

**Senior Scholars at Queens**  
**Zoom Board Meeting**  
**February 9, 2022**

**Present:** Stephen Gilbert, Len Norman, Jane Howard, Gordon Haymond, Glenn Paton, David Collins, Ruth McDevitt, Don Campbell, Bill Thomas, Ken Brown, Sara Haymond, Jim Gronquist, Pam Nemececk, John Koch, Carol Kesmodel, Mitzi Czapla, Carlos Glender, BF Metzler, Bob Metzler, Robert Koch. **Absent:** John Ferguson, Jeanne Smith.  
**Committee Members and Guests:** Jim Renger, Sue Gill, Jin Wang, Alan Matthews

President Stephen Gilbert called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Ruth McDevitt moved the approval of the January 10 minutes, and they were seconded and voted approved.

**Queens University Report:** Bob Metzler questioned the hierarchy of decisions made on the inclusion of items the Queens Liaison, Robert Koch, gives to be posted on the website. The agreement with Queens states that items will be listed if it benefits Senior Scholars, such as receiving discounts.

Robert Koch reported that they are looking forward to Qunited Day, their annual giving day on April 1, as well as the class reunion for three years on April 1 and 2. Elizabeth Strout has cancelled as a speaker for the Learning Society, but Dr. Mark Hyman will take her place on April 20. 3. Queens Covid rate is down to 9%.

**Committee Reports:**

**Treasurer:** Glenn reported that the Income Statement reflects the new accounting policy of amortizing the dues received in the last quarter of 2021 over the twelve months of 2022. "Dues-First Half" shows \$1,110, which is 1/12 of the \$13,320 we collected in the last three months of 2021. We actually received \$1,865 in January dues, which in keeping with our new approach, will be brought into income over the remaining eleven months of 2022. These funds cover a total of 59 people of which 16 are new members. He said the balance sheet remains solid. An Income Statement is sent out to board members monthly by Glenn.

**Curriculum:** Len sent out an email to all board members listing all speakers for the spring semester, which is filled. His committee is working on the fall semester, of which only four are not yet filled. Ken Brown said Carlos got the May 27 speaker, Mike Menzel, from NASA. He will speak on a timely subject, the James Webb Telescope. Ken is resigning as chair of Great Decisions Speakers after this year, but will give his successor his contact for UNCC speakers and mentor him/her for 2023.

**Church Liaison:** John Koch said all dates we need the church are a go. He still needs information on the number of chairs and tables for the February 24 rehearsal and for the in-person meetings. Jane will get that for him.

**Wildacres:** Jim Gronquist announced that registration opens this Friday. The only thing to be settled is Wildacres policy on Covid regulations. Ours are set. He said registration usually fills up fast.

**Membership:** Pam has 759 paid members currently. She sends out 748 emails, since some don't want emails. We also have 469 inactive member emails being sent, with separate emails going to them, which don't include as much information. When we initiate a charge for guests, she thinks we will have many of those inactive members join rather than paying separately for each lecture. There was a great deal of work involved in automating the membership program, for which Steve thanked Pam profusely. She credited Sara, Sophie, and Sue for all their help, as well as Steve for initiating the JotForm, and Mitzi and Aimee for their help.

**Website:** Mitzi sent out a report of their activities for all to see. She thanked Chris Pouler for delivering the material for the weekly emails, so well put together and so well done, and to Alan for all he does.

**A/V and Technical:** Gordon said they have been practicing and will be ready or the March 4 restart of in person simultaneously with Zoom meetings. He thanked Alan and Jin, Pam and the moderators as well as Jane and John for getting them into the church to practice.

**Social and Moderators:** Carol Kesmodel said there are 10 moderators some of which will be on Zoom and some in the church. She hopes to be able to have a luncheon by the end of May, perhaps in the church if it is allowed.

**Lunch Bunch:** BG is hoping to have a lunch toward the end of March, starting with a small group.

**Venue and Marketing Committee:** Jane said the response from volunteers for rehearsal on the 24<sup>th</sup> looked good so far. She reminded those who were coming to the rehearsal to bring their Covid cards and membership cards to be punched so that doesn't have to be done on March 4. She talked about the meeting she and Don had at Friendship Baptist Church with the pastor for seniors. They have 3,400 senior members and are interested in a group rate for members to view Zoom lectures. She suggested a committee of Glenn, Dave, Gordon, Jin and Alan to Zoom together to make a decision on that. Steve asked to hold off on that until the hybrid meetings are underway.

Don has uncovered a new marketing idea—All About Seniors, a directory on services, etc. for seniors in the area. They produce 34,000 copies three times a year and have a good website. We will join at no cost with a listing.

On Diversity, he and Jane have met with Friendship Baptist Church and will meet with Bishop Alexander of the Park Church to encourage membership in Senior Scholars.

**Nominating Committee:** Don said their only real job is finding a 2023 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and asked members to suggest candidates. He noted that since the membership is more than

60% female, that we try to get more female participation in the leadership. He reminded us that according to the new bylaws, the committee will be chaired by Don, as most recent past president and includes Pam, Membership Chair, Mitzi, Website Chair, Gordon, Tech. VP, and Jim Gronquist and Jeanne Smith (co-chair), Wildacres Chairmen

**Old Business:**

A. Steve reminded that we had voted to resume in-person meetings on March 4, and asked if there were any reservations on that. Ken suggested consulting Dr. Soden, but the majority all felt we could go ahead. Gordon said he is meeting with the church technician to make sure the sound system is working, but the tech team is ready for hybrid meetings. John said he needs an okay for the Queens contract for our meeting there on March 18.

B. The Bylaws allow a guest fee, and Steve showed a proposed slide for the emails when we start charging. After some discussion, it was decided to change the term “fee” to “donation” and instead of listing the donation and service charge separately, to say “donation \$6”.

C. Steve moved to gift our speakers with a one-year membership, since we have been telling them they are honorary members for a year now. He suggested giving them a name badge. After some discussion, a suggestion was given to give them a membership card. Glenn suggested we give them both. A vote was taken on this, which passed.

D. Jane, the Discount Policy Coordinator said they would wait until mid-March to make a decision on cost for group participation by senior homes, churches, etc.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:14. The next meeting will be March 9, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth McDevitt, Secretary