

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

Minutes of Winter Interim Business Meeting 01/15/2011

Winter Interim Business Meeting (WIBM) for 2011 was held in the Orlando Meetinghouse, Orlando FL. Committee meetings were held in the morning. These minutes record the Interim Business Meeting held in the afternoon.

The meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business began with silent worship.

Seated at the clerk's table were Gary Arthur, YM assistant clerk and acting clerk for this business session; Ed Lesnick, recording clerk; and Susan Taylor, clerk of the Yearly Meeting.

The presiding clerk welcomed all and encouraged Friends join together with "full hearts and open minds."

The roll call of monthly meetings and worship groups followed. [Attachment: Attendees]

Several meetings shared with Friends their monthly meeting milestones. As is customary, those in attendance were encouraged to sign greeting notes to those unable to be present. The following was submitted at the clerk's desk:

Ft Myers has a new adult member who has long been a child member of the meeting: Samuel Oliveira.

Miami announced member David Hersh will be attending the Woolman Semester in Nevada City, California. Friends are requested to hold David in the Light. Lilia Diaz Pino has received her PhD in Nursing from the University of Miami.

Saint Petersburg reports Amanda Wolff has graduated from the University of Florida and is moving to New York City for an internship in fashion.

Tampa requests that Friends hold Karen Putney in the Light.

Friends welcomed Lloyd C. Wilson, Michener lecturer and discussion leader for 2011, and his spouse. Announcements followed.

Gary Arthur, acting clerk, gave the Executive Committee report. He noted the large attendance at the Executive Committee meeting, SEYM's current focus on the Yearly Meeting's youth, and the visioning worship sharing held Friday afternoon prior to the evening's executive committee meeting.

The yearly meeting's concern about the youth program was brought to center following the alleged abuse that took place at Half-Yearly Meeting, Wekiva Springs State Park in November, 2009. Regarding this, SEYM continues to hold everyone involved in our hearts and prayers. SEYM continues to bear the responsibility for what occurred. In light of this,

EC appoints an ad-hoc committee to revise and rewrite our Child Abuse Prevention Procedures and the Youth Program Worker Training Manual in an effort to rid them of inconsistencies and to make them a document we can use. The ad-hoc committee will include Lyn Cope, Cece Yocum, Herb Haigh, Josh Rumschlag, Chuck Deneen, Caroline Lanker, and Steve Kinney. This committee will also update and clarify how SEYM youth activities are supervised and implemented. [Also, see *Documents In Advance*.]

Nancy Triscritti conveyed the spirit led Worship & Ministry committee meeting held in the morning. As an outcome, a minute was authored to be presented before WIBM.

SEYM Worship and Ministry Committee will offer two meetings for Healing during [Gathering] sessions. One meeting for healing will be offered to all youth having parental consent. A second meeting will be offered to the full yearly meeting. SEYM pastoral care sessions will also be available for any youth or adult.

11IBM01 Southeastern Yearly Meeting supports our Worship & Ministry committee in their work to discern way forward in healing for the yearly meeting.

Teens should be involved in setting the parameters regarding acceptable conduct. The meeting should offer the means of healing for those involved. All youth should be invited to participate, but may choose not to join in the process. The process should be open for all to see that the yearly meeting is taking responsibility for the healing process.

11IBM02 SEYM will replace the use of fingerprinting for background checks with the Safe Church Shepherd's Watch background check procedure. Funding will come from the 8500 Contingency Fund for this current fiscal year.

[Also, see the Worship & Ministry report in the *Documents In Advance*, pages 12-13, and the Administrative Secretary's information about Shepherd's Watch, page 17.]

Elizabeth Croce received a Pendle Hill scholarship. Ed and Ann Hotchkiss, St. Petersburg MM, are current year recipients. The 2011-2012 scholarship application dead line is August 30 or when filled. Friends who are present at WIBM are encouraged to share Pendle Hill scholarship information with their home meetings.

Gary Knutson, recently of Earlham College and sojourning at Orlando MM, offered workshop opportunities to monthly meetings from Mid-November to March 2012.

Minute of Appreciation: Southeastern Yearly Meeting offers a minute of appreciation to Winter Park and Orlando Monthly meetings for their hospitality this year for Winter Interim Business Meeting. We gratefully receive the spirit of love and community you offer us year after year.

The Youth committee reported on the 2011 Gathering Program plans. A specific middle school (early teen) agenda will be added under the lead of Dustin Lemke.

The committee is considering how to involve adults in the youth programs. Intergenerational sharing can include pairing young and old at meals, or based on skills and interests, or in a Sunday morning First Day school setting.

The proposed paid position of youth coordinator needs more seasoning. A retreat to thresh this and other committee concerns, including “visioning for the future,” has been discussed.

The Faith and Practice report was delivered by committee clerk, Phoebe Andersen. Technical issues have delayed the ongoing compilation of SEYM’s Faith & Practice. The current goal is complete the document and send it to monthly meetings for a year-long review.

All sections appear on the SEYM web site. The only section remaining to be approved by Yearly Business Meeting (YBM) is the Trustees’ section.

Regarding the SEYM directory, a request was made for monthly meetings to complete and forward their updated membership/attendees lists by March 1. Last year all but one meeting was able to submit the needed information by June.

Neil Andersen, Treasurer, presented a summary report of the SEYM’s income and expenses. For this time in the fiscal year, both income and expenses are typical. Apportionments submitted amount to about 50% of budget. One quarter of monthly meetings and worship groups have paid part of their apportionments. Another 25% have not paid at all. Among these are some of our largest meetings. Regular payments are appreciated.

As of December 31, 2010 there was a net income of \$4,656. Individual contributions received are less than 10% of the budgeted expectation.

The YM Treasurer is available to assist monthly meetings in establishing a payment schedule. The Treasurer urges meeting representatives present to check with their monthly meeting treasurers regarding the status of their payments.

Finance Committee report was presented in a document submitted by Finance Committee clerk, Nil Wilkins. The committee requests monthly meeting and individual input for the FY 2111-2012 budget to be presented for approval at YBM.

The Finance committee recommends the FY 2011-2012 budget remain the same. That is, it proposes no increases or decreases to the current budget. Given the economic realities and recent SEYM budget increases, “A majority of Friends expressed a desire to either maintain or reduce the budget.”

The committee seeks input regarding funding for new projects that will necessitate changes in the budget’s line items.

[The complete Finance committee report is available from committee clerk, Nil Wilkins. An updated proposed budget will appear in the YBM *Documents In Advance*.]

Current individual donations average less than \$5 per member and are lower than budgeted expectations. Friends are requested to consider making individual donations as they can afford.

Herb Haigh gave the Trustees report. Herb noted that the Trustees must be classified as a 5.103 entity, fifteen per cent of the yearly meetings expenses are funded by the Trustees, and a position of Youth coordinator can be funded.

The Committee for Earthcare requests a continuation of support for an act to tax carbon emissions. Information is available on the FCNL website.

Katie Sandburg, Sarasota, has helped by setting up a SEYM Earthcare web page. The Food for Poor web site was recommended to Friends. QEW matching mini-grants are available for a “greening of the meetinghouse” project. [Attachment: Earthcare Committee Report]

Ellie Caldwell and Wendy Clarisa Gieger co-chair the Ministry on Racism committee. Ellie recommended the book and accompanying study guide for *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship*. The committee will also meet with SEYM Quaker Youth.

After a brief recess, the meeting for worship with a concern for business resumed. Caroline Lanker replaced as Ed Lesnick as recording clerk for the remainder of the meeting.

Following silent worship, Ellie Caldwell, committee clerk, gave the Gathering Committee report. Ann Jerome, Orlando, is program activities coordinator for the next gathering. This year’s Gathering will be held April 20 – 24 at the United Methodist Life Enrichment Center. April 10 is this year’s registration deadline.

The committee will consider interest in a different date and location for the annual gathering and YBM sessions. Input is requested.

A new program designed to welcome and mentor newcomers to the annual gathering and business sessions is being planned. Also, there will be relevant changes in the young people’s program.

Representatives and attendees at WIBM were urged to tell others about the annual gathering, which will include an earth care specialist.

Warren Hoskins, clerk, reported the Peace and Social Concerns committee meeting.

Fourteen Friends were in attendance for the morning meeting. The interrelationships between peace and social problems, Friends witness in Florida, and Friends’ testimonies of equality and integrity brought forth many concerns.

A summary writing will is being prepared for the YBM.

The committee requests the yearly meeting’s assistance with the following:

1. A process to make new “queries for our time” to address peace and social order;
2. Request monthly meetings to assist in the development of queries and corresponding advices;
3. Development of an updated list of “Quaker life practices.”

Friends are reminded to consider reduction, recycling, and re-use of materials. Also, there is a call for “open tables,” places where Friends and diverse groups can share.

In a discussion of the Peace & Social Concerns report, the committee clerk felt additional queries were needed to those in Faith & Practice. As to whether or not these new Peace and Social Concerns queries would be part of *Faith and Practice*, the committee clerk does not know (at this time) if this would be the case. A Friend was unclear on how the work proposed would be accomplished. Another suggested a special meeting at YBM to consider new queries. [Also, see Warren Hoskins’ report in the *Documents In Advance*, pages 8 to 11.]

Nancy Triscritti, clerk of Worship and Ministry, stated Worship & Ministry would be willing to consider new queries and make a recommendation. New – social and peace concerns – queries could be part of the ongoing visioning process. Also, FWCC queries and advices can be considered in the process.

David Johns, St. Petersburg and Pro-Nica Stateside Coordinator, gave the Pro-Nica report.

Pro-Nica is twenty five years old in 2011. A celebration is in order. In 1986, the Macintyre’s sought assistance from SEYM to purchase a vehicle and eventually Pro-Nica grew to become a separate non-profit American corporation. It is also now an official nonprofit organization in Nicaragua. Melissa Ajabshir serves as an administrative assistant.

Grants of \$40,000 have been recently invested in programs. Pro-Nica supports libraries, health clinics, youth care and nutrition, crafts, and educational and agricultural activities. The beauty school recently graduated 28 students.

Pro-Nica is encouraging more college delegations through Friends Association of Higher Education. Last year 10 delegations were hosted in Managua. Pro-Nica’s mission includes educating North Americans about Nicaragua. Young North Americans go to Nicaragua and see what it means to raise a family in such poverty.

Lyn Cope will continue on board, which meets three times a year. Friends are encouraged to join the Pro-Nica Committee.

Donation size is down. Miami meeting recently hosted a fundraiser which included many Nicaraguans. Videos were shown and crafts were displayed. Students spoke about the hope they saw in poor people in Nicaragua Kathy Hersh is writing an article for the March Friends Journal. [Attachment: Pro-Nica January report to IBM]

Andrea Walsh, Registrar, offered the Half Yearly Meeting report. The 2010 Thanksgiving weekend retreat was held at Ithiel, a Brethren Camp. In 2011 the annual half-yearly meeting will return to Wekiwa State Park. An environmental program is presented every year. In 2010 attendees offered queries on personal practices and lifestyle choices.

Jack Bradin reported on Friends Committee for National Legislation (FCNL). A report appears in the DIA. Annie Schmalstig, Orlando, was a youth representative. Sidwell Friends School is developing an

Earthcare curriculum and requests Friends' input on their website. [Also, see the *Documents In Advance*, pages 13-14 for a report by SEYM Youth Representative to FCNL, Annie Schmalstig, and Jack Bradin's report, pages 15-16.

Mary Jo Klingel, clerk, gave the Nominating Committee report. Nancy Rose Logan is replacing Sybil Brennan as a representative to Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC).

At YBM, the positions of Yearly Meeting clerk and Assistant Clerk (clerk of IBM and EC) must be filled. The Nominating Committee continues to speak to Friends about individual gifts

Nominating Committee speaks with Friends about what their gifts and ways to serve the yearly meeting.

Yearly Meeting clerk, Susan Taylor, reported a men's worship group meets in the Federal Correctional Institution in Marianna, FL would like to be remembered to Friends at WIBM. They are very interested in the Michener Lecture, Lloyd Lee Wilson and conservative Friends. Tor and Alice Bejnar of Tallahassee MM worship with the group monthly and Susan corresponds with the worship group's creator. They have expressed gratitude for the Quaker books Friends have purchased or donated for their library.

The IBM clerk ended the meeting by expressing a shared presence among Friends of spirit and worship.