

**Senior Scholars at Queens  
Board of Directors Minutes  
September 11, 2024**

**Board Members Present:** Jane Howard, Steve Lauer, Kathy Gray, Carlos Glender, Len Norman, Steve Gilbert, Pam Nemecek, Carol Kesmodel, Alan Matthews, Aimee Hite, Jack Gill, John Koch, Barbara Devinney

**Guests:** Don Campbell, Larry Ferri, Sue Gill, Tom Gray, Bill Griesmyer, Jim Gronquist, Gordon Haymond, BG Metzler, Allison Myer-Tucker, Ken Orenbach, John Romano, Bill Thomas, Jin Wang

**Call to Order:** President Jane Howard called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**Queens University Report:** Allison Myer-Tucker, Director of Special Programs in the Advancement office, is the new Queens liaison. Upcoming events include the September 17 fireside chat with Dr. Will Sparks and Hugh McColl to announce rebranding of the MBA program to the McColl MBA Program; the October 30 Learning Society evening lecture with David Brooks; and the combined Reunion and Homecoming the weekend of February 8, 2025.

**Approval of Minutes.** Len Norman and Steve Lauer agreed there had been approval at the May 8 board meeting to include these subcommittees under the Social Committee: Coffee, Lunch Bunch, Field Trips, and Holiday and Spring Luncheons. With that correction, the May 8 minutes were approved

**Committee Reports:**

**Nominating Committee:** Len reported that on September 4 the Executive Committee approved Nancy Stancill as Chair of Social Committee. She had been serving as acting chair and was instrumental in planning the December Holiday Luncheon.

The Nominating and Executive Committees recommended that Barbara Devinney be appointed to fill the Secretary position, to be effective immediately. All approved.

Three At-large Board Members' terms expire at the end of 2024: Carlos Glender, Carol Kesmodel and Alan Matthews. Carol and Alan are willing to be reappointed for new three-year terms ending 2027. For 2025 Officer positions, Carlos has agreed to serve as Second Vice President. This move creates an opening for a new At-Large Board Member. The Nominating and Executive Committees are recommending John Romano, a former health services executive and Wildacres and Wolfe Hall volunteer. John introduced himself and described his background. These four candidates will comprise the slate for election at the October Board meeting.

**Treasurer's Report and Finance Committee:** Jane reported that Glenn Paton emailed the Finance report to Board members two weeks ago. The organization is solvent, and funds are set

aside to cover Fall expenses. Glenn is traveling, and Dave Collins is not able to attend because of his treatment regimen on Wednesdays.

**Webmaster & Email Committee:** Aimee Hite said the web developer she's been working with for years has medical issues and has not been available. She continues to update information on the site, but technical changes will need to wait until a new developer is available.

**Curriculum Committee:** Steve Lauer reported the Fall lineup of speakers is filled. Meg Johnson, Music Therapy Program Director and Clinical Coordinator at Queens, will be presenting on September 27. She will also be one of the speakers at Wildacres.

For Spring 2025, Kathy Gray said the committee has already lined up 12-13 speakers, and Ken Orenbach has lined up Great Decisions speakers. She recommended that the Board approve holding the April 18 meeting by Zoom only, as April 18 is Good Friday and the church will not be available. Pam seconded the motion and all approved.

Kathy also asked John Koch to check on the date of the Boy Scout BBQ Friday and said the committee would need to find another location for the SSQ meeting. Without objection, the plan to hold the meeting at another location was approved.

**Social Committee:** Nancy offered details on the Holiday Luncheon at Maggiano's Little Italy on Wednesday, December 4. The event will start at 11:30 with holiday music provided by Jane and Pierce Howard and Ed and Nancy Wielunski. The meal will be served family style, featuring four courses: two appetizers, salad, three entrees and two desserts.

The guest speaker will be Mark Washburn, former senior reporter and columnist for the *Charlotte Observer*. His topic will be "Miracle on the Hudson: the reporter who covered the story looks back." He was the reporter on the story for weeks, and the topic fits well with the field trip to the Sullenberger Museum.

Len said the contract for the holiday luncheon was approved by Board members via email vote on July 24-25, with 15 of 17 Board members responding. Len moved that the notes of that effort be appended to the minutes of this meeting. Steve Gilbert seconded and all approved.

**Marketing Committee:** Don Campbell reported on the joint meeting with Friendship Missionary Baptist Church set for Tuesday, September 17 at the church on Beatty's Ford Road. City Councilmember Dimple Ajmira will do an encore talk on affordable housing and respond to questions on property tax increases, Bank of America stadium renovations, mass transit and other issues. Steve Gilbert will be representing SSQ at the meeting.

On October 11, a Fall Senior Expo will be held in Wolfe Hall with 14 exhibitors in conjunction with Professor Steven Clark presenting in person. The idea is to attract more members to attend in person for the social benefits. Exhibitors will include Ronald McDonald House, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, Parks and Recreation, among others.

With exhibitors exceeding room capacity, the committee recommends approval to add a mini expo on Friday, October 4, to include the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women. Without objection, the proposal was approved.

BG Metzler is encouraging the active senior program at the Harris Y to come to a meeting.

**Membership & Directory Committee:** Pam Nemecek reported 888 members, with 33 new members since May 31 and 31 renewals for 2025. The Member Directory has been updated on the website, listing first and last name and email address only to avoid scams. New-member orientation will be on October 18 in Room 106 at the church, in-person only. Membership cards for 2025 will be available to pick up October 11. She will create a 2025 Board of Directors Handbook early in the new year.

**Wildacres Retreat Committee:** Steve Lauer reported that “Brain Health” is the subject for the retreat. One of the two speakers will be Meg Johnson of the Queens Music Therapy, and he hopes to confirm the second speaker soon. Wildacres will confirm the date later, but the hope is for the last Monday in April.

**Technical A/V Committee:** Jack Gill said the team recently set up equipment and reviewed procedures for Friday meetings. The church’s projector was broken, and the Executive Committee approved reimbursing Jack \$375 for a backup projector. Steve Lauer said he and Aimee will provide the new username and password to the Zoho account to those needing access to the database of SSQ speakers.

**Lunch Bunch Committee:** BG Metzler said the first lunch will be October 18. Carol Kesmodel is considering Calle Sol at Apex SouthPark.

**Field Trips:** Carol described the visit to the Sullenberger Museum on Tuesday, October 22 from 11-1. The usual cost for seniors is \$20. The SSQ discounted cost will be \$17 and will cover credit card costs. Members may buy tickets at Friday meetings or on the SSQ website. The museum will provide an introduction at the beginning of the tour, then each room will have its own docent and members may wander. There is no limit on attendance.

**PUMC Liaison:** The need for various tables at Friday meetings was relayed to John Koch.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Devinney, Secretary