

# **QUEST COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Monday, April 1, 2024**

**Council Members present:** Wayne Cotter, Mary Ann Donnelly, Peter Fleischman, Paul Golomb, Arlynn Greenbaum, Karen Levin, Nan McNamara, Donna Ramer, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward (ex-officio), Ilene Winkler 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 made a motion and Nan seconded it to approve \$15,000 to cover costs for our 30<sup>th</sup> year anniversary book. Design costs (about \$5,000) will be paid in 2024 and printing and production costs will be paid in 2025. Total costs will be between \$10,000 and \$15,000 and will be paid out of our reserves.

Council voted unanimously to approve this.

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

Peter, Quest Treasurer, reported that our finances continue to be in good shape. We received our final distribution of \$32,000 from CWE and sent CWE a check for \$6,050 for tuition.

Wayne made a motion and Peter seconded it to allow members to pay their tuition by bank checks, personal checks as well as Zelle. Council voted unanimously to approve this.

Donna, Wayne and Peter had discussed adding Zelle as an option to pay tuition because some members mentioned concerns about the increase in thefts of checks that are mailed. Zelle is secure and is a free option. Peter mentioned that members can also use their bank's bill pay service if they are hesitant to use a personal check. Donna will cover these options more fully in her May membership renewal email to the full membership.

### **Quest Bylaws and Term Limits**

Wayne and Judy wrote requested guidance from Council regarding proposed language addressing revising current term limits for all members on Council. After reviewing this, several suggestions were offered by Council members. Wayne and Judy requested and received additional time to finalize the language and Council will revisit this issue in May.

### **Technology Update**

Wayne reported that a new mixer as well as new microphones were installed in Room 15-17 in March. They include batteries that need to be re-charged. The new equipment is working well except when used during discussion classes. If there are still issues with sound, the owl microphone in the front of the room can be used. The microphones will be hooked into the hearing loop. The costs will be paid out of Quest's reserves.

### **Nominating & Elections (NEC) Committee/Election Update**

Wayne reported that the candidate's forum will take place during our lunch hour on four days – Monday April 15 thru Thursday April 18 in Room 15-17. He also reported that due to previous commitments, Tamara

Weinberg will not be able to speak in person at the candidates' forum but will prepare a short video to be presented during the sessions.

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)

### **Membership Committee**

Donna reported that we enrolled our 269<sup>th</sup> member and we expect to reach our membership cap of 270 soon. We are not advertising or actively recruiting new members. After we reach our cap, there will be a wait list for joining Quest.

In early September, we will know who is not returning to Quest and expect, as always, that some spots for new members will open up.

### **Curriculum Committee**

Paul reported that the fall 2024 semester schedule is set. The catalog is currently with the Scheduling Committee. They have two weeks to review everything before printing.

The front cover: Because the catalog is a curriculum tool as well as an internal marketing tool, Curriculum is responsible for the catalog and Membership is responsible for the back cover. However, both Marketing

and Membership should be able to see and review the cover in advance. Council discussed the purpose of the catalog and the cover. Both must be compelling and should have a clear relationship to what Quest is about. We now send the catalog digitally and it is a way to “grab” people’s attention.

## **New Business**

- **General Meeting Agenda**

Council reviewed the preliminary agenda for the May 1, 2024 general meeting. As always, lead coordinators of new courses will have up to three minutes each to promote their courses and ask for presenters if any are needed.

Paul said there will be 36 courses (including three workshops) offered for the fall semester. There will be two days with three courses in a time slot. Eight courses are new and two courses are returning from their one-semester hiatus. Three courses are ongoing but with slightly different names and focus.

- **Osher Lifelong Learning Conference (OLLI)**

Donna and Wayne will attend the OLLI conference in July. They submitted a proposal to present at the conference titled “*Hybrids: Positives and Pitfalls in a Post-Pandemic World*” and are waiting to hear back.

- **Invitations on QuestCommunity and QuestBusiness**

Although Council strongly supports a variety of activities that promote social interaction, some members of Council were concerned that at times QuestCommunity and/or QuestBusiness have been used to invite members on trips or museum visits that were the subject of upcoming Quest-sanctioned events. The general

consensus was that such emails can generate confusion, especially among new members and that those considering sending such emails should first check with the relevant Quest committee chair to ensure there are no conflicts. Arlynn and Wayne said they would work on a proposal.

Subsequent to the meeting, Arlynn and Wayne drafted the following motion:

The use of QuestCommunity or QuestBusiness to invite members to any activity that could conflict with that of any of Quest's 18 Standing Committees (e.g., CultureQuest, Travel, Social Committees) must be cleared with the appropriate Committee Chair to ensure there is no conflict. This includes but is not limited to any activity that is to be held before, during or after Quest hours during the week, Fridays and weekends. Any Quest member violating this policy will be prohibited from sending any email on these two communication platforms for thirty (30) days. The determination of whether a violation has occurred will be made by a majority of Quest's four-member Executive Committee (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary).

The motion was seconded by Nan. The motion was distributed to Council members on April 4, 2024. The motion passed 7-1 with three abstentions.

The next scheduled meeting will be held at 25 Broadway, on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 2:45 pm, in the Brooklyn Room. Newly elected Council members will be invited to attend but will not have the option to vote on any motion until June.

*The meeting was adjourned by Donna Ramer at 4:30 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Levin

Secretary