

As approved March 12, 2025

**Senior Scholars at Queens
Board of Directors Minutes
February 12, 2025**

Board Members Present: Steve Lauer, Jack Gill, Glenn Paton, Barbara Devinney, Len Norman, Alan Matthews, Aimee Hite, Pam Nemecek, Dave Collins, Ollie Frazier, John Koch, Kristan Smith

Others Present: Said Atri, Steve Gilbert, Gordon Haymond, Cyndi Henry, Bill Griesmeyer, Ken Orenbach

Call to Order: President Steve Lauer called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. On motion of Pam, seconded by Steve Lauer, the corrected minutes of the January 12, 2025, Board meeting were approved.

Queens University Report: Steve announced that Queens representative Allison Meyer-Tucker was unable to attend but shared the livestream link for the upcoming Charlotte Business Woman of the Year event on March 6 at noon. The event recognizes a prominent Charlotte female business leader, and this year's honoree is Kristi Coleman, CEO of Pepper Sports.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report and Finance Committee: Glenn Paton indicated a change in the monthly financial report format, showing a comparison between the current Profit & Loss results and budgeted and the previous year's actuals to help monitor trends. He noted the amount received in dues was down \$125 from January 2024, with 16 fewer new members this year than last, meaning renewals continued strong but new members did not. Because Senior Scholars is an aging group, where loss is to be expected, he will be adding membership numbers to his monthly financial reports to help monitor the impact.

Steve Lauer discussed the importance of marketing. He spoke last week about Senior Scholars at the Connery on Providence 55+ apartment community with Len Norman. Pam suggested printing copies of Alan Matthew's tri-fold brochure as an adjunct to other marketing pieces. Glenn noted there is \$1,000 in budget for marketing.

John Koch said he provides a monthly report to Providence United Methodist Church on program attendance numbers and that we're approaching 250, which, if exceeded, would trigger an increase in the weekly rent.

Webmaster & Email Committee: Aimee Hite reported that the speaker archive pages are back on the website, with a successful soft launch. She has created a slide, and Steve Lauer said he would announce this at the February 14 educational presentation.

Curriculum Committee: In Carlos Glender's absence, Steve Lauer announced that the speaker planned for February 14 was switched to the Zoom format on April 18 (Good Friday) and the replacement speaker for February 14 will be Austin Caton with the Centralina Area Agency on Aging. His topic will be Medicare Fraud. The March 7 date needs a speaker, which Carlos will be working on.

Nominating Committee: Len Norman reported that recruiting has been in progress for six open positions. The committee is hoping to fill the Lunch Bunch and Field Trips coordinator positions soon, and they are still seeking a co-chair for the Wildacres Retreat. The Nominating Committee presented two recommendations for approval:

Said Atri as 2nd Vice President, to be effective immediately. He described his background of over 46 years of teaching economics, retiring in January 2024 from SUNY Oswego. He served as chair of the department and served on over 50 committees. He taught two semesters in China at Shanghai Normal University. He also volunteered at a soup kitchen in New York.

Cynthia (Cyndi) Henry to chair the Marketing & Cultural Diversity Committee, to be effective immediately. She described her current marketing role with the Villages on Morehead and more than 42 years in marketing and turnarounds. She has a network of relationships with senior-focused organizations, including the Jewish Community Center. She's also been an ambassador with the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce and is a member and past board member of SouthPark Rotary, among others.

Following self-introductions, the two candidates left the Zoom meeting to allow Board member discussion. Following discussion, Steve Lauer seconded the Nominating Committee's recommendation to approve Said Atri, and the motion was approved. Steve Lauer then seconded the Nominating Committee's recommendation to approve Cyndi Henry, and the motion was approved.

Social Committee: Nancy Stancill reported that Raintree Country Club at Pineville Matthews Road has been selected for the Spring Luncheon, to be held on Thursday June 5, 2025, a week following the final spring educational presentation. The buffet lunch will include barbecue and chicken, with a plated salad and berry cobbler, for a cost of \$45 per person. Discussion followed on potential speakers on the topic of food and local dining.

Len Norman moved, Pam seconded, and all approved holding the Spring Luncheon at the Raintree Country Club, charging members \$45 each to attend, and authorizing Nancy Stancill to execute an agreement with Raintree Country Club with a \$400 deposit. The deposit is non-refundable but can be used for deferred events.

Len noted that leaders are needed for the Lunch Bunch and Field Trips.

Steve Lauer shared that BG Metzler, long-time volunteer and president in 2017, died on February 9. Her husband Bob has also been an active volunteer. Steve will announce her passing at Friday's educational program, and Barbara will circulate a sympathy card for Board members to sign.

Marketing & Cultural Diversity Committee: Reporting for Don Campbell, Steve Lauer said there would be a mini-expo on March 21. The Connery on Providence and the Elder Law Firm will be exhibiting. Information about the March 21 presentation and mini-expo is set to run in the Charlotte Ledger.

Membership & Directory Committee: Pam Nemecek reported a total of 1,003 members. From January 1 to February 12, there have been 33 new members and 116 renewals. She will be sending a second mailing this week to those who have not yet renewed. She has updated the online Directory and will be holding an orientation for new members on February 14.

She will be distributing the Board Handbook at Friday's meeting. She worked with printing services at Central Piedmont Community College to reproduce the Board Handbook, Board phone and email cards, marketing and business cards, and Wildacres flyer – all for \$214.

PUMC Liaison: John Koch requested advance notice if speakers plan to bring books for sale so he can have display tables ready. He would also like to know the number of tables needed by committees.

Wildacres Retreat Committee: Kristan Smith reported 24 registrations to date. The committee is working on details for the schedule, moderators and AV equipment. One volunteer is focused on developing free-time activities.

Steve Lauer reported that all the speakers and musicians are confirmed.

Technical A/V Committee: Alan Matthews explained that the video switcher works intermittently and needs to be replaced, at a cost of \$1,295. Dave Collins said that the capital budget could be used. A motion by Steve Lauer, seconded by John Koch, to authorize the expenditure was approved.

New Business:

Queens University Connections. Steve Lauer said he has been exploring with Liz Ball, Patron Services Manager, additional ways to enhance our relationship with Queens University, so that SSQ members could benefit more from the connection. She will be verifying existing discounts for SSQ members and identifying potential new ones.

Pam mentioned that the Queens Learning Society hosts special speakers twice a year and offers a discount to Senior Scholars members.

Wildacres Facility Share with Sun City. Steve Lauer said he's been in conversation with a Senior Scholars member who also represents the Sun City Carolinas' Lifelong Learning group about the potential of holding simultaneous retreats at Wildacres. The Sun City group has been holding an annual retreat at Wildacres in October, but the attendance of only 25-30 members may not justify continuing the program. Senior Scholars' annual attendance has been 70-75, but that does not fill the facility. If the two groups shared the facility, each group would handle its own registration

and group management but could share speakers – and costs to some degree. Board members expressed interest in this, and Steve will continue discussions with the Sun City group.

Presentations to Senior Communities. The presentation at the Connery on Providence was well received, and Steve mentioned a plan to make similar outreach presentations in the coming months.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Devinney, Secretary