

Minutes of the Quest Council Meeting 3-December-2019

The meeting was called to order at 2:33 PM by Vice President Marian Friedmann. President Bob Gottfried was delayed, and arrived at 3:01 PM. Others in attendance included Betty Farber, Jennifer Jolly, Frieda Lipp, Phil Gisser, Steve Allen, Wayne Cotter, and Michael Wellner (acting secretary). Pam Gemelli and Carolyn McGuire were absent.

The first item on the agenda was the Treasurer's report. Steve reported no big financial changes; he still estimates revenues this year of about \$145K, and expenses of \$140K, resulting in a \$5K surplus.

Steve also reported that we have about \$270K in investments that will mature in January of next year. After a meeting with the Audit Committee who provided guidance for the reinvestment of these funds, it was agreed to reinvest them in (fully insured) instruments that will mature in the February-March 2021 time frame, at which point the presidential election will be concluded, and we may have a better idea of the direction of interest rates.

Next, Frieda Lipp gave a report on the activities of the Diversity Committee, whose members made presentations at the start of each class during the past two weeks. The overall feeling was positive; now comes the task of actually trying to invite minority members to join Quest. Two ideas have emerged:

- 1) Arlynn Greenbaum & Michael Wellner have offered to try and arrange visits by Quest members to various churches in the city (Abyssinian Baptist, St. John the Divine, and Riverside church, among others) in an attempt to try some one-on-one interactions to try and interest people who

might otherwise not have Quest on their “radar screens.”

- 2) Also, David Bernard reported to the Committee that he just returned from a fascinating three-day Civil Rights tour to Atlanta, Birmingham and Selma (Alabama). David will provide details, and we will tentatively see if we can arrange a tour for those Quest members who may be interested --- probably next fall.

Michael next reported that we now have 267 paid members, with the very recent addition (effective February 3rd) of two new members (husband and wife), one a retired teacher and one a retired attorney. With our current cap of 270, we are obviously running out of available slots, and this prompted a discussion of those long-standing, but inactive members who rarely (or never) attend classes, but nonetheless pay their dues and therefore take a slot that could perhaps be better filled with an active (new) member. After some discussion. The Council passed a motion stating that, during the winter break, inactive members who can be identified will be contacted and offered a full refund of their 2019-20 dues, and the opportunity to be placed on special "inactive" status that would allow them to return at any time.

Next Michael reported that we now have 140 members (a record) signed up for our Holiday luncheon on Friday, December 6th.

Frieda and Wayne next discussed the plans for a new Creative Day, to be held on the last Thursday of the spring semester, May 14th. That day will feature acting performances, and arts and crafts, and poetry and prose writings. Bob G suggested that Quest provide lunch (pizzas and sodas) for everyone that day, and the Council quickly agreed. More details to follow.

Bob G next reported on the Nominations and Elections Committee for the May 2020 elections. Bob proposed the following members for the NEC, and the Council, after a brief discussion, unanimously approved. Marian Friedmann will be the Council member on the committee; other members will be Caroline Thompson, Gloria Peropat, Marcia Friedland and Nina Dioletis.

For the 2020 elections, it was noted that on the current council Phil Gisser and Steve Allen are term-limited out, and Marian has said that she will not run again. In addition, two-year terms are up for Jennifer Jolly, Betty Farber and Carolyn McGuire. We await word on whether they will again stand for election (to a final two-year term).

We next had a brief discussion of year-end Holiday gifts, and it was agreed to continue the same practice that we have had in place for the past several years. Recipients include the janitor, the security staff at the building's front desk, and a few others.

Bob G commented next on the CCNY reception held at the Players' Club yesterday (December 2nd), honoring Quest, Bob Hartmann and Michael Wellner for their scholarship donations. Everyone agreed that it was a superb event, and we will write an article for inclusion in the next Q News.

Next, Steve reported that our new Quest web site will go live during our winter break.

And finally, Frieda made a suggestion that we allow any potential members to visit with us and sit in on classes for two full weeks before they have to commit to membership. All Council members readily agreed.

Before adjourning at 3:51 PM, Bob announced that the February (2020) council meeting will be held on Monday February 10th, and thereafter on the first Monday in March, April, and May.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael

Michael Wellner
Acting Secretary