

Minutes of Quest Meeting March 5th, 2018

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

The meeting opened with invited guest, Doreen De Martini, Co-Chair of the Diversity Committee. Doreen reported on many attempts that she and her team have made to reach out to various organizations with memberships that could add to Quest's inclusiveness. There has been no response to date. Doreen then said that she and Vivian Oliver, Committee Co-Chair, recommended disbanding the committee and merging the goals and activities of the Diversity Committee with another existing Quest Committee. The Council will discuss the need to find ways to continue our efforts to attract more culturally diverse members to Quest, and agreed to further investigate the suggestions offered by Doreen at our next meeting on April 10th.

Next, Rosalie Regal, who had asked to address the Council and the Council unanimously voted to invite her. In her statement, she made it clear that she did not voluntarily leave her position as a co-coordinator of the Film Class. The Council discussed the issues raised. It was the consensus of the members present that, while it is unfortunate that disputes occasionally arise between Quest members, Quest as an organization, has no power to resolve them and that, therefore, the Council will not take any position with respect to such disputes.

Treasurer's Report. Steve Allen, Treasurer assures us that we remain 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 (this is after we allocated the \$5,300 capital expense for the new hearing loops in Room 15-17 as a charge against our accumulated surplus rather than as a current expense).

Steve also reported that he has moved virtually all of the \$200,000 that we held in a savings account at Israel Discount Bank (IDB) into our checking account at Chase. He and John Sicree, former Quest Treasurer, believe that the level of service provided by the bank (IDB) was not up to the level anticipated. Those funds will be invested in a CD (or similar) that will yield a much higher interest rate --- and that any funds invested will be FDIC insured. Steve made a motion to accept his Treasurer's Report which was seconded by Marian Friedmann. The motion passed unanimously.

NEC: Nominating and Elections Committee: The following Council members' terms are expiring at the end of this year (May 31): Vice President: Marian Friedmann, Secretary: Ruth Kovner, and Treasurer: Steve Allen. Also Council Members at Large Phil Gisser, Bob Hartmann, and David Judlowitz. Some are ineligible to run again,

having served two terms already. The NEC is in the process of soliciting new candidates to run for all open positions.

Quest Scheduling Committee: There was a lively discussion on the difficult process of scheduling Quest's classes. Some thought that literature (and similar) classes should not compete with one another, and that should be the Committee's #1 priority. However, others who have done scheduling for several years stated that actually the #1 priority has to be that the Lead Coordinator is available at the scheduled time and that the Lead Coordinator be consulted before an existing class is moved to a new time slot. The Council did agree to a motion by Steve Allen to recommend to the Scheduling Committee that having similar classes not compete with one another take priority over the desire to not schedule two new classes in the same time slot. And we all agreed that scheduling is a difficult task, with many competing priorities.

Year End Luncheon May 9th, 2018: Jane Lubin, Chair of this committee, informs us that the room has been booked and plans are forming to ensure a successful year-end luncheon. She will make sure that the flyer with information about the luncheon will be sent out before the April General Meeting. A Save-the-Date blurb will appear at the top of the Weekly Class Schedule in the near future.

Restructuring of Quest Dues: A proposal was made to restructure our membership dues in order to offer reduced fees to those who join in mid-semester. Bob Gottfried, President and Roy Clary, Membership Committee Chair suggested the following:

Join during the Fall term\$550
 Join at the start of the Spring term..... \$375
 Join between March 15th & Term End . \$250
 And the Summer only, remains at\$100

The council approved this with a unanimous vote.

General Meeting: April 25th is the date of the next General Meeting. The courses scheduled for the next year are to be briefly described. The ERT Chairman, Doreen De Martini, will discuss in short how the Emergency Rescue Team provides a valuable service for Quest. The Travel Committee Chair will give everybody a brief preview of the trips planned for the coming year. We will also hear briefly from other Committee Chairmen.

The next Quest Council Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 10th**.

Our meeting was adjourned by Bob Gottfried, President, at 3:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Ruth

Ruth Kovner, Secretary