

QUEST COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, March 4, 2024

Council Members present: Wayne Cotter, Mary Ann Donnelly, Peter Fleischman, Paul Golomb (via Zoom), Arlynn Greenbaum, Karen Levin, Nan McNamara, Donna Ramer, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward (ex-officio), Ilene Winkler (via Zoom) and Judy Winn.

Council Members absent: None

Council held its monthly meeting at 25 Broadway. The meeting was called to order by President Donna Ramer at 2:45 p.m.

General Administration

Donna noted that our coffee is much better than before and very popular among our members. She gave special thanks to the Coffee Committee (Maureen Berman, Pam Gemelli, Sal Granfort, Vince Grosso, Susan Keohane and Michael Navas) for making between 10 and 12 carafes per day.

Donna also thanked the Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC) for identifying candidates for Council for the academic year beginning June 1, 2024. Paul Adler, Maureen Berman, Wayne Cotter, Leslie Goldman and Chair Howard Salik are on the NEC.

Treasurer's Report for the Budget Beginning July 1, 2023 through March 4, 2024

Peter, Quest Treasurer, reported that we will receive one additional distribution of \$32,000 from CWE in March. We currently have \$12,650 in additional tuition payments that will be sent to CWE.

As of February 29, 2024, the total of all of our accounts is \$959,000.

Marketing & Communications (M & C) Update

Wayne reported that due to increases in membership, our marketing efforts will be put on hold. Some of the budget will be used for a photographer hired by Quest. His photos will be used for the website, the catalog cover, slides at 25 Broadway and other publications created by Quest.

Technology Update

Wayne reported that the upgrade of new equipment in Room 15-17 will be installed March 18 and March 19. We have \$13,000 set aside for installation of new equipment. The costs will be paid out of Quest's reserves.

Tamara Weinberg offered to conduct PowerPoint training for members who are interested. There will be four weekly sessions given on different days. The training will be held in the CWE Computer Lab. Many thanks to Tamara and several others from the Technology Committee for volunteering to conduct this important training!

Nominating & Elections (NEC) Committee Update

The members running for Council are:

Vice President – Bob Gottfried

Treasurer – Peter Fleischman (Incumbent)

Secretary – Karen Cullen

Member at Large – David Bartash

Member at Large – Roy Clary
Member at Large – Vince Grosso
Member at Large – Laura Lopez
Member at Large – Tamara Weinberg
Member at Large – Judy Winn (Incumbent)

Wayne reported that the NEC scheduled the candidate's forum during lunch hour on four days – Monday April 15 thru Thursday April 18 in Room 15-17.

Membership Committee

We have 60 new members since September 2023. As of March 4, 2024, Quest has a total of 262 members. We expect to reach our membership cap of 270 soon. After we reach our cap, there will be a wait list for joining Quest.

Curriculum Committee

- Fall 2024 Schedule

Paul reported that a brainstorming session was held among Quest members recently to discuss courses for the fall 2024 semester. Some of the recommendations or ideas from that session will be turned into courses. A survey was emailed to all members on March 4, 2024. Many classes from the spring 2024 semester will return for the upcoming fall.

- Lunchtime Activities (most of these are included in the catalog)

Paul reported on several activities that are under the Curriculum Committee. They offer opportunities for members to try out presenting topics during a shorter time frame.

- Noonday Activities are presented every Monday in Room 15-17 from 12:10 pm to 12:50 pm.
- Affinity Groups meet on a specific day on a regular basis throughout the semester. These currently include language courses (French, Italian and Spanish) and the Quest Book Club.
- “Pop-Up” Sessions are not listed in the catalog. They are informational and represent an exchange of ideas.

All courses and lunchtime groups should be submitted to Paul Golomb, Chair of the Curriculum Committee, who will decide if it’s an affinity group (such as our language discussion groups). If it is, he will forward the request to Donna who will determine if we have space and assign a room to be used only from 12:10 pm to 12:45. Requests for a one-time use of a classroom during lunchtime (such as a committee meeting) will be handled by Quest’s Administrative Assistant, Raquel Rivera.

Quest Bylaws and Term Limits

Wayne previously addressed an issue in the bylaws under Article VII (C)(4) that refers to term limits for anyone on Council and handed out proposed language for Council to review. After Council’s discussion, Donna asked that Wayne and Judy draft new language for discussion at our April meeting.

CWE Building Renovations

As a reminder, CWE will begin renovations in late April. Due to these renovations, Quest will hold its scheduled classes only on Zoom on Monday, April 29 and Tuesday, April 30.

The next scheduled meeting will be held at 25 Broadway, on Monday, April, 1, 2024, at 2:45 pm, in the Brooklyn Room.

The meeting was adjourned by Donna Ramer at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Levin

Secretary