

## Minutes of the Quest General Membership Meeting 8 November 2017

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 PM by the President, Bob Gottfried. There were 92 Quest members in attendance. On each person's chair were handouts about the upcoming holiday party, proposed Quest trips for this coming winter/spring/summer, emergency procedures information, and the caring committee.

Bob began by thanking the Council members and Committee Chairs and committee members, for all their contributions, and especially Eneida Cruz for all her hard work and dedication.

Next Bob announced a new arrangement that he has concluded with One Day University. Any Quest member who has not previously attended a One Day U event may register using the discount code QUEST40 and receive a 40% discount off the normal price. If we get 30 new Quest members who attend any of the One Day U programs, then we will be able to display our Quest material at their registration tables at each of their events. This will be an ideal way for us to attract new members.

Next, Bob again made a plea for coffee volunteers --- without whom there will simply not be morning coffee available at Quest!

Next Bob reported that the Council has approved a \$2,500 budget for the Spring semester for an expanded "Fridays with Quest" program. Pam Gemelli will chair this committee; Bob Reiss will assist. Stay tuned for further details.

Bob (G) also reported that the nascent Social Events Committee has temporarily disbanded; it seems that we have more than enough social events at the moment.

Next: anyone who needs WiFi access at 25 Broadway is invited to please stop by the office for more information.

We have formed a new Committee, chaired by Vivian Oliver, to assist those Quest members with hearing impairments. One of this committee's tasks will be to explore the feasibility of installing a loop in Rooms 15-17.

Finally, Bob summarized the overall health of Quest as "excellent!"

Next, Michael Wellner gave two brief reports on (1) the Emergency Preparedness Team at Quest, and handed out floor plans of the 7<sup>th</sup> floor at 25 Broadway. He commented on the success of the recent evacuation drill, and emphasized the need for silence during such drills. (2) Secondly, Michael commented on the new Caring Committee proposal seeking volunteers willing to help those who live nearby in cases of illness or other emergency. As of now we have almost 55 volunteers signed up; Michael will e-mail a completed list to all Quest members shortly.

Roy Cleary gave a brief recap of the Membership: we now have 228 active members, and he noted that we concluded last year with 250 members, and began this year with an approved cap of 260. We anticipate concluding this year with around 235 or perhaps 240 members.

Next, Carolyn McGuire reviewed the travel programs that are being offered in 2018: two in January (Palm Springs and Key West), three in the late Spring (May -- Croatia, Portugal, and Holland & Belgium), and two in August (the Canadian Maritimes and Ireland). All members are encouraged to complete the travel preference sheet and drop it in the office.

Bob Hartmann next described the plans for our annual holiday luncheon, to be held this year on Friday December 8<sup>th</sup> at noon, at Scaletta Restaurant, 50 West 77<sup>th</sup> Street. Since this restaurant is much larger than last year's venue, we can easily accommodate guests, to include spouses, partners, and friends and family. The cost will be \$40 for Quest members and \$60 for guests; sign-up sheets were distributed at the meeting and will also be e-mailed to all Quest members. We hope everyone will attend.

Next, Leslie Goldman, reported as Chair of the Marketing & Communications Committee. She first repeated Quest's Communication Policy, which clearly states that no Quest communication platform is to be used to disparage in any way any Quest member. A copy was distributed to all members.

Steve Allen next reported that the two current Quest website (questlifelong.org and questmembers.org) will be merged into one (lifelong.org) before the end of the year. Certain information contained on the new website will be password protected, and each individual user will have his/her own password, which should provide increased data security.

He also noted that our class schedules now appear on the computer screens at the entrance to CWE on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor at 25 Broadway.

Sandra Southwell asked whether the increased security from new password procedures would allow Quest membership lists to again be available in electronic format. Steve Allen replied that having an electronic copy of the membership list available to all members still would present significant concerns, but that Council would review the issue once the new password procedures are in place. In any case, members can request printed membership lists from the Quest office.

On a related note, Wayne reported that the new "questbusiness" google group is now up and running. He asked that all members please use "questbusiness" for actual quest business e-mails, such as inquiries/information related to new courses, people looking for coordinators and/or presenters, and the like. The "old" "questcommunity" should be used for social communications, such as tickets to shows and other cultural events, queries about neighborhood goings-on, and the like.

Steve Allen next presented his Treasurer's Report, noting that our finances continue in solid condition. We are projecting about \$130,000 in revenue this year (2017-18), and expenses of roughly the same amount. Current reserves are approximately \$310,000; \$240,000 in our account and \$70,000 in our account at CCNY.

Steve next commented on our daily attendance, which remains fairly unchanged at around 70 people per day, or less than a third of our total membership. And holding three classes simultaneously does not seem to have had much of an impact.

Bob Gottfried next brought to the floor the issue of a minor technical amendment to Quest's bylaws. That proposal had been distributed to all members at least 14 days in

Advance (in accordance with the bylaws), and there was a unanimous vote to approve the minor changes (which are attached).

And finally, Mary Ann Donnelly, Chair of the Curriculum Committee gave a detailed presentation of the plan for courses next spring, and even looking ahead to the fall of 2018. Briefly:

- Ten courses will drop next term
- These will be replaced with a few old courses coming back, such as The Big Picture and Environmental Issues, and one new course: Explorations in Philosophy.

Mary Ann asked members to fill out the slips for recommending specific presentations that her committee should consider for the summer session.

And plans for the fall of 2018 are well underway, with several new courses in the offing.

Finally, Bob (G) opened the floor to any questions, comments or remarks on any topic. Speakers included:

- June Zaccone who asked about a grievance committee at Quest to which any member could bring any questions or complaints. Bob suggested that any council member may easily be approached with such an issue, and that member can then bring it to the attention of the entire Council.
- Howard Salik expressed concern about the drop in membership, and suggested that perhaps the marketing committee might begin to look at ways in which we might make a conscious effort to solicit new members.
- Jill Altman asked how many applicants had actually been rejected for membership; Michael and Steve Rubin (on the membership committee) replied that only one or two were not recommended to join.
- Betty Farber expressed her opinion that not all new members should be required to make a presentation in a class. There are lots of other ways for members to contribute, and not everyone is a "good" presenter.

After a bit more discussion on membership related issues, the meeting was adjourned at 2:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kovner, Secretary

Michael Wellner, Temporary Assistant