

**Senior Scholars at Queens
Board Meeting
March 8, 2023**

Present: Len Norman, Jane Howard, Jim Gronquist, Gordon Haymond, Dave Collins, Ruth McDevitt, Steve Gilbert, Don Campbell, Robert Koch, Sheri Knaebel, Alan Matthews, Aimee Hite, Jeanne Smith, John Koch, Steve Lauer, Pam Nemecek, Carlos Glender **Absent:** Glenn Paton, BG Metzler, Bob Metzler, Sara Haymond, Bill Thomas **Committee Members:** Carol Kesmodel **Guests:** Jim Renger

President Len Norman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Due to lack of an initial quorum, the minutes approval was delayed, but when a quorum was reached, they were approved as sent. Len announced to the board that the Executive Board had approved the Marketing Committee taking out a one-time ad in Axios Charlotte at a cost of \$325.

Queens Report: Robert Koch reported on the many happenings of interest at Queens University, all of which are listed on our website. Some highlights are a recent highly successful Qnited united giving day with 1600 donors, bringing back the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sat. May 25, and some quality arts programs in April.

PUMC Liaison: John Koch reported that they will be able to fit the tables needed for Membership and Coffee in the area at Queens Sports Center on Friday for the meeting being held there.

Technical Committee: Gordon Haymond said they have invested in walkie-talkies to better communicate with people on the floor for the meeting at Queens Sports Center. The committee will be leaving this meeting shortly to set up and meet with the Queens tech people for Friday's presentation.

Nominating Committee: Don Campbell **Moved** the appointment of Steve Lauer to replace Jim Gronquist as Second Vice-President for 2023. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Steve was thanked for taking on this responsibility.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Collins reported we took in \$1850 in February—54 renewals and 20 new members. This makes up some of the shortfall, and we now have 128 members from 2022 who have not renewed for this year. That's better than the 220 we had at the beginning of the year, but still too many. Our bank balance now stands at \$58,765, but will change in March because of five meetings this month as well as about \$1,000 in credit card bills that will come due. We have had a real drop-off so far this month in renewals and new members compared to the beginning of February, and we will lose some of the ground we've regained since the beginning of the year if that continues.

Curriculum: Jane Howard reported great work by her committee to fill the Spring calendar with quality speakers. Not a lot has changed since her last report. The speaker for May 26 does not yet have a topic for her speech, Ken Orbach is still working on the Great Decisions speakers, and she has one available date in the fall schedule, which she will hold to see if a topic of interest comes up during the summer for which we will want a speaker on that subject.

Social Committee: Sheri Knaebel asked if informational flyers about SSQ could be made available to let people she contacts at the Cornwell Center know the details of our meetings, website, etc. Aimee and

Don will work on making this available, as well as making them available to members to give to non-members who may be interested.

Marketing: Don Campbell said although the Marketing Committee is fairly new and doubted as necessary by some members at the beginning, we now are down 100-150 members from last year so marketing is needed to bring up our revenue. He reported in detail what each member of the committee is doing to increase our visibility, and reminded us that we will have to spend money to get our name out.

Membership and Directory: Pam Nemecek reported we currently have 656 members. There are 355 who are in the database but not members. She will be updating the web directory this week and now that we have a new Second VP will print the Board handbook. The New Member Orientation attendance has been growing, with 13 signed up for this week.

Wildacres: Jeanne Smith has 68 people registered currently, and with the addition of five more rooms added by Wildacres management, can accept 82 and probably more. She encouraged attendance at this event.

Webmaster and Email: Len reminded us that Bill Gristmeyer has taken over the emails and is doing a great job. Aimee Hite shared updates she has done on the website and noted that the number of users has increased greatly. She reminded us to send her an email if we notice any links not working or any information that is incorrect. She will add a "Donate" button to the home page.

Lunch Bunch and Field Trips: Carol Kesmodel reminded us the next Lunch Bunch is March 24 at Napa on Providence. The next field trip will be to the Billy Graham Museum on March 28, and Tom Hanchett will conduct a walking tour around the Elizabeth neighborhood on May 9.

Site Committee: Jim Gronquist reported that the committee has rejected two of their current possibilities for next year's location (Meyer's Park Baptist Church and Queens Sports Center) because of price. Being considered as an alternative to PUMC now are Unitarian United Community Center, which seats 245, has good tech, parking and kitchen, and will cost only about \$200 per session. One drawback is that it is on the second floor, which necessitates taking an elevator or stairs to attend the meetings. Temple Beth El is also still under consideration, and he urged board members to let the committee know if we know of any other locations to consider.

There being no other Old or New Business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth McDevitt, Secretary