

**Senior Scholars at Queens
Board Meeting
January 10, 2024**

Present: Jane Howard, Steve Lauer, Kathy Gray, Tom Gray, Gordon Haymond, Glenn Paton, Dave Collins, Don Campbell, Len Norman, John Koch, Pam Nemecek, Carol Kesmodel, Bill Thomas, Carlos Glender, Aimee Hite, Ollie Frazier, Jin Wang, BG Metzler, Ken Orenbach, Robert Koch, Sr., Jim Grohnquist.
Guests: Sue Gill

President Jane Howard called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. Approval of the November Board meeting minutes was unanimous. The motion was made by Gordon Haymond and seconded by Steve Lauer.

Queens Liaison: Robert Koch reported that the Royal Day of Service is 1/12, supporting their motto: “Not to be Served, But to Serve”. On February 21, in coordination with Larry Elder, there will be 25 artists exhibiting at the Gambrell Center at a meeting to raise awareness on Human Rights. Planned Parenthood is exhibiting as well. Queens will be visited by the Estonian ambassador. February 2 is the 30th Queens University Homecoming.

Treasurer’s Report: Glenn Paton reported that we beat our year end goal for dues of \$2025, on the last day, with \$2075. Without including the direct mail campaign costs, we ended the year with \$220 profit. We currently have \$8300 cash, which will cover rent and honorariums through May. Our current balance in CD’s is \$46,000.

The 2024 Budget projects a \$3500 profit and needs approval. The motion was made by Len Norman and seconded by Gordon Haymond. It was passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Social and Moderators Committee: No report.

Curriculum: Steve Lauer notes that all but two slots are filled – April 5 and May 24. Recommendations for speakers are welcome. Fall speaker schedule is wide open.

Venue and Marketing: Don Campbell informed about a Wildacres flyer to send out weekly to remind members about the retreat.

Don proposes a Senior Expo on a Friday in February or March in Wolfe Hall from 9:00 to 10:00 and 11:15 to 12:00, with 7-12 tables to use for the

exhibitors. The goal is to attract more in person members. Exhibitors would be other non-profits such as Shepard Center, Senior Games and others. A second category could be members selling craft items they create, or a third category of other for-profit businesses such as Park Rd. Books, Mann Travel or retirement homes.

There was discussion about capacity, vendors and timing. Don will take this back to the Marketing committee for further discussion.

Membership and Directory: Pam Nemecek reported on current membership:

2023 Members = 411

2024 Members = 572

Total Members = 983

December Membership Activity:

Renewals = 66

New Members = 10

January Membership Activity:

Renewals = 21

New Members = 11

The timeline for removing non renewing 2023 members is mid-February.

Through January, renewals will be encouraged. For the first two weeks of February, those members will be notified that they will no longer receive the weekly emails by mid-February. A separate email will be sent by Pam to these 2023 members, encouraging them to renew. And also asking for reasons if they do not plan to renew, such as moved, health, lack of interest etc.

Technical AV: Gordon reported that they are ready for our 1/12 first meeting of 2024. He has a potential new volunteer.

Church Liaison: John Koch reported no news from the church. For the dates not available at PUMC on March 1 and March 29, the meetings will be held at Temple Beth El . Steve Lauer moved that we approve the meetings at Temple Beth El and Kathy Gray seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Wildacres: Jim Grohnquist reported on the speakers: Prof. Chelsea Kaufmann, Wingate University and NC Supreme Court Associate Justice, Anita Earls. The dates this year are April 22-25. Jim encouraged reading the Suggested Reading for the event, which is posted on the website.

Website and Email: Aimee Hite has updated pages with new officers. Wildacres page has been updated, with January 19 opening registration information available. Currently the Archives are not online.

Nominating Committee: Len Norman will chair with the Past President, and the chairs of Membership, Website, Technical and Wildacres. The committee will be identifying 3 Directors and a 2nd Vice President for 2025.

Lunch Bunch: Carol Kesmodel reported that there are no events in January, but will schedule one in February, with two restaurants to accommodate more people.

Field Trips: Carol Kesmodel reported on the trip to the Catawba Reservation. The trip can accommodate up to 50. There is a \$10 donation required. There will be carpool available. Tom Gray, on the Board of the Elmwood Cemetery, is investigating a field trip there. Carlos Glender recommended a trip to the new Sullenberger Aviation Museum after it opens.

Old Business: Steve Lauer reported on the copyright violation reported to Senior Scholars. Steve met with an attorney about the allegation by PicRight Intl. The attorney contacted the company with the result that the claim of \$3000 was dropped, as we were the secondary violator, and the company does not go after that level.

Steve also indicated that we need to further investigate our exposure to such claims, as there are many other companies doing these searches.

In the meantime, the Speaker Archives have been removed from our website. New procedures for speakers will be developed to prevent further copyright infringement claims. Steve will create the procedures and send them to all.

They will be discussed at the February 14 meeting.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 14, at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Nemecek, filling in for Ruth McDevitt