

Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) on Field Secretary for Earthcare (FSE) Report Winter Interim Business Meeting 2017

Overview

This is a snapshot of the activities I've undertaken as the SEYM Field Secretary from 1 Tenth Month through 30 Eleventh Month 2017. It also includes a number of planned activities. There have been a number of events that have moved what I felt to be urgent, our care for the Earth, to immediate. The most striking has been the results of the 2016 U.S. presidential election. I have been encouraged by the many collaborations, coalitions, and other actions taking place around the State, the country, and globally, including the support I have received from this Yearly Meeting. Your suggestions, thoughts, and concerns are welcome.

Communication with the Anchoring Committee

Communication with the Anchoring Committee has included email contact, efforts to schedule a telephone conference call, and individual contacts with Bill Carlie and Nancy Triscritti. Individual telephone calls will be scheduled during committee members during Twelfth Month.

Developing a Schedule for Meeting with Monthly Meetings (MMs), Worship Groups (WGs), and Others

The suggested visitation request process: "Meetings can issue invitations to the [SEYM] administrative secretary, FSE, or the Anchor Committee. We will all conference over the invitation and subsequent planning" (P. Andersen, 3 Tenth Month).

A Google calendar showing requests for visitation and FSE has been created and shared with the Anchoring Committee and the Co-Clerks of the Earthcare Committee. Upcoming visits are shown below. Several members of MMs and WGs have expressed interest in visits. To aid in scheduling, I will follow up with the MM/WG clerks and clerks of Peace and Social Concerns Committees of the MMs and WGs suggesting possible dates.

Half Yearly Meeting, 2016

I attended and participated Half Yearly Meeting, including a giving a talk on my vision as FSE and an excerpt from the SEYM vulnerability and risk white paper I am developing. This excerpt focused on the Sabal Trail Transmission pipeline, which is currently under construction. I also participated in the No-Talent Show with the Faith and No Practice Chorus.

Miami Monthly Meeting, Firstday, 4 Twelfth Month 2016

Consideration was given to a community-wide meeting coordinated with faith-based and other environmental groups in the area either on Sixthday or Seventhday, 2 or 3 Twelfth Month. Also, I suggested consideration of meeting with the offices of congressional representatives, to the extent feasible on Secondday, 5 Twelfth Month.

Unitarian-Universalists of Clearwater Open Issues Forum, Scheduled 11 Twelfth Month 2016

Clearwater Monthly Meeting, Scheduled 29 First Month 2017

Sarasota Monthly Meeting, Scheduled 26 Third Month 2017

Follow with St. Petersburg MM will continue after the Playback Theatre event, 16 First Month 2017. (See Living Mirror Playback Theatre below.)

Yearly Meeting Planning

I'm planning to provide a workshop session at Yearly Meeting. This will be in addition to planning an event with the Youth Coordinator(s). I also plan to contact Peterson Toscano during First Month 2017 to see if we can coordinate schedules to travel with Peter "...connecting with Friends in SEYM, both before and after the 2017 Gathering, to talk about how we can work together for climate justice."

Contact Information

- The SEYM Administrative Secretary established an email account: fsEarthcare@seymquaker.org.
- A free conference calling number has been established, 1-712-770-8055. The conference code is 662814.
- I Skype as phdant.
- I Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/7545638812>.
- My telephone number is 813.928.8823.
- Snailmail: 13705 Lazy Oak Drive, Tampa, FL, 33613.4923.

Interactions or Collaborations between and among other SEYM committees

- The Ministry on Racism: Shared information on Florida Council of Churches (FCC) Reform Justice Campaign;
- Earthcare: continue to maintain telephone and email contact with the co-clerks and other committee members;
- FCC: See the FCC Report for Winter Interim Business Meeting 2017
- Peace and Social Concerns: Email and face-to-face contact with members of SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee.
- ProNica: no report to date.
- Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW): Working with Jack Braden on the United Nations Working Group (UNWG) on the International Decade for People of African Descent. (More details below.)
- Quaker United Nations Office: Working with Warren Hoskins to build links.
- Right Sharing of World Resources: Working with Nilufer Wilkins to build links, including QEW UNWG.

- Youth Committee: Talk at HYM and planning with Youth Coordinator(s) for Yearly Meeting.

The Wider Quaker World, Interfaith Groups, Other Environmental Organizations

In the wider Quaker World, interfaith groups, and other environmental organizations, I have listed existing memberships, partnerships, or collaborations that may be part of an outreach effort. These include, but are not limited to:

- Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), Tampa Bay: AVP Basic Workshop facilitation 21 through 23 Tenth Month. Planning for a Gainesville workshop has been postponed. We are looking to provide another workshop in Jacksonville for the same period, 3 through 5 Third Month 2017.
- The Bridge of Tampa: Invited by The Bridge to participate as a panelist in a daylong community exploration, "The Heart of Activism." Tampa MM is a co-sponsor of the event.
- Clark Atlanta University, Department of Political Science: Asked to be a member of the team for an Environmental Protection Agency Small grant as part of People Against D.O.T. Discrimination (PADD); see below.
- Florida Interfaith Climate Action Network (FL-ICAN): Third Annual FL-ICAN Assembly will convene 23 through 25 Second Month 2017 in Orlando. I am member of the Assembly Design Team. And, also have created an SEYM subcircle through the online platform, Qiqochat, <http://seymquakers.qiqochat.com/>.
- Friends Committee on National Legislation, Energy and Environment: Have email and other contacts established with several FCNL staff including and beyond the Energy and Environment Section. Have meeting scheduled with several FCNL staff members on 10 First Month 2017.
- Friends Peace Teams (FPT): Face-to-face and email contact with FPT. Will seek to link FPT to QEW UN Working Group. (See below.)
- The Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (ICAR): Working with ICAR through the Florida Council of Churches.
- Living Mirror Playback Theatre, Tampa: No report other than performances to date. Will participate in the annual St. Petersburg MM Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. event, 16 First Month 2017 as a member of the troupe.
- National Academies of Sciences, Transportation Research Board (TRB), Environmental Justice Issues in Transportation (The FSE is the Research Coordinator for this committee.): Have been asked to provide a presentation on the Tampa Bay Express and environmental justice issues at the annual meeting of the committee. This presentation will be the basis for a "blog" First Month 2017.
- Organize NOW/F.I.R.E., Climate Justice Committee: Working with FCC, Sierra Club and others on planning climate justice survey.
- The Pachamama Alliance: several email contacts with local members of the Alliance.

- People Against D.O.T. Discrimination (PADD), Tampa: continue to work with group on identifying potentially adverse impacts and finding ways to avoid, mitigate, or minimize the same.
- QEW United Nations Working Group (UNWG) member – International Decade for People of African Descent: Continue to assist in planning for 2017 activities. Linking the Working Group with wider Quaker Community and other groups. Added to the QEW Steering Committee as a Member-at-Large.
- Sierra Club, Tampa Bay: Remain in contact via email, snailmail, etc. Added to the Sierra Club Speakers' Bureau. Planned presentation at Hillsborough County Community College, Science Seminar, 31 First Month 2017.
- Society for Applied Anthropology, Risk and Disasters Topical Interest Group (TIG): No report to date. Seeking to link TIG to QEW UN Working Group.
- Sunshine Citizens, Tampa: part of the outreach effort with P.A.D.D.
- University of South Florida, Institute on Black Life (IBL), Advisory Committee: Continue to participate in activities for 30th Anniversary, 9 Second Month 2017, including submitting an abstract for a paper on food sovereignty and people of African Descent by 15 Twelfth Month 2016. The paper will build on the framework proposed by QEW UNWG regarding the 2017 focus for UN activities.
- University of South Florida, Patel College of Global Sustainability (PCGS): The proposed lecture "Urban Displacement in Major Public Works Projects", has been postponed until Fall 2017. Continue to have contact with PCGS staff.

Social Media

Submitted two blogs, fsEarthcare Processing, for the SEYM website. The SEYM Administrative Secretary also has created a webpage, <http://seymquakers.org/faith-in-action/field-secretary-for-earthcare/>. Currently, the page contains the blog, the job description, and other links. I am in contact with the secretary on how best to populate this page, e.g., calendars, social media, etc. I tweet @fsesecretary; FB, <fb.me/FsEarthcare>. These links are included the signature of my emails.

Qiqochat

The Qiqochat subcircle for SEYM, <http://seymquakers.qiqochat.com/>. In addition to a communication platform, this site also can be a repository of documents, e.g., white papers, presentations, etc. I am in the process of populating the circle.

Other Issues

I am working on white paper regarding vulnerable populations paper and the potential impacts of climate change for the counties and other areas of the Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups, etc., of SEYM, including Managua and Havana, where data is available. The focus has been intensified with consideration of the impacts of the Sabal Trail Pipeline Transmission. In addition to the Sabal Trail Pipeline, the potential impacts of the Florida Southeast Connection Pipeline, <http://www.floridasoutheastconnection.com/>, will be added.

Ongoing contact regarding the pipelines and related concerns has been maintained with Peter Ackerman, Lake Worth Monthly Meeting, and Panagioti Tsolkas who co-led sessions at the 2016 Yearly Meeting. Both Pete and Panagioti have been actively in actions regarding the Sabal Trail Pipeline.

Summary

Friends, I mentioned in the overview, I continue to be encouraged. The support I have received from so many of you is greatly appreciated. Continue to share your ideas, concerns, contacts, etc. But, most of all, continue to hold me in the Light!

Beverly Ward