



QUEST COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting Date: October 6, 2025

Report Date: October 8, 2025

Council held its monthly meeting at 25 Broadway in Room 7-39. President Donna Ramer called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m.

Council Members Present: Bob Belfort, Victor Brener, Peter Fleischman (via Zoom), Vince Grosso, Stu Parker, Donna Ramer, Ruth Ward, Tamara Weinberg, and Judy Winn.

Council Members Absent: Karen Cullen, Bob Gottfried

I. **General Administration: Donna Ramer**

- **Spring 2025 Schedule:** Donna notified Council that the Spring 2026 schedule has been amended to accommodate the first TheaterWorks end-of-year performance, which will be held on Wednesday afternoon, May 13, in lieu of a Distinguished Guest Lecturer, which was discussed with and approved by Arlynn Greenbaum and committee members. There will be five guest lecturers in spring.
- **Budget Reduction:** Donna made a motion to reduce Quest's budgeted sponsorship of the Origin Theatre's Annual Irish Festival from \$3,500 to \$1,000, which was seconded by Judy. Discussion focused on why the proposed reduction and Donna explained that it is not a CWE initiative so we don't benefit directly except for goodwill with CWE professor Seamus Scanlon. Quest did, however, make a commitment to be a sponsor in 2026 but an amount was not disclosed to Seamus.
 - **Motion** to reduce Quest's contribution was seconded by Stu and unanimously approved by Council.

II. **Treasurer's Report: Peter Fleischman** reported that recent deposits for membership fees have brought us closer to what we budgeted. We are \$5,750 below budget, a number that can very likely be achieved by admitting additional full year members and half year members early next year. Our balance sheet is in excellent shape with over \$1 million in financial assets. Members have been using Zelle more and more, most recently for Culture Quest activities, and many have used it for paying their Membership Fees. Quest continues to be in excellent financial shape.

III. **Curriculum:** Judy Winn reported that committee chair Debbi Honorof created a calendar of Extras and post on the website. In the interim, Debbi sent the calendar to all members via QuestBusiness.

IV. **New Member Meetings:** Vince Grosso reported that outreach to new members has been well received and the first get together was attended by approximately 40 new members.

V. Membership: Ruth Ward, co-chair

- **Total Current Membership:** We now have 258 members, with seven others in the interview or onboard phase. We have welcomed 33 new members this fall.
- **Enrollment Form:** A Quest member requested additional items be included in the new member enrollment form and, per Donna's request at a previous Council meeting, Ruth addressed the suggestion with the Membership Committee and brought their recommendation to this month's Council meeting. Donna distributed copies of the current form for reference during the discussion. Council members concurred with the Committee's findings that none of the additional information (high school and college attended, where prospective grew up) did not provide any substantive insight into whether the prospective member would be a good fit with Quest.
 - **Note:** It was suggested that anyone wanting to connect with anyone who went to their high school or college and/or home town should send a query via QuestCommunity.
 - **Motion** submitted by Ruth was seconded by Vince and unanimously rejected.
- **Membership Renewal Late Fee:** This initiative was successful and the majority of members wanting to renew did so by the June 30th deadline, with little resistance to the early deadline and late fee.
- **Electronic Enrollment Form:** To minimize errors and simplify adding names to the master membership list, Tamara suggested and agreed to research electronic applications and provide recommendations to Council at a future meeting.

VI. Marketing and Communications: Donna Ramer

- **Advertising:** The MarCom committee is placing a half-page ad in the CCNY Alumni Gala journal this fall; cost is \$500.
- **First-year Discount for CCNY Alum:** Donna reminded Council members that CCNY alum receive a 10 percent discount for their first year's fee only.
- **Identifying Legitimate Emails from Quest:** To address concerns of a few new members about identifying legitimate emails from Quest, Wayne Cotter added [QuestCommunity] and [QuestBusiness] (with brackets) to the subject line of all emails emanating from either of these googlegroups. Wayne also will send an explanation of how and when to appropriately use these googlegroups within the next few weeks.

VII. Technology: Victor Brener

- **WIFI:** The extender for WIFI has been installed so Quest members have internet access in all our rooms (15-17, 27, 19, Auditorium and lunchroom).
- **Room 27 Projector:** CWE has adjusted the projector in room 27 so images are now more clear.

The next Council meeting will be at 25 Broadway on Monday, November 3, 2025, at 2:45 p.m.

Donna adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Ramer, President

Documents distributed at meeting: Agenda, October 2025 Treasurer's Report