

# SENIOR SCHOLARS AT QUEENS – BOARD OF DIRECTORS ZOOM MEETING

## February 11, 2026

### **MINUTES**

Board Members Present:

**Executive Committee** : Carlos Glender (President), Said Atri(1st VP), Kristan Smith (2nd VP & Wildacres Co-Chair & Email Co-Chair), Jack Gill (Technical VP & Tech A/V Chair), Glenn Paton (Treasurer), Don Campbell (Secy)

**Past President** : Steve Lauer (1st Past President & Nominating Comm Chair)

**At-Large Directors** : Aimee Hite (2028 & Website Comm Chair), Pam Nemecek (2028 & Membership Comm Chair), David Collins (2028 & Asst Treasurer), Alan Matthews (2027 & A/V Comm), Carol Kesmodel (2027 & Moderators Coordinator), Ollie Frazer (2026), Linda Brandt (2026, LunchBunch Coordinator)

**Other Attendees** : Gordon Haymond (Tech A/V Comm), Ken Orenbach (Great Decisions), Lauren Judson (Field Trip Coordinator), Bill Thomas (Curriculum Committee), Bill Griesmyer (Email Committee), Nancy Stancill (Social Committee Co-Chair), Len Norman (Social Committee Co-Chair), Mary Gaertner (Queens University Liaison)

**Queens University Representative:** Allison Meyer-Tucker

As 12 Board Members were present, the required quorum of 12 was achieved.

The President opened the meeting at 2:00pm. The Secretary presented the Board Minutes of January 14 for approval.

### **Approved: The Minutes of January 14.**

The President reported that a pressing concern was to find an alternative venue for the March 20 presentation due to the Boy Scout Barbecue event at PUMC. Christ Lutheran Church is a possible alternative if technical and Internet concerns can be resolved.

The Treasurer reported that cash and financial accounts remain strong, but renewals remain down and need a push. Wildacres registration payments are being received. A question regarding cash tips to PUMC staff will be referred to John Koch.

	<u>THIS MO</u>	<u>LAST YR</u>	<u>5 YRS AGO</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$53,654</b>	<b>\$62,410</b>	<b>\$46,349</b>
<b>PAID MEMBERS</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>

The Queens University representative, Allison Meyer-Tucker, reviewed upcoming calendar events at Queens and the ongoing merger with Elon University. In response to a query by Mary Gaertner, she reviewed the process for obtaining a group pass and SSQ discount to Queens sport events.

Steve Lauer, Nominating Committee chair, proposed member Anne Miller as Marketing Comm Chair. Don Campbell reviewed Anne's marketing experience with the JCC and Brookdale Carriage Club and placed her name in nomination.

**Approved: Anne Miller as Marketing Committee Chairperson.**

The Website & Email Comm Co-Chair, Aimee Hite, reported that new website hosting software will provide future savings of \$300-400. Also, new website hosting analytics will be available next week. Bill Griesmyer reported that email analytics are showing usual patterns of email activity. Bill commented that comparison of past email analytics is difficult to obtain.

**Approved: New Website Hosting Software**

The Curriculum Comm Chair, Said Atri, and President Carlos Glender reported on the currently scheduled speakers and open slots remaining in the 2026 Jan-May speaker schedule. The March 20 speaker on Ukraine, Dr. Steve Sobol, has been finalized, but the venue is in question since Wolfe Hall will not be available. Several alternative venues, including Christ Lutheran Church, were discussed.

Social Committee Co-Chair Nancy Stancill reported that the June Spring Luncheon will likely be held at Raintree Country Club. She is searching for a speaker for the event, preferably a female speaker.

FieldTrip Coordinator Lauren Judson discussed field trip options including (a) tour of the Amazon Distribution Facility in the April time frame, (b) tour of the Charlotte Museum of History's program celebrating the 250th Anniversary, and (c) tour of the Reed Gold Mine.

Marketing Committee member Don Campbell reported on advertising costs in the local monthly Southpark magazine.

Mary Gaertner has organized a TV news article with WTVI that will spotlight Senior Scholars. A reporter from the station may be attending a future Wolfe Hall SSQ presentation as research for the article.

Membership Comm Chair Pam Nemecek reported on membership renewals for 2026. She reported that the online member directory has been updated as of February. Pam urged that the next weekly email blasts emphasize the need for members to make their 2026 renewals.

Wildacres Comm Co-Chair Kristan Smith reported that 2026 Reservations for the April 27-30 Wildacres event are open and 18 signups have been received so far, including 11 online reservations.

Technical VP Jack Gill reported that he visited the new auditorium facility in the Pearl Building, and it could be a good alternative venue when Wolfe Hall is unavailable on Good Friday, April 3.

Under old business, At-Large Director Alan Matthews reported modest progress in developing an online "store" to market SSQ apparel. Also, Queens Liaison, Mary Gaertner, advised that the Memorandum of Understanding as discussed with Queens University was accepted "as-is".

Under new business, the President reported that a subgroup is studying the possibility of utilizing a new Google spreadsheet application to archive and maintain data on SSQ speakers, past and present.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm. Next meeting on **Wednesday, Mar. 11 @ 2:00pm.**