

As approved December 11, 2024

**Senior Scholars at Queens
Board of Directors Minutes
November 20, 2024**

Board Members Present: Jane Howard, Steve Lauer, Jack Gill, Glenn Paton, Barbara Devinney, Len Norman, Carlos Glender, Steve Gilbert, Alan Matthews, Carol Kesmodel, Aimee Hite, Pam Nemecek, Ollie Frazier, John Koch, Kristan Smith

Others Present: Don Campbell, Gordon Haymond, BG Metzler, Ken Orenbach, Jin Wang

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

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the November 13 Board meeting were approved.

Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee – Len Norman reported that since Kristan Smith will be co-chairing the Wildacres Committee, a second person is needed for the Email Committee. There is also a need for a second person to co-chair the Wildacres Committee, and there is an opening for chair of the Marketing and Cultural Diversity Committee.

Curriculum Committee: Steve Lauer said the last educational presentation of the year will be uplifting because the executive director of Earl Scruggs Museum will be bringing a banjo player with her. Jane reported for Kathy Gray that presentation dates for the first half of 2025 are filled except for May 16 and 23, which she is working on. Carlos Glender said he has a confirmation for the speaker on May 23, which he's forwarded to Kathy. Bob Senn's topic will be Wildlife in the Carolinas.

Webmaster & Email Committee: Kristan Smith reported on some additional editing processes are being added to the weekly emails. Glenn Paton recommended continuing weekly emails to members during December to encourage membership renewals. Eighty renewals came in December last year, generating \$2,000. It was agreed to send one weekly message during December. Pam will draft the language, and Jane will send out.

Social Committee: Len reported 70 registrations to date for the December 4 holiday luncheon with more expected this week.

Carol Kesmodel is working on plans for a field trip to the Scruggs Museum in Shelby in February. She asked if members present would be willing to pay \$30-\$35 for a bus ride to the museum, and six responded yes. She is planning several more field trips in spring.

Jane reported that BG Metzler hopes to offer a monthly Lunch Bunch event from January through May.

Marketing Committee: Don Campbell said there is a plan to submit article in the online Charlotte Ledger, which would be a \$50 investment in promoting Senior Scholars. Len said that a woman with the Ledger wrote story when the group was meeting at Queens on Tyvola Road, which resulted in 20 new members. Nancy Stancill knows the editor, and Don will coordinate with Nancy. Don will check with Kathy about scheduling possible expos in 2025.

Membership & Directory Committee: Pam Nemecek reported that 435 members have registered for 2025. With 518 members in 2024, the total is 953. Included in that number is one new person and seven renewals this week. She is confident there will be a swell of renewals in January.

PUMC Liaison: John Koch said he has received verbal confirmation that the scout BBQ day at the church will be March 14, and he has forwarded the information to Kathy and Tom Gray so they can find an alternate location for the educational presentation.

Wildacres Retreat Committee: Kristan has received some organizational background material from Jeanne Smith, and she has a call pending with Laura Little for additional help as she transitions into co-chairing the retreat. Steve Lauer has some historical information he will forward to Kristan.

Steve Lauer said he spoke with Phil Blumenthal and learned that some Wildacres staff members are continuing to struggle financially following Hurricane Helene. He moved to contribute \$3,000, at \$1,000 a month for three months, to Wildacres to disburse to staff members experiencing the greatest need. Steve Gilbert seconded the motion, and all approved.

Steve Lauer reported that there was some tree damage to the Wildacres dining hall and parking lot, some septic system pipes were washed out, but the lodge is relatively unscathed. The center can be reached by car but not as directly as before. The staff anticipates reopening soon.

Technical A/V Committee: Jack Gill reported the church's new projector is working well. Unfortunately, Jin Wang will be retiring from the committee but may be available to help from time to time. Additional helpers would be welcome.

Copyright Infringement Matter/Speaker Archive: Following the Board's decision at the November 13 meeting, Steve Lauer will be providing Aimee with language to be included for speakers when they access JotForm to add information about their presentations.

Aimee reported that while the copyright issue was pending none of the 2024 presentations was uploaded to Vimeo, a third-party hosted account, for processing and trimming prior to being uploaded to website. Alan Matthews performs that operation. With about 30 presentations taking two hours each to process, it could take 60 hours of work. Steve Lauer will provide Alan and Aimee with the names of four to five speakers he knows are safe for posting on the public side now and a batch he thinks would be good to make available to members on the password-protected side. A third batch could be reserved for processing until a further review of content is done, which he will work on.

Updates to Bylaws and Operating Procedures: On behalf of the Executive Committee, Barbara presented the draft changes to the Bylaws and Operating Procedures.

Following discussion, changes to the draft Bylaws were approved as follows:

- Motion by Pam, seconded by Glenn, to eliminate the reference to requests for expenses related to speakers, under Curriculum Committee in Bylaws Article 7.
- Motion by Pam, seconded by Steve Gilbert, to refer to “*official* communications to the membership and to the public” under the President’s duties in Bylaws Article 6.
- Motion by Len, seconded by Steve Gilbert, to reflect in Article 3:
 - (1) that the Annual Meeting will be the last weekly educational presentation of the year instead of the last program meeting; and
 - (2) that liaisons will be included with officers and standing committee chairpersons who may be elected by the Board to fill a vacancy.

By consensus, one change was made in the draft Operating Procedures: to refer simply to “microphone” for the speaker, without further description. (In Procedure 1 regarding weekly educational presentations.)

On recommendation of the Executive Committee for approval of the Operating Procedures, Jane called the question, and all approved. Any last-minute changes could be presented at the January meeting.

Barbara then moved and Len seconded to take a straw vote on the first reading of the Bylaws, with a positive response from all Board members still in attendance. The Bylaws will be presented for final adoption at the January meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 8 at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Devinney, Secretary