

QUEST COUNCIL MINUTES NOV 4TH 2019

All council members were present and the meeting commenced at 2:35.

Frieda Lipp of the Chairman of the Diversity Committee gave a presentation regarding a plan instituted by the Diversity Committee and future implementation of the same. "Frieda presented a plan the Diversity Team will implement over two weeks in November in which team members will briefly address every scheduled class. Their objective is to reach out to the entire Quest membership to encourage participation in reaching the goal we all want - a richer and culturally more diverse membership." "There would be a "one on one" approach and a list of "talking points" presented to all of Quest classes during the weeks of November 11-25.

Bob will write a letter to all coordinators of classes alerting them to the 3-5 minute "talking points" that will be presented in their classes. Steve Allen objected to this approach considering it to be redundant and therefore a "turn off" to the general members if they hear these points more than once or twice.

Council members voiced their opinion of the program presented and it was generally accepted. A Noontime Knowledge will follow these presentations during the few days before the Thanksgiving break.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Allen submitted his quarterly written Treasurer's report to the Council. 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.

The **Anniversary Party** will be held on May 15th and will be free for Quest members. As a result, in order to secure appropriate space, an RSVP for Quest members only will be held. If there is space, this will be followed by an RSVP for Quest guests @\$60 per guest based on a first come first served basis.

Committee Liaison reports followed. Phil Gisser reported on the Auditing committee, Wayne Cotter on the Technical, Jennifer Jolly on Caring, Michael Wellner on Membership, Steve Allen on Curriculum, Betty Farber on Freshman Class, Carolyn McGuire on Travel and Qnews and Marian Friedmann on Scheduling. All committees are doing well and moving along positively.

Report on Attendance So far in the Fall term, attendance has been averaging about 75 members in each of our 16 time slots (4 mornings and 4 afternoons in A week and B week). This is very close to the average attendance we experienced in both Fall of 2018 and Fall of 2017 (Spring attendance is lower, averaging about 65 per time slot). Attendance is very well distributed, with 12 out of 16 time slots averaging between 70 and 80, two averaging 65, one averaging 85, and one averaging 90. This is a good indication that our scheduling of classes has achieved a desirable balance.

Technology Committee Report

Wayne Cotter reported that he tested with Robert Hernandez the use of an "overflow" room for showing live video of auditorium presentations. The test, which was conducted during the special speaker's presentation last week, went well. However it is important for the presenter to remain at the podium during his or her presentation.

The same technology can be used to record presentations and make them available to Quest members. The Tech Committee will be testing with Robert Hernandez that function in the upcoming weeks.

.

NEW BUSINESS

.

Wayne Cotter and Frieda Lipp discussed a **Creative Arts Day** that would be held on May 14th, the final Thursday of the spring session to commemorate Quest's 25th Anniversary. There will be a schedule of events devoted to several short plays; and also include featured prose and poetry readings and an art display by Quest members. The idea was approved and the day will be noted in the upcoming spring curriculum guide.

A discussion about **Decorum and manners** was discussed once again. It seems as if cell phones are being used during presentations, people are

slamming doors and are generally discourteous to the presenters and other Quest members.

Bob Gottfried will address this issue at the General Meeting on Wednesday.

The next Council meeting will be held on December 3rd.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn McGuire
Secretary