

QUEST COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JUNE 10, 2014

Council Members in Attendance: Michael Wellner, Bob Hartmann, Bob Moore, Jane Pittson-Chianese, Carolyn McGuire, John Sicree, David Lewis and Ruth Kovner. Absent were Beverly Francus and Wayne Cotter.

Guests: Pam Gemelli, John Hood and Yvonne Kress of the Membership Committee.

This committee, chaired by Pam Gemelli, is comprised of eight members. They are: John Hood, Karin Dick, Yvonne Kress, Herb Rude, Barbara Gold, Joan Briller, Joan Shapiro and Pam Gemelli. Among other duties, committee members also monitor the telephones to receive incoming queries about Quest. As of now, for this summer we have nine summer-only members.

Membership renewal notices are to be sent out this week to all current Quest members. The Membership Committee will follow up.

Welcome New Members: Michael Wellner, president, welcomed the new Council Members: Jane Pittson-Chianese, David Lewis, John Sicree, Ruth Kovner and Bob Hartmann.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Bob Hartmann suggested several minor corrections to the Minutes of May 5, 2014. Sandra Southwell motioned to accept the Minutes with corrections and the motion was seconded and approved.

Future Meeting Schedules:

- a) July Date: July 8th
- b) Continue first Mondays: Yes
- c) First Monday of class: Sept. 8. Council to meet.

Treasurer's Report: John Sicree reported that we are in great shape financially. We did have a short fall for the Holiday Luncheon of \$295. That was due to having invited guests from CCNY, including Dean Mercado and his colleagues.

Proposed budget for FY 2015:

- a) Michael distributed to all members a proposed for FY 2105 (June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2015.) A copy is attached. With only minor changes it was approved by a unanimous vote.
- b) Eneida's Salary: Her current wage has been increased as of July 1, 2014. The Council agreed unanimously and Michael will so advise Davi and the CCNY staff.

Notes on Classes Schedule to Coordinate with CCNY/CWE:

- a) Holidays during the year: This year we were off on Easter Monday, which was planned to be synchronized with City College's schedule. However, Michael had received a call from Davi indicating that they were not returning until the following day, Wednesday. Michael just reminded Carolyn and all, that before next year's schedules is published, we should double-check with the City College staff.
- b) Summer Session: In a similar vein, Davi was surprised that our summer session classes were scheduled through July 31st. In past years classes had ended a week earlier, and Davi suggested that our summer schedule should end on or about July 25th, to allow the CCNY maintenance staff time to do their necessary summer maintenance work.

Steve/Caroline's Proposal for a Memorial Lecture Series - Appropriation request: John Sicree presented a proposal from Steve & Caroline for a one-time lecture that would be given to honor all members who have passed away during the school year. This is to be a one-time Memorial Lecture trial, and the Council agreed to authorize \$1,000 to be set aside as payment to the speaker, subject to scheduling the lecture while Quest is in session (see below). This one-time only trial will be evaluated at Council subsequent to the lecture. This lecture is to be accompanied by a wine and cheese reception. A budget of \$300 been allocated for this reception.

This proposal precipitated a discussion on whether the proposed date, with the lecture to be held after classes were ended for that semester, is acceptable. A motion to approve these lectures was discussed and was approved by the Council, contingent upon changing the date to the final Wednesday afternoon of "B" Week. Sandy Gordon will have to be notified.

Travel Program and Policy: It was re-emphasized by the Council that no Quest member may promote his/her business that will result in a financial benefit from any transactions that take place under Quest's aegis.

A discussion followed. The question came up: Do we prohibit all such soliciting? Put to a vote, the answer was a resounding "Yes." Michael Wellner, president of Quest, will discuss this with any members who might be impacted. No one may use the Quest name for his or her personal profit.

An ad-hoc travel committee will be established to facilitate planning for future trips. Michael again stated his preference for encouraging Quest members to travel as a group. The recent trips that have been taken by members thus far have proven popular. Reference was made to the trips to Ireland, Cuba, the Shaw Festival and more. A new trip to New Orleans in January is in the planning stage.

This ad-hoc committee (of four) will consist initially of Bob Hartmann, Bob Moore, Carolyn McGuire, (Chair,) and Michael Wellner. This ad-hoc committee, once the planning has commenced, will put the trip out to bid.

Conflict of Interest Statement: All Council members in attendance at the meeting signed a "Conflict of Interest Statement," as required by a new NY State Law.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Ruth Kovner, Secretary of Quest Council

QUEST COUNCIL MEETING July 8, 2014

Council Members in attendance: Council members in attendance: Michael Wellner, Carolyn McGuire, John Sicree, Ruth Kovner, Sandra Southwell, Beverly Francus, Jane Pittson-Chianese, Bob Hartmann, Bob Moore, Wayne Cotter and David Lewis.

Minutes of last meeting: A discussion was held regarding distribution of the Minutes to the general membership. The Minutes of the June Meeting were accepted with minor corrections by unanimous vote. It was so moved by Sandra Southwell and seconded by Bob Hartmann.

Treasurer's Report: John reported that we will need to carefully monitor our account at CCNY, since there were two charges posted to our account that were not ours. John will monitor all credits and debits to ensure that all is being accurately reported by CCNY in the future. Unfortunately, we seem to get reports from CCNY on a rather irregular schedule.

Overall our finances continue to be in excellent shape.

Quest membership Renewals: Currently we have 72 paid up Renewals for the coming year 2014-2015 at Quest. It was suggested to Michael that he send out another renewal notice as a reminder to the general membership that we need to have all renewals returned no later than August 1st.

It has come to our attention that several members are not returning. Sad to say some are longstanding members and all will be missed. Among these are: Gerrie and Herb Rude, Pearl Zinner, Randy Holmes and Liz Fein. Michael believes that we will lose about 10% of our membership which is the norm for Quest from year to year.

Course Cancellation: Unfortunately Liz Fein is not returning, due to illness. Ergo her new course "The Retiree Monologues" will be cancelled and replaced by another course.

Fee for Wednesday afternoon Speaker's Compensation: Jane Pittson-Chianese was concerned that the Speaker's compensation was so small as to be insulting. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that any further discussions should be held with Sandy Gordon and Bob Reiss in attendance. It is they who arrange for the Speakers. We will invite them to present their point of view at a future Quest Council meeting.

Eneida's Salary: A motion was made to increase Eneida's salary. The motion was carried.

Free Quest Membership: Stuart Dunn has suggested that some aging members should be excused from paying their annual dues. It may be a hardship for some of them, he felt. He has proposed a formula that would result in free annual membership if one's age + years of membership add up to 100. In the ensuing discussion it was brought to our attention that there already are other avenues for members who need help with payment. The sense of the Council was not to move forward with such an idea, and no motion was brought to the floor.

The New Orleans Trip: Carolyn McGuire reported that we now have 18 members who have paid a deposit for this January trip. Twenty six people have expressed interest. We have a sufficient number of members to allow us to be able to have our own bus and function as a group within the auspices of Road Scholar.

Twentieth Year Anniversary: Bob Hartmann noted that Quest is approaching its 20th year in existence. A discussion followed as to how we will celebrate this auspicious event. How do we want to commemorate this milestone? All agreed that we should celebrate but in what way? Michael noted that Q Review is planning an expanded edition. And there were some thoughts discussed about holding our gala year-end luncheon at a place other than at Battery Gardens (perhaps at the new Cipriani, downstairs at 25.) After some discussion we agreed to consider other ideas at a future discussion at subsequent meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ruth Kovner

Secretary, Quest Council

Quest Council Minutes...September 8th, 2014

The meeting commenced at 2:50 pm. In attendance: Michael Wellner, Carolyn McGuire, Beverly Francus, Bob Hartmann, Ruth Kovner, David Lewis, Bob Moore, Jane Pittson-Chianese, John Sicree and Sandra Southwell. Wayne Cotter was unavailable as he was traveling in Europe.

Minutes of the previous Council Meeting: The Minutes of July 8th were accepted with one change.

Honoraria: We opened the meeting with a discussion of the Honoraria given to our guest speakers every other Wednesday during the school year. Sandy Gordon and Bob Reiss were in attendance at this meeting to present their points of view on the topic. The discussion centered on the amount of the Honoraria Quest offers. Jane Pittson-Chianese voiced her concern that we offer too small an amount. Sandy Gordon, who has been doing this for years, indicated in her experience the amount makes no difference in attracting speakers or the quality of the presentation. Money is not the issue. She cited an instance where more monies were given and she was disappointed by the presentation. On the other hand, Bob had a different experience. One speaker turned him down due to the size of the Honoraria.

The sense of the Council was to allow Sandy and Bob some flexibility. They will continue to offer \$200 initially, but if they feel that money is the issue they can decide to offer more - with a cap of \$500. And we will offer to pay the speaker's expenses, such as transportation and parking.

Membership 2014-2015: As of Sept. 8th, our Membership is at 210. David Lewis asked how this relates historically. We usually lose about 10% of membership annually and this year is no exception.

Current Finances for Quest: John Sicree Treasurer, announced that we are in good shape financially.

Travel Program: A representative from Grand Circle Travel, a senior citizen travel firm in the Boston area that competes with Road Scholar, will be making a presentation to Michael and Carolyn in the near future. The Travel Committee will report back after that meeting.

- Seamus Scanlon's plays: 27 members signed up
- The New Orleans Trip: 31 members have signed up
- Colombia: We are not planning this trip due to the unstable situation.
- Israel: We are not planning this trip due to unstable conditions.

Emails will be sent out to determine interest in other destinations.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 pm.

Submitted by: Ruth Kovner, Quest Council Secretary

Quest Council Minutes...October 6, 2014

The meeting commenced at 2:45 pm. In attendance: Michael Wellner, Carolyn McGuire, Wayne Cotter, Beverly Francus, Bob Hartmann, Ruth Kovner, David Lewis, Bob Moore, Jane Pittson-Chianese and Sandra Southwell. John Sicree was unavailable.

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved with minor changes.

The Council welcomed the following Committee Chairs as guests: Pam Gemelli, Lila Heilbrunn, and June Dwyer, as Chairs of the following committees: Membership, Quest Emergency Response Team, and Curriculum. Each was invited to report on the progress of their committees to the Council.

Pam Gemelli, Membership Committee Chairperson reported we now have 216 members. One question raised was "How do we interview?" The initial interview is often conducted via the telephone. Many times the candidate calls more than once prior to coming into the office. Then during the face-to-face interview, they are told that Quest is a volunteer organization and that we expect everyone to contribute in some way. Ruth Kovner asked if anyone is turned down. Pam indicated that if the interviewer feels that person would not fit into the Quest environment subtle discouragement is used. Pam also mentioned that we are attracting a different clientele, who are younger, seem more academically inclined, and are generally more active. And we are finding that these new members participate more frequently in class. Several have given presentations early in their first year as members. All good news!

Lila Heilbrunn, Chair of the newly named Quest Emergency Response Team indicated that all members of her Team must have one hour of training per year, according to city law. As a rule, there are two emergency drills scheduled each term. It is critical that everyone knows exactly how to evacuate our location and follow instructions should a real emergency occur.

June Dwyer, Chair of the Curriculum Committee will step down as Chair as required by Quest's by-laws, as her term of three consecutive years is at an end. During her tenure this last year the Committee has taken many actions, including the approval of nine new courses for fall 2014 and one (so far) for Spring 2015, the turning of the editorship of the Course Catalogue to Lynnel Garabedian (with gratitude to outgoing editor Carolyn McGuire,) addressing several issues relating to Summer School such as shortening the presentation time from two hours to one hour and thirty minutes. In addition, the yearly cycle for the inclusion of those (outstanding) presentations to be

given during the Summer Session will be drawn from spring break to spring break, to be sure that all presentations are included for consideration in the Summer program.

In addition to the very popular Lunch & Learn sessions, after school classes, from 2:30 to 3:30 PM, will be tried. The initial topic is to be "Learning about Your iPad" (or other Mobile devices) and will be headed by Steve Allen and Roz Schachter. We all congratulate June for the accomplishments of the Curriculum Committee during her leadership.

Travel: The travel program is continuing; Michael & Carolyn reported on a meeting that they had with a representative from Grand Circle Travel, who is promoting a 12 - Day Danube River Cruise next summer. Other programs being considered are:

Edinburgh Fringe Festival: August 2015

Cruise to Bermuda: May 2015, 1 week, leaving from Bayonne, NJ: \$1400 +

Rail Tour in Canada: Toronto to Quebec City, May 2015, could include the Shaw Festival, around \$2658

Iceland: Reykjavik Arts Festival, May 2015, 1 week, \$1,300 + airfare

A discussion was held regarding Grand Circle (and other travel) Commissions that Quest may receive: It was emphasized again that should Quest receive any commissions from the tour operators that are running these trips, those monies will be returned to the members who traveled. No monies will be retained by Quest. A formal motion to that effect was made by Ruth Kovner, and seconded by Bob Hartmann. The motion carried.

Members benefitting financially from Quest activity: It was repeated that no member of Quest is to benefit financially from any activity within Quest. To clarify, a member may mention a book that he or she has written and note that it can be purchased (at Amazon or similar) but he or she must **not** bring the books to Quest to physically sell here. Jane Pittson-Chianese made a formal motion to that effect, which was seconded and carried.

A discussion was also held regarding the cancellation of classes because of inclement weather. The possibility of scheduling a "make-up" class on Fridays was again revisited, but rejected. As an alternative, it was proposed that we can add a class to the summer session, possibly on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon. This would allow presenters who had spent many hours and much effort preparing for class to assure that their efforts do not go to waste. A final decision was tabled for future discussion.

Finally, the proposal for a “Memorial Lecture” to be held at the end of the year was withdrawn.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for November 3rd.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kowner

Quest Council Secretary

QUEST COUNCIL MINUTES....Nov. 3, 2014

The meeting began at 2:43 pm. In attendance: Michael Wellner, Carolyn McGuire, Wayne Cotter, Beverly Francus, Bob Hartman, Ruth Kovner, David Lewis, Bob Moore, Jane Pittson-Chianese, John Sicree and Sandra Southwell.

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved with corrections. The motion to approve by Sandra Southwell was seconded by Michael. And the motion carried.

The Council welcomed Frieda Lipp, Chair of the Scheduling Committee: Frieda informed us that the committee consists of 5 members. She brought with her a diagram showing how the class scheduling is done. Although this was a complicated process Frieda reported the task is almost completed for the next semester.

Currently we are aware that two courses are ending this semester, (in December.) They are Utopian Studies and One-Act Plays. The Performing Arts course is going on hiatus. Courses ending next semester in May, will be reviewed at the Spring Town meeting.

A question raised by Beverly Francus concerned recent Lunch & Learn presentations. Where exactly in the schedule should "memoirs" fit? Some thought it should actually be in the Presenters Choice course, which is designed to cover topics that do not fit naturally into any of our other courses. Should there

be guidelines to define where to put this sort of presentation? Bob Hartmann felt it should be free-form. Michael Wellner suggested that this is really an issue for the Curriculum Committee; he will discuss it with June.

Membership Update: Happily we now have 218 members.

Treasurer's Report: The budget has been analyzed by our Treasurer John Sicree. He is pleased to report that we are in fine shape financially.

Travel Update: Iceland Arts Festival-Reykjavik: There are currently about 20 people interested in a trip to Iceland for the Iceland Arts Festival in Reykjavik in May. The cost should be less than \$2,000, including airfare.

Grand Circle Budapest to Prague River Cruise: This is planned for 13 days and will cost less than \$3,000, plus airfare.

Shakespeare Theatre Festival Stratford: Some have expressed interest in this late August trip. The cost is about \$1200 plus airfare for 5 days.

Edinburgh Fringe Festival: We will not offer a group tour as such, to Edinburgh. Hotel accommodations are not suitable for a group. If any individual Questers are interested in going, Caroline Thompson, Steve Allen, Carolyn McGuire or John Sicree can offer suggestions, possibly at a Lunch & Learn session.

Tech Committee Issues: We have been experiencing several problems with some of the podiums. Robert has been made aware: he reports that the software in all machines will be updated over the Thanksgiving break. We'll see if that is the solution.

Archivist for Quest: We are in need of an Archivist/Historian, to help us sort through and possibly digitize our records. It was suggested that Michael ask for volunteers at the General Meeting.

Copyright Infringement: A question was raised on this issue when copies of books or magazine articles are made for us for use in class. An interesting discussion followed. Wayne noted that Steve Allen (for example) uses only material that is publicly available on the web. A different position may apply to short stories. No solution was offered. One idea that was presented was to have Quest subscribe to publications in which these stories are printed. That may help solve the problem. No action was taken.

General Meeting: The meeting will take place a week from Wednesday. Topics to be discussed are The Emergency Response Team, Next Semester's Curriculum, the need for an Archivist/Historian, and more.

Hot Water for Tea: It seems we have a number of tea drinkers among our membership including several Brits who enjoy a

“cuppa.” Beverly moved that we buy an 8-10 cup electric tea pot for that purpose. The motion carried. One of the resident Brits will purchase a kettle that meets their high British standards.

Holiday/Christmas Party: This year’s party will be held on Thursday, Dec. 11th. Last year we had a very successful luncheon Holiday/Christmas Party and we will be repeating that effort. All the food will be from the same vendor in Brooklyn that Carolyn McGuire so aptly arranged. Ruth Kovner will attend to the rest. We have a committee to assist both ladies.

Video Taping: There are so many excellent presentations and so many wonderful choices of classes to attend. At times it is an impossible choice. The suggestion arose as to the possibility of taping some of the presentations. It’s clear this is too costly a proposition and too complicated a process at the moment. No action was taken.

Bill Stanley gave a superlative presentation on the Kinder Transport. Opposite it was Great Plays. Many of us missed Bill’s presentation. However, his son videotaped the presentation. Perhaps it can be shown during lunch or after class. Or it can be repeated as part of the Summer Session. To be discussed.

Course Cancellation: With the unpredictability of the weather, unexpected illness of a presenter, etc. this can be an issue. The

suggestion was made to schedule it after class Tuesday or Thursday at 1:00 pm during Summer Session. Michael so moved and it was seconded.

The meeting concluded at 3:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ruth Kovner, Quest Council Secretary

Ruth Kovner

QUEST COUNCIL MINUTES: DEC. 1, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm. Present were: Michael Wellner, Carolyn McGuire, Ruth Kovner, Wayne Cotter, Beverly Francus, David Lewis, Bob Moore, John Sicree and Sandra Southwell. Jane Pittson-Chianese and Bob Hartmann were unable to attend.

- 1) Minutes: Sandra Southwell moved to accept the Minutes of the Nov 12th General Meeting as well as the Minutes of the November 3rd Quest Council Meeting, both as amended. Beverly Francus seconded the motion and it was carried.
- 2) Current Membership: Our membership stands at 217 members strong. Michael Wellner made particular mention of the super job done by Steve Allen with the able assistance of Eneida Cruz, comparing last year's attendance to this year's. Despite the increase in membership the actual attendance does not appear to have increased substantially from last year.
- 3) Lunchroom Seating: Several members were concerned with the lack of sufficient chairs in the lunchroom at lunchtime. Michael has spoken with Nina Woods at CCNY who has said that chairs can be moved from the auditorium or elsewhere to accommodate all.
- 4) Treasurer's Report: John Sicree reported that the CD that we currently have at Chase is maturing very soon. They are currently paying a VERY low interest rate (0.20%) and John is currently exploring alternatives for this money, including Synchronicity Bank and IDB-Israel Discount Bank, both of which are paying over 4 times as much (.090%). John has spent much time researching the field for the highest return, and will likely switch to IDB as our CD matures. IDB will also allow us to access the funds in the CD without penalty should the need arise. In general our financial condition remains sound.

5) Travel Plans for Quest Members:

- a. New Orleans : Carolyn reported that the only change was the flight plans. All else remains the same. They are all ready for this trip which is scheduled to leave on Jan. 18th.
- b. Iceland : Quest will only be going if there is an Arts Festival during the time the trip is scheduled. Carolyn will report back to us on this.
- c. Stratford Festival, Ontario: Thus far 12 members have expressed interest. Carolyn will follow up with the tour operator.
- d. Prague-Budapest River Cruise: 2 people have paid a deposit so far. Overall nine people have expressed interest. All bookings must be made directly with Grand Circle Travel.

7) Tech Issues:

- a. Podium updates: Many presenters have had difficulty with the podiums in recent weeks. Robert has advised us that his team is in the process of updating the software on all the machines which should be completed now. We'll see if the problems continue.

There has also been a problem with internet connectivity of which Robert is aware. It seems to be a Time-Warner issue and he and the CCNY staff uptown are trying to resolve it. No news as yet.

- a. WiFi Access:

Access is complete and appears to be working very well.

- 8) Christmas/Holiday Party – scheduled on Thursday the 11th at noon: Ruth Kovner reported that all planning is complete. The Party Committee has met. All know exactly what to do. The food has been ordered by Carolyn

McGuire. We are planning on 150 people and should more attend we can accommodate them. We are in good shape and ready.

- 9) End of Year Annual Party: There has been some thought given to finding an alternate location for this year's May luncheon. Bob Moore mentioned that the new restaurant that just opened at Pier "A" might be a possibility. He and Jane Lubin will check it out. This will be discussed in more detail in future meetings.

David Lewis moved to adjourn the meeting; Carolyn McGuire seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Ruth Kovner

Ruth Kovner
Quest Council Secretary

QUEST COUNCIL MINUTES: Feb. 9th, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 2:36 pm. Present were Michael Wellner, Carolyn McGuire, Ruth Kovner, Wayne Cotter, Beverly Francus, Bob Hartmann, David Lewis, Bob Moore, Jane Pittson-Chianese, John Sicree and Sandra Southwell. Pam Gemelli, chair of the Membership Committee, joined for the first 15 minutes or so.

- 1) The Minutes: The Minutes of the previous meeting, December 2014, were accepted unanimously as written.
- 2) Membership: Pam Gemelli reported that we have reached our cap of 225 members, and we have 6 potential new members on the waiting list, who are eager to join. Others did not want to wait and have joined other groups. The issue of temporarily increasing the membership cap by ten was discussed. Pam noted that all new members are encouraged to deliver presentations or contribute in other ways, such as preparing the coffee or working on committees.

After some discussion, a motion was made and unanimously approved as follows: "Quest will temporarily increase the number of maximum members from 225 to 235 until the end of the current term; absent any further action, the cap will revert to 225 at the beginning of the fall term. At the annual General Meeting scheduled in April, the Council will poll all Quest members to obtain a "sense of the membership" on permanently increasing the membership cap above 225. The final decision will, however, rest with the Council."

- 3) Treasurer's Report: John reported that he has opened a new savings account with IDB, earning 0.9% interest rather than the 0.2% we were getting at Chase. This should result in interest earnings of about an additional \$1,000. And we can access the funds with no penalty whenever we want. Quest continues to remain in a very strong financial position.
- 4) Travel Updates: According to Carolyn McGuire, our in-house travel guru:
 - a. The New Orleans trip was a huge success, with about twenty-seven travelers going in January. All enjoyed themselves.
 - b. The Budapest-Prague river cruise has approximately ten passengers booked. All arrangements are being handled by Grand Circle Travel, in Boston.
 - c. Plans are well along for our Iceland trip, in late May. Right now we have around twenty Quest members joining the group.

d. Finally it looks like we will organize a trip to the Stratford Shakespeare Festival in August, followed by two or three days in Toronto. Right now it appears that we have a sufficient number of members interested to make this trip a reality.

There was some discussion that we may be planning too many trips; Carolyn and others suggested that we might in the future focus on just two “big” trips a year, one in January and one in August, when Quest is not in session.

5) End of Year Party:

a. Right now our plans call for returning to the same restaurant, Battery Park Gardens, for our end of year party, on the Wednesday. There was some discussion that the quality of the food has not been as good as should be. We will explore with the restaurant management whether an increase in cost would result in an increase in quality. Sandy Gordon and Jane Lubin will explore and report back.

Since Battery Gardens Restaurant is booked on our final Thursday, we have to hold our luncheon the day before, on Wednesday. We discussed the possibility of canceling Thursday classes and simply ending the term on Wednesday afternoon after lunch. We agreed to discuss this with the Curriculum Committee and the Thursday class coordinators.

6) Nominations & Elections Committee: Bob Hartmann was selected as the Council member on the Nominating Committee. Eight names of Quest members were selected, from which Bob will draw the four additional members of the NEC required by our By-Laws.

7) Offices Open for Election: In the coming year there are five positions that need be filled: The President, and four Council members. Beverly Francus has chosen not to re-run; Sandra Southwell’s second term will expire in May, and she cannot run again. Wayne Cotter and Bob Moore have indicated that they will each stand for re-election, as will Michael.

8) Noontime Knowledge: This was proposed as the new name of our “Lunch and Learn” classes that are held between the morning and afternoon sessions. These have proved immensely successful (thank you Steve).

9) Volunteers for the Coffee/Tea Committee: What would mornings and/or lunch be without coffee or tea? To continue this service without charge we ask that just a few more people volunteer for this wonderful perk. We need you!

- 10) Canceling classes in the case of inclement weather: This issue seems to arise every winter. Once again it was agreed that any decision to cancel classes will be made on a case by case basis.
- 11) Emergency Response Team: Lila Heilbrunn and Doreen DeMartini have proposed that our Quest ID tags be re-done, to include emergency information on the back. More information will be forthcoming.
- 12) A Stand-by Wheelchair for Quest: By unanimous vote the Council voted to approve the purchase of one special fold-up wheelchair to be kept in the office should anyone require it.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ruth Kovner

Ruth Kovner,
Secretary of Quest Council

Quest Council Minutes...March 2, 2015

All Council members were present: Michael Wellner, Carolyn McGuire, Ruth Kovner, John Sicree, Wayne Cotter, Beverly Francus, Bob Hartmann, David Lewis, Bob Moore, Jane Pittson-Chianese, and Sandra Southwell .

1. **February Minutes:** The February Minutes were accepted as submitted.

2. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - a) A minor discrepancy in the CCNY Quest account was discovered by Marty Halpern. The closing balance at the end of FY 2013 differed by some \$600 from the opening balance of FY 2014. We have already contacted CCNY and they are looking into the problem.

 - b) The Quest Bylaws call for a three-member Auditing Committee to be appointed each year. This year's committee will consist of Marty Halpern (Chair), Bob Moore and David Abrahams.

 - c) Otherwise the Treasurer reports that Quest is in very good financial shape.

3. **Membership:** Currently we are now a very strong 230 member organization. At the last meeting the council approved a temporary (until the end of this term) increase in the membership cap of 235. The Council has agreed to poll the members at the upcoming General Meeting in order to get a sense of the membership on how many new members we should admit. Right now we seem to have no problem in attracting people who are interested in joining Quest.

- 4) **Travel Updates:**
 - **Iceland:** We are proceeding with this trip, scheduled to depart May 27th and return June 2nd. Thus far 15 people have signed up and we are essentially full.

- **Stratford**: Currently there are 8 members who have expressed an interest in making this trip. We need just two more members in order for this trip to proceed.
- **Budapest-Prague Danube River Trip**: As of now we have eight Questers booked. There is still time for others to enjoy this wonderful trip.

5) **End of the Year Party**: This is our 20th Year Anniversary! We are planning on trying to do a couple of “special” things to commemorate this auspicious occasion. Once again the luncheon will be at the Battery Park Gardens restaurant. It is in a lovely setting and fairly close to 25 Broadway. We will speak to the restaurant manager about trying to improve the overall quality of the food. More about this in the future.

6) **Quest Bylaws**: A proposal will be put to the membership at the General meeting, to approve an amendment that will allow Committee Members who have served up to three years on any given committee, not as Chair, to serve an additional two years as Chair of that committee for a total of five years service.

7) **Noontime Knowledge**: CWE has asked that we restrict the use of Rooms 15-17 to as few times as possible. For now we will continue this very successful program to room 27.

8) **Dominick Chianese and his Musical Group**: We wish to commend Dominick and his group for the outstanding presentation in our American Folk Music course. All had a wonderful time listening and singing along when appropriate. Everyone left the auditorium smiling. Many thanks.

9) **Other**: Wayne Cotter noted that on May 5, 2014 Quest Council unanimously passed a motion that no Quest member be compensated for any business service he or she performs on behalf of Quest. He then made a motion, seconded by Beverly Francus, that this policy does not preclude Quest from notifying members of artistic events – such as art shows, concerts or theatrical performances – regardless of whether the Quest member involved in the event receives compensation for such participation. This additional motion was also passed unanimously by Quest Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Ruth Kovner

Ruth Kovner
Secretary

QUEST COUNCIL MINUTES...March 30th, 2015

Council members present include: Michael Wellner, Ruth Kovner, John Sicree, Wayne Cotter, Bob Hartmann, David Lewis, Bob Moore, Jane Pittson-Chianese and Sandra Southwell. Absent were Carolyn McGuire and Beverly Francus.

- 1. Minutes of March 2nd:** Wayne Cotter moved to accept the Minutes with one change clarifying Quest's position on members posting notices about other members who may be performing in and about the city. The motion was seconded by Sandra Southwell and was approved unanimously.
- 2. Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer John Sicree was pleased to report that our financial situation is robust and healthy.
- 3. Membership:** Another new member was welcomed today. This leaves us with just one more open slot before we reach our current capacity of 235 members. This year we seem to have no difficulty in signing up new members. Word of mouth by our current membership is working. We can only hope that this trend continues.
- 4. Hearing Loop:** During the Spring break a new contractor will come in and assess our current status and make any repairs that he can. Stay tuned for an update. The Council is determined to try and complete this project once and for all.
- 5. Annual Party:** This is our 20th Anniversary Year and we plan on making the end of year party a gala one. The food will be upgraded at no extra cost and there will be champagne for everyone for a toast to Quest!!! We urge all to attend and celebrate with us.
- 6. Travel program:** All is as was reported in the past few Quest Minutes; trips to Iceland and Budapest & Prague are on schedule. The proposed trip to Stratford and Toronto is on hold, awaiting more members who wish to participate. Currently we're seeking suggestions for future trips. Please contact any of us on the Quest council with any ideas for future trips for Quest members.

7. **General Meeting:** Our General Meeting is scheduled for this coming Wednesday, April 15th. We urge you to attend. Important items will be discussed such as limits on the size of our membership. Come and share your point of view. Statistics on actual attendance have been distributed to all members.

Also at the meeting we will be voting on two (relatively small) changes to the bylaws. We need a quorum to insure a meaningful vote; we hope and assume that the body of membership will pass our proposal to accept the newly amended bylaws. Please try and attend the meeting; we welcome your input.

8. **Summer School:** a) We have received many responses to our request to select your favorite presentations for repeat performances during the Summer Session. The Coordinators will choose the best from these possibilities. It will give those of us who have not yet had a chance to attend these presentations another opportunity to see them and participate in classroom discussions. Classes during the summer will be 1 ½ hours in duration. (10:30 - 12:00 noon, on Tuesdays and Thursdays).

11. **Q Review:** Our 20th Anniversary issue is just about completed, and will be ready for distribution before the end of April.

All business having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 3:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Ruth Koyner

Secretary

Quest Council Minutes...April 27, 2015 (May meeting)

All Council members were present. Michael Wellner, Carolyn McGuire, John Sicree, Ruth Kovner, Wayne Cotter, Beverly Francus, Bob Hartmann, David Lewis, Bob Moore, Jane Pittson-Chianese and Sandra Southwell.

Agenda:

- 1) **Minutes of General Membership Meeting on April 15th, 2015:**
Approved unanimously by the Council.
- 2) **Minutes of Council meeting on March 30, 2015:** Approved unanimously by the Council.
- 3) **Reports from the Invited Committee Chairs:**
 - a) **Steve Allen – Internet & Webmaster**
 - 1) **Quest Website:** Steve described in detail the following Quest information included on the Website: The Weekly Schedule, Fall & Spring (2015) Course Catalogs, Q News, Q Review and information on all committees including descriptions of these committees and their members.
 - 2) He suggested that more and more of our new members are now finding us on the internet.
 - 3) **Additional website:** There is currently a separate website, password protected, which includes photos of members and minutes of the Council meetings. He asked whether we should we keep this website separate and private? The

conclusion was that it need not be a separate website, but rather could just be a “tab” on the existing questlifelong.org website – but that that information must be password protected.

- 4) Steve also suggested that the current “application” form on the website be discontinued in favor of asking prospective members to simply call first and make an appointment to physically come into Quest and meet with the membership committee. All agreed.
- 5) Quest Archives: Steve has electronic archives of much of our material (course catalogs; Q Review; Q News; a listing of all courses ever offered at Quest, Council minutes, and more). We have the material but may want to explore hiring an intern who could focus on this project. Perhaps a CCNY student with a library sciences background would be interested.
- 6) The Weekly Schedule: Kudos to Roz Shacter and Wayne Cotter for their excellent work in compiling and distributing the Next Week at Quest e-mails.

b) June Dwyer – Curriculum Committee Chair:

1) Innovations:

a) Box in lunchroom for suggestions for the best presentations during the Fall & Spring semesters to be included in the Summer Session. This year’s Summer Session Committee includes Joan Briller, Caroline Thompson and June Dwyer.

b) Noontime Knowledge: Very successful and will continue.

- c) Fascinating Non-fiction**
- d) Folk Music**

2) June will be retiring as Committee Chair, and will be replaced by Caroline Thompson. Both are soliciting volunteers for three vacancies on that committee. Any Quest member may apply.

c) Frieda Lipp - Scheduling Committee:

- 1. Frieda reported that some courses have been shifted in the schedule, affording the opportunity for people who might otherwise have not been to attend a specific course to do so now. Overall a special vote of thanks was extended to Frieda for her hard work and successful efforts this year. Scheduling is surely one of the more difficult tasks at Quest!**
- 2. Marian Friedmann to take will assume the chair of this committee next term.**
- 3. As a corollary, special mention was made of Lynnel Garabedian's efforts with the new Course Catalogue. Excellent job – well done.**

4) John Sicree - Treasurer's Report:

- 1. We have asked CCNY to transfer another \$25,000 to our account.**

5) Hearing Loop Report – Michael:

We are attempting to final repair and complete the original hearing loop work contracted for by CCNY but never successfully completed. To that end we have hired a consultant who was here during our Spring Break, and did some work in the five rooms that we use (Auditorium, 27, 22, 21 and 19). Robert Hernandez (of CCNY) will also do some work that hopefully will finally complete this project. Hallelujah! (Note that the original work has never been paid, and any expenses now incurred will be deducted from the original contractor's invoice.)

Review of General Meeting:

- a) The changed to the bylaws were approved unanimously.**

- b) We reviewed the discussion about membership at the General Membership. We now have 234 members, and we will see what our summer attrition is before any further decisions are reached. The results of the survey distributed at the General Meeting showed a slight preference for maintaining current levels, but it was also noted that the majority of Quest members expressed no opinion on the subject (only about 60 forms were returned).**

- c) So far we have a few new members signed up for the summer session only. If vacancies occur in the Fall they will be the first to be admitted.**

- d) There was considerable discussion on the inevitability of growth, and how we determine who gets admitted and who not, if we reach our established cap. There was a strong preference for a first-come first-served policy.**
- e) Diversity: Hy Gold and Peretta Rodriguez have each voiced their concern about the lack of diversity within Quest. Hy in particular has volunteered to lead an effort to attract a more diverse membership.**

2. Carolyn McGuire – Travel Committee:

- a) The Stratford Trip has been cancelled because there was not enough interest.**
- b) We are actively looking at a trip to Columbia for January of 2016.**
- c) A trip to Banff/Lake Louise and the Canadian Rockies and perhaps Vancouver as well is also a possibility for 2016.**

3. Additional Items:

- 1) Beverly Francus raised the issue of increasing Eneida's salary. Eneida currently makes \$18.50 per hour, and Beverly proposed a raise of \$.50 per hour. After some brief discussion, led by Carolyn McGuire, it was agreed to raise her salary to \$20 per**

hour. Bob Moore seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously. Michael will so advise CCNY who administers her payroll.

2) Bob Hartmann raised the issue of Quest's forming a "Heritage Society" to acknowledge people who have or are planning to leave money to Quest in their will. Michael volunteered to join Bob to look further into this. All agreed it was an excellent idea.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 pm, all business having been concluded.

Respectfully submitted:

Ruth Kovner

Ruth Kovner,
Secretary

