

Quest Council Minutes, Feb. 5, 2018

President Bob Gottfried called the meeting to order at 2:32 pm. In attendance were Steve Allen, Marian Friedmann, Pam Gemelli, Phil Gisser, Bob Hartmann, Ruth Kovner, Jane Lubin, Michael Wellner and David Judlowitz. Eileen Kelly and Frieda Lippe were unable to attend.

Welcome David Judlowitz: David has joined the Quest Council as a replacement for Bob Reiss who resigned last December. David will serve for the remainder of Bob's term which ends in May for this year. (He is eligible for reelection.) We are pleased to welcome David to the Council.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Allen, Treasurer assures us that we are on track to break even or perhaps have a small surplus at the end of this fiscal year (2017-2018.) We estimate revenues of about \$130,000, and expenses slightly less.

Our total bank balance is about \$250,000 and that is after paying \$4,000 for the new hearing loop in Rooms 15-17. Steve has informed us that he is looking at opening a new savings account that might earn us more interest. And Steve is also contemplating opening a credit card account for Quest to be used only for Quest business. Such a card carries cash rewards that would accrue to us; it can be used to pay for "big" items such as our two annual restaurant events. More information to follow.

Audit Committee: Bob Gottfried reported that our Audit Committee Chairman Herb Folpe has tendered his resignation. Michael Wellner will serve as interim Chair until the end of the fiscal year (June 30): David Judlowitz and John Sicree will serve on the committee.

Recap of the Holiday Party: It was agreed by all Council members present who attended the event that the holiday dinner was a huge success. However, we are sensitive to the fact that for those who are physically challenged by walking up and down stairs, or by a restaurant that presented a problem. For future events, we will make every effort to find a location that is handicapped accessible. A motion was offered to make this an absolute requirement; that motion was not passed. A second motion was proposed which stated that finding a restaurant that is handicapped accessible will be a high priority when choosing a place for our 2018 Holiday Party. That motion passed easily.

Membership Report: Our current membership count is 235. There are interviews scheduled with 5 or 6 prospective new members, and it is likely that we will finish this year at close to 240 members. A proposal was made to maintain the current membership cap (of 260) for another year (2018-2019.) That motion was approved.

Hearing Enhancement System: A new hearing loop has been installed in Rooms 15-17, and appears to be working well. The Council also noted that we have on hand one or two devices that are used to test the system, and can be used for those without hearing aids who may need

assistance in listening to presentations. Any member who may be interested should stop by the office.

NEC Committee and Upcoming Election Update: Members of the Nominating and Election Committee are Paul Adler, Leslie Goldman, Bob Hartmann, John Hood and Nan MacNamara. Bob Hartmann, the Council member of the Committee, informed us that the first organizational meeting will be held on Wednesday at 2:30 pm on Feb.21st.

Date for Elections in 2018: Bob Hartmann made a motion to have this year's election on May 1st and May 2nd. It passed unanimously.

Change in Board Committee Liaisons: Michael Wellner will now be the Liaison for the Scheduling Committee and Bob Gottfried will do the same for the Diversity Committee. They are switching responsibilities.

Hearing Aid Information: Marian Friedman expressed her concern that some Quest members may not have up-to-date information about new hearing aids and technology. She suggested we might try and invite some audiology professionals to speak, perhaps at a noontime session, to those who may be interested. Bob Gottfried agreed to get feedback from those hearing impaired members. Phil Gisser suggested the Tech committee should also provide input.

Quest Website: Steve Allen reported that his efforts to merge the old "members only" Quest website into the single "questlifelong" website, with a password protected members-only page, has run into minor snags. Specifically there seem to be a few problems with members obtaining their individual passwords. Any member who does encounter such a problem is asked to contact Steve Allen at stevenallen2@gmail.com for a temporary solution.

Bob Gottfried also advised that the upcoming fall term will begin on September 4th, the day after Labor Day. It will run for 14 weeks.

Finally, Bob G. advised that the next Council meeting will be held on Monday, March 5th, 2:30 pm.

All business having been completed the meeting was adjourned at precisely 3:17 pm.
Respectfully submitted by:

Ruth

Ruth Kovner