

QUEST COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Council Members present: David Bernard, Stephanie Butler, Wayne Cotter, Mary Ann Donnelly, Bob Gottfried, Arlynn Greenbaum, Karen Levin, Nan McNamara, Penelope Pi-Sunyer, Donna Ramer, Ruth Ward and Michael Wellner.

Council Members absent: None

Council held its monthly meeting at 25 Broadway with some members participating via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Quest President Ruth Ward at 2:45 pm.

Spring 2022 Year-End Luncheon Update

Michael Wellner emailed Council and reported that the Special Events Committee will visit the restaurant Lavo where our luncheon will be held. The luncheon will cost \$60 per person (this includes the gratuity) for Quest members. Quest will subsidize the lunch and pay for the subsidy from the reserves.

Mary Ann Donnelly asked about having a cocktail reception prior to lunch. Michael will check with the restaurant to see about space for this and also if additional costs will be incurred.

Quest Treasurer Stephanie Butler said we budgeted \$1,100 for the lunch and any additional cost will be paid from the reserves.

Ruth made a motion to have a limit of \$60 for members to pay and Michael seconded the motion.

Council unanimously approved the cost of \$60 for Quest members.

Council agreed that guests will pay the actual cost of the luncheon.

Approved Quest Calendar for Fall 2022

9/5/22	Monday, Labor Day, no classes
9/6/22	Tuesday, first day of fall semester classes
9/26/22 – 9/27/22	Rosh Hashanah, no classes
10/5/22	Wednesday, Yom Kippur, no classes
10/10/22	Monday, Columbus Day, no classes
11/9/22	Wednesday, General Meeting, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
11/21/22 – 11/24/22	Monday-Thursday, week of Thanksgiving, no classes
12/15/22	Thursday, last day of classes

Technology Committee Report

Vice President Wayne Cotter reported that the Technology Committee had no significant changes to report and there were no questions from Council.

Proxy Voting

Wayne Cotter described the difference between a **general proxy** and a **limited proxy**. A general proxy gives the proxy holder the right to vote as he or she sees fit on any business that comes up at a meeting. A limited proxy gives the proxy holder the right to vote on a specific issue. The proxy holder is required to cast the vote the way he has been designated by the member.

Wayne then made a motion to not permit either general proxies or limited proxies for any vote (whether for regularly scheduled meetings or emergency meetings) at a Quest Council meeting. The motion was seconded by David. After a discussion, the motion was defeated 8-3.

Wayne then made a motion to allow only limited proxies for any vote at a Quest Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Karen. After a discussion, the motion passed by a vote of 8 - 3.

As a result, starting immediately limited proxies will now be permitted for votes during any Council meeting. General proxies are not permitted. Appropriate language will be added to Quest's bylaws when the bylaws are next revised.

Parliamentary Procedures

As discussed at our last meeting, Quest's Council is in need of some basic parliamentary procedures since Robert's Rules of Order are now longer in effect. Wayne Cotter prepared some

basic rules for review. Donna Ramer offered a couple of other suggestions. Donna will prepare suggested wording (including if the President of Council is allowed to make a motion) for Council to review at its April meeting.

Summer Encores Program for 2022

Council discussed whether the Summer Encores program will be presented in person or via hybrid. Mary Ann Donnelly explained that the Summer Encores committee needed to know this as well as if the presentations would take place in the auditorium.

After much discussion, Ruth made a motion to vote for hybrid sessions and David seconded the motion. Council voted to hold these presentations via hybrid. Council also discussed if the auditorium should be used. Wayne Cotter made a motion to use the auditorium and Arlynn Greenbaum seconded the motion, which was passed. Wayne made a motion not to record these sessions and Donna seconded the motion.

Council voted that these sessions will not be recorded.

Membership Update

Donna Ramer reported there are 231 members (including seven founding members, nine new members and one returning member). Donna confirmed that Barbara Gelber is now on the new members distribution list so that they can be profiled in QNEWS.

Nan McNamara raised the issue about fees for new members who join Quest now for the mid-spring and summer session. She suggested that we charge \$150. Ruth made a motion and Penelope Pi-Sunyer seconded it. Council unanimously agreed to charge \$150.

Electronic Archives Information Update

Quest Treasurer Stephanie Butler sent information to Council and recommended this be discussed at a future meeting.

New Insurance Policy

David Bernard confirmed we have a new policy and a new insurance broker.

Discussion Groups

David Bernard, Arlynn Greenbaum, Donna Ramer and Penelope Pi-Sunyer met and wrote up a plan of action on how to implement these discussion groups.

Donna Ramer made a motion that Council hold a separate Zoom meeting to discuss this topic in further detail. Nan seconded the motion. David will send the proposal to Council.

Ruth made a motion to hold a Zoom meeting on March 14 at 4:00 pm to discuss the proposal and Donna seconded the motion.

Long-Range Planning Committee for 2022

Nan McNamara recommended we postpone this discussion to April and Council agreed.

Nominating and Elections Committee (NEC) Update

Bob Gottfried reported there are five candidates for three positions.

The Officer Candidates: Wayne Cotter will run again for Vice President; Karen Levin will run again for Secretary and Peter Fleischman will run for Treasurer.

The At-Large Candidates running for office are: David Bernard, Arlynn Greenbaum, Larry Shapiro, Judith Winn and Renee Woloshin.

There will be several “Meet the Candidates” sessions held during the Noontime Knowledge time slot. On May 2 and May 4, the At-Large Candidates will speak and on May 3, the Officer Candidates will speak. We encourage all members to attend one of these sessions.

All voting will be electronic and done by SurveyMonkey. Donna Ramer asked who will tally the voting. The NEC will tally the votes and the results will be reported by Mary Beth Yakoubian, Committee Chair.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

David Bernard reported that the committee updated the website to reflect a more diverse membership.

Quest member Pereta Rodriguez set up a meeting with CWE Dean Mercado, David Bernard and Richard Byrd to discuss the goals of the committee. Dean Mercado wrote a letter to his CWE family and colleagues in support of the committee.

Michael Wellner is now Vice-Chair of the DEI Committee.

Caring Committee Update

David Bernard is the liaison to the Caring Committee. He thanked the committee for the wonderful things they are doing to help members.

Mask Wearing in Classrooms

CWE informed Quest that masks are now optional. Ruth made a motion that mask wearing in classrooms is optional and Donna seconded the motion. Council unanimously agreed to this.

Treasurer's Report for February 2022

Quest Treasurer Stephanie Butler reported that we have spent approximately \$13,500 more money than is provided for in the budget. However, Quest also spent \$10,000 less in rent than was allocated in the budget. Additional expenses were incurred as a result of the extraordinary circumstances created by the COVID pandemic such as the purchase of an air purifier,

three laptop computers, coffee supplies and food for two lunches.

Stephanie explained that the by-laws allow for expenses under \$500 and not included in the budget to be approved by Quest President Ruth Ward or by the Treasurer. Expenses over \$500 must be approved by Council. Approvals should be obtained prior to disbursing funds for a non-budgeted item.

The following capital expenses were purchased but were not approved by Council.

- Three laptop computers for the Auditorium, Room 15-17 and Room 52-53

Donna Ramer made a motion to approve the expense of \$1,121.39 plus an additional \$3,000 to be taken from our reserves rather than from our operating budget. Karen Levin seconded the motion.

Council approved this payment with one abstention.

- Spring Coffee Service

This service includes coffee, cups and stirrers. Stephanie Butler made a motion to approve the amount of \$658.11 and David Bernard seconded the motion.

Council unanimously approved this payment.

- New Insurance Policy Premium

Ruth made a motion to approve the new insurance policy premium for \$3,468.13 and Stephanie seconded the motion.

Council unanimously approved this payment.

- **Two On-Site Luncheons**

Lois Cardillo, Chair of the Social Committee, coordinated the luncheon for \$800.00 on March 10. Nan McNamara made a motion to approve the cost of the luncheon and David Bernard seconded the motion.

Council approved this payment with two abstentions.

There will be a second luncheon in April.

New Business

Presentations from Home

Bob Gottfried brought up a situation where several members wanted to present from home instead of at 25 Broadway. Several lead coordinators did not agree with this because it can affect attendance. Since Quest is still operating in a pandemic environment, we are currently allowing this via our hybrid program.

Council discussed this and decided the needs of a presenter should be taken into account and the lead coordinator should work with the presenter to work out a compromise during this situation. This was a discussion only; no vote was taken on this matter.

The Council's next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, April 6, at 2:45 pm. It will be held at 25 Broadway in the auditorium or by using the auditorium link.

The meeting was adjourned by Ruth Ward at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Levin

Secretary