

QUEST COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, July 6, 2022

Council Members present: Wayne Cotter, Mary Ann Donnelly, Peter Fleischman, Karen Levin, Nan McNamara, Donna Ramer, Ruth Ward, Michael Wellner and Judy Winn.

Council Members absent: Arlynn Greenbaum, Larry Shapiro

Council held its monthly meeting via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Quest President Ruth Ward at 10:00 am.

Council Liaisons to Quest Committees

President Ruth Ward reminded Council liaisons to contact the appropriate Committee Chair and remind them about recruiting new members by July 31. Council liaisons are available to assist the committees if there are any issues that need to be brought to Council.

Affinity Groups

To date, Donna Basile is forming a Mah Jong affinity group for the fall. These sessions will be in-person at 25 Broadway.

Replacement of Russian Geography Course for Fall 2022

The Curriculum Committee is replacing the Russian Geography course with a new course called "Creative Workshops." These classes will be in-person only. Mary Ann Donnelly is the lead coordinator and Beth Callender is co-coordinator.

A list of classes and presenters for this course will be available on the website.

Review of Approved Fall Schedule for 2022

Council reviewed the schedule and there were no comments.

Meetup Groups and Distribution of QReview and Quest Catalog to Libraries

Ruth recommended that we revisit these items in the fall.

Quest Member Discount to CCNY Alumni Association Members

Quest members Richard Byrd, Sheryl Harawitz, Donna Ramer, Pereta Rodriguez and Ruth Ward met with David Covington, the CCNY Alumni Association Executive Director and Gary Kalneck, President of the CCNY Alumni Board. David Covington suggested that Quest give a discount to alumni members of CCNY to encourage people to join.

Council discussed offering a 10% discount for the full academic year of 2022 – 2023, as a courtesy to CCNY, our landlord.

Since Council sets the fee for membership, Quest bylaws do not need to be amended to provide for giving a discount to a member.

Ruth proposed a motion offering a 10% discount to CCNY-only alumni and Michael Wellner seconded the motion. Council approved the motion with 8 yeas and 1 nay. Ruth and Donna will put together a communication for CCNY.

Membership Update

Donna emailed the renewal communication for the 2022 - 2023 academic year, including the 2023 Summer Encores program. The renewal fee is

\$550. The due date for membership renewal is Tuesday, September 6, 2022.

To renew your membership, please follow the steps below:

- Make out your **\$550** check to **CWE/CCNY/Quest**
- Mail your check to Donna Ramer, 111 Third Avenue, 11E, New York, New York 10003

This past summer, the Membership Committee sponsored a “Bring a Friend to Quest Day” to kick off their membership campaign. There will also be an email campaign to send the Quest catalog to ten friends.

Week-Long Open House for CCNY Alumni

Donna explained this will be held in September or October and will be publicized through the CWE and CCNY alumni association. More information will be communicated at the August meeting.

Long-Term Planning Subcommittee Update

Nan McNamara reported there is no update at this time. The committee will meet again in September to address these issues.

Policy on Hardship Cases

Council discussed hardship cases for members who request financial assistance to pay for Quest. Quest considers hardship cases for long-standing members but does not consider hardship cases for new members.

Improving Presentations: Tutorials on PowerPoint

A PowerPoint tutorial was given on June 17 to help members learn how to use PowerPoint. This tutorial was recorded and is on the Quest website.

On Wednesday, July 20, at 10:30 am, Wayne will give a PowerPoint training session (based on a TED book) on how to give and improve presentations. This will be done via Zoom.

Donna will send out a tip sheet on how to lead a discussion. In September, she will offer a workshop on how to lead and improve a discussion. This will be in-person during lunchtime.

Summer Encores Attendance

Michael Wellner presented attendance statistics for the various classes held during the Summer Encores program. It appears that the many post-class activities scheduled over the summer helped boost attendance for summer classes. It should also be noted that for most summer classes, the number of in-person attendees was larger than the number of at-home attendees.

Donna reported on the Special Events programs that took place during lunch as part of the Q'XTRA sessions.

Q'XTRA, which is under the auspices of the Curriculum Committee (Sheryl Harawitz, chair) in collaboration with the Membership Committee as appropriate, has three primary goals:

- To revitalize and supplement existing course curriculum and special events
- To engage new and re-engage long-time members
- To give members uncomfortable presenting and/or participating within the traditional course structure a way to create their own platform.

Overall, Q'XTRA is a well-thought out, purposeful complement to traditional Quest courses and other activities and is the newest iteration of Noontime Knowledge, Lunchtime Activities and Winter Break.

Fall 2022 Year-End Luncheon

Michael Wellner reported that Lavo confirmed they will charge the same price and offer the same menu (including the wine reception) for the winter 2022 holiday party. The lunch will be on December 16, 2022. Quest will need to budget \$5,000 for the lunch. Peter checked and confirmed that Quest budgeted \$2,500 for the lunch and will add an additional \$2,500.

Ruth proposed that Council approve the budget for the lunch and Donna seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved this.

Treasurer's Report for the Budget Beginning July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

Peter Fleischman, our new Quest Treasurer, reported on the budget.

The handoff of materials and processes from our former Treasurer Stephanie Butler to Peter is complete. Steve Allen also provided helpful guidance on how to use the various spreadsheets and in understanding better the financial relationship between Quest and CWE.

The budget as prepared by Stephanie Butler was approved. Last year's revenue and expenses, and next year's budget amounts are shown below:

	2021-2022	2022-2023
	Final	Budget
Members YE	223	234
Revenue	122,856	128,700
Expenses	107,868	128,174
Surplus	14,988	526

The budget for 2022-23 assumes we will “net” 11 new members who will be paying the full fee of \$550 for the year. The rent for the upcoming year has not been set yet. In September, we will ask CWE for some of the money they are holding for us and we will negotiate the new rent. There are sufficient funds in our checking account to get us through to September 2022.

New Business

Technology Committee

Wayne Cotter said that the Technology Committee would like to have Room 27 ready to go for the hybrid classes. Ruth will contact Robert Hernandez and request that he order the appropriate equipment. Peter confirmed that the Technology budget includes \$3,000 needed for this equipment.

Leave of Absence Policy

Wayne asked about members currently on a leave of absence. Donna said an email will be sent to all those members on a leave of absence to see if they plan to return in the fall. Members who have been on an extended leave will be asked to return or resign.

The Council's next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, August 3, at 10:00 am. It will be held via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned by Ruth Ward at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Levin

Secretary