

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 13, 2012, 7:00PM: Executive Committee Meeting (EC)

Saturday, January 14, 2012

9:00AM: SEYM **Committee Meetings**

Lunch

1:00PM: Interim **Business Meeting** (WIBM):

Meeting Clerks & Treasurers: think of this as one of SEYM's two Quarterly Meetings—all are encouraged to attend

Sunday, January 15, 2012

Meeting for worship with either Orlando Friends Meeting (9:30AM) or

Winter Park (10:00AM)

Simple Lunch

1:00PM: **Michener Lecture** by Patty Levering, Listening to Hear: Deepening Faith,
Nurturing Community

2:30PM: **Workshop/Seminar I**

3:30PM: Tea

4:00PM: **Workshop/Seminar II**

Hospitality arrangements to stay in a Friend's home or the cottage must be made in advance with Martha Morris by phone: (m) 404-802-7082 or email: morris842810@bellsouth.net

As with all SEYM gatherings, minors must be accompanied by a parent or a sponsor.

Friends, here's where we stand on motels:

The Marriott Courtyard, 730 N. Magnolia, Orlando 32803 rate will be \$99 a night plus tax with free parking. Phone: 407-996-1000. The Marriott Courtyard is only a quarter-mile or so from the meetinghouse.

Mt. Vernon Best Western, 110 S. Orlando Ave., Winter Park 32789 will let us have their group rate for standard rooms at \$96 plus tax. Deluxe rooms are a little larger, have air purifiers, flat-screen t.v., etc., and will be \$106 per night plus tax. Ask for SEYM or Quaker. This motel is about 3 or 4 miles from Orlando Meeting. Phone: 407-647-1166.

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 Michener Lecture/Seminars IF requests received prior to First Day.

Dear Friends,

Our Winter Interim Business Meeting ushers in a new year – a year of predicted profound change in myriad aspects of our lives. Apocalyptic prognosticators say 2012 will be the end of time, the end of the world as we know it; some describe a fateful Judgment Day, while others envision a dawning age of unity and peace. In politics, finance, health care, environmentalism, public affairs, international relations... everywhere we turn, people expect change to shake the foundation of our interactions, our perceptions, our daily lives.

As Friends, we know experientially that every moment holds the promise of seeing not through a glass darkly, but face to face. Predictions of change may interest us, but we live each day knowing transformation as our constant companion. Through the immanence of God in Friends' experience, change is always with us. Our experience of change, however, is not cataclysmic, because it is held in the steadfast arms of God's constancy and love. To live in the reality of God's tender care is to walk fearlessly through change of all kinds, at all times.

While God is always present with us, we are often not present with God. Our community helps us maintain that discipline, as Friends remind each other of the Love that sustains us all. We move into the stillness in confidence that together we will meet God there. By listening together for the still, small voice, we come to experience the eternal peace that puts temporal change in perspective.

For Southeastern Yearly Meeting, 2012 will be a listening year. Our Michener Lecturer, Patty Levering, draws our attention in January to the importance of "listening together into that place of hearing" in her lecture, "Listening to Hear: Deepening Faith, Nurturing Community." At our Yearly Business Meeting in Leesburg in April, our Walton Lecturer, Tom Neilson, will invite us to explore with him the dimension that music brings to our listening and voicing our faith. With him and one another, we will sing, dance, play instruments, and cultivate a keener and more discerning ear. Together, let us make 2012 a year of listening deeply to each other and to the Spirit that offers transforming change within the Love that is ever and always the same.

In the Light,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann Jerome', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ann Jerome
Clerk of Executive Committee and Interim Business Meeting

- Updates (membership/attendership and Meeting officer information) for Directory 2012-2013 due at WIBM.
- Spiritual State of the Meeting Reports due January 20.

AGENDA for WIBM-EC Meeting 2012

Friday, January 13, 2012

7:00-7:30 Opening worship

1. Introductions
2. Additions to agenda
3. Treasurer/Finance report
4. Secretary's report
5. Clerks' reports
6. Report on FIBM Interest Groups
7. Gathering Committee (summary report)
8. Other:
9. Review of minutes

Closing worship

AGENDA for WIBM 2012

Saturday, January 14, 2012

8:15 **Fellowship/coffee**

9:00 **Worship**

9:30 Introduction of Clerks—YM, Phoebe Andersen; EC/IBM, Ann Jerome;
Assistant, Joel Cook; Recording, Ed Lesnick.

Announcements from Orlando Meeting

Preliminary Nominating Report
Committee Meetings

Noon - Lunch

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. Committee reports: comments and addenda as needed, as complete reports appear in DIA.
 - a. Worship and Ministry
 - b. Executive Committee
 - c. Faith and Practice
 - d. Treasurer
 - e. Finance Committee
 - f. Trustees
 - g. Gathering Committee
 - h. Peace and Social Concerns
 - i. Earthcare Working Group
 - j. Committee for Ministry on Racism
 - k. Archives
 - l. ProNica
 - m. Half Yearly Meeting Committee
 - n. Representatives to Organizations
6. Reports from FIBM Interest Groups
7. Nominating Committee Report
8. Other business to come before the Meeting
9. Review of minutes

Closing worship

Fall Interim Business Meeting Minutes

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 the minutes.*

*Current SEYM officers, committee members, representatives, and clerks.

*From the Clerk of Nominating Committee:

The Directory is accurate except for a few things: Sybil Ann Brennan is no longer on Nominating Committee, and Andrew Jason is a SERO rep until 2013 (The latter is listed in report to YM, but not in Directory).

The Directory is accurate with Chuck Deneen as membership recorder. That changed after YM, so the report to YM listed Nancy Howell.

Correct name is: *The Committee **for** Ministry **on** Racism* and not as listed in *The Directory*.

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

Fall Executive Committee Minute

11EC05 EC requests each monthly meeting provide SEYM electronic communications as printed copies to their individual members and attenders who desire them.

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

INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDAS/REPORTS

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE:

Clerk Peter Day writes that Connie, Bill, Sybil, Sue and he will be able to do either one (Sybil) or two (the rest of us) days of work on the archives starting Tuesday January 3. He suggests that the committee meet at the Gainesville Meeting House at 10.00 am and proceed from there to the library. On Wednesday morning we will do the same but meet an hour earlier at 9.00 am.

“I hope that Flo will be able to arrange for us to park one car by the library. She will be busy with candidate interviews on both days but expects to be able to spend a little time with us. ...”

COMMITTEE FOR EARTHCARE:

This past April at Yearly Meeting, Friends had a wonderful opportunity to meet with Marcia Cleveland of Friends Committee on National Legislation's "green" team. She led us through understanding the current political situation in Washington D.C. with regard to environmental concerns at FCNL. What was important was Marcia's optimistic outlook on the progress of a cleaner environment. The following is a summary of her discussion.

- The primary environmental focus at FCNL is on clean, renewable energy and changing legislation to protect the environment.
- The National Resource Defense Council (NRDC) has a webpage with a box that shows those who lobby against a cleaner environment.
- Marcia would like us to join her "green" team. (Note: Bergin Parks is now Legislative Assistant on Energy and Environmental issues at FCNL.) You can sign up for environmental news at FCNL's website.
- The environmental movement has had a power shift to young people.
- It is more feasible to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies than to try to tax carbon at the source of its production at this point in time.
- The United States is not complying with the G20 agreement on reducing subsidies to polluting entities.
- The Defense Department is on record for climate legislation that includes clean, renewable energy as it views doing so as a national security issue.
- Faith groups, such as Friends, are in a unique position to approach issues from a moral perspective and with love.

We hope that the growing numbers of us who share a concern for the health and healing of the planet as God's creation, will continue this work with love as our faith in action.

Toward peace with the Earth,
Mary Jo Klingel and Barbara Letsch
SEYM Earthcare Committee

COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY ON RACISM:**Young African American Males In Crises**

Wendy Clarissa Geiger—12/27/11

Dear Southeastern Yearly Meeting (Quaker) Committee for Ministry on Racism Meeting & Worship Group Contacts,

There is much concern in the Jacksonville (FL) community about crises affecting young African American males—especially, the low high school graduation rates and the high murder and arrest and incarceration rates. I have some thoughts about young African American boys and men—older men, too—that may seem far-out that I share with you here.

During slavery times and later, African American men were not needed to carry on the species. As European American men raping African American womyn was standard, the myth of the hyper-sexualized African American male was perpetuated by truly hyper-sexualized European American men. European American men were scared African American men would act the same ways toward European American womyn that European American men behaved toward African American womyn. All the while, African American men dared not defend African American womyn without severe, deadly consequences. How disempowering and maddening that is!

An Audre Lorde poem states: “...we were never meant to survive.” That’s what I think of when I think of my African American brothers, fathers, uncles, cousins, children, and grandchildren: they “were never meant to survive.” Maya Angelou stated that she wasn’t expected to amount to much as an African American womun; so, consequently, she decided she was free to be anything she wanted to be. As she was never meant to succeed.

And, African American men and boys killing each other are “succeeding” wildly...by White Supremacy standards. They know they are not wanted or trusted in U.S. White Supremacist society. And, so, they kill each other, fulfilling a White Supremacist fantasy. In another way of looking at this phenomenon, this is the height of love for self and the “other,” fulfilling Jesus’ commandment to love the enemy. For deep down in our collective, societal subconsciousness, young African American men and boys will hurt—even sacrifice — themselves (and African American womyn and girls) in order to not hurt the enemy (take their anger out on European Americans of whatever age—which has grave consequences). As is often the case, persons may tend to be harsher toward themselves or their family members than towards those not in the family. We “take it out” on those we love the most, as the saying goes.

There is something very beautiful and affirming about the low high school graduation rates among young African American men. For they are saying with these actions that they refuse to “succeed” in finishing high school and going to college or joining the workforce full-time and, therefore, “succeeding” by U.S. standards. We know that to “succeed” in this cut-throat corporate system, one must fight others to get ahead, back-stab co-workers, endanger one’s health (mentally, emotionally, and/or physically) or that of others in this country or on another continent in sweatshops, factories, or fields. And, these brave young people are saying with their lives: we will not bow to “success” as our society has defined it; we will not participate in enslaving others or ourselves. And yet, they—and we—are at a seeming loss as to what to do next.

Martin Luther King Jr. was killed not for advocating African American and European American unity, but for advocating the TRANSFORMATION of this country’s economy, military, values and destructive ways of being and of operating in the world. He was not merely advocating that African Americans and European Americans should be able to shop or eat at the same establishments—without harassment. He was advocating that these establishments (and people) not be in the business of exploitation and greed in the first place.

These young African American men who are not graduating from high school are refusing to “succeed” (make a buck at any cost) and exploit their brothers and sisters in two-thirds world countries—and in two-thirds world conditions in this country. Concentrating on them and not on what young European American men are doing who “succeed” in high school is failing both. The anger of young and older African American men and boys is not developed in a vacuum. But, what about the anger of young—and older—European American men and boys? How many African American mass murderers have we heard of?

The transformations happening mostly “below the radar” of mass media and pundits in this country

(i.e. the Occupy Everything Movement) reminds me of a line from a Holly Near song: “The meek are getting ready!” Annually, for the past 3 or 4 years here in Jacksonville, a large collective of organizations, businesses, schools, etc., have welcomed about 500 or so people of most ages—mostly African Americans—gathered for a day of explaining, strategizing, sharing, learning and inspiring under the banner: “Saving Young Black Males for Jacksonville’s Future.” I attended the first gathering. The U.S. Navy was tabling out in the foyer. Will we ever wake up to the fact that the U.S. military is a massive killing machine? As Holly Near sings in another of her songs: “Do we think they (young African American men) are good at cutting other people down?” So, sign them up for the military, since they’re so good at killing each other!

U.S. White Supremacist Society makes life so brutal for African American males—encouraging them to kill each other and/or incarcerating them into the Prison Industrial Slavery Complex through the War on Drugs -excuse me, I mean really the War on African Americans. I weep for my brothers (and sisters) of darker hues on a near-daily basis. Ah,yes...but they “were never meant to survive.” So, let my life’s longing and work be an antidote to that despair. For I love my African American brothers. Please, join me.

With deep concern,
Wendy Clarissa Geiger
4909 Dunn Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32218-4357
904-764-1722

FAITH & PRACTICE COMMITTEE:

No report at this time.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

SEYM Finance Committee Report WIBM 2012

Dear Friends,

The main item on Finance Committee’s agenda for WIBM is the presentation of a draft budget for SEYM’s upcoming fiscal year 2012-2013. As in the past, to aid in its discernment on this issue, Finance Committee asked for input from SEYM Friends. As was the case last year, a majority of Friends expressed a desire to either maintain or reduce the budget as meeting apportionment amounts continue to be a cause of real stress.

Included in this report is the first draft SEYM General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. To implement minutes approved at June EC and FIBM, this draft reflects increases in the following line items:

1. Under Representative Travel, Line 8160 – Annual Reps – an increase of \$1300. As a starting point for what is a new representative position, \$100 toward travel support for the SEYM Historic Peace Churches representative (Warren Hoskins); and \$1200 toward travel support for one YAQ clerk to attend each EC Meeting and the Yearly Meeting (YM) – 4 meetings total.
2. Under Transfers to other accounts, Line 9060 – for Triennial Travel Reserves – an increase of \$350; an estimate of the amount to set aside yearly for use every 3 years, towards support for incoming YM, Assistant and EC clerks to attend a clerking workshop.

The only input Finance received on where to reduce expenses in the proposed budget involved donations to organizations. If support to these groups is decreased by 21.5%, this will offset the above increases and hold the FY2012-2013 budget to FY2011-2012 levels.

Respectfully submitted,
Nil Wilkins
Clerk of Finance Committee

Southeastern Yearly Meeting
Draft General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13

<u>Categories</u>	<u>No-</u> <u>te</u>	<u>Approved</u> <u>Budget</u> <u>2011-12</u>	<u>Draft</u> <u>Budget</u> <u>2012-13</u>	<u>% diff</u> <u>FY'12-</u> <u>FY'13</u>
Income				
Real Income to General Fund				
2002 Individual Donations		\$ 4,000 \$	4,000	0.0%
2711 Individual Donations w/ Gathering Reg's.	(1)	\$ 150 \$	150	0.0%
2203 Savings account interest		\$ 70,384 \$	70,384	0.0%
2003 Meeting & Worship Groups				
2306 Miscellaneous Income				
Subtotal Real Income		\$ 74,534 \$	74,534	0.0%
Transfers from other accounts				
2820 From Trustees' Secretary's Salary Fund	(6)	\$ 4,786 \$	4,786	0.0%
2815 From Trustees' Bertsche Travel Fund	(6)	\$ 2,058 \$	2,058	0.0%
2712 From Michener Lecture for admin		\$ 134 \$	134	0.0%
2732 From Gathering for admin		\$ 935 \$	935	0.0%
2752 From HYM for admin		\$ 486 \$	486	0.0%
2730 Surplus from Gathering/Walton Lecture	(3)			
2750 Surplus from HYM	(3)			
Subtotal Transfers		\$ 8,399 \$	8,399	0.0%
Total Income		\$ 82,933 \$	82,933	0.0%
Expenses				
Administration				
3001 Bank Charges		\$ 20 \$	20	0.0%
3002 Credit Card Processing Fees		\$ 10 \$	10	0.0%
3080 Duplication		\$ 4,700 \$	4,700	0.0%
3106 Liability Insurance		\$ 1,700 \$	1,700	0.0%
3107 Youth Worker Certification Program		\$ 1,800 \$	1,800	0.0%
3146 Fee for Non-Profit Corp		\$ 61 \$	61	0.0%
3200 Office Supplies		\$ 580 \$	580	0.0%

Southeastern Yearly Meeting
Draft General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13

Categories	No- te	Approved Budget 2011-12	Draft Budget 2012-13	% diff FY'12- FY'13
3270 Payroll expenses - Salary		\$ 40,994	\$ 40,994	0.0%
3270 Payroll expenses - Employer Taxes		\$ 3,136	\$ 3,136	0.0%
3271 Payroll expenses - Benefits		\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	0.0%
3380 Postage		\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600	0.0%
3381 Post Office Box Rental		\$ 62	\$ 62	0.0%
3400 Office Equipment		\$ 450	\$ 450	0.0%
3500 Professional Svcs		\$ 150	\$ 150	0.0%
3640 Office Rent & Rental Storage Unit		\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	0.0%
3700 Repairs		\$ 350	\$ 350	0.0%
3816 Software		\$ 800	\$ 800	0.0%
3840 Telephone/Internet		\$ 1,700	\$ 1,700	0.0%
3860 Secretary Travel/Administrative Travel		\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600	0.0%
3900 Website (incl #3641 Shared Data Storage)	(7)	\$ 300	\$ 300	0.0%
8500 Contingency		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	0.0%
3006 Contract Labor		\$	\$	0.0%
Subtotal Administration		\$ 67,213	\$ 67,213	0.0%
Committees				
4309 Archives		\$ 550	\$ 550	0.0%
4329 EC and IBM		\$ 100	\$ 100	0.0%
4339 Faith & Practice		\$ 200	\$ 200	0.0%
4349 Finance		\$ 50	\$ 50	0.0%
4359 Nominating		\$ 50	\$ 50	0.0%
4369 Peace & Social Concerns		\$ 150	\$ 150	0.0%
4389 Youth Committee		\$ 50	\$ 50	0.0%
4399 Worship & Ministry		\$ 50	\$ 50	0.0%
4429 Earthcare		\$ 50	\$ 50	0.0%
4469 Ministry on Racism		\$ 50	\$ 50	0.0%
7138 Program Expense - Food (EC/IBM)		\$	\$	0.0%
Subtotal Committees		\$ 1,300	\$ 1,300	0.0%

Southeastern Yearly Meeting
Draft General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13

<u>Categories</u>	<u>No-</u> <u>te</u>	<u>Approved</u> <u>Budget</u> <u>2011-12</u>	<u>Draft</u> <u>Budget</u> <u>2012-13</u>	<u>% diff</u> <u>FY'12-</u> <u>FY'13</u>
Donations to Organizations				
5007 AFSC		\$ 100	\$ 82	-21.5%
5008 AFSC-SERO		\$ 100	\$ 82	-21.5%
5018 Earlham School of Religion		\$ 100	\$ 82	-21.5%
5027 FCNL		\$ 300	\$ 247	-21.5%
5028 QEW		\$ 200	\$ 165	-21.5%
5037 FGC		\$ 1,200	\$ 988	-21.5%
5038 FL Coalition for Peace & Justice		\$ 60	\$ 49	-21.5%
5047 FL Council of Churches		\$ 200	\$ 165	-21.5%
5048 Florida Impact		\$ 300	\$ 247	-21.5%
5057 Friends Journal		\$ 100	\$ 82	-21.5%
5058 Friends Peace Teams (FPT)		\$ 250	\$ 206	-21.5%
5067 FUM	(5)	\$ 500	\$ 412	-21.5%
5068 FWCC		\$ 1,450	\$ 1,193	-21.5%
5077 Pendle Hill		\$ 100	\$ 82	-21.5%
5078 ProNica		\$ 4,000	\$ 3,292	-21.5%
5087 Quaker Life		\$ 100	\$ 82	-21.5%
5187 Quakers United in Publishing (QUIP)		\$ 60	\$ 49	-21.5%
5089 QUNO		\$ 100	\$ 82	-21.5%
5097 William Penn House		\$ 100	\$ 82	-21.5%
Subtotal Donations		\$ 9,320	\$ 7,670	-21.5%
Representative Travel				
8160 Annual Reps		\$ 2,600	\$ 3,900	33.3%
8360 Other				
Subtotal Representative Travel		\$ 2,600	\$ 3,900	33.3%
Subtotal Real Expenses		\$ 80,433	\$ 80,083	-0.4%

Southeastern Yearly Meeting
Draft General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13

<u>Categories</u>	<u>No- te</u>	<u>Approved Budget 2011-12</u>	<u>Draft Budget 2012-13</u>	<u>% diff FY'12- FY'13</u>
Transfers to other accounts				
9003 for Employee/Secretary Expenses		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	0.0%
9005 Youth at YM Gathering		\$ 500	\$ 850	41.2%
9060 for Triennial Travel Reserves				
9210 for Michener Lecture	(4)			
Subtotal Transfers		\$ 2,500	\$ 2,850	12.3%
Total Expenses				
		\$ 82,933	\$ 82,933	0.0%
Total Income		\$ 82,933	\$ 82,933	0.0%
Net Income		\$ -	\$ (0)	
TRIENNIAL TRAVEL RESERVE ACCOUNT				
Carryover from Previous Year		\$ 5,850	\$ 6,350	
Income				
2801 Transfer from General Fund		\$ 500	\$ 850	
Total Available for Current Year		\$ 6,350	\$ 7,200	
Expenses				
8260 Triennial Travel	(2)	\$ -	\$ -	
8360 Other Travel		\$ -	\$ -	
Total Expenses		\$ -	\$ -	
Net Income for Current Year		\$ 500	\$ 850	
Carryover to Next Year		\$ 6,350	\$ 7,200	

Notes:

- (1) Donations restricted for General Fund by donors; accounted for separately but Budgeted as regular Individual Donations.
- (2) The FWCC will have a world conference in Kenya in July 2012.
- (3) Gathering or HYM surplus income is returned to General Fund; any deficit for these activities is paid from the General Fund.
- (4) Michener Lecture surplus income is invested in the related Trustees' Fund; any deficit is paid from the General Fund.
- (5) The FUM donation is restricted by specific YM minute: approved 1/2 Kaimosi Hospital & 1/2 Ramallah Friends School.
- (6) FFC pay-out percentage in 2011 was 5.00%. It has been reduced in steps over several years to be fiscally prudent.
- (7) \$500 approved to Lisa Stewart to support her work with Kenyan Friends.

HALF YEARLY MEETING (HYM):

Andrea writes that she called Wekiwa Springs State Park and registered for next year... "They request the deposit (\$400.) in the spring. Reservations are for Nov. 22 - 25, 2012. We are their favorite group and she will list us every year."

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

SEYM Nominating Committee Report In preparation for Winter Interim Business Meeting January 14, 2012

Nominating Committee Members: Susan Taylor, clerk (Tallahassee); Martha Morris (Winter Park); Gary Arthur (Gainesville); Dustin Lemke (Tampa)

"We should be 'servants one of another' and 'watching over one another for good.'" (Alastair Heron, Gifts and Ministries: a discussion paper on eldership: Quaker Home Service, 1987, revised in 1993.)

The SEYM Nominating Committee continues to be enriched through our worshipful discernment of finding Friends with appropriate gifts to fill open or soon- to- be open positions left by Friends completing terms of service as Yearly Meeting officers, committee members or representatives to organizations. We are profoundly grateful for the service of those of you whose terms are ending, for those of you who continue to serve and for Friends who are stepping forward to serve in new or ongoing ways. It is a joy to experience the vibrancy of a community in which gifts are generously shared and received. We invite Friends to explore the many opportunities (below) available for experiencing a deepening of life with Love in the Spirit as a community through serving our yearly meeting. See which of the options might speak to you. Such deepening nourishes our yearly meeting as a whole, the wider world of Quakers and the world in general. If our yearly meeting is a mystery to you or you feel curious or out of touch, please come to Winter Interim Business Meeting and the Michener Lecture to discover more while being lovingly welcomed. Simply the presence of each us open to receiving whatever God, the Source, the Christ Spirit or Love may bring is a precious gift in itself, and is a vital way we serve.

As the nominating committee has sought to fill positions, we have been moved through listening to Friends by phone and most recently, in person, at Half Yearly Meeting. Thank you, Friends, for sharing with us where, or whether, you feel called to serve within Southeastern Meeting at this time.

We are delighted to report that Davida Johns and Peter Crockett have come forward to be mentored for Co-Clerks of the Gathering Committee by Ellie Caldwell during this, her final, year as Gathering Committee Clerk. Their names will be brought forward for approval at the SEYM Gathering meeting for worship with attention to business sessions in 2012.

The Committee is still seeking a Recording Clerk, another Trustee, at least one more representative to FWCC and someone to fill Ann Jerome's position as Program Coordinator for the 2012 Gathering. Ann has already done quite a bit of the work and will offer guidance to the person who is called to do this. In addition, members are needed for the Half Yearly Meeting Gathering Committee.

Please see members of the Nominating Committee, listed above, if you or someone you know may be ready to fill a vacant position and would like your name(s) to be taken under discernment. The Committee is also in the process of staggering terms of Friends on committees where terms have not been staggered. Individual

Friends to be affected by this will be consulted first.

The Nominating Committee asks that Friends please check the **SEYM Directory** for other officers, members of committees and representatives to organizations whose terms are continuing.

Committee terms ending in 2012:

Worship and Ministry Committee: Wendy Clarissa Geiger, co-clerk (Jacksonville); Cheryl Demers-Holton (Gainesville); Clara Diaz (Miami)

Yearly Meeting Gathering Committee: Ellie Caldwell, clerk (Palm Beach); Chuck Deneen, registrar (Orlando). The committee has only 4 members total, and needs more.

Youth Committee: Susan Taylor (Tallahassee); Elizabeth Croce (Orlando)

ProNica Board Appointees: Kathy Hersh (Miami)

SEYM Representatives to Organizations terms ending in 2012:

AFSC Southeast Regional Office (SERO): Mary Jo Klingel

Friends General Conference (FGC) Central Committee: Liz Perch (Savannah) and Dustin Lemke (Tampa)

Friends Peace Teams: Cecilia Yocum (Tampa) and Lisa Stewart (Palm Beach)

Florida Council of Churches: Dustin Lemke (Tampa)

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)/William Penn House: Karen Putney (Tampa)

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC):
Kody Hersh (Miami)

Friends United Meeting (FUM) General Board Observer: Lisa Stewart (Palm Beach)

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC): Need at least one more representative

With gratitude in Love,
Susan Taylor, clerk, Nominating Committee

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE:

Minutes and notes from the Peace & Social Concerns Committee Meeting at Fall Interim Business Meeting, 10-01-2011

Warren's Gmail Hoskins <warrenhoskins@gmail.com>

SEYM Peace & Social Concerns Committee at Sarasota Friends Meeting House

7th Day, 10/01/2011 - 9:30 AM began gathering, met from 10:00 AM to Noon

These are expanded notes from Warren Hoskins - much of this was reported at the SEYM Fall Interim Business Meeting in the afternoon.

Present for some or all of the committee meeting (the Quaker Earthcare Witness folks came in for the last half of the meeting): Warren Hoskins, Steve Kinney, Shawna Doran, Michael Canney, Chad Nelson, Joan Nelson, Andrea Walsh, Mary Jo Klingel, Barbara Letsch

[By e-mail from Mary Jo: OUR E-MAIL MAILING LIST

Barbara Letsch	bjletsch@gmail.com
Mary Jo Klingel	mjklingelftlq@earthlink.net
Shawna Doran	shawnadoran@yahoo.com
Michael Canney	alachuagreen@gmail.com
Chad Nelson	chadjoannelson@gmail.com
Andrea Walsh	andreagwalsh@yahoo.com
Steve Kinney	steve@pilobilus.net
Warren Hoskins	warrenhoskins@hotmail.com
Jack Bradin*	greenebank@earthlink.net

*A request was made to Jack Bradin to know if we may include him, too - he was in the afternoon interest group, not at the committee meeting - and he has agreed.]

Acknowledgment at the start of our meeting - this is the day of Troy Davis' funeral in Savannah, Georgia. Some Friends wished to be there, but could not be there and here in Sarasota attending this gathering. At this year's Yearly Meeting our committee minuted a request to monthly meetings and worship groups to support the work of Floridians Against the Death Penalty - Friends are doing some supportive work and speaking out more in communities, but we are not engaging in opposition to executions in an organized way.

Pre-agenda concern: [This can be viewed as directions to Warren as the clerk of SEYM Peace & Social Concerns Committee] SEYM Peace & Social Concerns / Monthly Meeting communications: Shawna - ask each monthly meeting to have a P & SC rep. Steve, Warren - Work with Karen Putney to parallel with FCNL rep. and/or a contact person. Mike - it is about coordination and connectivity. Warren - Proposal that we add contacts for one as contacts for all, so same with QEW - ask the people who are in each to connect with the others. Steve - Clerks are supposed to be the contact persons for SEYM. Shawna - We could send a letter to each clerk, saying "we would like you to name a person from your meeting." Warren - Produce a .pdf to send to clerks and copy our committee. Include cc to SEYM clerks and individuals. Create a spreadsheet database of names from monthly meetings, with e-mail addresses, for the committee.

Agenda [items proposed for the agenda have been rearranged to be ordered as we discussed them, and then expanded with Warren's notes from the discussion that came up - errors & omissions all Warren's problem - please let him know of corrections, additions]

1) Planned Parenthood - we agree to urge monthly meetings to act, to contact legislators to say, leave PP alone. We propose to use the new Vertical Integration / SEYM newsletter to distribute this request.

2) Friends Peace Teams - Lisa Stewart, Nadine Hoover, and Cecilia Yocum - Shawna urges / committee agrees - our committee propose Nadine especially to the Gathering Committee and Worship & Ministry as an invited speaker - for Yearly Meeting, Michener lecture or other educational forums. Our committee urges that YM move them [FPT] up as a line item. [Note: Mennonites do more in Haiti, than Quakers.] Andrea - Next year at HYM have one as a presenter. Committee: Propose that 3 to 5-min. videos to promote FPT be created. Youtube them. Make links available.

3) SOA Watch - Shawna and Mike - Our committee would like to have more Friends aware and active against the School of the Americas. 10/08/2011 - Miami Action - the revitalized US Fourth Fleet is headquartered in Mayport, JAX. New aircraft carrier, huge threat to Central/South America. 11/18-20/2011 Columbus GA, Fort Benning

4) The Committee took up the five Minutes from our committee agreed upon at SEYM 4/23/2011 - inserted here:

Peace and Social Concerns Committee
Yearly Meeting Minutes, April 23, 2011

Minute 1:

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Southeastern Yearly Meeting asks our Yearly Meeting to stop doing business with Bank of America and transfer its checking and any other accounts to a community-based bank or credit union that reinvests capital in the local economy. We also urge our Monthly Meetings to review their banking and other financial services to assure that Friends' capital is at work in our local communities. We believe that this is an important issue for Friends, in light of our strong tradition of socially responsible investment.

Minute 2:

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Southeastern Yearly Meeting asks our Yearly Meeting to review its printing and mailing expenditures with regard to paper use, production costs and postage costs. We request that documents be transmitted electronically in PDF format wherever practicable, and in particular that routine hard copy mailings be limited to documents addressed to our Members (and attenders) and Meetings. Hard copy mailing to organizations and individuals outside Southeastern Yearly Meeting shall be available only at the express request of the organization or individual.

Minute 3:

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Southeastern Yearly Meeting urges our Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups to become well informed about the work of these political and social action groups in the wider community, and to support their work to the fullest extent as Friends are led:

Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
<http://www.fadp.org/>

Amnesty International
<http://amnesty.org>

Coalition of Immokalee Workers
<http://ciw-online.org>

Jewish Voice for Peace
<http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org>

Interfaith Worker Justice
<http://www.iwj.org/>

Minute 4:

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Southeastern Yearly Meeting requests that SEYM name a representative to the annual Historic Peace Churches in Florida gathering, a conference attended by Mennonite, Brethren and Friends to share skills and information, and inform one another of our present activities in the sphere of peace and social order work. We request that Warren Hoskins, clerk of SEYM Peace and Social Concerns, be named as the initial representative to this body.

Minute 5:

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Southeastern Yearly Meeting unites with the Quaker Earthcare Witness Committee in its Minute on nuclear power.

 To return to our meeting notes:

Re Minute 1: We affirmed our minuted request and made this new Minute: We urge all Friends to cease doing business with Bank of America and begin using credit unions or local banks. We urge ProNica to bank in Nicaragua.

Re Minute 2: Minuted: We acknowledge progress.

Re Minute 3: After consideration of the minute, we add: To this end, we recommend each MM and Worship Group name a person to our committee, and send this name to P&SC and to the YM secretary. Our committee clerk is to prepare and send a letter to each clerk of a MM or Worship Group asking for naming of a person from their meeting. The letter should set a response date - should be by the first of the year.

Also, add to the list of organizations:

SOAW.org
 Beyond Nuclear
 NIRS to the list.

Humor: Andrea proposed "Quaker watch" - an organization to consider and report what are Quakers looking at now. Comment from Ed at the FIBM - "There is one - the FBI."

Supplement: our committee noted at SEYM that many monthly meetings have a relationship with and long-term interest in the work of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW); we urged stronger relationships and support be nurtured in our region. A major write-up of the current work of the CIW by investigative reporter Chris Hedges has been posted on Truthdig at

http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/tomatoes_of_wrath_20110926

/

[The report is also available on TruthOut if you prefer to read that site
<http://www.truth-out.org/tomatoes-wrath/1317043370>

Minute 4: We make the request for appointment again (and travel funds). [Approved at FIBM, but travel funds not mentioned.] Warren to urge action and legislative work via FCNL to the Historic Peace Churches.

And Minute 5: We unite with QEW and monthly meetings in developing minutes in opposition to specific problems of funding and operating nuclear power plants. We oppose Cost Recovery for the nuclear industry and power companies, and we will educate monthly meetings and Friends about this. We urge that once informed, Friends join coalitions or otherwise act to prevent continued authorizations of Cost Recovery and of extending the licenses of old nuclear plants.

At this time, about noon 10/01/2011, we concluded our meeting, with many items on the agenda but not discussed.

We agreed that these agenda items are to be announced and are to be set for discussion at our next Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting: Warren agreed to write commentary and ask for discussion before our next committee meeting at Winter Interim Business Meeting in 1st Month 2012. Proposal: We could have a monthly conference call.

Here are the items:

Opposition to drones / Friends need continuing education about the military-corporate complex

Broad opposition to war crimes including the murder of civilians/suspects

Supplement added by Warren:

SECRECY NEWS from the FAS Project on Government Secrecy
Volume 2011, Issue No. 92 - September 26, 2011

Secrecy News is written by Steven Aftergood and published by the Federation of American Scientists. The Secrecy News Blog is at: <http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/>

To SUBSCRIBE to Secrecy News, go to: <http://www.fas.org/sgp/news/secrecy/subscribe.html>

GLOBAL RECESSION SPURS COMPETITION IN ARMS SALES

Led by the United States, arms-exporting nations are competing ever more intensely to win lucrative sales contracts in a shrinking global marketplace, according to a new report <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/weapons/R42017.pdf> (pdf) from the Congressional Research Service.

"Worldwide weapons sales declined generally in 2010 in response to the constraints created by the tenuous state of the global economy," the report said. The value of all arms transfer agreements with developing nations declined from \$49.8 billion in 2009 to over \$30.7 billion in 2010. At the same time, however, the value of all arms deliveries to developing nations was nearly \$21.9 billion, which is "the highest total in these deliveries values since 2006." See "Conventional Arms Transfers to Developing Nations, 2003-2010" by Richard F. Grimmett, Congressional Research Service, September 22, 2011.

Yet "as new arms sales have become more difficult to conclude since the global recession began, competition among sellers has become increasingly intense," the report said.

"A number of weapons-exporting nations are focusing not only on the clients with whom they have held historic competitive advantages, due to well-established military-support relationships, but also on potential new clients in countries and regions where they have not been traditional arms suppliers."

Meanwhile, "[D]eveloping nations have been leveraging their attractiveness as clients by demanding greater cost offsetting elements in their arms contracts, as well as transfer of more advanced technology and provisions for domestic production options," the report said.

The United States dominates the global arms market both in sales agreements and in deliveries, according to the CRS report, which was first reported in the New York Times on September 24.

The annual CRS reports prepared by Mr. Grimmett are authoritative compilations of official data on arms transfers, based on privileged access by CRS to government records. As such, they may have enduring reference value for researchers in the field (despite the fact that the reports do not include clandestine or covert transfers). A collection of all CRS annual reports on conventional arms transfers dating back to 1982 is available on the Federation of American Scientists website here. Additional background is available from the FAS Arms Sales Monitoring Project.

. . . . # # #

Commentary will need to be added on the following:

Transition Town movement / food security and local economy - to deal with poverty and famine, physical security / sustainability. Transition meetings are happening in some Florida cities now. Semi-related: Food Not Bombs founder Keith McHenry will be at HYM.

The Occupation moment / rise of direct actions

Wall Street and other occupations

Oct. 6, 2011 - the big occupation starting in Washington DC

Non-authoritarian self-governance and nonviolence training are offerings from Friends

Water security in Florida - will affordable drinking water continue to be available? What has to happen to insure this?

Air pollution - continuing problem, maybe increasing. Mercury from power plants, vehicular and aircraft contributions.

#

Warren Hoskins

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WORSHIP & MINISTRY COMMITTEE:

SEYM Worship & Ministry Com. Invitation & Agenda for WIBM DIA
2012 from Wendy and Nancy T.

“Take it as far as you can!”

“I celebrate my New Year’s Day on December 10th—the anniversary of Thomas Merton’s entrance into the monastery and, also, twenty seven years later, of Merton’s passing in Bangkok, Thailand. On that day, I choose a quote to contemplate during the year ahead, and I take it as far as I can. A few years ago, one of my Merton friends traversed where Merton’s travels took him in South Asia the last few months of Merton’s life. In India, he met a Hindu swami who had known Merton and was told to ask the swami if he had any teaching for him. The swami said, ‘Yes. Choose your favorite quote of Jesus to study and take it as far as you can.’

“Quakers honor leadings. And, one Friend’s leading - nurtured by one’s meeting and yearly meeting - may turn into a large organization or large project. Friends take a leading and take it as far as they can.”

—vocal ministry by Wendy, First Day 3/20/11, Jacksonville, Florida

Dear SEYM Friends,

Patty Levering, a European American woman from North Carolina and a core teacher in the School of the Spirit, will deliver the January 2012 Michener Lecture on “Listening.” - SEYM Friends are welcome (please!) to suggest names of Quakers who will be considered by the Com. to give future Michener Lectures, remembering that this lecture is for the spiritual nurturing of SEYM Friends. Contact Lyn Cope (or, come to Winter Interim Business Meeting!) to purchase past Michener Lecture pamphlets in print. Friends, please consider participating in the SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee meeting the morning of Winter Interim Business Meeting - on Saturday morning, January 14th, 2012, at the Orlando Friends Meeting House. You are welcome to sit in the meeting for the entire time or some portion thereof - checking out the different Committee meetings as you wish to see which might spark your interest. 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 visit the W&M Com. meeting and join the discernment and discussion.

The following items are on the agenda for the Com. meeting. Jerry Knutson, European American released Friend from Pittsburgh Meeting sojourning at Orlando Meeting and a student at Earlham School of Religion, is offering to travel in the ministry by facilitating workshops (on aspects of meditation and on deepening our experience in meeting for worship) with SEYM meetings and worship groups from November 2011 through March 2012. Jerry has accepted invitations from Savannah, Tallahassee, and Palm Beach Meetings and welcomes inquiries. The Inter-visitation Project, details of Patty Levering’s Michener Lecture (Jan. 15th, 2012), bringing forth names - especially, those of men - of possible future Michener Lecturers, deepening the meeting for worship experience, supporting W&M Com’s of SEYM meetings and individuals needing a tender ear, and the SEYM Pendle Hill Scholarship.

SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee entered the fall of the past year with a renewed vigor to develop an inter-visitation program within SEYM. There remains much room for further progress in this program but for the first time there is sense of a beginning. Many thanks to all of those who are making it important to visit and worship with meetings other than their own. Additionally, many thanks to those meetings who so wholeheartedly welcome them.

Worship & Ministry has also been reaching out to the Orange City Worship Group with monthly visits to share worship and fellowship. This has turned into a gift for both the WG and the visitors. If you are interested in participating in this venture contact Nancyrose Logan from Sarasota MM.

Patty Levering, this year’s Michener lecturer, has asked that we hold all those attending in the Light that we may be open to hearing the message she brings to us.

SEYM W&M Com., also, holds in Tenderness & Wholeness Winter Interim Business Meeting proceedings and Friends at the clerks' table. Please, all gathered need to consult our clerking consciousness during meeting for worship with attention to business. Please, see the *SEYM Operational Handbook* for further information about the SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee.

For Friends not traveling to Orlando for WIBM, please, center where you are and support those gathered in Orlando by holding those Friends and proceedings in Tenderness & Wholeness. In other words, send those Friends gathered good vibes, that we may be open to enriching and clearer ways of being Quakers in the world by our time spent together in Orlando.

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

YBM GATHERING COMMITTEE:

The committee will be meeting to finalize plans for YBM-Gathering Saturday morning during committee meeting times. They will provide an update and announcements at WIBM.

YOUTH COMMITTEE:

The Youth Committee has had a full calendar of events since their appointment at YBM-Gathering 2011. SEYM youth have met numerous times for a variety of activities. Check the SEYM website frequently for pictures. The committee will provide a full report at WIBM.

REPRESENTATIVE TO ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

No Reports were submitted from appointed Representatives:

AFSC Corporation, AFSC/SERO, FCNL/Wm. Penn House, FCUN, FGC Central Committee, FWCC, Florida Council of Churches, Florida Impact, FLGBTQC, Friends Peace Teams, and QUNO

PRONICA BOARD:

PRONiCA WIBM Report
Melissa Ajabshir

2012 January

Grants- ProNica awarded \$36,400 in grants to Nicaraguan project partners for 2012, which was almost \$4,000 less than was granted in 2011. The decision was made to be conservative due to a shortfall in 2011 that required ProNica to dip into reserves to operate. If available, more funds will be sent down throughout the year.

The following grants were awarded:

Acahualinca	clinic	\$7,543
	library	\$2,000
	beauty school	\$3,000
Casa de los Niños	clinic	\$1,475
	microcredit	\$3,000
Casa Materna Matagalpa	clinic	\$5,000
Estelí library	library	\$1,070
Los Quinchos	food Chureca	\$5,406
	food Yahoskas	\$5,406
	library	\$2,500
Total		\$36,400

Meetings- In the past couple of years, ProNica has experimented with moving board meetings around SEYM rather than just having them in St. Petersburg. Due to the success of meetings and fundraising events at Miami Meeting and Gainesville Meeting, ProNica is asking other monthly meetings to consider hosting ProNica events. Sarasota Monthly Meeting is currently discerning whether they are led to host our spring meeting. Late summer and fall meetings are still available for hosting. It can be a spiritually uplifting way to invest in a better world. Please consider taking the idea to your meeting.



Staff & board members Davida Johns, Tim Fogarty, Lyn Cope, Doug McCown & Melissa Ajabshir at a ProNica event hosted by Gainesville Monthly Meeting in September 2011.

Nicaragua- In 2012, Davida Johns took her final trip to Nicaragua as director and Melissa Ajabshir took her first trip there as the new director. Melissa spent two weeks meeting the ProNica project partners, visiting other NGOs, consulting with the Nicaragua staff, meeting the consejo advisory board and observing the operations. It was an inspiring trip that deepened her understanding of ProNica's work and mission. President of the ProNica board, Herb Haigh, and Committee Clerk, Pam Haigh, attended the Acahualinca Beauty School graduation in December and brought down graduation gifts of generously donated beauty supplies.



Lillian Hall and Pam Haigh with the 2011 Acahualinca Beauty School graduates.

Board of Directors- Doug McCown, who lives and works at Pendle Hill, and is a member of St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting, finishes his second three-year term on the ProNica board in 2012. ProNica bylaws stipulate a two-term maximum, so Doug will be stepping down. We will miss his gift of clerking meetings, his quiet strength of character, his strategic planning and many other talents he brought to the ProNica board. A new board member will be named at the SEYM 2012 annual gathering. To nominate someone or express personal interest in a board position, please email Melissa at stateside@pronica.org or call the ProNica office at 727-821-2428.

Friends Witness- An SEYM Friends Witness to Nicaragua with an art focus is currently being planned. Three members/attenders of St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting have expressed strong interest. The exact dates have yet to be determined. Contact the ProNica office to get more information about the 2012 trip.

Quaker House- Improvements have been made to Quaker House to increase airflow, and repeat guests have reported noticing an improved comfort level.



Paul, a member of the Managua Worship Group, added louvered doors and ventilating blocks above them to increase air flow at Quaker House.

Delegations- 2011 was a tough year financially due primarily to a decrease in delegations. While ProNica hosted 8 delegations in 2010, there were only 3 in 2011. The good news is that 8 groups are currently on the 2012 delegation roster. Delegations impact ProNica's mission two-fold: They educate citizens of the 1st world about the plights of the 3rd world, and they bring revenue that supports the grassroots groups we partner with who are easing the burden of extreme poverty one barrio at a time. Carmen Gonzalez and Lillian Hall provide excellent, touching and even fun experiences for the delegates. If you would like to share ProNica delegation information with a college professor or other interested party, please contact the stateside office. We would be happy to mail them some information.



ProNica Coordinator, Lillian Hall, and the Nunavut Inuit delegation preparing to fly to the Atlantic Coast for a cultural exchange with the indigenous Miskitos of Nicaragua.

OFFICER REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP RECORDER:

A gentle PLEA and reminder from officer Chuck Deneen that all meetings and worship groups are requested to have updated membership lists to submit to him at WIBM. This includes double checking with all your members and attenders for correct email addresses and mobile phone numbers. In attempting to be fiscally responsible, it is imperative that mailing addresses include 9-digit postal codes.

CLERK OF EC/IBM: please see Welcome Letter on page 2.

SEYM OPERATIONAL REPORTS

TREASURER Neil Andersen clerked the Meeting-Yearly Meeting "Relationship" Interest group during the enrichment session.

SEYM - FIBM 2011, OCT 1, 2011 "RELATIONSHIPS" INTEREST GROUP

Focus Questions:

1. What understanding/knowledge/perception do Friends throughout our MMs & WGs have of the YM?
2. In what ways does #1 affect/condition the relationships between the YM, MMs & WGs, & individual Friends?
3. What are ways the YM could improve #1?
For example:
 - a. Are there needs in MMs, WGs, & individuals that the YM could better serve?
 - b. Are there misperceptions to which the YM contributes by action or inaction?
4. Are there Friends present who are led to continue this conversation so as to find way forward?

Notes on the ensuing conversation:

Peter Crockett:

I was new 6 years ago – it took a little while to become interested in the YM; the letters "SEYM" didn't mean anything – then I met Davida

Becoming interested in the YM is a gradual process.

Maybe could start a MM practice every Sunday – announce something about SEYM.

To many people "SEYM" means nothing– "not negative meaning, but just NO meaning"

Carl Hersh:

We might start trying to interest people (especially those with kids) to come to Half Yearly Meeting – no business, just lots of community, especially for kids.

When ask "What is the problem?": ---- hear "Not getting anything from Yearly Meeting."

Dave Hilsheimer:

SEYM seems more regimented than other YMs I've experienced – e.g., member's information form in Faith & Practice.

There is value in organization, but what SEYM & MMs is experiencing is a separation.

The Apportionments are often viewed as a “yearly bill” but YM support is not (should not be) just money – contributions to the YM also involve people’s time and energy.

The geographic separation in a large state such as Florida encourages autonomy of our MMs

Carol Bechtel:

How do you communicate with people who can not go (are not able to physically go) to the SEYM Gathering?

Andrea Walsh:

YM is doing a lot behind the scenes on things like Faith & Practice.

It is a whole support-group of people.

Phoebe Andersen:

YMs were formed because there was business to be done that could be better done by a larger group.

When Phoebe does a workshop on “Quakerism 101”. the last session is always concerning the YM.

“You have to invite people.”

We send Representatives to other organizations.

Have a talk in your MM about the YM – use the YM section in Faith & Practice.

Neil Andersen:

We are hearing ways that the MMs & WGs could be better educated on what the YM is.

Are there misperceptions about the YM that we may be contributing to?

Carl Hersh:

The YM has been a source of loans to several of the MMs for Meetinghouse purchase or new a building or repairs such as roof replacements, renovations, hurricane recovery, etc. These have helped many people to be more comfortable in their MMs.

Elaine Martin:

In Jacksonville MM some people have long standing loyalty and commitments to other Meetings outside of (instead of?) SEYM.

There are (strong?) expressions of anti-YM [SEYM] sentiment.

How to have community?

How to foster and nurture a healthy MM?

Nancy Triscritti:

Have been involved in Intervisitation in SEYM and have visited four MMs so far.

The feedback has been about how important it was that the YM was interested in them.

YM visitors are to just come and listen.

Peter C.:

Am thinking about inviting people to YM sessions.

When first started hearing of SEYM, the reports coming back from YM Sessions were mostly of the controversy surrounding the SEYM relationship with FUM. The impressions received were that YM was all about controversy – not an attractive event.

Cheryl Demers:

Gainesville MM has started a formal MM program to offer first-time attenders at YM help with payment and to provide mentors for taking part in the YM sessions – the personal connection is important. So far about four people have taken part.

Neil A:

Concerning the issue of offering financing assistance to attend YM and such events – we tell people “If you need it, just ask for it” – is there a more dignified way of offering this help? Can it be offered without making people state they need it (i.e., beg)?

General comments:

Suggest putting information into the on-line Newsletter and the SEYM Journal.

Suggest YM offer more "Quakerism 101" sessions and include more about the YM and its purposes and functioning.

MEETINGS SPEAK ON OCCUPY MOVEMENT

ORLANDO FRIENDS MEETING

At our Meeting for Business Dec. 11th, Orlando Friends adopted the attached "Statement on Economic Justice and Support for the Occupy Movement."

We agreed to share this statement widely with Friends in order to participate in and encourage conversation among Friends about how we carry can forward a Quaker testimony on Economic Justice. Please post or mail this wherever you feel it is appropriate and of interest to Friends in SEYM. (We will also be taking this statement, and our concerns and testimony, to our elected representatives and out into our local community.) We would like to hear from other Friends in SEYM about what they are doing to speak out for economic justice.

TAMPA FRIENDS MEETING

TAMPA MEETING wants to share this minute with other meetings who might be interested in developing one of their own for the their community. A number of members of the Tampa Meeting have been visiting with Occupy Tampa and attending the general assemblies.

Minute 1 Twelfth Month

Tampa Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends recognizes and commends Occupy Tampa because they are committed to working for economic justice through nonviolence and community consensus decision making. Friends are encouraged to visit Occupy Tampa and learn about their evolving goals. Members of Occupy Tampa are always welcome to worship with us and share their stories and concerns.

QUERIES FOR MEETINGS AND WORSHIP GROUPS
FOR THEIR ANNUAL
SPIRITUAL STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS TO SEYM

1. How do we support each other as members of this beloved community? ****
2. How well do our meetings for worship with a concern for business lead to a corporate search for and revelation of God's truth? ****
3. What was our meeting's witness in the wider community in the last year? ****
4. How has our meeting for worship or other meeting activities nurtured our spiritual growth? ***
5. Has there been a deepening and strengthening of the sense of the Divine Presence in our midst during the past year? Do we feel a sense of our individual spirits fusing into an undivided group as we worship? Do we leave our meetings filled with a sense of love and peace and courage to meet the challenge of Spirit filled living? ***
6. Where do you find hope in the meeting and in our spiritual life? **
7. How is God's presence being experienced in our meeting? *
8. Are there places where the meeting isn't reaching fully for the Light? *
9. Do you have other reflections on the current condition of the meeting—places where you see new life emerging, loss or sadness that you want to share? *
10. How does the spirit of worship extend into our committee work and into meeting for worship with a concern for business? *
11. How does love manifest itself in our meeting, in our communities and in the world? *
12. How has the Spirit been moving among us this past year? What makes it difficult to attend meeting? *
13. Especially in this time of economic uncertainty, are we taking stock of the meeting's financial health and planning for ways to help those in need?
14. What has already and would nourish you in our meeting?
15. What needs to be different to help us attend meeting more regularly?
16. What makes it difficult to attend meeting?
17. What would we like meeting to be to meet our needs and needs of those who would attend meeting?
18. What do I need to say about our meeting?

—SEYM Worship and Ministry Committee, 2011

Due in the office January 15, 2012

Email to: admin@seym.org

Co-Clerks: Nancy Triscritti <rrecovery@aol.com>

Wendy Clarissa Geiger <julalf@juno.com>