

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 7 2018

The General Meeting was opened at 1:03 by President, Bob Gottfried. The meeting was well attended with over 100 in attendance.

Bob Gottfried gave a summary report on the state of Quest and presented the agenda for the meeting. He continued with the best news regarding a bequest by Ken Leedom of \$300,000 to Quest to use as we see fit. Bob nominated a committee to discuss and prepare recommendations as to how to spend this money. The members of the committee are the 4 officers, Bob Gottfried, Steve Allen, Marian Friedman and Carolyn McGuire. In addition, he authorized Jane Lubin, Pam Gemelli, Michael Wellner and Bob Hartmann to also serve. The committee will report their recommendations to the Council.

Steve Allen followed with the Treasurers Report. Quest's finances continue in a healthy state. Our annual revenues from membership fees cover our annual expenses and we have a robust reserve that has primarily been built from charitable contributions that is available for emergencies.

The annual revenue from membership dues will be about \$139,000 this year, about \$9,000 more than currently projected expenses of about \$130,000. About 75% of our \$130,000 in expenses is directly related to CWE – \$67,500 in rent and the cost of an administrative assistant, contributions to CWE, and mandated insurance. Expenses related to CWE also account for about 75% of our \$43,000 increase in annual expenses over the past six years. This increase in expenses can be attributed to our need for extra resources to meet a growing membership, but has been matched by a \$43,000 increase in annual membership fees over the past six years.

Quest reserves of about \$300,000 consist of about \$245,000 in our banking accounts (split roughly between \$5,000 in our Chase checking account, \$200,000 in certificates of deposit at First Republic Bank, and \$40,000 in a savings account at HSBC) and \$55,000 in our account at CWE in excess of budgeted expenses. Our reserves would be available for emergency expenditures such as would be associated with the loss of our CWE-rental space.

This was followed by Steve Allen giving the Attendance status. 1. Attendance is slightly higher on Tuesdays and Wednesdays than on Mondays and Thursdays, averaging about 73, compared to 68 on Mondays and 63 on Thursdays. This is a consistent pattern over the nine terms we have been tracking attendance. On average, each Quest member attends for about 2 1/2 of the possible 8 time slots each week (morning and afternoon of Monday through Thursday). 2. Despite membership rising by 20% from 212 in 2013-2014 to 253 currently, average attendance has only increased by less than 10%, from 65 in the Fall of 2014 to about 70 in the past two Fall terms. 3. Fall attendance is about 8% higher on average than Spring attendance.

The following Committee Chairpersons reviewed the status of their committees:

MEMBERSHIP- Michael Wellner spoke regarding Membership. We ended the semester with 252 and although we lose 10% each fall, a large number of new applicants enroll. Most found QUEST through friends and a few found us on the Website. We should reach our cap of 260 this Spring.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE. A review of the current courses was given by Brenda Wilder who announced that we currently have 41 courses. We will lose 2 courses in the Spring but Pete Weis is coordinating Environmental Issues once again. She also explained the procedures for starting new courses. The Summer Program will be held during June and July on Tuesdays and Thursdays again.

HOLIDAY PARTY- Bob Hartmann announced that the holiday party will be held at NINO's on 1st Avenue between East 72nd and 73rd streets on Friday December 7th from 12-3. Reservations are \$40 for members and \$60 for guests. Bob requested that anyone who play piano is welcome to entertain us.

CULTURE QUEST- Linda Downs spoke briefly about the many museums that are offered on Fridays and is hoping to add museums to some of our "travel trips".

GUEST LECTURES – Arlene Greenbaum reviewed the success of the Fall semester's speakers and is preparing the list for the Spring.

ADVENTURES IN DINING- A new program organized by Frank Montaturo had its successful 1st night last month and is now scheduling a Thai restaurant in Sunnyside Queens for November 28th

TRAVEL AND QNEWS- Carolyn McGuire distributed a survey listing the various trips, both day, weekend and longer, that are being offered in 2019. The surveys will let us know what Questers are interested in. She also announced that QNEWS is a Quest community paper and people are encouraged to share their ideas and interests with all the membership. The QNEWS comes out 2 or 3 times a semester.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM- Doreen DeMartini presented a full and important review of the workings of the ERT. She announced that there will be drills during the course of the year and people must be attentive to the various volunteers. A map of the 7th floor was distributed as well.

An announcement was made that "Leave No Trace", a movie directed by Deborah Granick is the daughter of Brenda Zusman a Quester. The movie will be shown on December 6th at 12:30.

NEW BUSINESS- There was a general discussion regarding the problems with the Senior Learning Centers at both Brooklyn College and IRP having to vacate their premises to find a new home. We will wait and see what transpires.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn McGuire