

Senior Scholars
Board meeting, January 12, 2022

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

President Steve Gilbert called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and declared a quorum. Secretary Ruth McDevitt moved approval of the November 10, 2021 minutes, which was seconded and approved.

Queens Report:

Robert Koch, our new liaison from Queens University, introduced himself with some background of his past experience and his roles at Queens. He mentioned some upcoming events of interest, including QUnited, Queens Giving Day, will be Wednesday, March 16, 2022. Reunion Weekend is April 1 and 2, 2022, with plans to invite both the class years ending in 2's and 7's along with the 0's and 5's who missed in 2020 and the 1's and 6's who missed in 2021, Covid permitting. Spectators at athletic events are not allowed for the time being, but Queens will continue to evaluate as the semester progresses.

Treasurer's Report: Glenn reported that since we did not pay rent this past year, we had a most profitable year. He moved to: 1) Approve the financial statements as of December 31, 2021, 2) The 2022 budget as distributed to the Board in December be approved with one modification to allow for the acquisition of a license, at an annual cost of \$480, for QuickBooks Online, and 3) a change to the organization's accounting policies to allow for the amortization of dues received in the fourth quarter of the previous year and the first three quarters of the current year over the twelve months of such current year. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Curriculum: Len talked about the list of speakers presented to the board previously. He highlighted some of the speakers and spoke of four open positions on the calendar, for which he has a goodly list, but encouraged us to give him the names of possible speakers if we have someone of interest. Ken Brown said he had difficulty getting Great Decision speakers this year because of the difficulty of the topic, but he has all the Spring line-up filled. He is resigning at the end of this year, but will find a replacement. He was rightfully and highly praised for his service.

PUMC Liaison: John Koch, our new liaison replacing Jane Howard, said all is progressing smoothly with admission of the tech team for practice sessions and will be ready for hybrid meetings to start March 4.

Wildacres Retreat: Jim Gronquist reported that the dates this year will be April 25-28. They; are still working on the costs with Wildacres, and a tentative budget has been sent to the Treasurer of SSQ. The Wildacres website page has been updated and the program for this year will soon be added. There are two speakers this year, one of whom is an entertainer.

Membership: Pam said that Monday's email was in two mailings, one to paid-up members and the other to expired members. She felt it was very successful, since it has resulted so far in fourteen renewals and three new members. Her numbers and Glenn's vary on membership, depending when checks have been deposited and information exchanged. Steve has created a jotform to bring volunteers into helping on committees where their talents lie. She will publish the directory online in February, and it will include only the names of paid-up members, which will be updated monthly as people join or renew. Lastly, since we are not meeting in-person, she will accept online that members have reached 90 years, at which time their membership becomes free.

Website and Email: Aimee Hite presented a list of updates on the website, which everyone agrees is first-rate. Steve asked that a Zoom link be added to encourage members to attend the Curriculum meeting to encourage them to make contributions of names and contacts to speakers of interest.

Technology: Gordon thanked the team of Alan Matthews, Jin Wang, Bill Nemecek and Ollie Frazier for all the work they do, as well as John Koch in getting them into the church to connect equipment and to practice. Ken reminded that if we have speakers who will not appear in person when we go back to in-person meetings, we need to practice presenting them virtually.

Social and Moderators: Carol said there obviously is no social activity because we are not meeting in-person, but she hopes we will soon be back to coffees before meetings and perhaps a luncheon in May. She plans to add a couple of new moderators, so that each moderator does not have to be there more than once a month.

Lunch Bunch: BG also reported being on hold until March, when perhaps we can resume lunch groups.

Marketing: Jane has created goals of 1) generating enough revenue to cover the committee's expenses; 2) Providing information on the organization; 3) Marketing our organization to groups. To this end, Don has already set up a meeting with African-American churches and will produce a brochure that can be handed out. and 4) Marketing to attract diverse members. She moved that the committee's name be changed from Diversity to Marketing, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

Nominating: Don said the board is set for 2022 and the committee, which consists of himself as Chair with members of the Membership, Technical, Website and Wildacres

Retreat committees, will work on the 2023 board, which will be presented in October of this year and voted upon in November.

Old Business:

Hybrid Meetings: Gordon said as we get closer, we will need the Feb. 24 rehearsal for starting hybrid meetings on Mar. 4. Bob Metzler will talk to Queens Athletic Center about meeting there for the Fridays that PUMC is not available.

Board 2022 List: The list as presented to the board by email from Steve was declared the official list.

New Business:

Motion 2: Steve presented a motion that we resume the \$100 Honoraria to each speaker's charity of choice demonstrating community involvement. The motion was seconded and approved.

Motion 3: Ruth moved that we begin an annual appreciation list on the website for those members who contributed their time and talents to the organization but are not board members. After some discussion, the motion was withdrawn to be brought up another time.

Motion 4: Steve asked that we have a pilot test for a Round Table discussion after meetings. Alternative ideas were brought up, including doing it at lunch, in the afternoon, or by Zoom. BG will moderate, but suggested we discuss this after hybrid meetings have resumed, so the idea was put on hold for the future.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:23.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth McDevitt, Secretary