

Fall Interim Business Meeting  
Southeastern Yearly Meeting  
Sarasota Meetinghouse, Sarasota FL  
October 1, 2011  
1:00-3:00 PM

Following silent worship, Ann Jerome, meeting clerk greeted Friends. The clerk commented on the distinct nature of how Friends conduct their business.

Seated at the clerk's table were Ann Jerome, Interim Business Meeting and Executive Committee clerk; Joel Cook, SEYM Assistant clerk; and Ed Lesnick, Recording clerk.

Note: Several committee reports appear in the Documents In Advance (DIA).

The clerk conducted a roll call of meetings and worship groups. Those present during the roll call introduced themselves. [See Attachment 1: Introductions]

Andrea Walsh reported on the Half-Yearly Meeting. Ann Sundberg will shepherd the youth program. The gathering will return to Wekiwa State Park on November 24 through November 27.

Some of the activities planned are "Dances of Peace," a Tai dinner, composting, canoeing, CAP training, and a speaker from the "Food, Not Bombs" Program.

Ellie Caldwell presented the Gathering Committee report. The 2012 Gathering will be held Wednesday, April 4 to Sunday, April 8, at the United Methodist Life Enrichment Center in Fruitland Park (Leesburg), FL. The lecturer and group facilitator will be Tom Neilson, a musician and activist.

The committee is hoping that children will be able to attend free. One half of regular, adult registration and fees must be paid in advance.

EC and BM clerk Ann Jerome gave the Executive Committee Report.

A discussion centered on the most feasible way to communicate SEYM and EC activities and actions to all members and regular attenders. EC put before the IBM a minute to consider. Friends concurred each monthly meeting provide SEYM electronic communications as printed copies to their individual members and attenders who desire them. (This is an EC action, which does not require a formal IBM minute.

Lyn Cope presented a concern appearing in the Administrative secretary's report to the EC. It was brought forth to IBM.

“ . . . EC to consider creating a new committee with a minimum of 3-4 qualified persons: a *Care & Community Committee*. Unprogrammed yearly meetings have no paid ministers; therefore, in stressful situations, members increasingly turn to the office. I care deeply about care and community—it is the lifeblood of a yearly meeting.”

Following discussion, this item was set aside for further consideration.

With the upcoming preliminary budget, apportionments, and a concern for the relationship of SEYM and its affiliated monthly meetings and worship groups, SEYM needs to be clear on these issues and how to approach them. There will be a discussion group on the yearly meeting's relationship to the monthly meetings following the business meeting.

Phoebe Andersen spoke for the Faith and Practice committee. She stated the *SEYM Faith & Practice* is in its final stages and should be published as a single volume in the summer of 2012.

As a participant in the project, Phoebe reported on a Quaker book selection process to categorize works by a reader's age and familiarity with Quakerism. Several hundred books have been rated in eight (8) categories. Input has been received from Quaker university and college librarians. The bibliography is for meetings, and personal use.

Melissa Ajabshir was introduced as the new director of ProNica. After six years of service, Davida John has retired as stateside director in order to enjoy more time with her family. Melissa's report is in the DIA, pages 13-14.

Susan Taylor provided the nominating committee report. It was noted an update is also provided in SEYM Nominating committee report in the DIA. Susan's committee report appears in the DIA, page 7.

Members of the Nominating Committee are Susan Taylor (clerk), Gary Arthur, Dustin Lemke, and Martha Morris. Nominating is an ongoing process, which needs the continual input from the Yearly Meeting participants and monthly meeting.

Susan noted Mary Jo's Klingel's enthusiasm as the former committee clerk.

Among other sources, prospective committee members and representatives may learn about a position's responsibilities in the *SEYM Handbook*. Also, Friends should not reject a leading to serve because they don't have the funds to travel.

The committee clerk suggested that SEYM formulate a process to stagger terms in order to maintain some continuity. Also, the need for term limitations of officers and committee members should be considered.

**11IBM01** SEYM approves the change of terms for specific, current committee members as indicated in the Nominating clerk's report, which will be attached to these minutes.

In fulfillment of the minute's intent, the terms are now listed in the *SEYM Directory*. A copy of the Committee's YBM report is included as Attachment 2.

Ann Sundberg's Youth Committee report appears in the DIA, page 9.

The Youth committee submitted two minutes of appreciation to be shared with all SEYM Friends.

With our whole heart SEYM Youth Committee thanks SEYM Friends for your work in support of the Youth program. You have expressed your deep love for the youth of the Yearly Meeting.

SEYM Youth committee, along with junior and teen Friends, express our love and appreciation to Tallahassee Monthly Meeting for hosting the Labor Day canoe retreat.

A Worship & Ministry report from co-clerk Wendy Clarissa Geiger is in the DIA, page 8-9.

The committee has recognized a discrepancy between the application and selection criteria (see handbook) for the Pendel Hill scholarship. Eligibility should be for those active in Yearly Meeting or a monthly meeting. Friends approved the following minute:

**11IBM02** SEYM approves Worship and Ministry to change the Pendel Hill scholarship application to state applicants shall be an active member of the monthly meeting or the Yearly Meeting.

Patty Levering will be the Walton lecturer at the Winter IBM on Sunday, January 15, 2012.

The Earthcare interest group is pursuing support for a representative from every meeting and worship group.

Warren Hoskins, committee clerk, gave the Peace & Social Concerns report. Copies of the YBM 2011 committee report were distributed and explained. Among the committee's concerns are increasing communications with the membership, support for the Floridians for An Alternative to the Death Penalty and other like-minded non-Quaker groups for peace and economic justice.

A call for SEYM involvement with Florida Peace Churches' annual gathering and a position regarding nuclear power are concerns brought to Friends' attention.

Nil Wilkins, Finance Committee, spoke about the goal to have a "zero" budget increase for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012-2013. A preliminary, itemized budget will be presented at WIBM. Upon Friends' consideration, the finalized budget – as is custom – will be presented at the YM business sessions.

The costs associated with Representative Travel, including the Triennial, have increased.

Treasurer Neil Andersen summarized the YM financial state, including the Annual Financial Statement for FY 2010-2011. Regarding the current FY budget, Neil explained that overall income and expenses are as expected.

There is a continued concern when monthly meeting submit their apportionments. For the first quarter, apportionments received were \$4,000 less than expected. About 70% of meetings still need to help with the budget.

Friends are in agreement (not yet unified) that the matter of determining apportionments, or ways and means to financially sustain SEYM, is a YM priority. Information and line item amounts are posted on the SEYM website.

Minute of Appreciation:

Southeastern Yearly Meeting thanks Sarasota Monthly meeting for their willingness to host the Fall Interim Business meeting. We have been treated to wonderful in a wonderful setting. But, mostly we have been embraced by love of your community.

The Fall Interim Business Meeting concluded with worship. Interest group sessions followed the business meeting.

## Attachment 1: Introductions

Neil Andersen	Steve Kenney
Phoebe Andersen	Mary Jo Klingel
Gary Arthur	Caroline Lanker
Carol Bechtel	Dustin Lemke
Sybil Ann Brennan	Ed Lesnick
Ellie Caldwell	Kay Lesnick
Joel Cook	Barb Letsch
Lyn Cope	Sandy Lyon
Peter Crockett	Nancy Rose Logan
Shawna Duran	Steve Logan
Nancy Fennell	Elaine Martin
Tom Fennell	Nathan Maxwell
Rolf Hanson	Mimi McAdoo
Carl Hersh	Martha Morris
Dave Hillsheimer	Pat Murphy
Grace Jonassen	Ann Sundberg
Warren Hoskins	Susan Taylor
David Johns	Nancy Triscritti
Ann Jerome	Andrea Walsh
	Winifred WindRiver

## Attachment 2: Nominating Committee Report 4/23/11

### Preface to the Report:

Please note that this is not the entire list of Representatives, Committee Members and Officers. It is only the report for this Yearly Meeting Gathering. If a term does not expire in 2011, Friends are still considered to be in their same positions. For a complete list, see the SEYM Directory, pages I-4 to I-7.

1. First, thanks to the Nominating Committee members, Martha Morris and Dustin Lemke, for their persistence and hard work and, amazingly, their ability to make the Nominating Committee . . . fun.
2. SEYM COMMITTEE MEMBERS: all of these new members will have a term of office until SEYM of 2014.
  - a. Committee for Earthcare  
Barbara Letsch, clerk (Palm Beach)  
Jack Bradin (Palm Beach)  
Judy Schmalstig (Orlando)  
Mary Jo Klingel (Fort Lauderdale)
  - b. Committee on Ministry for Racism  
Ellie Caldwell, clerk (Palm Beach)  
Wendy Clarissa Geiger (Jacksonville)  
Cheryl Demers (Gainesville)  
Roger G. "Joe" Guy (Savannah)
  - c. Faith and Practice  
Harold Branam (Savannah)  
Carol Bechtel (Sarasota)
  - d. Worship and Ministry  
Nancy Triscritti, co-clerk (Tampa)  
Sybil Brennan (Gainesville)  
Peter Crockett (St. Petersburg)
  - e. Youth Committee  
Ann Sundberg, clerk (Sarasota)  
Rolf Hansen (Sarasota)  
Kathy Hersh (Miami)  
Dustin Lemke (Tampa)

- e. Youth Committee (continued)  
Josh Rumschlag (St. Petersburg)  
Susan Taylor (Tallahassee)  
Cece Yocum ( Tampa)  
Elizabeth Croce (Orlando)

### 3. REPRESENTATIVES TO ORGANIZATIONS

- a. American Friends Service Com./SE Region AFSC/SERO -  
EMAP. Recommended that SEYM lay down our membership in EMAP.
- b. Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Lou Putney (Tampa)  
Annie Schmalstig (Orlando)
- c. Friends World Committee for Consultation  
Nancy Rose Logan (Sarasota)  
Martha Morris ( Winter Park)  
Lisa Steward (Palm Beach)
- d. Palmetto Friends Gathering  
Neil Andersen (Tallahassee)  
Phoebe Andersen (Tallahassee)  
Ellie Caldwell (Palm Beach)

### 4. OFFICERS

- a. Yearly Meeting Clerk  
Phoebe Andersen (Tallahassee)
- b. Interim Business Meeting and EC Clerk  
Ann Jerome (Orlando)
- c. YM & IBM Assistant Clerk  
Joel Cook (Palm Beach)
- d. Treasurer  
Neil Andersen (Tallahassee)
- e. Membership Recorder  
Chuck Deneen (Orlando)