

**Senior Scholars at Queens  
Board Meeting  
September 13, 2023**

**Present:** Len Norman, Jane Howard, Steve Lauer, Gordon Haymond, Dave Collins, Ruth McDevitt, Stephen Gilbert, Don Campbell, BG Metzler, Robert Koch, Alan Matthews, Aimee Hite, John Koch, Bill Thomas, Pam Nemecek, Carlos Glender **Absent:** Glen Paton, Bob Metzler, Sheri Kenaebel, Jeanne Smith, Sara Haymond, Jim Gronquist **Committee Members and Guests:** Jin Wang, Sue Gill, Carol Kesmodel, Jim Renger, Mitzi Czapla, Tom and Kathy Gray

President Len Norman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Jane Howard moved the approval of the minutes of the last meeting, May 10. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Len reported that since the last board meeting, the Executive Committee has:

- Approved a new two-year lease and thanked John Koch for all his work on that.
- Authorized an expenditure of \$3000 for a Marketing campaign, which Don will talk about later.
- Approved the Holiday Luncheon be held at Carmel Country Club on Tuesday, December 19. Eileen Griggs will chair.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dave reported that for the second half of this year, our income from dues—mostly new members—has far exceeded that of last month in 2022. Though various issues made it impossible to withdraw money as one of our CD's had turned over and they had contemplated various creative ways to cover September and October expenses (like asking board members to pay next year's dues early), the influx of money made that unnecessary. With regard to interest income, Dave pointed out that we have seen an increase of 575% between 2022 and 2023—from \$1.20 at the beginning of September last year to \$690.30 this year.

**Queens University Report:** Robert Koch said the new VP of Advancement, Laurie Ann Summer and new Dean of the McColl School of Business, Denise Rotondo, are working out well. He listed several interesting programs at Queens that our members might want to attend, and information on them is available on our website.

**Website and Email Committee Report:** Aimee has updated the website to date, added a "Donate" button on the Home Page, and updated the list of charities that speakers have donated to. She noted that new visitors to the website were up 17%, probably due to the large increase in new members.

**Social Committee:** Len reported for Sherri that the coffee and snacks are going well, and Don will provide donut holes for the Friday meeting.

**Curriculum Committee:** Jane said all Fall programs had been lined up, but she has just learned that one of her speakers will be in New York on the date he was to speak.

He may speak on Zoom, or she may have a substitute speaker. She sent out a complete report on speakers earlier this week.

**Marketing:** Don said we have four organizations with group licenses—The Barkley, Friends of the Community Home, Sharon Towers and Brookdale Carriage Club. They each pay \$100 per year to participate. His committee feels that is not enough, and proposes an increase to \$300 per year for group licenses. He moved this, it was seconded and approved.

There will be a joint presentation with Friendship Missionary Baptist Church on October 17 and will start to be publicized soon. He encourages all Senior Scholars to attend for the interesting lecture by Dr. Soden and for the fellowship of the church members.

\$2700 was spent on a mailing to a targeted group of seniors in five zip codes in neighborhoods near PUMC. 5300 were sent around Labor Day, and we will see what response we get.

Over the summer, the Marketing Committee members visited 22 retirement communities and talked to Activity Directors to recruit new group members.

Don asked any board members with ideas for recruiting members to contact him or a committee member.

**Membership and Directory:** Len reported for Pam that we now have 863 members. Our total for 2022 was 840, so we have and will have well surpassed that for this year. Len moved that we provide 2024 membership to all who joined since June 2023. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Technical and AV Committee:** Gordon said the committee spent three hours on Sept. 1 on a test run and all went well except playing music but it was worked out for the first meeting. He gave special credit to Alan Matthews for all the work he does.

**Lunch Bunch/Field Trips:** Carol reported tremendous response to both. Lunch Bunch has 30 going to the next luncheon, and the field trip is sold out. New members Kathy and Tom Gray have volunteered to help out with Field Trips and she is looking for a helper with Lunch Bunch, since BG has had to drop off due to her health.

**PUMC Liaison:** John Koch has been informed the church will not be available on February 9, due to a conference that will interfere. We will probably meet at Queens on that date. He noted the new contract, ending in 2025 with the church.

**Nominating Committee:** Steve Gilbert reported that will have their final meeting on September 20 at 3:45 and any interested board member may attend.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Len moved we allow PUMC veterans and their spouses to attend our November 10, 2023 meeting in person without paying a guest fee. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. The church will allow SSQ members who are in

attendance at the meeting, following the program by Major General David Richwine, USMC Retired. to attend a reception for veterans.

He read our current policy on Covid and said we would continue to follow that until or unless there is a change in infections this season. It was suggested we encourage members to get boosters that are available.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth McDevitt, Secretary