

2021 New Year Message to QESAAUSA Alumni

Dear Alumni:

A new year, a new beginning. Wish 2021 brings in happiness, health & hope to you all!

The year 2020 was unique. We were unable to meet in person. The AGM scheduled on March 14 was called off because of the pandemic. We were hoping that we could meet again later of the year but that day did not come.

The BOD therefore decided to meet virtually on Zoom on Dec 19 to discuss some important business items. For the very first time, all the Board members were able to come together even though we were 500 miles apart. It was a very fruitful meeting. We discussed the upcoming BOD Election and resolved some of the issues raised by the membership on (a) Remove the \$100 Membership Fees. (b) Donate all Organization fund (c) Donate all fund but \$1000 for Organization expense. (d) Discontinue sending \$50 "White Money" to the family of a deceased member. (e) Make members' phone numbers available on the Membership List.

The following is a summary of the results of the Board's discussion.

(1) BOD Election

The normal BOD term of Service is 2 years and the inauguration of new BOD's is conducted at the AGM Meeting in Feb/March. It is unlikely that we will meet in person this Spring. The Board proposed the Election be postponed to 2022. The entire slate of BOD has graciously consented to serve for an additional year. The BOD has proposed to have a Virtual Social Meeting online to celebrate the Lunar New Year in Feb/Mar. We can share member updates, tell jokes, sing songs, play games (or execute any fun idea from you). Vice President Peter Poon will share his Zoom link with us for the event. Thanks to Peter & Mable for their generosity! Please stay tuned for the details.

(2) Membership Application Fees

We have been charging members and non-members the same amount for all our events. There is no apparent benefit for members. Over the years, we had difficulty to convince people to join. In the beginning years, members were charged at a discount price for events but that practice was abolished shortly after. By a majority vote, the BOD has approved to remove the \$100 Application fee from now on. The matter of whether refunding the members was also discussed. BOD unanimously denied the option for refund to existing members. However, the Board proposed to have a discount price for members at future events. That applies to corresponding events in S. California.

(3&4) Organization Reserved Fund

Most events were self sustained and the Reserved Fund was untouched. Someone suggested that we follow our sister chapter in Canada to donate our fund to QES

or QESOSA in Hong Kong. The Board believed that our Chapter is Independent and we do not need to follow other Chapters. When we have zero Reserved Fund, that means we are dissolving the Organization and we have no intention to do that. Besides, our Organization is not without expenses. We have to (1) pay for the website, (2) pay for teachers, Honorary Guests & their guests' shares for paid events, (3) cover unexpected expenses such as committed or no show charge. (4) in the past, the Board Members had already voluntarily donated for material needs besides their time & labor, we should not impose on them to absorb any unforeseen extra expenses. Therefore the Board proposed to keep our Reserved Fund and donate part of it only for a good cause.

(5) Condolence Gift of \$50 to family of a deceased member

If we do not have additional paid new members, this will be a major expense for the Organization, especially most of our paid members are in the senior group. The Board unanimously approved to remove this benefit from membership but we will continue to send a physical or electronic condolence card to the family.

(6) Making member mobile phone numbers available to all members

The Board suggested that members update their contact phone numbers with this return response. The Board unanimously approved that phone number(s) will be made available to all members but it will be restricted to networking purpose only. If the member did not opt out on the application form or on this returned slip, it will be treated as a silent consent.

(7) Adding Liability Waiver Document

Our Vice President, Peter Poon, suggested that we attach "A Liability Release Form" to all our Activity Sign up Form to protect ourselves from any unexpected trouble.

***** Sample Liability Release Form *****

RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND AGREEMENT TO INDEMNIFY

My participation in any activities organized by QESAAUSA or any of its members is totally voluntary and on my own free will. I agree to assume the risk, discharge, waive and release QESAAUSA and all of its members (collectively the "Releasees") from any and all liability, claims or causes of action for loss of or damage to property, or any injury to me arising from participation in said activity.

I further agree that if, despite this assumption of risk, discharge, release and waiver of liability, I make a claim against any of the Releasees, I will indemnify, save, and hold harmless each of the releasees from any litigation expenses,

attorney fees, loss, liability, damage, or cost which the Releasee(s) may incur as the result of such claim.

I HAVE READ THIS DOCUMENT, UNDERSTAND AND AGREE FULLY TO BE BOUND BY ITS PROVISIONS.

Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

***** End of Document *****

Now, we need to put the above proposals to a vote. Please kindly return your ballot to by 2-10-2021.

RETURN BALLOT TO QESAAUSA SECRETARY BY 2-10-2021

Katherine Wong, <kathwongwm@gmail.com>

If we don't receive your ballot by the deadline, it will be counted as a Silent Consent. A SILENT CONSENT vote means yes, you agree and approve the proposed decision of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Because the phone numbers listed in your original application form may be obsolete. Please kindly update your Mobile & Home phone numbers for our record and indicate if you like to opt out and not be disclosed to our members

Member Name: _____ FA: _____ Date: _____

A. Phone numbers update

Mobile Phone number _____ Opt Out

Home Phone number _____ Opt Out

B. Vote on Proposals:

(1) Yes_____ No_____ Current slate of BOD stays for another year till 2022

- (2) Yes_____ No_____ BOD Election postponed to 2022
(3) Yes_____ No_____ Remove \$100 Membership application fee
(4) Yes_____ No_____ Organization fund stays put to cover expenses
(5) Yes_____ No_____ Donation of part of Organization fund only for a good cause
(6) Yes_____ No_____ Stop sending \$50 to family of a deceased member
(7) Yes_____ No_____ Member Phone # made available to members for networking
(8) Yes_____ No_____ Include Liability Release Form to all future QESAAUSA Activities

Thank you very much for your continual support! Hope to see you at our Virtual Meeting soon!

Yours truly,
Doris Tse
QESAAUSA President, 69FA