

Minutes of Quest Council Meeting May 8th, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 2:33 PM by Bob Gottfried, President. In attendance were Council members Marian Friedmann, Pam Gemelli, Phil Gisser, Bob Gottfried, Bob Hartmann, David Judlowitz, Eileen Kelly, Ruth Kovner, Jane Lubin, and Frieda Lipp as well as Michael Wellner (former Quest President). Steve Allen was traveling and unable to attend.

1. Invited Guests: The winners of the recent election, Carolyn McGuire, Jennifer Jolly and Betty Farber were invited to attend the meeting (and did so), although they will not formally take their seats until June 1st.

2. Conflict of Interest statements: As required by law, these statements were distributed to all members of the 2018-19 council, and were duly signed and returned to the President.

3. Diversity Committee: Bob G. began the formal agenda by discussing the issue of the Quest Diversity Committee. To address the question of trying to make Quest more diverse, Bob suggested that there are three options going forward: a) Reconstitute the Diversity Committee; b) Fold it into the existing Marketing & Communications Committee; or c) Leave diversity efforts to the Council. All quickly agreed that Option "C" was not viable. After considerable discussion, a proposal was made to pursue Option "A" and reconstitute the Diversity Committee. The committee also recognizes as an important part of its franchise, close coordination with all pertinent committees, particularly the Marketing and Communications as well as the Membership Committees.

That motion was approved (by an 8-2 vote), and Bob will now solicit new leaders for that committee.

4. Grievance Committee: Following the brief "discussion" at the General Meeting the Council had a lively discussion about the establishment of a formal Grievance Committee at Quest. Although there were arguments on both sides of the question, a consensus of the Council emerged rather quickly that there was no need for such a committee. Any quest member who has a grievance can easily approach the President or any council member directly, (or any committee chair), to have his/her issue(s) addressed.

5. Treasurer's Report: Although Steve is away, he left a written report, which is attached hereto.

6. Two Tech Proposals: Michael brought two items to the Council's attention. The first was a request from Wayne Cotter (and backed by Robert Hernandez) that we purchase two used DVD/VCR players, to be on standby in case any of these players now in the podiums become inoperative. Michael explained that these units are old and

no longer manufactured, and parts are impossible to obtain. But used complete units can be found, at a cost of about \$250 each. The Council agreed to purchase two of these units.

Next, Michael relayed a request from Robert that Quest fund his purchase of a new testing meter, at a \$600 cost, that will better enable him to diagnose any problems that may exist with the hearing loops. This is partly a result of some complaints (directed to Michael) that the hearing loop in Room 15-17 did not seem to be working. Marian Friedmann responded that her hearing aids, equipped with the T-Coil, work perfectly in that room. After some discussion, it was agreed that we would assemble a small group of Quest members who have hearing aids equipped with the T-Coil and see if we can determine whether or not the loop is working (in 15-17) before we spend the money to purchase any new equipment. Marian will spearhead this effort.

7. New Committee Chairs: Bob announced that he will propose to the new Council at its June meeting the following Committee Chairs:

Audit : David Judlowitz
 Travel: Carolyn McGuire
 Mentoring: Arlene Hajinlian & Larry Shapiro
 Caring: Eleanor Maurillo & Mary Ellen McKenna
 Coffee: Roberta Schoenfield
 CultureQuest: Renee Woloshin
 Scheduling: Caroline Thompson
 Curriculum: Brenda Wilder /Vice Chair: Joyce West
 Marketing & Communications: Leslie Goldman
 Q Review: Wayne Cotter
 AV & Technology: Wayne Cotter
 ERT: Doreen DeMartini
 Facilities: Victor Brenner
 Q News: Carolyn McGuire
 Membership: Michael Wellner
 Diversity: To be determined

8. Last Minute Class Cancellations: The Council has become aware that last Monday the “Turning Points in American History” class was canceled at the last minute because the presenter was ill. It is the sense of the Council that such cancellations should be avoided if at all possible. Coordinators should be ready with a “back-up” presentation, or (better yet) should obtain the originally scheduled presentation from the original presenter (by e-mail) and be prepared to step in and do their best to give the original presentation. Or, the coordinator could simply go to You Tube and find a relevant film, or Ted talk that could fill the time. It was agreed that in September a meeting of all course coordinators would be scheduled to review these options, and stress the importance of not canceling classes.

All business having been concluded, President Bob Gottfried adjourned the meeting at 3:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Ruth & Michael

Ruth Kovner
Secretary

Michael Wellner
Assistant Pro-tem