

## Minutes of the Quest General Meeting - April 9, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by President Michael Wellner. There were 97 members in attendance, well in excess of the minimum required quorum..

The New Logo for Quest was on the screen as members entered the auditorium. This logo will be part of our consistent branding on all publications: Q News, Q Review, Business Cards, the Course Catalog, and all other materials produced by Quest.

Welcome to Members: Michael Wellner welcomed and thanked each member of Quest. Quest has had a good year. We are now 212 members strong. He spoke of the high quality of our new membership. They are not only participating in class discussions but are giving presentations that are truly first rate. In addition, our classes are experiencing high attendance.

Volunteer Nature of Quest: Next, he lauded the fact that we are a volunteer organization and without the volunteers we would not succeed. All Committee Chairs were thanked publicly. Michael emphasized the benefits of being an active participant; Caroline Thompson prepared a handout indicating how new (and old) members can get involved and participate.

Cooperation of City University: The Dean and his staff were gratefully acknowledged, as was their cooperation. We appreciate the good relationship we have with City University. To that end the president urged us to attend all City College events as often as possible. A breakfast is coming up on May 5<sup>th</sup> with more events in the future. Michael will keep us informed as the dates grow closer.

Treasurers Report: Caroline Thompson, our current Treasurer, was introduced. She informed us that we are in good shape financially and have taken in \$106,000 this year. We now have approximately \$200,000 in the bank. In the past year we have introduced a line item budget, and compare actual expenses to that budget each month. We are well on target.

New Membership: Caroline also addressed the new members. This is our Freshman Class, she said, as they stood up on hearing their names called. The freshman class meets once month. April 24<sup>th</sup>, will be their last meeting of this school year.

### Committee Chairpersons:

Michael next acknowledged and introduced the Committee Chairs:

June Dwyer...Curriculum Committee

Pam Gemelli...Membership Committee

Lila Heilbrunn...Emergency Response Committee

Howard Salik...Nominating & Election Committee

Ruth Kovner...Summer Session Sub-committee of Curriculum Committee

Sandra Southwell...Tech Committee

Helen Neilson...Q Review

Myra Nissen & Bob Reiss...Q News

The Nominating Process: Howard Salik, Chair of the NEC, described the nominating process. He listed various openings for candidacy this year, including Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary and three Council Members-at-Large. He stated that anyone wanting to run for office but who has not been selected by the Nominating Committee & Election Committee, has another avenue to run for office. A petition must be submitted, signed by 20% of Quest membership attesting that they support that member's running for Council.

The Nominating Committee members are:

1. Chairperson - Howard Salik
2. Council Rep. - Beverly Francus
3. Member - Joan Briller
4. Member - Doreen De Martini
5. Member - Liesje ten Houten

Nominees for Council 2014 are:

Vice President - Carolyn McGuire

Secretary - Ruth Kovner

Treasurer - John Sucree

Council Member-at-Large...Three openings (Six candidates)

David Abrahams

Bob Hartmann

Janice Bogard

David Lewis

Barbara Gold

Jane Pittson-Chianese

(Note: On the official ballot you'll select three out of the six.)

Quest Gala Luncheon: Our Year End Luncheon is to be held on Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> rather than on Thursday this year. Classes will be held the next day, Thursday, as usual. Michael encouraged everyone to attend the luncheon as well as the classes on Thursday.

Emergency Response Committee: Lila Heilbrunn, head of our Emergency Response Team, stressed the importance of attending and paying attention to all fire drills, to ensure our familiarity with the four exits from the 7<sup>th</sup> floor, and the procedures to be followed, in the event of an emergency, and a possible evacuation of the premises. Lowell Berman made an impassioned plea for anyone who cannot walk fast down seven flights of stairs to add their names to the elevator list. There are 39 people on the list thus far. Please re-examine your own status, and add your name to Lila's list if you feel that you may not be able to walk quickly down seven flights of stairs. Remember

that, in the event we need to leave in a hurry, people on the upper floors may well come rushing down the stairs in their desire to exit as fast as possible.

Membership: Pam Gemelli, Membership Chair, informed us that the very best way to increase membership in Quest was via word of mouth. "You are our best advertisement," she stated.

Curriculum: Our Curriculum Committee Chairperson, June Dwyer, mentioned that the Committee met every two weeks throughout the school year. There have been many curriculum changes this year. We have lost 8 courses and replaced them with 8 new courses. Among others, "All That Jazz" will be returning; "Domestic Affairs" will be on hiatus.

We will continue with our Lunch and Learn classes. These have attracted a near "sell-out" audience. And these sessions do not need prior approval by the Curriculum Committee.

Summer Session: Our Summer Session will begin on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and will end on July 31<sup>st</sup>. The last day will feature a repeat of Roy Clary performing in a play written by Bob Reiss, which was a huge success when performed during the school year. This will be followed by an informal party and will officially end our academic year.

Seventeen classes have been chosen as the best of our presentations this year. A member of the Tech Committee will be in attendance at each session. We urge you to bring guests with you. It's a great advertisement for joining Quest.

Quest Travel Program: This year Quest members have gone on various trips such as one to Ireland, another to Cuba, another on a cruise to the Caribbean. Coming up is a trip in late May/early June to the Shaw Festival in Ontario. Any travel ideas would be welcome, and you are encouraged to talk with Carolyn McGuire, Sylvia Berg or Michael with any thoughts you may have.

Michael W. and Bob Reiss are planning to take a group to view the beautiful uptown campus of CCNY, and also to visit Santiago Calatrava's new Transportation Center at the World Trade Center. Details to follow

Good News: Coffee has been approved for the Summer Session. This was greeted by applause.

The new Course Catalogue will be distributed after the Spring break.

Tech Committee: Sandra Southwell, our Tech Committee Chair, stressed that the Tech Committee is here to help members with their presentations. Committee members will teach you Power Point and more. They will even make house calls. But they cannot always be at the podium with you.

Committee members include Bob Reiss, Steve Allen, Michael Wellner and Sandra. Sandra asked if there are any Quest members who would like to join the committee.

The Bylaws: Michael introduced the Bylaws committee members: Bob Hartmann, Chair, Doreen DeMartini and Steve Allen. Their work included weeding out and correcting

past inconsistencies, and adding language intended to make the Bylaws better suited to the current membership and its governance. Prior to the meeting, Michael had e-mailed a copy of the new Bylaws to all members, along with a memo (prepared by Steve) highlighting the important changes. After a brief discussion, and a few questions, Michael asked for a motion to approve the new Bylaws. Ruth Kovner made such a motion, Beverly Francus seconded it. The Bylaws were approved by a unanimous vote.

Questions from the Audience: \*Is there a cap on Membership? Yes, the Council has approved an upper limit of 225. Typically we lose 10% of membership over the course of the summer. This year we'll see what the renewal count is. We anticipate that in the Fall we'll plateau at approximately our current level.

\*What's the difference between a course and a workshop? Workshops - by their nature, are designed for a limited number of people, up to no more than 20.

\*Are there any term limits on the Tech Committee? No. (Sorry, Bob!)

\*Is there a job description for Council Committee Member-at-large? No. They do not have a specific responsibility.

\*Is attendance required at each course? No.

\*Problems with the Hearing Loop. Yes, there are problems. The contractor that CCNY hired to install the loop did not satisfactorily complete the job. Specifically there is an "overflow" problem. Sounds from one classroom can often be heard in an adjacent room. We are desperately trying, with CCNY's help, to find a replacement contractor who can correct and finish the job. The good news is that, to date, we have paid nothing. The estimated cost was about \$20,000.

Kudos for Eneida: Michael expressed our gratitude to Eneida, the Quest office secretary, for her dedication and her work. "Nothing would get done without her," said Michael as President of Quest.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm as scheduled.

Respectfully submitted by: Ruth Kovner, Acting Secretary