

Executive Committee Meeting
Southeastern Yearly Meeting
January 13, 2011

The Executive Committee (EC) meeting began with Open Worship at 7PM in the Orlando Friends Meetinghouse Meeting House, Orlando, Florida:

Attending were:

Joel Cook, Assistant clerk	Mary Jo Klingel
Ed Lesnick, SEYM Recording clerk	Dustin Lemke
Phoebe Andersen, Yearly Meeting	Kay Lesnick
Neil Andersen, Treasurer	Mimi McAdoo
Ellie Caldwell	Ann Sundberg
Peter Crockett	Susan Taylor
Cheryl Demers	Nancy Triscritti
Nancy Fennel	Andrea Walsh
Tom Fennell	Nil Wilkins
Warren Hoskins	Kody Hersh
Davida Johns	

Following a period of silent worship, Joel Cook, Assistant Yearly and IBM Meeting clerk, welcomed participants. The acting clerk noted the absence of IBM clerk Ann Jerome, who was absent due to her father's passing. Also, because of illness, Lyn Cope, SEYM Administrative secretary, was not present for the weekend sessions.

Introductions were made by those in attendance. The modifications made to the agenda were approved. Joel Cook and Phoebe Andersen spoke about the value of their clerking seminar at Pendel Hill.

Neil Andersen summarized the treasurer's concerns. As of the end of the calendar year, 40% of the apportionment requests from meetings in support of SEYM were at 40% of the budgeted item. The expectation is that 67% of the total amount would have been contributed by December 31. A second concern is how to fund the proposed new or increased line items for the FY 2012-2013 budget to be approved at Yearly Meeting sessions.

Nil Wilkins, Finance Committee clerk, explained the budget process. Friends' input is central to developing the new budget. The Finance Committee does not "vote" on the proposal offered for the membership's consideration. Final determination is made by the gathered at Yearly Meeting. However, it serves Friends well to consider a complete proposal to allow for preliminary discernment.

The committee clerk asked Friends to remember the manner in which proposals are presented and evaluated. While strong emotions may occur regarding critical concerns, we all need to act as a community. We all need patience and kindness.

A matter regarding QUIP was referred to the Finance committee.

The Administrative Secretary's report is attached.

5. Clerks' reports

Nancy Triscritti gave the Worship & Ministry committee report.

Members engaged in inter-visitation to monthly meetings. If meetings not yet visited wish to participate, the committee will be available. An FGC conference on inter-visitation, led by Debbie Fisch was noted.

Those who assisted in the planning of the Michener Lecture were recognized.

Dustin Lemke reported for the Youth Committee.

Youth Guidelines are in place. The youth activities at Half Yearly Meeting were well received. Friends approved the following minute of gratitude.

11EC06 EC is grateful to the youth committee for their gifts of hard work, initiative, and faithfulness to their charge. The success of the Youth Committee programs is a blessing to SEYM.

Susan Taylor, clerk presented the Nominating committee report.

A nominating committee report appears in the DIA. Revisions are included in the WIBM minutes as an attachment. Susan announced: Peter Crockett and Davida Johns will be co-clerks of the Gathering Committee.

Faith & Practice clerk Phoebe Andersen summarized current activities.

The SEYM Faith and Practice is near completion. It is ready for pagination. Hopefully, the completed document will be ready by winter 2013. Certainly it will be ready by Yearly Meeting Gathering in 2013.

YM clerk, Phoebe Andersen, presented a report on the manner in which annual Yearly Meeting business sessions will be conducted.

There are too many items to address and reporting at YM business sessions. Accompanying this is the lack of time to properly present and discern important issues. Reports can be handled electronically, through the DIA, or committee handouts. There would be increased clarity, if the body has a minute and supportive material prior to consideration on the agenda.

The Baltimore Yearly Meeting is conducting more of its business virtually. SEYM has already requested clerks to provide electronic reports for the DIA. Committees or those who wish to present an action minute should do so prior to a business session. There will be time for discernment by the business meeting. But, time can be saved for other activities if – as best as possible – a minute’s wording does not need excessive honing. Also, some minutes may need seasoning.

The sitting meeting clerk spoke about “three stages” in developing a minute: information gathering, seasoning, discernment.

The session clerk noted other reports printed in the DIA.

Ellie Caldwell, Gathering Committee clerk, reported the Gathering theme is centered on music and song: *Make a Joyful Noise at Every Opportunity*. The Walton speaker and discussion facilitator at the 2012 Gathering will be musician and activist Tom Neilson. Friends are encouraged to bring their own instruments, too.

The committee is moving forward in reaching the goal of providing full funding to the Gathering for our youth. Through various fundraising efforts this could be possible for the 2012 Gathering.

While the Gathering registration process will be as it was in the in the past, but registrants will be required to make a 50% deposit along with their registration.

The Executive Committee session concluded with silent worship.

Secretary's Report

to EC 01/13/2012 to be held at Sarasota Meeting House

This report describes activities since EC Meeting 09/30/2011.

An overview:

If the Secretary's report was a tweet—I would say that I just recorded two meeting donations (Palm Beach & Space Coast) to the General Fund.

If the Secretary's report was Facebook page, I would speak of the glories of hosting Cece Yocum, Tom Maciocha, & Ozzie dog for Space Coast Meeting and the Unitarian Universalist's "sermon" and workshop on Friends' Peace Teams and how successful the weekend was.

If this were the 90s, the secretary's report would reference its receipt of communication from committee clerks, cutting, pasting, fast copying, and bulk mailing the DIA and receiving camera-ready YBM & HYM registrations, Michener brochure, and lecture booklets. There would be no mention of finances or website or layout and design or offset printing.

If this was the first decade in the 21st century, the report would be much as this one with a full scope of the office work required to keep a contemporary yearly meeting office running: email & phone communication, bookkeeping for the Trustees and General Fund and all its subsidiary committees with budgets: Gathering Committee, HYM committee, and Publications to name a few of the nine 'accounts' under the one umbrella banking account that are kept separate to enable reporting but create a complex system that requires General Journal entries to swap monies betwixt and between.

Fast forward to this present moment, I work furiously this morning needing to be ready to welcome one of the former translators for Friends Peace Teams who is 'stopping by' for lunch and perhaps an overnight... This is the office: hopefully welcoming and seemingly always busy. Personal off-time blurs with today's rapid texting communications, phone calls in 'off hours' because all of you are also busy with your lives during regular office hours...

General office activities Fall of 2011:

I mastered the required software for the *Online Newsletter*. I am mastering the new software for the new *The SEYM Journal* but have already fallen short in not getting it to the printer.

Bookkeeping is, as always, a seemingly solo event. It is immeasurably helpful when the Treasurer and the IT person look it over to double check entries and provide direction on double entry issues that crop up—unfortunately with their busy lives this has not happened and when I reconciled bank statements, some issues of old popped up that will require much more time to correct as the months go by than if they had been corrected prior to statement reconciliation. So it is.

Highlights include anticipation that the Gathering Committee will provide nearly camera-ready program materials—at least carefully edited—and with the daily spreadsheet schedule ready to import without corrections required!

Our printer continues to do a fabulous job with fast copy and offset printing, often with me emailing or uploading the film that Derrick prints and then delivers the 35 miles, bringing the boxes into the office thereby saving me heavy lifting and gasoline!

All this said, it is time to evaluate the process whereby we print publications. Friends may download and print

documents posted on the website. Quaker bookstores and Friends purchase hard-copy booklets and t-shirts. I would like to make our booklets available online for e-books, but, alas, it seems that this will infringe on the much needed income for our Quaker Bookstores as Friends would purchase directly from Amazon or Barnes and Noble rather than from them—not good. One idea is to put the out-of-print booklets online.

We Quaker organizations are in these difficult financial times together. Which leads me to my personal concern in reducing donations to Quaker organizations by 21%. For one thing, the donation to Quakers Uniting in Publications is actually a membership fee treated as a donation which means that if I choose to be involved, I will be required to pay the difference. With the exception of FWCC, FGC, and formerly FUM, SEYM had not increased donations to Quaker organizations in over 10 years.

Unfortunately, many of us understand all too well the impact of being unemployed has on our meetings and on our members and attenders and how that translates to apportionment donations. The elephant in the room, of course, is the huge heading called “administrative” that includes budget line items for all administrative functions. Friends could be reminded that yearly meetings of old had stronger personal ties, often 1-earner families leaving volunteer time for one partner or the other, and that in the days of radio and no television that the meetings, from my experience, provided the social center for any given community. We were connected because we saw one another and regularly traveled miles to attend Meeting for Worship, to Quarterly Meetings, and Yearly Meeting—freely giving of our time. By necessity, yearly meetings around the world now hire staff to do the work volunteers at one time did—the required skill sets include more than just pen and ink and stamps.

Financial:

Donations envelopes as requested at summer EC cost \$310.92 for two issues and resulted in only one return: an apportionment payment from one Worship Group attender!—not cost effective. Will someone step forward to cover this failed experiment? And why did it fail? Who is going to ask for this donation?

Website:

Nearly up to date, but not redesigned.

Publications:

Deadline next week for *Directory 2012-2013*. Please send corrections including all new info on meeting officers. The new *OnLine Newsletter* is a huge success. The office received accolades for the picture of Basil for Christmas card! Note that all members and attenders listed in the *Directory* receive *The SEYM Journal* (literary) and *OnLine newsletter* (informational with active links). PLEASE make sure that Chuck Deneen has your correct mailing address and the email address YOU wish to use for SEYM. Please encourage your meeting clerks and membership recorders to provide correct lists to: **Chuck Deneen <seymreg@gmail.com>**.

Future:

Having been approached at FIBM and HYM and following Cece’s talk this weekend, I understand that meetings and individuals may be experiencing PTSD due to the present number of unemployed Friends and from the difficult events over the past five years. **Hoping for healing, our Gathering Committee has planned a fabulous healing yearly meeting filled with music and workshops.**

Thanks to you each.

Respectfully submitted by Lyn Cope