

**Winter Interim Business Meeting
Southeastern Yearly Meeting
Orlando Meetinghouse, Orlando, FL
First Month 18, 2014
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Following silent worship, Ann Jerome, meeting clerk, greeted Friends and introduced the clerks. Seated at the clerk's table were Ann Jerome, Interim Business Meeting and Executive Committee clerk (Orlando MM); Joel Cook, SEYM Assistant clerk (Palm Beach MM); Jan Dahm and Lisa Erasmus, SEYM Recording co-clerks (Tampa MM).

Susan Taylor, Nominating Committee clerk (Tallahassee MM), gave the preliminary Nominating Committee report. The following clarifications were made to the report found in the DIA. Richard Frechette (Ft. Meyers MM) is serving as the Gathering Program Coordinator until 2015. Herb Haigh (St. Petersburg MM) will serve on the ProNica board until 2016. Faith and Practice Committee will be on sabbatical for a year.

The Michener Lecturer, Deborah Fisch (Paulina Friends MM, Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative), was introduced and welcomed to the WIBM.

Clerk thanked Orlando MM for their hospitality for the WIBM. Additionally, clerk asked for any announcements. Barbara Letsch (Palm Beach MM), announced that Palm Beach MM is having its annual retreat 2/28 – 3/2. The speaker will be Brad Stocker (Miami MM) and he will present an adaptation of his Pendle Hill program on "Earth Literacy." Vicki Carlie – SEYM Secretary (Orlando MM) announced that the SEYM table has many publications available for Friends to purchase including the newly published SEYM Faith and Practice. One copy of the Faith and Practice has been sent to each Monthly Meeting already and bulk discounts are available through mail order. There is wireless capability in the Orlando Meeting house that can be used by Friends during WIBM. Karen Putney (Tampa MM) announced changes in the FCNL display and invited Friends to consider being involved with this organization which has 70 years of witness on Capitol Hill. Handmade shawls, napkins, and bags are available for purchase, the proceeds of which will go to the Youth Program. A reminder was lifted up regarding "Missing You" cards and to continue to hold absent Friends in the Light.

Committee Meetings gathered from 9:45 a.m. – 12 noon.



The afternoon session opened at 1:00 p.m. with silent worship.

The clerk asked for a roll call of meetings and worship groups (see below). Those present during the roll call introduced themselves. At the time of roll call, Friends also shared Milestones from their Meetings [See Appendix: Milestones]

Clearwater MM

Peter Day, Archives clerk
Susan Day

Ft. Lauderdale MM

Mary Jo Klingel

Ft. Meyers MM

Nancy Fennell
Tom Fennell
Richard Frechette

Gainesville MM

Connie Ray
Tim Ray
Sandy Lyon
Shawna Doran

Jacksonville MM

Elaine Martin

Lake Wales WG

Caroline Lanker

Miami MM

Warren Hoskins, Peace and Social Concerns clerk
Andrea Hoskins
Eduardo Diaz
Clara Diaz

Orlando MM

Ann Jerome, Executive Committee and IBM clerk
Vicki Carlie
Bill Carlie
Liz Jenkins
Ray Jenkins
Minerva Glidden
Sandy Ilardi
Jerry Knutsen

Palm Beach MM

Joel Cook, YM and IBM assistant clerk,
Barb Letsch, Committee for Earthcare clerk
Serrin Anderson

Quaker Meeting of Melbourne

William Rogan
Lyn Cope

Sarasota MM

Mimi McAdoo
Nancy Corindia

St. Petersburg MM

Peter Crockett, Gathering Committee co-clerk
Davida Johns, Gathering Committee co-clerk
Dianne Langan
Peter Schmidt, Finance clerk

Tallahassee MM

Phoebe Andersen, YM clerk
Neil Andersen, Treasurer
Susan Taylor, Nominating Committee clerk
Tor Bejnar
Alice Bejnar

Tampa MM

Jan Dahm, SEYM recording co-clerk
Lisa Erazmus, SEYM recording co-clerk
Nancy Triscritti, Worship and Ministry co-clerk
Karen Putney

Winter Park MM

Frances Stacey

Clerk, Ann Jerome, read the travel minute for Deborah Fisch and welcomed her as the Michener lecturer for this weekend. Deborah Fisch is a member of Paulina Friends Meeting, Iowa YM Conservative and FGC Associate Secretary for Ministry and Coordinator of FGC Traveling Ministries.

Clerk asked for announcements from Friends. Friends received with joy the news that WalMart has signed on to the agreement of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers.

Clerk then gave the EC Report on the WIBM EC meeting of 01-17-14. Minutes from the WIBM EC meeting were read.

Susan Taylor, Nominating Committee clerk (Tallahassee MM), shared that the Nominating Committee, in visiting various committees that met this morning, felt joy at hearing the matched gifts of Friends and service to Yearly Meeting. She then gave the report on the Nominating Committee (attached) restating the clarifications as above and sharing the various positions under discernment. Friends expressed concern of the importance of SEYM maintaining a presence among the Historic Peace Churches. Nancy Triscritti, Worship and Ministry Committee clerk (Tampa MM), made note that the Worship and Ministry Committee Report is to be found in its entirety in DIA.

Neil Anderson, Treasurer (Tallahassee MM), gave the Treasurer's report on the period 1 Sixth Month, 2013 through 30 Eleventh Month, 2013. Paper copies of the Treasurer's report were provided to Friends at the time of this report. Friends were asked for comments or questions regarding this report.

Peter Schmidt, Finance Committee clerk (St. Petersburg MM), gave the Finance Committee Report.

Caroline Lanker (Lake Wales WG) gave the Trustees Report for clerk, Carl Hersh. Hard copies of the Trustees report (attached) were distributed to Friends. Caroline Lanker explained various facets of the finances for which the Trustees are responsible.

The Youth Committee Report is available in DIA. Clerk read an addendum (attached) to the report sent by Ann Sundberg, Youth Committee clerk (Sarasota MM). The addendum brought forward a need for Yearly Meeting to support a continued witness for the environment held by Jocelynn Benton (Tampa MM). In order for her to attend the Mountain Strong Spring Break Immersion Training, accompanied by Cece Yocum, (Tampa MM) her grandmother, financial support is needed to lessen the burden on Tampa Monthly Meeting and Jocelynn's family. Friends united in expressing a desire to help support this work financially. Deborah Fisch (Paulina Friends Meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative) lifted up the sense of SEYM's responsibility to support Jocelynn and Cece spiritually as well as financially. This is an opportunity for nurture by the Worship and Ministry Committees at both Monthly Meeting and Yearly Meeting levels to further help Jocelynn understand that if it is her faith and love that calls her to this work, that this action be rooted and grounded in Spirit. The following minute was brought forward and approved:

14WIBM01 Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends supports Jocelynn Benton's (Tampa MM) leading to attend Mountain Strong's spring break immersion visit in West Virginia, Third Month 2014, and appoints her as SEYM's representative there, with Cece Yocum as her adult companion. Jocelynn's concern for mountaintop removal fills us with joy and we look forward to her report and to supporting her in this work.

Peter Crockett, Gathering Committee co-clerk (St. Petersburg MM) gave the report for the Gathering Committee. SEYM Gathering is Fourth Month 16-20, 2014. The theme is "Quakers in the 21st Century: How do we address our traditional testimonies in our modern, electronically-driven world?" The Walton Lecture will be presented by J. Brent Bill, coordinator of FGC's New Meetings Project. We will also celebrate at this Gathering 50 Years of SEYM.

Connie Ray (Gainesville MM) gave the Archives Committee report (in DIA). She reminded Friends to send information from Monthly Meetings to the Smathers Library.

Barbara Letsch, Earthcare Committee clerk (Palm Beach MM) and Mary Jo Klingel (Ft. Lauderdale MM) gave the report for the Earthcare Committee. Barbara read the proposed minute on climate change. She asked Friends to send comments or suggestions via email to Barbara or Mary Jo by the end of Second Month. Mary Jo read a new proposed plan that came out of the Earthcare Committee meeting. The Committee will create a more concrete proposal to be brought forth at YM business sessions in order to begin the seasoning process in this regard.

Warren Hoskins, Peace and Social Concerns Committee clerk (Miami MM), gave the report for Peace and Social Concerns. Ideas were shared regarding lobbying and involvement in FCNL and ways to encourage young people in this witness. Also discussed was the Historic Peace Churches gathering, concerns regarding conflict in Palestine occupied territories, the current situation in Guantanamo, and Florida's death penalty. Friends were invited to explore conversation about and involvement in corporate action within their MM. A query was raised regarding prophetic voice: Who among us carries a concern and how is that nurtured?

Karen Putney (Tampa MM), SEYM Representative to FCNL gave a report on recent work by FCNL representatives on lobbying visiting 140 different offices in Washington, upcoming opportunity for young people to be involved in lobbying efforts, and a reminder for Friends to discern in their Monthly Meetings the new FCNL priorities, and to send the results of that discernment to FCNL by Fourth Month. This information has been sent to all Monthly Meetings, so the reminder is to encourage Friends to help FCNL in this process.

Eduardo Diaz, SEYM Representative to FWCC (Miami MM), gave the report on upcoming events and gatherings of FWCC.

Jack Bradin, SEYM representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness, gave the QEW report on the effect of climate change on scarcity, fear, anger, and war, raising queries as to individual and corporate leadings and actions.

Phoebe Andersen, YM clerk (Tallahassee MM), gave a report on FGC's New Meeting Project. Four groups of people in Florida have expressed an interest in starting a Meeting: Pensacola, Caravelle, St. Augustine, and The Villages. Phoebe distributed information packets about a New Meetings Retreat; this training session will be held in Indiana, 14-16 Third Month, 2014. Friends were encouraged to discuss this opportunity in their MM's and to discern if any are led to be involved in this mentoring project.

SEYM Worship and Ministry brought forward the following Minute of Appreciation:

14WIBM02 Southeastern Yearly Meeting stands in appreciation of Orlando Monthly Meeting for your extreme hospitality in caring for us during WIBM 2014 and the Michener Lecture. Your generosity of spirit touches each of us deeply and we thank you.

The Winter Interim Business Meeting concluded with silent worship.

Appendix – Milestones

Ft. Meyers MM – New members: Nancy Webster transferring from Miami MM and Tom Flaherty.

Gainesville MM – Members Bonnie Zimmer, Ted Jones, and David Crawford transferred in from other Quaker Meetings.

Miami MM – New member: Joshua Paolino; Returned member Floyd Daniels

Palm Beach MM – Helen Rodriguez passed away

Sarasota MM – Pat Murphy passed away; two members turned 99 years old and one turned 98.

Tallahassee MM – Liz Kamphausen and Petra Doan will be married in Maine 20 Seventh Month, 2014 under the care of both Midcoast MM in Damariscotta, Maine and Tallahassee MM.

Tampa MM – Work has begun on the architect's drawings for a new worship space being built to accommodate new families and children.

Numbered Minutes from Winter Interim Business Meeting 2014

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Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Proposed Minute on Climate Change – January 2014

We, the Friends of Southeastern Yearly Meeting, bring this minute forward at a time when the evidence of climate change is becoming more clear. The realities and impacts of climate change are more apparent as levels of CO₂ continue to rise past 400 ppm, causing widespread, global climate disruption. As Floridians, living on a peninsula, we know we face catastrophic environmental damage from sea level rise and salt-water intrusion, so the crisis is Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends immediate and personal for us.

Although we may feel confusion, anger and despair, we understand with compassion that our denial has been our attempt to protect ourselves from feelings of helplessness and hopelessness. We need to remind ourselves that our concern for the climate is spiritual and is grounded in our certainty that there is that of the Light in all life. Hope can be found in our Quaker faith and practices, our reliance on our testimonies, and our Quaker worship that will guide us and clarify behaviors asked of us. We rely on our leadings that give us the joy and determination to carry on. Throughout our history many Friends have found the resolve and hope for the daunting work they faced, as we can.

We as a religious community are called to respond now. We acknowledge with gratitude the many individual and lifestyle changes Friends have already made and the deep spiritual concern that motivates those changes. We also face that the problems are global, and individual changes are not remedy enough.

One answer is already available to us – the testimony of community. We must collectively work to address local, regional and global needs. A second answer is to put our faith, completely, in the guidance of the Light to support and direct us.

The following queries begin to articulate the tasks we must address:

1. Are we willing at this time to seek the Light to guide us in our work, to bring the wisdom of our spiritual community and the deep wisdom of our hearts to our corporate leadings?
2. Can we now resolve to see clearly the slow moving emergency of climate disruption, to educate ourselves and to seek the work that is ours as a community of faith?
3. Are we willing as monthly meetings to discern our particular work and undertake it, especially working locally with other groups who share our commitment?

We commit ourselves as a community to provide emotional, practical and spiritual support to all those who work to care for the Earth and her healing.

We commit ourselves to the wellbeing of our children and of future generations of all beings whose lives will be so profoundly affected by what we do now.

**The Earthcare Committee of
Southeastern Yearly Meeting**

January 16, 2014

Dear Friends-

I am writing an addendum to our SEYM youth committee report, because spirit has been moving in our work since the December WIBM DIA deadline.

As I reported at FIBM in Palm Beach, last summer as the FGC Gathering was winding up, the coordinators of the 2014 gathering asked to meet with our "Invisible Walls" workshop. They wanted to hear first hand from both the youth and the youth workers how we had pulled off such an amazing SEYM youth led Fair Food action in the middle of the heavily scheduled gathering (mobilizing over 100 Quakers to march to Wendy's) while landing positive coverage of Quakers involved in a social justice issue on the front page (above the fold) of the local newspaper.

In the discussion with the 2014 FGC Gathering Clerks, two crucial points emerged about our process; youth had the opportunity to experience the issue first hand through an immersion visit and youth were involved in the organization, planning and realization of the project.

Our SEYM youth delegation was invited to return to the 2014 FGC gathering in Western Pennsylvania and help with a proposed workshop/action around the issue of Mountain Top Removal. At FIBM, youth discussed this possibility but decided that their leading was to deepen their involvement with the issue that is in their own backyard, the CIW Fair Food campaign. However, one of our teens expressed interest in environmental issues which led her to volunteer to be a youth liaison from our 2013 Fair Food Workshop/Action to the 2014 Mountain Top Removal Workshop/Action. At FIBM, SEYM minuted support of this leading,

"Southeastern Yearly Meeting supports Jocelynn Benton's continuing ministry as the youth committee's liaison to EQUAT, founded by Friends in the Philadelphia area to use nonviolent direct action to work for a just and sustainable future. Her outreach to Quaker teens both at and leading up to the 2014 FGC Gathering will strengthen connections among Quaker teen activists in different regions of the United States. We look forward to a report from Jocelynn upon her return."

A few days ago, youth committee discovered an immersion visit in West Virginia led by "Mountain Strong" to educate and activate students around the issue of Mountain Top removal. Their website <www.mjsb.org>:

"We will spend a week in West Virginia cultivating the skills and visions needed to build a sustainable energy future in Appalachia. Through education, community service, speakers, hiking, music, poetry, direct action and more, you will learn from and stand with Appalachian communities in the struggle to maintain our land and culture. Anti-Oppression trainings and discussion will be a significant part of this week, and we will strive to incorporate Anti-Oppression, Dismantling Racism and Patriarchy into all aspects of our week. Mountain Justice Spring Break will also offer a variety of community service projects."

Further investigation revealed that this immersion visit is happening during Jocelynn's spring break (March 9th- 16th) and that there are already connections between the Quaker organization EQUAT (which is involved in the Mountain Top Removal action at the 2014 gathering) and Mountain Strong.

SEYM youth committee is united in supporting Jocelynn's participation in this immersion visit because it will help her participate more effectively at the FGC Gathering this summer. Since most participants

will be college students (and Jocelynn is a senior in High School) we recommend sending Jocelynn with an adult companion from SEYM.

Jocelynn has been attending Yearly Meeting with her grandmother Cece Yocum since she was a small child. For those of you who have not had the chance to sit down and talk with Jocelynn recently, I'm including part of a letter of recommendation that I wrote for Jocelynn recently,

“Within our group of teens, Jocelynn has emerged as a leader through her compassion. For example, this summer in Greeley, Colorado the teens were leading a farmworker action that involved middle schoolers. Jocelynn was the person who volunteered to lead the small group of middle schoolers who were nervous about participating in their first public protest. At another SEYM youth event in Miami, Florida, she was the person to step forward to share a tent with a newcomer to the program. As the weekend progressed, she kept an eye on this younger teen making sure she felt included and integrated into the group. When I think of the phrase “still waters run deep,” I think of Jocelynn. She is the type of young person that gives me hope for the future. Not only is she smart, well organized and able to follow through with the projects to which she commits, but she is the rare person who acts in kindness to everyone around her. We will miss her when she graduates from our youth program this spring, but look forward to all she will accomplish as she moves into the next stage of her life.”

The budget for Jocelynn's participation in the Mountain Strong Spring Break immersion visit is:

\$100 registration fee: Jocelynn
\$300 roundtrip air fare: Jocelynn
\$125 registration fee: adult companion (Cece Yocum, Jocelynn's grandmother)
\$300 roundtrip air fare: adult companion (Cece Yocum, Jocelynn's grandmother)
\$825 Total

Youth committee proposes the breakdown we've used in the past:

1/3 youth program + 1/3 monthly meeting + 1/3 individual

Youth committee has committed 1/3 of this budget (\$275) from our youth fund. So we are 1/3 of the way there.

Jocelyn will need scholarship help to cover her 1/3 expense. I would also like to avoid undue burden on Tampa Monthly Meeting to cover the remaining expenses. If there is a Monthly Meeting or an individual that would like to support and nurture Jocelynn as she becomes better educated on mountain top removal and expands her activism skills before she travels to the FGC gathering this summer, please contact me.

In peace,

Ann Sundberg
Clerk of Youth Committee

ps. This MLK weekend in Atlanta, Jocelynn will be using the SEYM youth expedition (to bring the Fair Food campaign outreach to Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting) to network with 70 SAYMA teens. She is hoping to make connections with other teens living in the areas closest to Mountain Top Removal sites, and generate awareness and interest among these teens about the workshop/action on Mountain Top Removal at the FGC Gathering this summer.