

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Bob Gottfried at 1:05. There were approximately 100 Quest members at the meeting.

-Joyce West reported on the Curriculum Committee and plans for the Summer Session. This was followed by a list of the dropped courses and the new coordinators spoke about the Six new courses for the Spring Semester.

The following courses will be dropped:

The Roaring Twenties

Between Faith & Reason: Reading The Bible

South Of The Border Before Columbus

From Grunts To Tweets: Exploring How We've Communicated Through The Ages

Managing Money & Investments In Retirement

NEW COURSES

Election 2020: America's Search For Our Next Leader

*Coordinators: **Phil Gisser**, Sandra Abramson, Wayne Cotter, Patricia Stryker*

A WEEK/WED/1:00pm to 2:30pm

Contemporary Challenges To Sea & Island People

*Coordinators: **Steve Baker**, Pete Weis*

A WEEK/THURS/1:00pm to 2:30pm

Why Does New York Look The Way It Does?

*Coordinators: **Ethel Sheffer**, Michael Wellner*

A WEEK/THURS/1:00pm to 2:30pm

Russian History: From The 10th Century Up To The Russian Revolution

*Coordinators: **Caroline Thompson**, Steve Allen*

B WEEK/MON/10:30am to 12:00pm

Great Journalists & Publishers

*Coordinators: **Wayne Cotter**, Leslie Goldman, Michael Wellner*

B WEEK/WED/10:30am to 12:00pm

Modern Hispanic Playwrights

Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

B WEEK/THURS/ 10:30am to 12:00pm

Treasurer's Report

Steve Allen submitted his quarterly written Treasurer's report to the membership. The main points of his report are:

- 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.
- Annual revenue from membership dues will be about \$145,000 this year, about \$5,000 more than currently projected expenses of about \$140,000. Revenues from membership dues are now projected about \$6,500 greater than our very conservative budget, since we will certainly reach the 270 cap and since almost all of the new members are paying the \$550 fee for the full year. But projected expenses are about \$5,000 over the original budget, due to the website renovation and CPR training expenses rolled over from last year, as was discussed at the October Council meeting, and due to an extra \$1,000 in payments to our Office Manager, since we are paying her for Quest holidays, a new policy that had not been accounted for in the budget.
- Quest reserves of about \$700,000 consist of about \$250,000 in our banking accounts, \$400,000 in US Treasury Notes and certificates of deposit deposits in our brokerage account at JPMorgan Chase, and \$50,000 in our account at CWE in excess of budgeted expenses.
- These reserves of \$700,00 consist of \$385,00 we have recently received from the estate of Ken Leedom, about \$240,000 in other membership bequests and contributions we have received over the 25 years of Quest's history, and about \$75,000 we have built up over these 25 years in small annual surpluses of membership fees and other revenues over expenses. We are currently expecting a small addition to our reserves from the final settlement of Ken Leedom's estate.

- On the operational side, Steve wants to acknowledge the valuable contributions of suggestions from our Audit Committee, chaired by David Judlowitz, and of Peter Fleischman who helped in redesigning our record keeping. As a result, we now have a smoother process and one that allows for continuous monitoring of financial accounts by the Audit Committee. We also continue to receive excellent support from our banks, our brokerage firm, from DaviSaroop in administration at CWE, and from our Membership Committee and Office Manager, Barbara Bianco, in keeping track of the receipt of membership fees. Steve is very confident that he will be handing over a well-oiled machine to his successor when his four years as Treasurer ends this May.

Technology Committee: Wayne Cotter thanked all Tech Committee members for their hard work and dedication. He noted that there is now a new mic and speaker system in Room 15-17 for question-and-answer segments. He also urged Quest presenters to arrive at least 30-45 minutes early on the day of their presentations and to test in advance all YouTubes, DVDs and CDs. He advised presenters to consider changing rooms in the event there are insurmountable tech problems in their assigned rooms. He asked that anyone (especially new members) with a passing knowledge of PowerPoint and who has PowerPoint at home to please consider volunteering for the Tech Committee. The Committee needs new members. Lastly, he welcomed Pete Weis as the new Technology Committee Chair for the spring semester. Pete spoke briefly regarding plans for the committee.

Michael Wellner spoke for the **Membership Committee** which now reports that membership is at 268. Also, although we have an increased membership, he also stated that class attendance is consistent with the numbers recorded for the past 4 semesters.

Michael also reported that the **Holiday Luncheon** will be held on Friday May 6th at 12:30 at Amata Restaurant, 206 East 56th Street.

Bob Hartman reported on the **25th Anniversary Gala**. It will be held on Friday May 15th from Noon to 3 at the Harmony Club at 4 East 60 St. This event will be open and free of charge members. There will be a sign-up to

ascertain the maximum number we can accommodate. After members are registered, paid guests will be allowed if space permits.

Renee Wolosin reported on **Culture Quest**. There are 3 dates confirmed March 13, April 10 March 27 Additional dates will be announced and the list of all museums will be listed in the next issue of QNEWS.

The **Guest Speaker Program** headed by Arleen Greenbaum, is scheduled for the Spring semester. On February 26th the Peter Cott/Ken Leedom memorial speaker will be Daniel Mendelsohn. The list of speakers will be found in QNEWS

Frieda Lipp presented her plan for the **Diversity Committee**. During the next 2 week before Thanksgiving, members of the Diversity Committee will present in all classes, a few “talking points” which will be targeted toward recruiting new diverse members to the Quest community. A Noontime Learning session will be held on November 26th.

The final speaker of the day was Paul Adler who reported on the **Emergency Response Team**. There was a “walk about” a week ago to identify all the exits. The Red Cross trained members in CPR and the use of a defibrillator. The question regarding the door locks so that doors can be secured from the inside is being reviewed by CWE.

There being no New Business the meeting was adjourned at 2:15.

Respectfully submitted
Carolyn McGuire
Council Secretary