

SOUTHEASTERN YEARLY MEETING of the Religious Society of Friends
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Documents in Advance (DIA)

Fall Executive Committee Meeting: Friday, October 4, 2013, 7:00 p.m.

Fall Interim Business Meeting: Saturday, October 5, 2013

hosted by

Palm Beach Friends Meeting

823 North A Street, Lake Worth, FL 33460

Directions to Meetinghouse: From I-95, take Exit #64/10th Avenue North; go east on 10th Ave. N.; turn right (south) onto North A Street; go about 0.1 mile to the meeting house at 823 North A Street.

Hospitality: If you wish to stay in a Friend's home, contact Ellie Caldwell by e-mail: quakerellie@yahoo.com, or by phone: 561-790-5499 (home) or 561-685-9272 (cell)

Hotels: Here are some recommended nearby hotels; visit their websites for more information.

- ♦ New Sun Gate Motel: Near downtown Lake Worth.
- ♦ Super 8: at Lantana Rd. & I-95, 10 minutes south of the Meetinghouse.
- ♦ Comfort Inn: Hypoluxo Rd., 15 minutes south of Meeting.
- ♦ Mango Inn: near downtown Lake Worth, lovely setting, pricey

Meals:

Friday evening EC: PB Friends will provide a simple dinner, for those who call ahead. Call Ellie at 561-790-5499 (home) or 561-685-9272 (cell)

Sat morning: coffee, tea and snacks will be provided.

Lunch: potluck provided by Palm Beach Meeting

Saturday dinner: Friends gather at a local restaurant

Palm Beach Friends will provide some vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free foods. If you have other special dietary needs, you may call Ellie Caldwell.

Child Care can be available if requested in advance. Call Ellie: 561-790-5499 (home) or 561-685-9272 (cell).

Palm Beach Meetinghouse no longer has a land-line. If you have any other questions, contact Ellie Caldwell .

Clerk's Welcome

Dear Friends,

Welcome home! Our reunion in the fall is always so joyful. We've been apart since spring: the time between Yearly Business Meeting and Fall Interim Business Meeting is the longest stretch between our regular gatherings. Summer has brought changes, respite, travels, family time, adventures – and yet we may crave the centering, grounding experience of being together as Friends.

Let's come together in joy and gratitude. In fact, let's share the delight of Friends community far and wide. All are welcome at Interim Business Meeting; bring a Friend along, fill your car, invite someone new to discover the warmth of our Yearly Meeting and the profound peace of Friends together.

I am eagerly anticipating seeing you there.

Ann Jerome, Clerk, Executive Committee & Interim Business Meeting

Note: If you have an agenda item, please contact Ann Jerome, if you have not already done so. If you have an informational report, please bring 40 copies to IBM to hand out, and e-mail a copy to our Recording Clerks.

A Reminder to assist Recording Clerks:

As you prepare the reports for FIBM, we want to ensure the records of our Yearly Meeting's 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.

It would be appreciated if Friends who propose formal minutes would present such before the meeting or placement on the agenda in electronic form if at all possible. Similarly, if committee clerks, representatives, and those who report on MM activities could provide electronic versions of their reports, we would be most grateful.

If Friends have an extended minute of concern that will be presented for consideration, please e-mail us prior to the business meeting so we have the opportunity to get the items in accessible documents prior to the meeting (especially if there is no internet access where we are meeting. This would be of great help.

With deep gratitude in the Light,

Jan Dahm and Lisa Erazmus, SEYM Recording Co-clerks, ljerazmus1@verizon.net

SCHEDULE

Friday, October 5 : Executive Committee Meeting

6:00 pm Fellowship & simple dinner (make reservations for dinner!)

7:00 pm EC Meeting

Saturday, October 6: Interim Business Meeting

8:00 am Coffee and snacks

9:00 am Opening Worship

Nominating Committee preliminary report

Announcements

9:30 am Committee meetings : All are welcome to attend.

12 noon Lunch

1:00 pm Meeting for Business

AGENDA

Roll call of Meetings and Worship Groups

Welcome of Visitors

Announcements

Executive Committee Report

Nominating Committee Report

Worship & Ministry Committee Report

Treasurer's Report

Youth Committee Report

Gathering Committee Report

Half Yearly Meeting Committee Report

Peace & Social Concerns Committee Report

ProNica Report

Representatives to Organizations

Reading back the minutes

4:30 Closing Worship

5:00 Fellowship, dinner at a local restaurant

Sunday, Oct. 6

10:30 am Worship with Palm Beach Friends

NUMBERED MINUTES ♦ SUMMER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 2013

13SEC01 – Executive Committee of Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends expresses profound gratitude to Randall Perry of Systame, website and cloud host for SEYM, for his generosity and dedication to meet our needs over the years.

13SEC02 – SEYM Executive Committee approves that Friends whose names for positions or committees were mistakenly omitted for approval during the second reading of the Nominating Committee report to YM Business session on Third Month, 31, continue their service. Their names will be brought forward for approval at the Fall Interim Business Meeting, Tenth Month, 2013.

13SEC03 – Executive Committee of the Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) of the Religious Society of Friends approves SEYM acting as the required 501(c)(3) sponsor of St. Petersburg Friends Meeting for the annual peace education celebration, known as Circus McGurkis in Tenth Month 2013. This sponsorship is contingent on determining that no impediments exist regarding SEYM liability insurance and 501(c)(3) religious status. Phoebe Andersen will conduct research on Executive Committee's behalf regarding insurance and 501(c)(3) religious status.

St. Petersburg Friends Meeting and Circus McGurkis Committee will maintain all responsibility for the event, including (but not limited to) financial, insurance, administration, and logistics. Members of SEYM are invited and encouraged to attend Circus McGurkis and volunteer as led.

13SEC04 - The Executive Committee expresses heartfelt appreciation for the hospitality and generosity of spirit of Tampa Monthly Meeting.

13SEC05 Executive Committee approves the following people to access the bank records and sign checks for all accounts for SEYM:

Clerk of IBM and EC, Ann Jerome
Treasurer, Neil Andersen
Administrative Secretary, Victoria Carlie
Trustees Treasurer, Caroline Lanker
Member, Lyn Cope

13SEC06 SEYM Executive Committee gives the bookkeeper, Dianne Langan, express permission to confer with the bank and to access information about all accounts and all transactions in the accounts and gives the bank permission to share all our banking information with our bookkeeper.

SEYM Nominating Committee Report-DIA **Fall Interim Business Meeting October 5, 2013**

“Quaker meeting for worship is a corporate practice...By grace we may open to the spacious reality of the Eternal Being, to the Light of Christ, to the Love of God. Perhaps the Inward Light will illuminate something we need to see more clearly, within ourselves or in the world...Guidance may come about how God is leading us to act in relation to a particular issue or heart-felt concern.”

---Welcome to Meeting for Worship at Pendle Hill”; Pendle Hill, Wallingford, PA.

The SEYM Nominating Committee looks forward to worshipping with Friends at Palm Beach Meeting during Fall Interim Business Meeting (FIBM). Our committee meetings are grounded in worship, from where we seek divine guidance in bringing forward names of Friends to serve our Yearly Meeting in a variety of capacities.

Members of the Nominating Committee are: Susan Taylor (Tallahassee), Clerk; Gary Arthur (Gainesville), Martha Morris (Orlando), and Barbara Wolfe, (Tampa). Please contact any one of us if you have names you would like to suggest for positions, or if you have an interest in a position yourself.

There are three action items for FIBM:

I. The first concerns approving the names of Friends whose names were inadvertently omitted from the second reading of the Nominating Committee report to Yearly Business Meeting sessions in March. At its June meeting, the SEYM Executive Committee (EC) approved those Friends continuing their committee work and bringing their names forward for final approval at FIBM.

Proposed minute: SEYM of the Religious Society of Friends, meeting as Fall Interim Business Meeting, approves the nominations of the following Friends to serve in the named positions for indicated terms:

Assistant Recording Clerks: Andrew Jason (Miami)-2016 (renewed)
Carol Bechtel (Sarasota)- 2016 (new)
Kody Hersh (Miami)- 2016 (new)

Archives Committee: Clerk: Peter Day (Clearwater)- 2014 (renewed)
Bill Rapp (Lake Wales WG)-2015 (renewed)
Connie Ray (Gainesville)- 2015 (renewed)
Sybil Ann Brennan (Gainesville)- 2016 (new)

Committee for Ministry on Racism: Co-clerk (new position) Wendy Clarissa Geiger- 2014

Committee for Earthcare: Chuck Deneen (Orlando)- 2016 (renewed)
Serrin Anderson (Palm Beach)- 2016 (renewed)
Juan Reza (Tallahassee)- 2016 (new)

II. The second item concerns approval during FIBM of a Friend, not on the Youth Committee, to be the trainer for SEYM’s Child Abuse Prevention Program. The Nominating Committee is currently in the process of discernment on a trainer and our goal is to have a name to bring forward.

The Committee is grateful to Ann Sundberg, clerk of the Youth Committee, who has provided the required training for Friends who wanted to be available as “Registered SEYM Youth Workers” at YM events in the past and will provide training at FIBM this time for Friends who want to join this pool of workers. Please see the SEYM Child Abuse Prevention Training Manual and Procedures at www.seym.org for detailed information about the program.

(Nominating Committee Report Cont'd.)

III. The third item concerns the approval of Tor Bejnar (Tallahassee) to fill an unexpired term on the Finance Committee. The term ends in 2015.

Proposed minute: SEYM of the Religious Society of Friends, meeting as Fall Interim Business Meeting, approves the nomination of Tor Bejnar (Tallahassee) as a member of the Finance Committee to fill an unexpired term ending in 2015.

Other positions under discernment:

The Nominating Committee has spoken with the Yearly Meeting (YM) Clerk, YM and IBM Assistant Clerk, IBM and EC Clerk, and YM Treasurer regarding the expiration of their terms in 2014. We continue in discernment about filling these positions.

Additional terms expiring in 2014 include:

- 1 Trustee
- Membership Recorder
- Clerks for Archives, Earthcare Committees, and the Youth Committees; Co-clerk for Worship and Ministry, and Co-clerk for Committee for Ministry on Racism,
- 3 members of the Committee for Earthcare
- 2 members of the Committee for Ministry on Racism
- 4 members of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee
- 2 members of the Worship and Ministry Committee
- 4 members of the Yearly Meeting Gathering Committee, including the Registrar.
- Assistant to the Registrar for the Yearly Meeting Gathering-new
- 3 or 4 members of the Youth Committee
- 2 ProNica Board appointees
- 2 FCNL representatives
- 1 FWCC representative
- 1 representative to Historic Peace Churches
- 3 representatives to the Palmetto Friends Gathering

The Faith and Practice Committee remains on sabbatical, so no positions are being filled at this time.

Gratefully, in the Light,
Susan Taylor, Clerk, SEYM Nominating Committee

Worship and Ministry Committee Meeting, FIBM 2013

The following topics will be discussed during our meeting on Saturday morning, October 5th:

- Michener Lecture 2014
- Michener Lecture 2015
- Inter-Visitation
- Pendle Hill Scholarship for 2013 – 2014

Please know that you are welcome to join the committee meeting and that your presence will be appreciated.

Co-clerks,
Nancy Triscritti
Wendy Clarissa Geiger

Half-Yearly Meeting 2013

Make plans to join us for Half Yearly Meeting (HYM) at Wekiwa Springs State Park in Apopka, Florida from November 28 - December 1, 2013. Registration materials will be headed your way around October 1.

HYM has a focus of environment, relaxation, and community. The pacing is less hectic than Yearly Meeting, and there are no business meetings. Rather than fighting the crowds on Black Friday, this event allows us all to be refreshed with Green Friday!

Your participation makes HYM a success. Consider ways you might get involved: helping with food preparation, bringing games and art supplies, teaching a new craft, or planning a fun cookie session. Share your talents and passions with us!

Dustin Lemke, Clerk
Shuana Coolican, Registrar

Gathering Committee

Our SEYM 2014 Gathering will be held April 16-20, 2014. Our theme is:

Quakers in the 21st Century: How do we address our traditional testimonies in our modern, electronically driven world?

J. Brent Bill, Coordinator of FGC's New Meetings Project, will lead the retreat and give the J. Barnard Walton Lecture.

and

Celebrate 50 years of SEYM!

Peter Crockett & Davida Johns, Gathering Committee Clerks

Report on Florida Impact (FloridaImpact.org)

Dear Friends,

As liaison to Florida Impact I fortunately had the opportunity to meet the local Program Coordinator for West-Central Florida, Christina Sudduth, in June. The following month, my husband, George, and I received an invitation to attend a meeting hosted by Florida Impact in conjunction with an "on site visit". This gathering included a few staff from Florida Impact as well as contributors and vendors who participate in their programs. The "site visit" was one of hundreds of food distribution mobile units situated throughout the State during the summer to replace school free meals when lunchrooms are closed.

Over the years Florida Impact formed several partnerships and strong coalitions in Florida and with groups throughout the United States. Prominent among them is The Florida Partnership to End Childhood Hunger. (FloridaHungerPartnership.org). It is through this program that we were able to experience the distribution of food - breakfast and lunch on the grounds of the San Jose Mission in Dover, FL (Hillsborough County) At this particular location, ready-to eat, nutritional packaged meals for 60-80 people each meal were given to anyone who asked regardless of age.

(Florida Impact Report Cont'd.)

Florida Impact works with a small staff of 8 and covers the entire state of Florida. Their emphasis on helping to eliminate hunger in Florida- particularly child hunger -goes back for many years. The funding for their programs comes from primarily 3 sources- federal money, state programs (working closely with the FL Department of Agriculture), and private donations from individuals and groups. To see data on these programs visit website FloridaHungerData.org.

As the email below indicates, Friends support of Florida Impact started in 1979 when “...the Quakers were members of the founding group of religious denominations that first started Florida Impact...” I can only observe and share with you that the Florida Impact lobby helps to influence action among our local, state, and federal authorities and Representatives for the purpose of eliminating hunger and poverty in our communities.

My recommendation is that every Monthly Meeting contact the Project Coordinator for their region. The people at Florida Impact know us, appreciate our support and are anxious to bring the story of their work to Friends. You can email Executive Director, Debra Susie, Ph.D, at dsusie@flimpact.org or call 805-309-1488 and ask for a Project Coordinator to contact you. Very importantly, if you feel a need in your area to provide meals in the schools or at any other location, Florida Impact will try to find a way to help. Below is an email sent to me from Debra Susie that you may find interesting:

“Thank you, Eileen. As one or both of us may have told you, the Quakers were members of the founding group of religious denominations that first started Florida Impact in 1979. They have supported us to varying degrees ever since. I’m so glad you could attend and see firsthand how we have come to maximize resources in a way like never before for at-risk children and their families.

We have field staff in other parts of the state, where you have leaders, who can take them on similar tours of out-of-school-time programs on which we work with community partners. Our field staff are located in Palm Beach, Broward, and Orange counties but work in nearby counties as well. Our capital staff cover the top portion of the state from Jacksonville to Pensacola.

Let me know if we can include any of your members on future tours in these communities. ---Debra”

Eileen Zingaro, Clearwater Meeting

ProNica Report to FIBM 2013

By Melissa Ajabshir, ProNica Executive Director

As a Quaker organization under the spiritual care of SEYM for 26 years, ProNica is set apart from traditional international charities and church missions by our refusal to assume the role of North Americans coming to tell poorer people of the global south how they should live their lives. At the heart of ProNica’s witness in Nicaragua remains the awareness that people in marginalized communities understand their own problems and are in the best positions to innovate their own solutions. We invite each and every one of you to join us if you haven’t done so already. There are many meaningful ways to participate in ProNica’s witness.

Monthly meetings are invited to engage more deeply in ProNica’s witness by hosting a ProNica board meeting with a presentation by the board and staff to raise awareness and funds. We thank Gainesville MM, Palm Beach MM, Sarasota MM and Miami MM for hosting us in recent years. Follow this link to read Kathy Hersh’s note about the spiritual benefits of hosting a ProNica board meeting: <http://www.seympeace.org/ProNica2010.htm>. Contact any board member or the stateside office to learn more: stateside@pronica.org or 727-821-2428

(continued on next page)

ProNica recently updated its committee structure, and there are still vacancies on some of the newly formed committees. If you may be led to serve ProNica's witness in Nicaragua through the work of any of the following committees, please contact the clerks of the committees directly or the stateside office.

- Governance Committee, clerk Kaye Edwards
- Finance Committee, clerk Herb Haigh
- Fundraising and Outreach Committee, co-clerks Kathy Hersh and William Rogan
- Personnel & Volunteer Committee, clerk Pam Haigh
- Solidarity Advisory Committee, co-clerks Johannes Werner and Teresa Campos

Friends are invited to join a *ProNica Witness Tour* in Nicaragua from November 30—December 10th. You'll meet with ProNica partner organizations like the Acahualinca Women's Center and Los Quinchos to see firsthand the impact of their work in women's health initiatives and the rehabilitation of street children. This trip overlaps with a board retreat in Nicaragua (Dec 5-10), so it also represents an opportunity to help shape ProNica's 21st century witness. The cost is \$1,000 plus airfare.

The Nicaraguan social innovators who run the Acahualinca Women's Center continue to work most months without salaries. Since the Spanish aid agency that sponsored their salaries pulled out of Central America, they still haven't found a new sponsor. Read their inspiring history here: <https://sites.google.com/site/cdmacahual/history>. A very meaningful way to participate in the ProNica witness is to sponsor one or more months of a salary of one of these dedicated women. Salaries range from \$500-\$700 per month.

In 2013 ProNica welcomed two new board members: Teresa Campos, an educator and an attender of Miami Monthly Meeting originally from Nicaragua; and our newest SEYM appointee, William Rogan, a member of Melbourne Worship Group, FL, and a musician who recently transferred his membership from German Yearly Meeting to SEYM. Welcome Tere and William!

ProNica Program Director in Nicaragua, Laura Hopps, received a *Clarence and Lilly Pickett Endowment for Quaker Leadership* grant. The grant goes toward her work exploring ProNica partnerships in food security initiatives in adaptation to climate change. Congratulations, Laura!

Read more here: <http://pickettendowment.blogspot.com/2013/06/pronica-nicaragua-food-security.html>

If you know a college professor or group who may want to participate in a ProNica educational delegation in Nicaragua, please feel free to refer them to Laura at nicaraguacoordinator@gmail.com or Melissa at stateside@pronica.org. For a glimpse into the richly transformative experience, we share this anecdote from a past delegate:

“And it then happened. My senior year of college I went to Nicaragua as a student leader on a social justice trip. Although I had volunteered I was reluctant to go, it was Christmas Break. Nicaragua is super hot that time of year. I did not want to leave my girlfriend. Three days into the trip we drove to place called Barrio Acahualinca, which contains the largest trash dump in the world. People live here. Black crows and cows rummage with human beings for food. All around are ten foot piles of burning trash. Little girls trade their bodies for recyclable materials they turn in for coins. I remember getting out of the cab and standing with my group. In the distance a gang of young men were slowly coming toward us. A woman walked by with her baby. A young boy with no shoes ran past me. A man with a wooden walking stick looked briefly at us and pressed on. Hell is on earth. When I got back to the hostel I cried in the shower, trying to get the smell of burning trash out of my hair. To this day the smell of burning plastic gives me chills. Something happened to me. I saw with my eyes the reality of the level of suffering in this world for the first time. I would not live in a world where this was happening. I would not. People were living in hell. I think the decision to become a doctor was made for me then. There did not seem like there was any other choice. I knew I could not go on living my life. I remember looking up at the stars in the countryside and feeling myself, my identity dissolve and seeing the endlessness of things, the non-separation between myself and others. I was them, they were me. How could I not come for myself? If my own mother was toiling in trash there I would never leave until she found shelter. In a way she was. I vowed that I would come back and work at the women's clinic there they had just started. It was as though my hearing became adjusted; in an ophthalmologist's office a slight click of the eye lens from blurry to clear.”