

## QUEST COUNCIL MINUTES DECEMBER 4, 2018

Council members present were: Betty Farber, Steve Allen, Carolyn McGuire, Phil Gisser, Frieda Lipp, Jennifer Jolly, Marian Friedmann, Pam Gemelli, Eileen Kelly, Bob Gottfried. Jane Lubin was absent.

Bob Gottfried opened the meeting at 2:35 and followed the agenda. He pointed out two changes in the new Spring Curriculum Brochure. First, the course Economic Inequality will not be scheduled and in its place Steven Baker will coordinate a course dealing with "Islands". Also the Collage workshop will be cancelled due to a lack of interested participants.

Treasurer's Report -Treasurer Steve Allen gave the Treasurer's report and informed us that there have been no recent significant changes in our fiscal picture. The projection from last month of \$139,000 in membership fees and \$130,000 in expenses, resulting in a \$9,000 surplus, for the 2018-2019 fiscal year still looks correct prior to any Council decisions to increase spending. The generous \$200,000 bequest we have received from the estate of Ken Leedom has been deposited, but the funds have not yet cleared. Once these funds clear, we will probably need to invest them in Treasury securities, since there only appears to be one bank, First Republic, offering favorable certificate of deposit rates on corporate accounts and we can't add to our deposits with this bank without going over the \$250,000 limit for FDIC insurance. Quest needs to open a brokerage account in order to buy Treasuries. Steve has begun work on this, but it may take some time due to complex banking regulations. In the meantime, these deposits will be moved to our savings account at HSBC, where we have sufficient room below the \$250,000 FDIC limit. Once we have a brokerage account in place, the Council will be consulted, by email, prior to any decision on the length of Treasury security to purchase.

Marketing & Communications report- The Council passed a motion by Steve Allen to accept a recommendation from the Marketing and Communications Committee to increase its 2018-2019 budget from \$1,500 to \$6,000 to allow the Committee to consider a significant upgrade to the marketing capabilities of Quest's website. This increase of \$4,500 would cover the \$3,500 cost to Bound-By for redesigning the website to improve its ability to attract new members and \$1,000 to cover maintenance that might be needed once the website is redesigned. The Committee pointed out that attracting new members through the website and not just from referrals by current members should be part of Quest's goal to broaden our membership base. The redesign would include the important step of making our website look better on mobile devices, such as cell phones, can be accomplished for \$3,500.

A Technology Committee motion by Steve Allen was passed by the Council to authorize a \$3,500 allocation from our reserve funds for improvement of the sound system in Room 15-17, recommended to the Technology Committee by Robert Hernandez of CWE. By installing two microphones on the podium with longer goose necks, the microphones will better pick up a speaker's voice as he or she moves from side to side, compensating for the fact that the keyboard prevents the speaker from getting close

enough to the present mic. An auxiliary speaker in the rear of the room would allow people in the rear to hear without blasting the people in the front.

Bob Gottfried made a motion to increase Eneida Cruz's end of year bonus. It was passed unanimously.

The members of the Nominating and Election Committee (NEC) was presented. The council approved the appointment of Ruth Ward, Mary Ann Donnelly, Marybeth Yakoubian, Roy Clary, and as a Council member, Marian Friedmann. Current Council members whose terms will be ending in 2019 are Jane Lubin, Frieda Lipp, Eileen Kelly and Pam Gemelli. All current Council members, except for Jane Lubin are eligible to be nominated and reelected. Jane has been a member for 4 years so she is not eligible to be nominated and reelected. The NEC are encouraged to nominate at least two Quest members for each position. Bob Gottfried's term will expire in the Spring of 2019 also. He is eligible to be nominated and to serve for an additional two years. The NEC will be encouraged to nominate an additional member to run. If any current Council member who is nominated to run for President, he/she, must resign from the current position upon acceptance of the nomination.

The Council reviewed the new Marketing brochure and made one suggestion regarding a photo of people with their backs to the camera.

Ad-Hoc Committee re Bequest- Finally, a review of the first meeting of the AD-hoc committee, formed to recommend to the Council possible uses for the \$300,000 bequest from Peter Cott and Ken Leedom

The committee met on Monday November 26<sup>th</sup> with committee members: BobHartmann, Pam Gemelli, Carolyn McGuire (Secretary), Michael Wellner, Steve Allen (Treasurer), Jane Lubin, Marian Friedmann (Vice President) and Bob Gottfried (President).

Suggestions were made and discussed and brought to the Council at the December 4<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. The Council heard the suggestions and decided they would need more information prior to making recommendations. The Ad-hoc committee will need more time to discuss the various suggestions.

Suggestions included:

- 1-Hold on to the money and bank it for now
- 2-Hire professional instructors to give classes to teach and train Quest members in ways and methods of making better presentations
- 3-Allocate some funds to a marketing program to attract new members
- 4-Allocate \$5,000 each semester towards a "super star" outside speaker and "brand" the program as the "Peter Cott & Ken Leedom Memorial Lecture series
- 5-Reserve some money for equipment that would enable us to record classes and then post them to the house-bound
- 6-Allocate some money towards the 25<sup>th</sup> Gala Anniversary party

Finally, just after the meeting was adjourned, Bob Gottfried announced that it was suggested that the Chair of the Guest Speaker Program be invited to the February Council meeting in order to discuss Speaker quality. Those who were present agreed to this.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn McGuire