakers.

Another important item to always remember is that, in the event of a fire, always CLOSE THE DOOR. The best way to contain any fire that may occur is simply to close the door so that the fire cannot easily spread.

And, of course, if you see something, say something. The police use an expression: “Do not kick the brown bag.” Should you encounter a suspicious package, do NOT touch it or disturb it any way. Just report it to an ERT team member or call the front desk downstairs.

Next, Roy Clary, Chair of the Membership Committee, informed us that we have 25 new members this year, and that our current membership count stands at 240. Some members find us on-line, via the internet, but more seem to come through word of mouth. The best source of new members is current Questers telling their friends. To help, there are Quest business cards (with our contact information) available in the office. Roy also advised us that he will step down as Membership Committee Chair at the end of May, and that Michael Wellner will be proposed to take his place effective June 1st.

Next, Arlynn Greenbaum, chair of the Guest Speakers Program Committee, spoke briefly, and reported that they have had a very successful year, and that next year almost all the Wednesday afternoon slots have already been booked.

Next, Linda Downs, Chair of the ClutureQuest Committee, spoke next and informed us that this year over a hundred people have participated in their Friday tours. Quest participants have visited MOMA, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, a Rehearsal of the New York Philharmonic and the Folk Art Museum, among others. Next year Renee Woloshin will be proposed to assume the Chairmanship of this committee.

Next, Nan MacNamara, Chair of the Nominations & Elections Committee (NEC), gave us a rundown of those members running for office. They include:

Marian Friedmann...Vice President
Steve Allen...Treasurer
Ellen Gottfried & Carolyn McGuire for Secretary

For Three Vacant Council Seats

.Betty Farber	Phil Gisser	David Judlowitz	Jennifer Jolly
.Ruth Ward	Joyce West	Mary Beth Yokoubian	

Next, Carolyn McGuire, Head of the Travel Committee reminded everyone that there are two Quest trips departing in May: (1) A ten-day trip that includes a cruise along the coast of Croatia, and (2) a trip to the Benelux countries to see, among other things, the tulip festival in Holland. Other trips that are being planned include one to eastern Canada, one to the Western National Parks, and a cruise over July 4th on the Queen Mary 2, sailing from New York, going to St John (Canada) and calling on Boston for the July 4th holiday before returning to New York.

We have also organized a trip in January (2019) to London (with approximately twenty people booked). And we are researching a trip to a warm weather destination for the January break, for those who wish to escape to the sun.

And, Carolyn McGuire also gave us some information about QNews. Carolyn and her staff have done an excellent job of producing three issues each semester, usually four to six pages in length. As long as we keep submitting information about our “comings and goings,” including photographs, she will keep the very well received issues coming on a regular basis.

Next, our Treasurer, Steve Allen, summarized the year financially – concluding that our finances continue to be in a healthy state. This year’s income from membership fees covered our expenses with a small surplus. Overall total membership was a bit less than we had anticipated, but expenses were kept in check, resulting in the small surplus. Note that the cost of installing the new hearing loop in Room 15-17 was charged to our “reserves” account and therefore did not impact our current operating figures. Our overall reserve account totals about \$280,000, which we would use in the unlikely event that we lose our lease at 25 Broadway and have to find new space on our own.

And, for the meeting’s much anticipated highlight, Mary Ann Donnelly, Chair of the Curriculum Committee reported that we are losing six courses that will not continue next semester, but we will introduce ten new ones that will more than replace those dropped. These new courses include:

- Beginning and Advanced Acting, headed up by Marilyn Rosen and Panny King.
- The Roaring 20’s, led by Wayne Cotter.
- America & The Vietnam War, led by Michael Wellner.
- The History of Islam, led by Caroline Thompson.
- A Collage Workshop, led by Frieda Lipp, Jeanette Himmel & Marilyn Weiss.
- Famous Con Artists, led by Mary Beth Yakoubian & Jerry Wiesenberg
- Dance Panorama; Ruth Ward with Martha Drezin’s assistance will lead this course for two semesters.
- Economic Inequality in America Today, led by Stephen Baker
- American Ideals in Troubled Times, led by Sandy Kessler
- The Novels of Anthony Trollope, led by Leslie Fenchel & Joyce West

And --- for next year, Bob will propose Brenda Wilder to be the new chair of the Curriculum Committee.

Then, Wayne Cotter, Editor-in-Chief of Q Review, reminded all Quest members to begin to submit works of Poetry, Prose, Art, and Photographs for the 2019 edition of Q Review. And, of course, the current edition is available in the office.

New Business: The question of how Quest deals with members' grievances was raised by one member, and the subject of establishing a formal Grievance Committee was brought up. No decision was reached.

All business having been attended to, Bob Gottfried concluded the meeting at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in a cursive script that reads "Ruth". The letter "R" is large and has a long, sweeping tail that curves upwards and to the right.

Ruth Kovner
Secretary
