

DOCUMENTS IN ADVANCE (DIA)

Please come to Winter Interim Business Meeting (WIBM)

Orlando Meetinghouse, 316 E. Marks Street, Orlando, Florida 32803, phone: 407-425-5125

Friday, January 14, 2011, 3:00-5:30 P.M.: *Worship Sharing, A Beginning Visioning for SEYM*

Friday, January 14, 2011, 7:00 P.M.: Executive Committee Meeting (EC)

Saturday, January 15, 2011

9:00 A.M.: SEYM Committee Meetings

Lunch

1:00 P.M.: Interim Business Meeting (WIBM); *think of this as one of SEYM's two Quarterly Meetings*

Sunday, January 16, 2011

Meeting for worship with either Orlando Friends Meeting or Winter Park Meeting

Simple Lunch

1:00 PM: Michener Lecture by Lloyd Lee Wilson, *Evolving Quakerism*

Greetings SEYM Friends,

As we welcome a new year and prepare for our upcoming Winter Interim Business Meeting in Orlando, I'd like to encourage each of you to make Orlando Meetinghouse your destination on Sunday, January 16, when Lloyd Lee Wilson will speak on the topic of Evolving Quakerism.

Lloyd Lee is a member of Virginia Beach Friends Meeting. He is a former clerk of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative and a former general secretary of FGC. Though I've never met him, he's someone whose name I've often heard, as he is a seasoned Friend of high regard. You may have read his book, *Essays On The Quaker Vision of Gospel Order*.

His Conservative identity has to do with conserving the original message of Friends, and from my experience as a sojourner in his home meeting in Virginia Beach in the mid 1980's, I came away deeply impressed by that forward thinking and deeply inspired body. I expect we are in for a wonderful opportunity to deepen our understanding of Quakerism.

Our own evolving SEYM will be the concern of a worship-sharing session led by SEYM Clerk, Susan Taylor, on Friday afternoon, January 14, at Orlando Friends Meetinghouse. That session will be followed by Executive Committee Meeting that evening, where we'll focus on our yearly meeting youth program. Please be reminded that all are welcome at EC meetings.

Winter Interim Business Meeting will begin with worship at 9:00 AM on Saturday, continue with committee meetings in the morning and business meeting that afternoon.

It's a full weekend, and I encourage you to attend either part or all the gathering.

Wishing you a blessed new year,
Yours in friendship, peace and Light,
Gary Arthur
SEYM Assistant Clerk

WORSHIP SHARING

PRIOR TO JANUARY INTERIM BUSINESS MEETING

A Beginning Visioning for Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM)
Friday, January 14, 2011; 3:00- 5:30 p.m.
Orlando Meetinghouse

Greetings Friends,

At our Interim Business Meetings in October, we shared the sense that SEYM Friends would benefit from taking time to come together for a time of visioning for the Yearly Meeting.

The idea arose from a gratefully received letter to SEYM from Nancy Fennell, Ft. Myers Meeting, in which she shared her concerns about the spiritual state of our Yearly Meeting. Her letter included the following:

We have just come through a difficult and long process of determining our current relationship with FUM. We were blessed to have good clerking, Friends who deeply desired to maintain peace and loving relationships within the YM, and, perhaps most importantly, Friends who were willing to turn to God for guidance and who worked tirelessly to invite and encourage us to labor in the silence together. Overall, I believe we can be pleased with our faithfulness in this journey.

In reflecting on this, I was drawn to revisit Linda Chidsey's Walton Lecture of 2005, Intimations of Renewal. You may recall that Linda reports that New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) formed a Committee on Renewal to help the YM address long-time concerns, such as

"a continued decline in membership; a decline in financial support of the Yearly Meeting; contentiousness over theological differences; a lack of enthusiasm to serve on committees or travel in the ministry; the relationship between monthly, quarterly, regional meetings and the Yearly Meeting; a sense that there was a lack of spiritual depth or vision among us (p. 7)."

It is with love and respect that I say that I believe we, the Yearly Meeting, stand convicted on most of the things listed above, if not all. I also have no doubt we could add to the list, perhaps most notably at the present moment, the concerns about our youth.

We are in a blessed position now, the position of being able to address other business than FUM, a position for which we have long wished. We are given the opportunity to explore a new focus, to find a clearer vision. We can endeavor to serve more deeply as an instrument of God's grace to SEYM Friends.

From our meetings in October, there arose a desire to make time available to meet on Friday afternoon, January 14, and see where the Spirit leads. Orlando Friends have expressed a willingness to make the meetinghouse available from 3 to 5:30 PM that day, and Clerk, Susan Taylor has agreed to lead us in a time of worship sharing on visioning for our Yearly Meeting.

We will begin with the list of queries from Nancy, included below, and perhaps Friends who feel so led might offer other queries, which could be taken into worshipful sharing.

Thank you, Orlando Friends, for opening your meetinghouse early for this to happen.

Yours in good faith and in God's tenderness and wholeness,

Gary Arthur
SEYM Assistant Clerk

Susan Taylor
SEYM Clerk

Queries:

- (1) Do we serve YM from a sense of leading?
- (2) Do we feel God's presence among us in our work?
- (3) Do we seek and focus on God's intention in the work of our committees?
- (4) What guidance is being offered to help Friends in SEYM live as Quakers today?

EC AGENDA 1/14/11

As Executive Committee prepares to gather on January 14 in Orlando, there are two main items we need to consider. First is the concern, which was raised by Nancy Fennell, about visioning for the Yearly Meeting, and next are questions regarding the way our Yearly Meeting cares for our youth.

Friday afternoon at Orlando Meetinghouse, Susan Taylor will lead us in a time of worship sharing as we seek to discern something of the spiritual state of the Yearly Meeting, and later, in the evening EC will meet to address an agenda of the following questions that have arisen regarding our Youth:

- 1. How effectively are we working with and caring for our youth? Are we working toward providing an engaging, well-structured and safe Youth program in our YM?**
- 2. How well are we implementing the SEYM Policy on Supervision of Youth and Child Abuse Protection (CAP) Policy and how well do we address the need for changes to that policy as they arise? What ARE the procedures spelled out in the policy?**

Also regarding our Youth Policy, this from OCT 2010 IBM Minutes needs a note of how it will be implemented:

SEYM affirms that for any and all SEYM sponsored events, which include a formal youth program, the SEYM Child Abuse Prevention Procedures will be administered uniformly by those implementing the program, with regards to registration, security, behavior policies and enforcement thereof. If any Yearly Meeting event does not have a formal youth program, all attendees will be under the care of their family unit or appointed guardian in accordance with same SEYM Policies, which will be spelled out in the registration process.

3. What is the state of our SEYM Youth Committee? Do we need to make a distinction between the Gathering Youth Committee and the SEYM Youth Committee? What does the SEYM Handbook say about Youth Committee? Should we try to encourage the committee to meet regularly, at least 3 times a year? How can that committee be proactive in nurturing our youth programs in SEYM meetings? Might it make a practice of contacting meetings to find out what they're doing in terms of YM youth programming, and what they might need? How can SEYM Youth Committee tap into available resources from FGC and other sources for religious education in meetings? (Perhaps these questions are ones that can be taken up by the Youth Committee when they meet.)

4. Does the YM want to hire a youth coordinator?

5. Does the YM want to replace the use of fingerprinting for background checks with "Shepherd's Watch" church background check procedure?

6. Regarding the allegations of the sexual abuse incident at Half YM, 2009, we've reported on efforts to support the victim and her family. The concern was raised of how we support and reach out to the accused and his family.

7. We will also make a place on the agenda for our Secretary's report and possibly a preview of the treasurer's report.

8. With regard to addressing the YM Hiring Policy Non-discrimination clause, which has been laid aside from previous agendas, Clerk, Susan and Taylor and I have agreed to ask Trustees to season this piece of business and bring it forward at a later date.

I've received the following notes and concerns regarding the YM Youth Program, and include them here for your information and consideration with regard to items on our agenda:

Caroline Lanker shared these concerns regarding the Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Policy:

1. The policy is not well understood.
2. While emphasis has been on dangers of sexual predators, there are other concerns for safety, as well. We need to know how to report an incident and to whom.
3. The CAP Policy needs to apply to all YM events.
4. CAP training is not happening and needs to be carried out in a meaningful manner.
5. We need to Discuss the relationship between parental responsibility and authority of the YM.
6. We need to codify organizational responsibility for the implementation of CAP Policy.
(Perhaps responsibility of outlining and implementing policy could fall on organizers of event, while Youth Committee would review, approve and monitor.)

Following are notes from the parent of the teen who was sexually assaulted while attending Half Yearly Meeting, 2009:

1. SEYM needs to revise our youth policy. If there's going to be a coed teen cabin, we need two FAP's (Friendly Adult Presence), one awake at all times. They must be over 25 and have been finger printed prior to the event. No one else will be allowed in cabin. Nighttime trips to toilet need escort or partner.
2. Read Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting Association's youth policy and consider adopting aspects of it for SEYM.
3. Allow sufficient time for child abuse prevention training at YM gathering. Require all workers to attend.
4. Someone on the Gathering Committee needs to be appointed to record who has been fingerprinted and who's taken the child abuse prevention training and when.
5. No unfingerprinted volunteers will be left alone with youth.
6. Daytime supervision of youth at Half YM needs to be discussed, as well, as it needs support of more fingerprinted adults. Care has to be taken to ensure that our youth are safe while at the same time encouraging growth, freedom, and Quaker community.
7. We need clear boundaries as to where teens are allowed to be when not with a supervising adult and clear rules with consequences.

8. Teaching our youth, helping them to understand the community of Friends and at the same time insuring their safety is the most difficult challenge that SEYM and other Quaker Meetings face. Unfortunately, it may be the one thing that most Quakers least like to be a part of. It's very possible that things have gone wrong because those responsible for the youth are too few in number, causing them to be overburdened.

9. Year after year, supervising youth falls on the same people, who end up getting burned out and not having enough time or energy to deal with everything they are responsible for. What is more important than our youth, than raising them in the light? Perhaps having some of our weightiest friends participate in teen activities such as the fish bowl or the rope course would help our youth feel important and encourage the spirit of Quakerism to grow in them. Perhaps teen activities should occur at times when other committee meetings are NOT taking place – when all can participate).

Southeastern Yearly Meeting
Minutes of the Fall Interim Business Meeting
October 2, 2010

10IBM05 SEYM affirms that for any and all SEYM sponsored events, which include a formal youth program, the SEYM Child Abuse Prevention Procedures will be administered uniformly by those implementing the program, with regards to registration, security, behavior policies and enforcement thereof. If any Yearly Meeting event does not have a formal youth program, all attendees will be under the care of their family unit or appointed guardian in accordance with same SEYM Policies, which will be spelled out in the registration process.

10IBM06 Yearly Meeting supports and approves the recommendation from the Gathering Committee, for the re-emergence of our Young Adult Quakers (YAQ) program at the 2011 Yearly Gathering. Elizabeth Croce and Daniel Doan will clerk the program, under the care of the Gathering Committee. Gathering Committee will promote and distribute information about the YAQ program to the monthly meetings and worship groups.

A REMINDER TO ASSIST RECORDING CLERK:

My effort is to insure the records of our Yearly Meeting business sessions are accurate. Minutes will consist of what Friends approve with a brief explanation (numbered minutes), written or electronic committee and representative reports, milestones, and other items directed by the clerk or Friends in attendance.

Friends who propose formal minutes should present such before the meeting or placement on the agenda. Committee clerks, representatives, and those who report on MM activities have regularly provided written or electronic versions of their reports. To them I am most grateful.

If Friends have an extended minute of concern that will be presented for consideration, please e-mail me prior to the business meeting or before your time on the agenda. This would be of great help.

Do enjoy the peace and fellowship, Thank you for your cooperation,

—Ed Lesnick, SEYM Recording Clerk, edlesnick@earthlink.net

WIBM Agenda

January 15, 2011

8:15 **Fellowship/coffee**

9:00 **Worship**

9:30 Introduction of Clerks—YM: Susan Taylor, IBM, Assistant: Gary Arthur,
Recording: Ed Lesnick

Advices from Orlando Meeting

Preliminary Nominating Report

Committee Meetings

NoonLunch

1:00 **Meeting for Worship for Business**

Opening Worship

1. Roll Call of Meetings and Worship Groups
2. Visitors
3. Announcements
4. Changes to agenda
5. Worship and Ministry Report
6. Executive Committee Report
7. Faith and Practice Report
8. Treasurer's Report
9. Finance Committee Report
10. Trustees Report
11. Gathering Committee Report
12. Peace and Social Concerns Report
13. Committee for Earthcare
14. Committee for Ministry on Racism
15. Archives Report
16. ProNica Report
17. Half Yearly Meeting Committee Report
18. Reports of Representatives to Organizations
19. Nominating Committee Report
20. Other business to come before the Meeting

21. Review of minutes

Closing worship**SUNDAY, January 16**

Meetings for Worship begin at 9:30 AM Orlando; 10:00 AM Winter Park
(Rollins College Faculty Club)

11:30AM Simple Lunch at Orlando Meetinghouse

1:00PM Michener Lecture

2:30PM First Seminar

Tea

4:00PM Second Seminar

5:15PM Close

INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDAS/REPORTS

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE:

Dear Friends -

Please do what you can to assist in rapid dissemination of the following writing to as many persons who have a concern for our Peace Testimony and our social order as can be identified in our Yearly Meeting. While an ad hoc committee contributed greatly to it, any redundancy, lack of order or confusing wording is my own responsibility. It is now too close to WIBM for me to hold it longer for more editing.

Thank you.

Peacefully,

Warren Hoskins Home: 12040 S.W. 187 St., Miami, FL 33177-3233

Home Telephone: (305) 253-2635 [forwards to cell phone so is usually answered]

Dear Friends--

Next weekend is the Winter Interim Business Meeting of Southeastern Yearly Meeting of Friends, to be held in Orlando January 14-15, 2011. As clerk of the SEYM Peace & Social Concerns Committee, I prepared the following in anticipation of this meeting. It is my hope that this writing will be shared in our Meetings and among Friends through the time up to our Yearly Meeting, and tested by Friends for truth and responsive leadings. I hope too that Friends will contact me asking to be included in future communications. I hope we will enter a time when we can look forward to participation in regional meetings with a renewed sense of joy in being part of a caring and active community.

This has been written after an extraordinary ad hoc meeting in Temple Terrace, Florida, the first First Day of the New Year, attended by me and two other members of the SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee (Andrea Walsh and Steve Kinney) as well as by Cece Yocum and John Arnaldi, who have clerked SEYM and/or Tampa Monthly Meeting committees. After our discussion, and review of notes, I am writing to you, with the expectation that what you read will actually reflect supplementation, disagreement and comments, or agreement and extension of the thoughts, by other meeting participants, on some of the following.

There are three questions to be mindful of as we go forward, when we contemplate our work. It is clear that we will be conveying select information (hopefully truthfully and completely enough) in both words and actions:

- ◆ **Who** are we reaching and teaching?
- ◆ **With what** are we reaching out and attempting to teach?
- ◆ **How** are we proceeding to do this?

We are a regional committee with members from several monthly meetings. Here is the current SEYM Peace & Social Concerns Committee list, from the SEYM website:

Warren Hoskins, clerk (Miami)

Al Geiger (Jacksonville)

Shawna Doran (St. Petersburg)

Jack Bradin (Palm Beach)

Ed Hotchkiss (St. Petersburg)

Connie Hotchkiss (St. Petersburg)

Andrea Walsh (Tampa)

Steve Kinney (Tampa)

Cecilia Yocum (Tampa)

John Arnaldi (Tampa) [if John is not formally on the committee this year, he certainly has clerked it in recent years and is actively engaged in our efforts]

[Mike Shell has just requested that we also check out the First Month Update of Southeastern Yearly Meeting's peace and social concerns website at <http://seympeace.org/index.html> <<http://seympeace.org/index.html>>]

In addition to the Friends named to the SEYM committee, many if not all monthly meetings have a Peace & Social Concerns Committee, with a clerk. At least these clerks, if not everyone on those committees, should consider the regional committee also "their committee" (that's my thought, not a committee decision or a Yearly Meeting discernment). I perceive that having someone "speak" with us about their meeting's work is hugely important to the development of a coherent regional mission. However, please note that it is difficult to contact a responsible person at monthly meetings, and not just for Peace & Social Concerns. Addressing this difficulty, especially when there is an apparent lack of enthusiastic contacts (I don't get phone calls or e-mails asking what I am doing), must be an ongoing administrative task for the committee, if it is to have any relevance to monthly meetings and SEYM.

Please do consider two ways this committee may proceed (which are not necessarily exclusive):

- ◆ one would be for this committee to proceed with meetings where there is more worship and a full Quaker discernment process directed toward establishing or confirming a project or projects arising out of this worship process;
- ◆ the other would be to continue much as we have, with sharing of information and offering as much support as we can to Friends' ongoing concerns of, from or for this region of world.

Both would go toward forming our agenda for Yearly Meeting and our submissions, including minutes, for Yearly Meeting, too - these are important functions of this committee.

It does appear we can do much by being supportive of the peace and social concerns works of individual Friends and of our monthly meetings, even as we look to the national and international projects and programs that are so central to the public witness of Friends.

My thoughts have run in several directions, and other Friends from different monthly meetings have told me some things in response to questions posed to them. At this time, I'm considering proposing - if the

Committee is willing - that we bring to SEYM some long term concerns. This requires discernment in the Spirit, and a seeking for prophetic voices that will urge us toward a future which is peaceful.

Friends in previous years who were in attendance at the WIBM have brought up some concerns upon which action has been taken and proposals have been made (or vice versa) but there have not been continuing concerns in the way that concerns for other committees have come forward, to my mind. I would like to begin the process again, and see if we can go from committee meeting to committee meeting updating and moving forward in various areas, and in the process provide monthly meetings with ways to connect with the same concerns, and to have consideration given in monthly meetings that will develop our concerns for SEYM.

For me, the primary concern for us as SEYM Friends is effective opposition to the wars in the world. For others, the primary concern is how to advocate for peaceful prevention of conflicts and the avoidance of future warfare. Both are needed desperately, truth must be told, wars must be stopped and we must at the same time do what we can to prepare the way for such horrific violence to be found unacceptable.

Friends have long histories in Peace Education and in Conflict Resolution. There are also peace organizations and coalitions. In addition to the established programs there are always new teachers, and new organizations, learning how to press for change without violence. Among Friends these programs are often so well known as to be discussed by their initials.

Outright opposition to the wars du jour is a different matter. I feel it is necessary to articulate and speak to this. I compare it to acknowledging on one hand that a forest has been set aflame by persons with intent not agreed to by most, now experiencing the kind of raging forest fire that sweeps through, destroying all before it, and yet on the other hand we have a vision of having a beautiful preserved forest, green and leafy, full of species enjoying their natural lives, and much progress has been made for this preserve, which will be not just for us, but for posterity.

How can we claim to be committed to our vision of a beautiful alive forest, while we actively ignore that at this very moment fires are destroying large parts of it? Surely as the fires rage out of control they will destroy many lives and good works. Where are Friends when it comes to outright opposition to the raging fires of US warfare and secret operations overseas?

And why should this be more central to the concern of Friends than to other religious organizations in the US? I feel that this should be the case, significantly because so many older Friends have said in my hearing that it is the Friends' witness against war that brought Quakerism to their attention in a positive way, long ago. I also feel it is our lot to contend with the contemporary wars. This is based on several perceptions - that we are US Quakers; that the US is engaged in as many as 6 current wars (as well as an unknown number of secret military operations); that US wars are not the classic ones of the military of one government opposing the military of another, but of our military and contractors and State Department invading other lands, establishing bases and imposing military dominance of the airways, and establishing and/or supporting corrupted governance to one degree or another - and that all this is done with the tax dollars of Friends as well as of the majority, and is contrary to our Peace Testimony, and violates our perceptions of what would be good social order in the world, and causes enormous and continuing unnecessary suffering. That these wars cause ongoing and escalating environmental devastation long after the battles have ended, as well adds to the urgency and necessity of Friends seeking how we are led to confront warmaking and see it ended.

Concerns to consider:

- Opposition to wars, especially US wars and secret military operations. There are wars where the US is on the "front lines" (often all over a country's map): Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, Yemen (and neighboring countries in East Africa) and Colombia, most clearly.
- Restitution and healing for the victims of our wars - certainly this was discussed during and after the Vietnam War. Why have Friends apparently not wanted to bring this forward? Do we never think of

the grieving parents of Iraq, where perhaps as many as a million civilians have died unnecessarily, due to the US invasion and occupation? I know we do, and of the environmental destruction, the loss of cultural institutions, and the many millions of displaced persons, too.

- Restoring funding to meet our nation's needs - FCNL has the wonderful program, "Our Nation's Checkbook."
- Advancing nonviolent methods for more peaceful resolutions - AVP (the Alternatives to Violence Project), nonviolent communication and conflict resolution, peace literacy, reducing bullying among youth, opposing current slavery in the US and US roles in slavery in other areas in the world.
- Solving huge social problems in our future: How do we have safe, sustainable food supplies for our progeny? Urban gardening, build-in-place personal organic gardens, finding "slow food" and farmers markets in each area?
- Water - How do we assure fair sharing of limited fresh water, especially as Florida is often in drought conditions?
- How do we stop/prevent dreadful impacts of pollution and global warming and human encroachment on habitats of wildlife – for example, Friends are growing in concern for bees.
- Florida will have a new Governor, Scott, who gives every indication in advance of having an agenda uniquely oppositional to the concerns of Friends - but maybe I am reading too much into what I read of his campaign pledges and his newly announced intent to raise home electricity rates to underwrite a power price cut for small and developing businesses?
- And I've been reminded that in August of 2012 the Republican Convention will be in Tampa. This is a topic of concern not because Friends would be concerned with the agenda of the Convention, or any of the candidates, but because there is a potential for violence and disruption, as many groups in Florida have members or constituencies who feel aggrieved by the Republicans, and/or are opposed to wars and/or are concerned for the environment, and will be looking for ways to convey these concerns. There will be a risk of loss of civil liberties and there will be likely surveillance by police groups and political operatives and private contractors engaged in intelligence. How are Friends led to engage with this in a time of wars? One of my first direct actions as a volunteer with the American Friends Service Committee back in the year 1972, during the Vietnam War, involved Quaker presence at both parties' political conventions (both were in Miami Beach that year).

There are many more substantive concerns in the region covered by SEYM, and I do not intend that they be neglected -- we must pay attention to the lives around us -- and we cannot say in advance what the Leading of the Light will reveal. It is important that we begin our process of discernment in the best Friendly fashion, with a clear and strong grounding in worship and a receptiveness to God's calling. The meeting in Temple Terrace showed me that this can be a richly rewarding experience, and I look forward to the committee meetings to come with renewed hope that our work together will be most productive.

Peacefully,
—Warren

WORSHIP & MINISTRY COMMITTEE:

SEYM Worship & Ministry Com. Mtg. invitation & agenda for WIBM DIA 2011

Wednesday, January 5, 2011 9:20 PM

“During my reflections throughout this period I knew it was right for me to refuse to allow myself to be labelled universalist or christocentric. I was aware also that some meetings in London Yearly Meeting are tearing themselves apart over the matter. It has come to me strongly that the polarisation between christocentric (and that word really does need looking at) and universalist (a word full of ambiguities) is a sterile use of energy.

“To those for whom Jesus Christ is the centre of their devotions, I ask, are you Christs to the world, do you incarnate the welcoming of God, do you see the stranger at the gate, and the Friend who disagrees with you in meeting as, in the wonderful words of John Woolman, a manifestation of God? Never mind the doctrine, are you the good news?

“And to the universalist, I ask, for all your talk about not using this word or that, or this cultural package or not, do people find in you the illumination of the Inward Light, do you incarnate the universal Spirit? I do not want to be told that there is a Spirit in all life, I want to see it, experience it. **Are you the good news?**

“Hospitality is about feeding, nurturing, healing. The child lying starving on the streets of any one of thousands of cities all over the world does not ask to see the identity card of the one who feeds her. She wants the food, the healing hand. And Friends have long had the tradition of stretching out a healing hand.

“...I am afraid that Friends may get diverted even further from the sacred duty of hospitality, by trying in a series of contortions to define their theologies too rigidly or allowing others to do that for them....My travels round meetings have shown me that both here and in the States these issues have become more prominent than how we actually carry out the healing ministry that Jesus entrusted to his disciples or how in this darkening world we shine or at least try to flicker as rays of the universal light.”

—Harvey Gillman, Lewes Meeting, England (from Newsletter of the Quaker Universalist Fellowship #21 Winter 1993/1994)

Dear Friends,

Please, consider participating in the SEYM Winter Interim Business Meeting at the Orlando Meeting House on the afternoon of Saturday, January 15th, 2011, preceded by SEYM committee meetings that morning. Especially, if you are a member of your meeting's Worship & Ministry Committee - or, have an interest in such matters - you are welcome and encouraged to participate (even just visit for a while) in the SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee meeting on the morning of January 15th, 2011.

These items are on the agenda of the SEYM W&M Com. meeting: tending to the needs of the Michener Lecture (to be given by Lloyd Lee Wilson the following day); bringing names forward for the 2012 Michener Lecture; seeking names for the 2011-2012 SEYM Pendle Hill Scholarship; concern for the Orange City Worship Group; Jerry Knutson's offer of workshops for SEYM Meetings; the Inter-visitation Project; naming a Pastoral Care Committee for YM Gathering; YM Gathering worship sharing sessions; and, the one best thing going on in your meeting. ~ SEYM Worship & Ministry Com., also, holds in Tenderness & Wholeness Winter Interim Business Meeting proceedings and Friends at the clerks' table. Please, see the SEYM Operational Handbook for further information about the SEYM W&M Com.

SEYM Friends are invited to bring forth to SEYM W&M Com. names of Friends who could possibly deliver future Michener Lectures. The Michener Lecture is for the spiritual nurturing of SEYM Friends. Contact Lyn Cope to purchase past Michener Lecture pamphlets in print.

For Friends not traveling to Orlando Meeting House for WIBM and committee meetings on Saturday, January 15th, 2011, please, center where you are and support those gathered at WIBM and the committee meetings by holding those Friends and proceedings in Tenderness & Wholeness. Especially, hold in Tenderness & Wholeness the worship sharing session on the spiritual state of the Yearly Meeting which will take place Friday afternoon from 3:00-5:30 and the Executive Committee Meeting taking place that evening and the Michener Lecturer as he prepares for and then delivers the lecture Sunday afternoon - all happening at the Orlando Meeting House.

Gentle blessings and safe journeys,
Wendy Clarissa Geiger and Nancy Triscritti, co-clerks, SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee,
WCG: (904)764-1722 -- NT: (813)929-4355

REPRESENTATIVE TO ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

FCNL/Wm. Penn House:

Report to SEYM and Orlando MM FCNL Annual Meeting 2010: *Building on a Firm Foundation*

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

—Margaret Mead

This often-quoted bit of lobbying wisdom reflects the spirit of the Friends who gathered for the 2010 FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) Annual Meeting, which was held at the Washington Plaza Hotel from November 11-14. While several important goals and landmarks were achieved and celebrated, the everyday work of FCNL staffers and General Committee members also shone through—working across party lines to affect government policies for the better through peaceful and respectful conversation and relationship building with members of Congress.

Despite the recent, discouraging midterm election results, FCNL staffers and now-former Executive Secretary Joe Volk remained positive. David Culp, legislative representative for FCNL’s Quaker Nuclear Disarmament Program, spoke in the first plenary session about hopes for the new Congress, which will include 97 new members. While the 112th Congress will also contain far more conservative Republican and more liberal Democratic caucuses than in previous years, indicating further polarization, the Republican Party itself has become deeply divided through the influence of the Tea Party.

This influence in Congress may actually help FCNL; for example, Tea Party Senator Rand Paul supports cutting Pentagon spending as part of a larger government-spending cut. FCNL has been working to cut military spending for decades, and has produced a campaign called Our Nation’s Checkbook, which aims to “build support for budget committee hearings on how the federal budget could shift money from the Pentagon to diplomacy, green jobs, and human needs” (please visit <http://www.fcnl.org/budget/checkbook/> for more information). Tea Party support may add extra weight to the argument for less expensive and more peaceful means of maintaining national security.

Other programs that FCNL staffers are currently and continuously working on include building bipartisan support for the New START treaty (the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty—see http://www.fcnl.org/issues/item.php?item_id=3860&issue_id=2 for more information), the Genocide Prevention Resolution (see <http://capwiz.com/fcnl/issues/bills/?bill=15852521>), and the CLEAR Act (the Carbon Limits and Energy for America’s Renewal Act—see <http://www.fcnl.org/energy/>). Joe Volk, former Executive Secretary, emphasized again and again throughout the Annual Meeting weekend that FCNL members and the larger Quaker community should view the induction of the new Congress as an opportunity to build new and bipartisan relationships with Congress members. Especially with new members, who are less likely to have established their legislative agendas and more likely to be willing to listen to Friends’ concerns. Indeed, Joe Volk and several other staffers often reaffirmed that FCNL may be more influential in the next two years than in the last, especially if Friends remember that “labels don’t fit”; that is, newer, conservative members of Congress must not be immediately dismissed, but rather viewed as possible bipartisan allies in the struggle to pass the above mentioned acts and resolutions.

An important piece of business at the 2010 Annual Meeting was the approval of FCNL’s list of priorities that will guide the work of FCNL employees and members for the next two years. After much deliberation and “wordsmithing” in committees and in worship sharing groups, the new list of priorities was approved. The newest priority on the list recommends “supporting legislation to curb the undue influence of money and corporate power in our political system.” More information on this and the other priorities set out at the annual meeting will soon be online at www.fcnl.org (see http://www.fcnl.org/priorities/priority_111th.htm for the previous list of priorities).

Another extremely important piece of business was the appointing of a new Executive Secretary. Joe Volk, after serving FCNL for 20 years, has decided to retire, and Diane Randall, from Hartford MM in Connecticut, has been appointed as his successor. Members of the General Committee had nothing but positive things to say about Diane, who joined the annual meeting on Saturday evening for dinner and gave a short address on Sunday morning. Visit <http://www.fcnl.org/audio/am2010/Diane-Randall111410.mp3> to listen to Diane’s greeting to the Annual Meeting.

Joe Volk delivered a powerful and hopeful farewell speech to the General Committee, in which he emphasized that “people aren’t the problem,” policies are, and people can change them. Friends can influence policy by getting out the vote for the next general election (midterm election voter turnout was tellingly low among younger, poorer voters), by contacting their members of Congress when an issue is coming up for a vote, and by “moving up the ladder of engagement.” That is, actively seeking to increase communication and build stronger relationships with their Congress members. Friends can identify and contact their Congress members with the help of FCNL’s online Congressional Directory (<http://capwiz.com/fcnl/directory/congdir.tt>), and can find tips and strategies on how best to lobby Congress at <http://www.fcnl.org/action/toolkit.htm>. The FCNL website is an invaluable tool for staying involved and up-to-date with what’s going on in Washington and how Friends can make a positive influence there.

I would like to thank Orlando Monthly Meeting, SEYM, and several caring Friends for suggesting, supporting, and funding my attendance at the 2010 FCNL annual meeting. I hope many more Orlando and Southeastern Friends will be able to become involved in FCNL activities and annual meetings in the future.

Anne Schmalstig, Orlando Monthly Meeting
SEYM Youth Rep. to FCNL
December 2010

From: John Bradin <greenebank@earthlink.net>

Here is a better recap of the FCNL annual meeting than I could do justice too.
This will need to serve as WIBM and SEYM gathering as DIA's
Sending Light and Love,
Jack Bradin

Read this newsletter online [<http://action.fcnl.org/r/A/MTQ1MTM5/NzkyODU/0/0/aHR0cDovL2FjdGlubi5mY25sLm9yZy9lbmV3cy8xMTE3MTBlbmV3cy8>] .

Friends Committee on National Legislation - A Quaker Lobby in the Public Interest

November 17, 2010

Contents available online:

Friendly Persuasion at the New START Lobby Weekend
200 Quakers , 33 States, and... a Bow Tie?
A Celebration of Two Decades of Lobbying with Joe
FCNL's Next Executive Secretary
FCNL Interns: Their Journey So Far
Setting Legislative Priorities for the 112th Congress
More News from Annual Meeting

Excerpts:

Friendly Persuasion at the New START Lobby Weekend

The Hart Senate Office Building's atrium looked like an extension of FCNL on Monday morning as more than 100 grassroots lobbyists fanned out across the Senate to talk about the importance of ratifying the New START Treaty with Russia during the lame duck session of Congress. The lobby weekend resulted in almost 40 lobby visits urging senators to press for a vote on New START.

A Celebration of Two Decades of Lobbying with Joe

In his last address to FCNL's General Committee before his retirement in February 2011, Executive Secretary Joe Volk thanked Friends for the opportunity he had to help build this organization but cautioned that we cannot be satisfied with where FCNL is today. "In a country of 300 million people, we cannot be satisfied with 60,000 community-based lobbyists and 10,000 donors." FCNL could double these numbers in the next three years. Listen to Joe's speech...

FCNL's Next Executive Secretary

FCNL's General Committee appointed Diane Randall to become FCNL's fourth Executive Secretary since its beginning in 1943. She follows E. Raymond Wilson, Edward F. Snyder, and Joe Volk. Diane's first day in the office will be March 1, 2011. An active member of Hartford Monthly Meeting (CT), Diane will bring to FCNL the experience, skills, and talents necessary to lead the work of our community into the 21st century. Listen to Diane's greeting to the meeting...

FCNL Interns: Their Journey So Far

One highlight of our Annual Meeting each year is hearing more from the skilled team of program assistants who work with our senior staff. If you want to know a little more about how Deanna, Rachel, Hannah, Jess, Nick, Sandy and Alex ended up working at FCNL, listen to their speeches at Annual Meeting ...

Setting Legislative Priorities for the 112th Congress

"FCNL will work to redefine the human and national security of the United States to include freedom from deadly conflict, freedom from abuse by powerful and wealthy corporations and individuals, meeting basic human needs in the face of the current economic turmoil, and protection of the Earth's air, water, and land on which all life depends." ~ Preamble to FCNL's Legislative Priorities for the 112th Congress, approved

on November 14, 2010. The Policy Committee consulted with 270 Quaker meetings and churches around the country and led the discernment towards these priorities, which focus FCNL's work in the upcoming Congress.

More News from Annual Meeting

- * Senator Sen. Maria Cantwell (WA) receives Edward F. Snyder Peace Award ...
- * Military spending cuts are finally on the table. Find out about our conversations with new audiences
- * Listen in on a discussion with FCNL's David Culp and Jim Cason on what the results of the 2010 mid-term elections mean for FCNL
- * See a full report of the meeting

Save the date! FCNL's next Annual Meeting will be held November 3-6, 2011 in Washington, DC.

Friends Committee on National Legislation
245 2nd Street NE Washington, DC 20002
www.fcnl.org | 800-630-1330

SEYM OPERATIONAL REPORTS

FROM THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Notes on Safe Church Program

Due to the seeming difficulty in having a sufficient number of SEYM Friends seek fingerprinting, and having had several prefer NOT to be fingerprinted, the secretary reviewed materials sent from Safe Church, a program highly recommended by Peter Crockett, St. Petersburg Meeting, and formerly employed by the Presbyterian Church. I also had opportunity to talk extensively with Antero Cortes, former Friends Peace Teams translator for Cece Yocum to Columbia, and member of the Methodist Church who works with youth.

In addition to the formal background checks, Antero reports that in his church, it is presumed that there will be one adult per 1.5 youth at any given event—not as leaders, but as volunteers who are simply aware of each child's needs and whereabouts—in a kind, loving way. This means that the 'duties' of oversight are shared with camaraderie and ease and that no individual volunteer will feel unduly burdened by being 'on duty' all the time. This presumes that parents are not dropping their children into others' care, but are actively involved and, in addition, non-parent adults are also involved. Each volunteer is 'helping' the designated leader, but perhaps for shorter periods of time at any given event.

In reviewing the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's new procedures—SEYM records and record keeping again passed oral annual interview this fall—I had hoped we would have a person in place on the youth committee to assist all SEYM applicants in proper application protocol and to assist them in fulfilling the SEYM Child Abuse Prevention requirements. Unfortunately, no one has stepped forward for this process.

Therefore, recognizing the need to simplify the process to enable to us to INCREASE THE NUMBERS OF VOLUNTEERS, I followed up with Guide One's recommended Safe Church program; Shepherd's Watch looks promising. Briefly, background checks start at \$9.00. In mid-December, I filled out and submitted the 18-page application. Numerous follow-up phone calls have ensued since this is a multi-layered application through Guide One / Safe Church / Shepherd's Watch with final approval through NexisLexis.

Package 1 (\$9.00)

This National Criminal File Plus comprises a search of the Sexual Offenders Registry, Dept. of Public Safety, Dept. of Corrections, Administrative Office of the Courts, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, and Dept. of Criminal Justice files and records, where available. Package 1 also includes the Social Security Number Verification (name, date issued and state, and best available address history).

Package 2 (\$23 per search)

Includes all of Package 1, plus one County Seat Felony and Misdemeanor Search.

Package 3 (\$23 search)

Includes all of Package 1, plus a Motor Vehicle Record.

Package 4 (\$36 search)

Includes all of Packages 1, 2, and 3.

I would also propose that SEYM consider a budget line item for background checks. In the past, individuals have been responsible for funding their own fingerprinting and application fees UNLESS they had been selected to be youth teachers/workers by the YBM-Gathering Committee in which case the SEYM Gathering budget picked up the costs.

To compare background check programs, please view:

<http://licgweb.doacs.state.fl.us/cwcs/elecfingerprintinfo790.html#Q1> [electronic fingerprinting]

<http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Content/home.aspx>

OR

<https://www.safechurch.com/Pages/Default.aspx>

<https://www.safechurch.com/Pages/Bgchecks.aspx>

The following proposal was sent to the Clerk of Trustees, the Finance Committee, the YM Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and the youth workers. Comments have been sparse. Informal responses have come from those to whom I have shared Friends Peace Teams translator Antero's suggestion (see page 1 of this report). Somehow having more people involved rather than trying to select those who have been fingerprinted, etc. seems more possible. One person questioned the proposed salary range as too high (nothing is carved in stone—this is a draft proposal) and another thought it too small! I carefully calculated the hours to be greater some weeks, lesser some weeks, but for bookkeeping purposes it is easier to pay an employee monthly rather than keep hourly time tables, though they could be easily kept if the Treasurer is willing to figure FICA.

Page 1 from the Office		FUND PROPOSAL				10/6/10	
		Paid YOUTH COORDINATOR					
		one-year					
Description	# of Events	Hours/event	Total Hours	Rate	TOTAL		
Salary	annual paid monthly	4/hour/week	224	\$15/hour	\$3,360.00		
EC Meetings	4	8 hours	32	\$15/hour	\$480.00		
FIBM	1	8 hours	8	\$15/hour	\$120.00		
HYM	4 days	4 days	32	\$15/hour	\$480.00		
WIBM	1	8 hours	8	\$15/hour	\$120.00		
Michener Lecture	1	8 hours	8	\$15/hour	\$120.00		
YBM	5 days	40 hours	40	\$15/hour	\$600.00		
					TOTAL SALARY	\$5,280.00	
NON SALARY COMPENSATION							
Registration fees							
YBM						\$400.00	
HYM						\$70.00	
Mileage						\$400.00	
SEYM Budget							
Social Security						\$327.36	
Medicare						\$76.56	
					TOTAL COST	\$6,150.00	

Proposed purpose of 1-year Youth Coordinator position would be to provide leadership to:

1. Discern number of families and youth who would wish to be involved (ages & interests).
2. Discern number and names of non-parent adults willing to volunteer, note interest level and time availability.
3. Oversee/coordinate/clerk SEYM Youth Committee (ideally 8-10 individuals, parents and non-parents who would volunteer to oversee activities at YBM and HYM) and to assess viability of SEYM Youth Program, brainstorm programs, confer with teen committee and to be inclusive of family activities to include all children in some activities.
4. Design viable programs for Preschool-K; early-mid elementary; grades 6-8.
5. Oversee/work with Junior Yearly Meeting Clerks (YBM) to create a teen committee with goals and aspirations with appropriate teen activities several times a year if desired.
6. Provide monthly email (brief) evaluation of tasks accomplished to designated EC support committee with cc to office.
7. Write quarterly reports to EC to be included in Documents in Advance.

Respectfully submitted by Lyn Cope

SOUTHEASTERN YEARLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

P.O. Box 510795
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951-0795

Michener Lecture:

Evolving Quakerism

by Lloyd Lee Wilson

*The Forty-first Annual
Quaker Michener Lecture*

January 16, 2011
Orlando Friends Meeting House
316 E. Marks St., Orlando, FL



Arranged by Worship & Ministry Committee



WIBM-DIA 01/16/2011
Please bring this document with you.
Save a tree.

Accommodations/hospitality:

Marriott Orlando Courtyard Downtown;

730 N. Magnolia Ave. 32803 (within walking distance of Meetinghouse). **1-407-996-1000**, <www.courtyard.com/mcoma>. Ann Jerome has arranged rooms at the Marriott Courtyard at half price - \$99 plus tax - per night - singles/doubles to be reserved prior to COB 10 Jan.

Reference - **Quaker SE Yearly Mtg** (Ann Jerome) - agreed to by Travis (Sales Marriott)

Hospitality arrangements: to stay in a Friend's home or the cottage, must be made in advance with Ann E. Jerome by phone: (386) 848.0785 or <aejerome@gmail.com> and Chuck Deneen Deneen <seymreg@gmail.com>. As with all our SEYM gatherings, minors must be accompanied by a parent or a sponsor.

Directions to Meeting House:

From Interstate #4: Exit 1-4 to SR 50 (Colonial Drive). Go EAST 2 blocks to Magnolia and turn LEFT; go NORTH 4 blocks (pass Courtyard Orlando Downtown) and turn RIGHT (east) onto Marks Street. Go EAST 2 blocks—Meetinghouse on your right (south side of the street).

From FL Eastcoast: SR 408 (East-West Expy); Exit 11A—turn RIGHT onto RAMP; Turn LEFT (west) onto SR 15 (E. South Street); Turn RIGHT onto SR 527 (S. Rosaland Ave., becomes N. Rosaland Ave (bear RIGHT) becomes N. Magnolia Ave. Go past Courtyard Orlando Downtown to Marks, turn RIGHT (east). Go east 2 blocks —Meetinghouse on your right (south side of the street).

Childcare requests will be provided for WIBM, Michener Lecture, and Seminars IF request received prior Firstday.