

Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas

Annual Meeting 2007, Providence, RI, USA

Committee, Program and Affiliated Organization Reports

February 21, 2007

1. Annual Meeting Planning Committee.....	2
2. Committee of Latin American Friends (COAL).....	3
3. Executive Committee.....	5
4. Finance Committee.....	6
5. Friends Committee on Scouting.....	7
6. Friends Peace Teams.....	8
7. Lower Great Lakes Region.....	9
8. Midwest Field Staff.....	10
9. Nominating Committee.....	11
10. Northeast Region.....	15
11. Northwest Region.....	16
12. Peace Issues Working Group.....	17
13. Personnel Committee.....	18
14. Quaker United Nations Office – Geneva.....	19
15. Quaker United Nations Office – New York.....	20
16. Quaker Youth Pilgrimage Committee.....	21
17. Right Sharing of World Resources.....	23
18. Site Selection Committee.....	24
19. Southeast Region.....	25
20. Southwest Region.....	26
21. Susan Bax Fund Recipients.....	27
22. Visitation Planning Committee.....	28
23. Western Field Staff.....	32
24. Wider Quaker Fellowship Committee.....	33

Annual Meeting Planning Committee

Report to Annual Meeting 2007

Our committee continues to serve the Section of the Americas by assisting the office staff in planning and carrying out tasks, so that we can worship, do business and make connections with each other at Annual Meeting. The committee was reviewed in November 2006 at the Executive Committee Meeting in Richmond, Indiana. This relatively new Annual Meeting Planning Committee (2001) functions effectively and does provide support to the staff. Over the years we have listened and responded to your evaluation suggestions where possible with observable results. We pray that God is with us in our work.

The committee was hosted by Stony Run Friends Meeting in October. We were lovingly cared for and are grateful to the ministry of Friends who open their homes and hearts to us. In our planning we were conscious of the desire to carry the excitement of our Annual Meeting last March in Chiquimula to Providence, Rhode Island. This will be a challenge as this is not a full COAL Annual Meeting. We will miss our Latin American Friends. Providence has a deep Quaker history. Hopefully this will enrich our time together.

The six members of the committee are from different regions and diverse worship traditions. We find working on this committee rewarding.

Looking forward with joy to Annual Meeting 2007;

Barbara Aikman, clerk of AMPC

Committee of Latin American Friends (COAL)

Report to FWCC Annual Meeting 2007

Needless to say, the highlight of our region was the celebration of the Section's Annual Meeting in Chiquimula last March. This was such a blessing that our spirits still feel refreshed when we think of that occasion. Some of you were able to visit among Central American Friends at the conclusion of that meeting and carried with you and shared the good news of that encounter. Certainly the impact of it in the lives of both Spanish and English speaking Friends will continue to unveil as years go by. We are grateful for this step we took in trust and faith as we are called to enhance our vision to fulfill our mission. We also hope that another of these meetings will take place in a few years in our region.

The follow-up Consultation on Publications was attended by 18 staff, representatives and specially invited Friends, who remained in the Hotel Atlántico for two days; this had new people and lots of new energy and ideas. It was clear that FWCC's role in this continues to be pivotal. We revised the projects different Friends undertook last year and how much we had advanced, and also considered ways of organizing ourselves to be more effective. It was also clear that we do not need to wait for another of these consultations to happen, but that rather we need to make good use of all opportunities that arise for meeting and consider ways to advance this very much needed work.

WORKSHOPS:

Two workshops took place in the Southern sub-region.

-One in Peru in July 2006, with Maudiel Arevalo (El Salvador YM) as facilitator and 350 Friends in attendance. This brought together Friends from Bolivia and Peru to consider themes on our Quaker roots and making peace inside the church.

-A second workshop on "*The ABC's of the Art of Writing*" was held in La Paz, Bolivia in September 2006; Nancy and Harold Thomas (Northwest YM and the Universidad Evangélica Boliviana) were the instructors, and 22 people attended from at least four different YM's. A very promising outcome was that plans were made for a similar workshop to take place this year (July 2007), where people will bring drafts of potential publications. This work is a result of the 2006 FWCC Publications Consultation mentioned above.

At the time of writing this report plans are well underway to hold a workshop in the Central America Sub-region (Chiquimula, February 23-25) co-sponsored with Earlham School of Religion on *Barclay's Theology and its relevance to present day Friends*. As of this day 35 Friends were already enrolled, and the leader will be David Johns of ESR.

We are deeply grateful for these activities that continue to be of support to the different ministries of Yearly Meetings in Latin America. Special appreciation also goes to the coordinators in the different sub-regions that help in the carrying on of these workshops, as well as to the hosting Yearly Meetings.

VISITATION:

Little visitation has taken place this year, apart from that linked to the workshops. Prior to this Annual Meeting, pending on getting his visa, we hope Friend Mario Chávez from INELA Bolivia will undertake some visitation among Friends in the Providence-Boston area including both Spanish-speaking and English-speaking Friends.

CAMPAIGN:

We are aware of some Latin American Yearly Meeting activities and special collections to contribute to the Campaign which will be presented at the time of our Annual Meeting in Providence next March.

The staff person of COAL had the opportunity to visit among Friends in California and North Carolina and attend one Yearly Meeting (Pacific) sessions. Such opportunities were used to encourage Friends to share in the ministry of FWCC to Friends around the Section and the world.

EN POCAS PALABRAS

The Spanish e-newsletter *En Pocas Palabras* is now being emailed to a growing list. It is not going out as often as we'd like because news from contributors does not come as frequently as we had hoped, but we have received positive comments. We encourage you to subscribe to *En Pocas Palabras* so that you not only practice your Spanish but also you hear of what is happening in this region, and support us as you join in our prayer requests posted in that e-news. To subscribe to *En Pocas Palabras* send us an email at **newsletter@fwccamericas.org**.

We pray that as we meet and consider the matters of the Section related to our ministry, mission and vision, we may be guided, and that the week that we will be together will be revitalizing for us all as we prepare us for greater challenges and wider horizons.

May the Peace of God be with you,

Loida E. Fernández G.
Executive Secretary, COAL.

Executive Committee

Report to FWCC Annual Meeting 2007

The Executive Committee met in Houston, Texas in May and Richmond, Indiana in November where we were hosted by First Friends Meeting. Live Oak Meeting, Houston, welcomed us to their very special worship space which gave many on the committee the opportunity to sing together standing under the skyspace at dusk on 7th Day, after supper.

2007 is the 70th anniversary of FWCC. Those attending the Triennial International Representative Meeting in Dublin, Ireland will have an opportunity to mark this anniversary while gathered there. Also, on Sept 15—16, there will be a special celebration at Swarthmore Meeting, co-sponsored by Swarthmore Meeting and the Section of the Americas. Nancy Irving, General Secretary of FWCC, will attend. Details will be sent out as the planning proceeds.

Much of our focus during this past year has been on the Campaign. How can we assist in the work of the Campaign? We are kept up to date on the progress by Margaret, Louise and Cathy Habschmidt. The Executive Committee members are ready to assist Margaret and Louise in setting up appointments in advance when one of them has a trip planned to our geographical area.

The Executive Committee reviewed the Annual Meeting Planning Committee during the November meeting. We united in our appreciation for the many tasks which AMP tackles before and during each annual meeting. This year's Annual Meeting schedule will include a third session of worship in small groups. On Saturday morning, those reps who will attend the Triennial in Dublin will come together at breakfast for a briefing on what to expect at the business sessions and other details.

This year the Section planned and carried out the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage, which took place in the Midwest for the first time. The EC is concerned that this biennial event which offers a rich, rewarding experience to young people from the Americas and from the European Middle East Section has required staff time and effort that has interfered with the other work needed to be done by our Section. We will continue to consider what alternatives might be found to provide the organizing as well as alternatives to the biennial scheduling. We are mindful that a very small number of young people are served by a pilgrimage; we also are aware that most of these young people value the experience throughout their adult lives.

We approved FWCC joining Friends Mutual Health Group as of January 2007. We see this as a significant step toward improving health benefits for FWCC employees.

Louise, Margaret, and Jeff Keith attended the Hispanic Friends Conference held in Philadelphia in October. Louise was invited to plan local excursions for the conference attendees, thus the scope of outreach of FWCC expands.

At our Meeting we looked again at two pending requests for affiliation with the SOA. We united in recommending Bolivia Quaker Education Fund and Youth Services Opportunities Project to become part of the section. We also discussed affiliation in the broader sense. We expect to visit this topic again.
Elizabeth Mertic, Clerk, SOA

Finance Committee

Report to FWCC Annual Meeting 2007

Good FWCC people,

The job of the Finance Committee is to oversee the budget.

- To be aware of spending and to make recommendations as to where our money goes.
- To watch our investments and make recommendations regarding investments
- To be aware of contributions coming in and watch to assure that the purposes of FWCC have enough financial backing to make them effective.
- To propose a budget to all of you that will further our collective vision of FWCC.

We meet together several times a year in order to keep aware of how we are doing financially. Our meetings are interesting, even fascinating, and fun as we discuss these topics. We also keep informed on the status of our world office finances through our treasurer, Cathy Habschmidt, who is part of the World Office Finance Committee.

This past year, Foote Lund, our assistant treasurer and a member of the investment sub-committee, attended the annual meeting of Friends Fiduciary Corporation, which is one of FWCC's investment managers. Friends Fiduciary has low administration costs, deals only with socially responsible investing and gives us a good return.

We have been concerned with the inevitable turnover of committee members and have started to compile a handbook for finance committee members that will include investment policies, accounting policies, and committee member responsibilities.

We very much appreciate all the work that our financial administrator Ellie White has done for many years! And we wish her well as she enjoys her retirement. We welcome Carol Beaton as her replacement.

This last year we have mourned the death of our friend Lou Bucklin, who was one of our committee members, and also a co-clerk on FWCC Nominating Committee. We celebrate the knowledge that he was part of Finance Committee for several years and his enthusiasm inspired us.

Our final meeting before annual session has yet to happen as I write this. In February we will meet to hash out a proposed budget to put before you at Annual Meeting.

Another job we have is to help communicate the finances to you. The Treasurer's Report is included with advance documents, and we will bring you the proposed budget for 07-08 to the March Annual Meeting. If you have questions or suggestions, find one of us. We would enjoy talking to you about our FWCC finances.

Respectfully,
Elizabeth Willey,
FWCC Finance Committee Clerk



Friends Committee on Scouting
Affiliated with Friends World Committee for Consultation
Section of the Americas

Report to FWCC Annual Meeting 2007

The Friends Committee on Scouting has been blessed with the addition of some new enthusiastic members who bring new ideas to the table. Our committee consists of representatives of Quaker groups from across the continental United States and Canada. We have contacts from Friends General Conference, Friends United Meeting, Evangelical Friends, Independent and Conservative Yearly Meetings. There is one designated representative from FWCC plus a number of representatives at large. We would like to have more representatives from Conservative and Evangelical Yearly meetings as well as some representatives from Central and South American countries. Officers of the committee are: Clerk – Betsy Wenny, Assistant Clerk – Dan Nelson, Recording Clerk – David Hadley, and Treasurer – John Norris.

Our website, (quaker.scouting.org), overseen by Dan Nelson, has been a help to people wanting to know more about the committee and the awards it has developed. There have been links added to sites with more information which Friends may want to check out. We try to keep the site updated and relevant to current happenings. Requirements for the youth and adult awards can be downloaded there.

In our ongoing struggle to publicize the availability of the awards for Quaker youth involved in Scouting, and to increase interest in them, the committee decided to try holding an International Quaker Scout-Guide Gathering at the time of our annual meeting. We hope to attract older scouts (teens) and adults. This event will be held April 13-15, 2007 in Plainfield, Indiana at the Friends Meeting/Yearly Meeting facilities there. We have planned meetings, discussion groups, worship, and activities such as hiking, patch trading, and a campfire.

Displays about our awards have been used at various yearly meetings and at a conference for Quaker pastors. They are available for anyone to borrow.

One of the main topics for consideration at our 2006 annual meeting was a concern brought forth about our relationship with the Boy Scouts of America. As stated before, we as a committee feel that we should retain our contact with the BSA because that will enable our voice to be heard. We would like to continue to be a presence at the Boy Scout national jamborees as well as continue to minister to Boy Scouts who are Friends. We do not want to deprive those boys who benefit from the Boy Scout program from earning a religious award through their own Quaker Meeting or Church.

Betsy Wenny, Clerk



FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS

1001 Park Ave., St. Louis MO 63104 USA

Tel: 314-621-7262

E-mail: fpt@quaker.org

www.friendspeaceteams.org

Friends Peace Teams Report to FWCC Annual Meeting 2007

This year FPT opened an office in St. Louis (in the Friends Meetinghouse). Our administrative staff works out of that office although I continue to coordinate our Latin America/Caribbean program, and in 2007, the coordinator of the African Great Lakes Initiative plans to move to Africa. We have an active Board of Directors and Advisory Council, but welcome more participation by representatives of Yearly Meetings and other groups.

In Colombia we sent a two-person team to work with the previously trained facilitators of the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP). Along with the Colombian facilitators, we offered three Second Level/Advanced workshops and three Training for Facilitator workshops, training a new group of over 20 apprentice facilitators. The Colombian facilitators are now fully qualified to operate an AVP program without the help of foreigners, but they welcome visitors. They plan to become a formally recognized AVP program in 2007 and have conducted six other workshops this year. We strengthened the connections between the AVP group and Justapaz, the Mennonite sponsored Center for Justice, Peace and Nonviolent Action, with a group of Conscientious Objectors and with the Andean Service Committee. A report of the team is available on the Internet at our website (above).

In April 2006, the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) began a one-year project supported by the United States Institute of Peace, the Philadelphia YM Bequest Fund, and the Shoemaker Fund to train 48 Healing Companions in Rwanda and Burundi. The first cycle has been completed with four Healing Companions from six communities trained to conduct our Healing and Rebuilding Our Community (HROC) workshops. The second cycle in a further six communities has been partly completed. A Manual for the HROC workshops has been completed in English (to be translated into Kirundi/Kinyarwanda) and a second Manual on Training of the Healing Companions is in draft stage. "*After the Guns Have Stopped: Searching for Reconciliation in Burundi*" by Theoneste Bizimana and Anna Sandidge has been circulated to much positive acclaim.

In Rwanda, a project supported by the Drane Family Fund to conduct twenty Alternatives to Violence (AVP) workshops in the Nymata community, hard hit by the genocide, was completed and a report by Laura Shipler Chico, "I am My Neighbor's Mirror: A Community Rebuilding After Genocide" has been published. A pilot AVP program with four Basic and two Advanced workshops with half Congolese participants from North Kivu and half Rwandan participants from Gisenyi was also completed. The three-day workshops formed significant bonds between people who had formerly considered themselves to be enemies. In Kenya numerous AVP workshops were conducted in Mombasa, Nairobi, and western Kenya. The new AVP Lubao Peace Centre (western Kenya), constructed by AGLI work camps, is nearing completion and has been put into use. An AVP coordinator has been hired full-time to keep up with the growing demand for AVP in Kenya.

Again with the help of an AGLI work camp, a building is in the process of being constructed in Kamenge, Bujumbura, Burundi for the HIV-positive Kamenge Clinic, organized by the Friends Women's Association. The Clinic plans to move into the new building (the largest building in that region of the city) in April 2007.

In Bududa, Uganda, the Children of Hope program sponsored 200 orphans and finished the Hope Technical School which opened in July with fifty-one students.

Adrien Niyongabo (HROC-Burundi) did a speaking tour in England and Elie Nahimana (General Secretary of Burundi Yearly Meeting) and David Bucura (former AVP coordinator and General Secretary of Rwanda Yearly Meeting) spoke in the United States. Thirteen AVP facilitators from the Great Lakes region of Africa and 4 AVP facilitators from the US who have gone to Africa to do AVP with AGLI attended the International AVP Gathering in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Respectfully submitted, Val Liveoak, Coordinator, Friends Peace Teams

Lower Great Lakes Region

Report to FWCC Annual Meeting 2007

The Lower Great Lakes Regional Gathering met Sept. 29, 30, and Oct. 1, 2006 at Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio at the New Quaker Heritage Center. The theme of the gathering was 'Meet Wilmington Yearly Meeting.' The group gathered Friday evening with a welcome from Wilmington Yearly Meeting by Marvin Hall, Executive Secretary and Lois Hackney, clerk. Christine Snyder and John Fitzgerald gave a most interesting presentation of the history of Wilmington Yearly Meeting Quakers.

Saturday morning included presentations from Sylvia Graves, General Secretary of Friends United Meeting, Dean and Freeda Johnson, Founders of Friends Disaster Service, Dan DiBiasio, President of Wilmington College, Ruth Dobyns, Curator of the Quaker Heritage Center and Jim Boland, Director of the Peace House. Lunch was enjoyed at Books n' More with book signing from several WYM authors in attendance. Afternoon tours included Your Father's Kitchen, the Historical Society, Ada Chapel (Preparatory Meeting) and a memorial service for Wallace Collett. The evening meal and program took place at Wilmington Monthly Meeting. The meal was prepared by Chester Friends Meeting with all donations given to Your Father's Kitchen. Nearly \$700.00 was raised for this worthy cause. Margaret Fraser welcomed the group to the FWCC Lower Great Lakes Regional Gathering. The bell choir from Wilmington Meeting entertained the group. Several folks joined the Back Porch singers for musical selections. Scott Knight from Friends of Ballplay, Tellico Plains, Tennessee gave the evening presentation using humor and history to describe early WYM Quakers.

Sunday Morning everyone attended the Meeting of their choice.

Midwest Field Staff
Report to FWCC Annual Meeting 2007
Susan Lee Barton

The past year brought a temporary shift in duties as I planned and prepared for the 2006 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage with the help of many Friends. I was unable to do much visitation in the Lower Great Lakes and Midwest Regions, but was well-compensated by the privilege of getting to know a fabulous, inspiring group of young Friends and their leaders this summer. Providing support for the pilgrimage was exhausting (sometimes working 15-20 hour days) but well worth it. I made a number of mistakes in the planning and learned quite a bit as the pilgrimage progressed, but the pilgrims nourished me spiritually and physically and never failed to cheer me whenever I met up with them along their journey. Witnessing their hard work and success to build a loving community, and getting a glimpse of their own spiritual development along the way, was an inspiration to me. They have certainly provided me with new stories to share as I travel in the region in the coming year! I am convinced that the success of the 2006 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage is due to the people involved and the grace of God, who worked many wonders!

I was able to visit a few quarterly meetings (Green Pastures QM in Lake Erie YM, Whitewater QM in Ohio Valley YM, and Miami-Center QM in Wilmington YM) where I had some wonderful conversations about FWCC over our display and literature. I was pleased that these visits prompted new interest and involvement of several individuals. I also visited three yearly meetings this summer, Lake Erie, Wilmington, and Indiana.

Hosting the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage did mean difficult decisions in letting go of some of my normal duties and correspondence. I felt that I was short-changing my two regions in visitation, follow-up on the few visits I did make, and planning for regional gatherings. As a result, the Midwest Region did not have a regional gathering this year. Fortunately, Wilmington Yearly Meeting provided a wonderful planning committee for the Lower Great Lakes Regional Gathering, so that plans were able to move forward without much input from me (and they invited the Midwest Region). I am very grateful to them! I was not able to be fully “present” at the yearly meetings I attended, particularly in July, since the pilgrimage and pilgrims’ parents were claiming my attention and energy. My hope is that the energy and wisdom the pilgrims brought to our region will spread among Friends, as God used their visits to nurture FWCC’s work in the Midwestern U.S.A. and beyond.

My biggest travel opportunity this year was during my vacation time after the annual meeting, when three other U.S.A. Friends and I spent eight days visiting Friends in El Salvador. This experience was fundamental in helping me to grow spiritually, strengthening my relationship with Christ, and enabling me to carry out my work when I returned and to deal with a multitude of life’s challenges since then. I struggle to find words to express my deep gratitude to FWCC for arranging this trip and particularly to Salvadoran Friends for their hospitality and generosity in sharing their lives and their homes with us. These Friends offer a wonderful witness to the world in living out Christ’s love with joy amidst many difficulties. I am eager to share my experiences with Friends in my regions in the coming year. From my month in Central America I gained a better understanding of Friends in El Salvador and Guatemala, and hope that this will enable Midwestern Friends to feel more of a connection to that part of the Section of the Americas.

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

Section of the Americas
1506 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102
(215) 241-7250 FAX (215) 241-7285
e-mail: americas@fwccamericas.org

Nominating Committee Report, February 2007

This Nominating Committee report proposes the names of Friends who are recommended to fill Section positions beginning March 18, 2007. *The names of those recommended for assignment or reassignment are in italics.* Friends who are prospective new committee members are encouraged to attend meetings of their committees on committee day before the Annual Meeting when their committee assignment becomes official. Note that committee assignments are not necessarily congruent with the terms to which representatives are named by their yearly meetings. Committee members are urged to continue attending Annual Meetings to complete their service with their committee if at all possible. This permits continuity of committee activity.

Representatives named by the Yearly Meetings are considered for assignments to positions in which they have expertise and interest, and in the light of their availability. Selections are based on information available to members of the Nominating Committee, including that gleaned from interest indicator forms that were mailed to representatives in the Fall. Names are listed in three columns based on the date on which the representative's committee assignment ends. Committee members are normally given three-year assignments that end at the conclusion of an Annual Meeting. Potential nominees and persons continuing to serve on a committee for more than three months beyond the end of a term as representative may be recommended for co-option when their terms are about to expire. Names of co-opted representatives (starred in the Representative List) are here followed by a “-c”.

The Nominating Committee gives careful consideration to the nomination of persons to the various committees and positions of the Section. An essential priority of the committee is to provide balanced representation on committees, such as: by region, by gender, and by the “branch” of Quaker experience. The identifying code following each name on this report indicates the Yearly Meeting to which the representative belongs, plus an initial denoting the region. For an explanation of these codes, and for the assignment of the Yearly Meetings to FWCC Regions, consult page 4 of this report.

The Naming Committee and the Nominating Committee are selected by the Annual Meeting and are listed on pages 3 and 2 of this report, respectively.

Officers

Clerk	Elizabeth Mertic -c	IL/C
Assistant Clerk	Ray Treadway	NC/D
Treasurer	<i>Elizabeth Willey</i>	<i>NP/E</i>
Recording Clerk	Clemence Mershon	LE/B
Asst. Recording Clerk	Lucy Fullerton-c	NP/E

Term Ending 12/07 - AM 2008		Term Ending 12/08 - AM 2009		Term Ending 12/09 - AM 2010	
Clerk: <i>Elizabeth Mertic-c</i> Asst. Clerk: <i>Ray Treadway</i> Rec. Clerk: <i>Clémence Mershon-c</i> Asst. Rec. Clk: <i>Lucy Fullerton-c</i> (ex of.) Treasurer: <i>Elizabeth Willey</i> (ex of.)		Executive Committee			
Elizabeth Mertic-c Donna Smith Barbara S. Aikman Chris Viavant <i>Flossie Fullerton-c</i>	IL/C PA/H CN/A IM/H BA/D	Jeff Keith Clémence Mershon-c Bill Schoder-Ehri Marie K. Hawkins Martha Davis	PH/A LE/B AC/E OC/B IC/F	<i>Ray Treadway</i> <i>Ron Mattson</i> <i>Bill Medlin</i> _____ _____	NC/D GP/G IN/C
Clerk: <i>George Rubin</i>		Development Committee			
Marion Love _____	IC/F	George Rubin Chris Viavant	NY/A IM/H	<i>David Hadley</i> <i>Ellie Caldwell</i>	WS/C SE/D
Clerk: <i>Foote Lund</i> Treasurer: <i>Elizabeth Willey</i> (ex of.) Asst. Treas.: <i>Cathy Habschmidt-c</i>		Finance Committee			
Ann Stever-c Foote Lund <i>Fred Dettmer</i>	NP/E WL/B NY/A	Valerie Matthews Jerry Peterson <i>Cathy Habschmidt-c</i>	NY/A IM/H OV/C	<i>Rosemary Coffey</i> <i>Virginia Dawson</i> _____	LE/B CN/A
Clerk: <i>A. Hays Butler</i>		Personnel Committee			
A. Hays Butler Dona Boyce-Manoukian	PH/A BA/D	Sheila Bach <i>JP Lund</i>	BA/D OV/C	<i>John Porter</i> <i>Neil Holzman</i>	NF/D PH/A
Clerk: <i>David Hernández</i>		Bilingual Communications Committee			
Jeff Keith David Hernández	PH/A SC/G	Sage Taylor-Hudson _____	BA/D	<i>Portia Jones -c</i> _____	
Clerk: <i>Clémence Mershon -c, Maggie Edmondson</i>		Site Selection Committee			
Stephen W. Angell-c Marie K. Hawkins	OV/C OC/B	Dorinda Burns Taylor Maggie Edmondson <i>Clémence Mershon-c</i>	NW/E NE/A LE/B	<i>Mark Patton</i>	IC/F
Clerk: <i>Roena Oesting</i>		Annual Meeting Planning Committee			
Elizabeth Thomas	PH/A	Ruth Hadley Roena Oesting <i>David Male</i>	WS/C PA/H OC/C	<i>Bob Fetter</i> _____	BA/D

Term Ending 12/07 - AM 2008		Term Ending 12/08 - AM 2009		Term Ending 12/09 - AM 2010	
Clerk:		Nominating Committee			
Judith Inskeep-c Larry Coulthurst Nancy McIntyre-c	NY/A NY/A BA/D	Jane Snyder-c David Hernández	NP/E SC/G		
Clerk: Sharon Hayden		Quaker Youth Pilgrimage Committee			
Bill Schoder-Ehri Jeannette Hamby	AC/E WL/B	Martha Davis Krystin Schmidt	IC/F OV/C	Sharon Hayden Neil Holzman	NW/E PH/A
Clerk: Nancy Craft, Raelyn Joyce		Visitation Planning Committee			
Anna Baker Raelyn Joyce	NW/E LE/B	Nancy Craft Jane Simkin	NC/D NY/A	Sara Wolcott _____	PA/H
Clerk: Tina Coffin		Wider Quaker Fellowship Committee			
Joan Browne-c Tina Coffin Robert Baldrige	JA/D SC/G NY/A	Chris Coffin Faye Chapman	IF/F OC/B	Judy Inskeep-c Norma Wallman Randy Giffen	NY/A WS/C OC/B
Clerk:		Youth Committee			
_____ Cristela Martinez-c	ES/I	Greg Woods Rachel Dean	IL/C OV/C	_____ _____ _____	
2007 Naming Committee					
FWCC Section of the Americas Representatives to or from other Friends' Organizations					
QUNO Geneva		FWCC International Nominating Committee to name			
QUNO New York		FWCC International Nominating Committee to name			
Friends Committee on Scouting		John Norris IN/C (named by FCS)			
Friends Peace Teams		Val Liveoak SC/G (named by FPT)			
Right Sharing of World Resources		(named by RSWR)			

Northeast Region

Report to FWCC Annual Meeting 2007

Greetings dear Friends and May the Spirit bless us all with hope and courage in 2007. Many of us in the northeastern United States have been surprised by above-average temperatures and a dearth of snow this Christmas season, though the Atlantic provinces of Canada and the northern New England states have seen some. Northeastern Friends who attended the Section of the Americas Annual Meeting last March were happy to be appropriately warm in Guatemala, however, and even more touched by the human warmth and welcome from Friends there, fueled by their deep faithfulness to God's command to love everyone. We look forward to hosting the 2007 annual meeting in our region this March, in Providence, Rhode Island.

Northeasterners met as a region once while in Guatemala, and heard New York Yearly Meeting's plans for a regional gathering that was later brought beautifully to fruition in the fall foliage time in Purchase, New York, October 13-15, 2006. We began our fall gathering with a simple circle of sharing about bridges each of us had crossed culturally and theologically. A young Friend from EFI had been unable to make the trip to Philadelphia for the large national gathering of over 300 Latino Friends earlier in October, but made us laugh in somewhat rueful self-awareness by describing her first encounters with unprogrammed Friends. We continued the next day with workshops led by Newton Garver, Laura Rediehs, and Dan Seeger on our topic of "Being a Friend in Today's World."

Next year New England Yearly Meeting will host the regional gathering, again in October, but just a little later into the foliage season, October 19-21, 2007. We will be on the ocean at a conference center in Connecticut called the Mercy Center www.mercyctrmadison.com/. Please come, regional Friends and visitors alike!

Katy Cullinan, Clerk, NE Region

Northwest Region

Report to FWCC Annual Meeting 2007

Annual Meeting

The Northwest Region was very well represented at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Section of the Americas in Chiquimula, Guatemala. North Pacific Yearly Meeting was represented by 10 people and 11 Northwest Yearly meeting people were present and participated in all aspects of the annual gathering. In addition several of these folks participated in the Quaker Study Tours before and after the gathering. These experiences have been very meaningful and helpful in the Northwest, especially with the increase in Spanish-speaking Churches in the region.

Pacific Northwest Quaker Women's Theology Conference

While this is not an FWCC sponsored event, it is carried out in the same spirit as FWCC gatherings and FWCC is well represented by the Western Field Staff Nancy Yarnall as well as appointed FWCC representatives of North Pacific, Northwest and Pacific Yearly Meetings. Opportunities were made available for attendees to learn about several FWCC projects.

Northwest Regional Gathering

We have goal of holding a regional gathering every other year and the next one is scheduled for March 2-3, 2007. It will be held at Reedwood Friends Church in Portland, Oregon. Planning is well underway for this gathering with a planning committee meeting in the Seattle area and a local arrangements committee meeting in the Portland area. Keynote speaker, Colin Saxton, Superintendent of Northwest Yearly Meeting, will speak on the topic of "Poverty, Compassion, and Economic Justice." Prior to being called as superintendent, Colin has served as a pastor in Northwest Yearly Meeting, an adjunct professor at George Fox University, and also served as clerk of the board of trustees for Right Sharing of World Resources. The verses chosen for the theme are Matthew 25:35-36, 40.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me...Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."—Matthew 25:35-36, 40

The planning committee is busy contacting interested people to put together a great slate of interest groups and workshops. The local arrangements committee will soon have brochures and registration information available. We are looking forward to a blessed and informative gathering.

Representatives from the Northwest region continue to serve the Section on several committees including Visitation, Nominating, Wider Quaker Fellowship, Quaker Youth Pilgrimage, Finance, and Executive and in other leadership roles.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Federighi, clerk

THE PEACE ISSUES WORKING GROUP (PIWG)

Report to FWCC Annual Meeting 2007

We continue to carry forward our mandate which includes learning and sharing information, experiences and experiments in Quaker peacemaking; training in peacemaking; and promoting and supporting simple, tangible ideas for peace action. This work is to honor and affirm the spiritual traditions of the Friends Peace Testimony.

In March, 2006 we agreed to be a sponsor of the Quaker Conference on Torture put on by the Quaker Initiative to End Torture (QUIT). We were supported in this endeavor by the Minute on Torture (FWAO 06-8) approved at the annual meeting of 2006. A number of yearly meetings and monthly meetings wrote minutes of support for the abolishment of torture and in support of the work of QUIT. Two members of the PIWG, Scilla Wahrhaftig and Chuck Fager, were active members of the planning committee. This successful conference was held June 2nd to June 4th at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC. A number of individual Friends, Friends meetings and yearly meetings are doing follow-up work after the conference. A second conference on torture has been set to take place in the spring of 2007.

A minute from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) concerning a contingency plan for alternative service in the event of a military draft was given to PIWG for its consideration. We felt that PIWG is not representative enough to determine the extent of Friends' concern beyond that expressed in the minute from Iowa Yearly Meeting. Discernment and focus will be gained by offering an opportunity for discussion at the 2007 annual meeting of the Section.

We also considered how to involve COAL and Latin American Friends to join us in representation on PIWG.

At our last meeting, we laid out plans for our workshop at the Annual Meeting.

PIWG continues to search for ways to be attentive to our mandate and to help FWCC carry forward the Quaker Peace Testimony.

George Rubin

Personnel Committee
Report to FWCC Annual Meeting 2007

During the past year the personnel committee dealt with some major issues and performed its traditional function of interviewing staff. In August the committee conducted interviews of field staff at FWCC's headquarters in Philadelphia. We discussed numerous issues such as the employee's relationship with other FWCC staff members, needs with respect to training, satisfactions and dissatisfactions with the job, any problems with the compensation and benefits, and other issues. These were very wide ranging discussions that were hopefully helpful to the staff. In November the committee conducted similar discussions with the office staff in Philadelphia.

One of the most important activities of the personnel committee during the year was revising the Personnel Manual. The Manual contains FWCC's policies concerning employees. It covers a wide range of issues such as sexual harassment, benefits, vacations, as well many other issues. The manual had not been revised for many years and many of the provisions were outdated. The committee spent months suggesting many changes to various provisions of the manual and then devoted a large portion of its meeting in November to carefully going over each section of the manual and agreeing on final changes to the language.

During the course of the year the committee also reviewed numerous other areas affecting the staff of the organization. The organization has been going through a major overhaul of its medical insurance situation and the committee reviewed the various plans that have been under consideration during the course of the year. The committee anticipated continuing to give consideration to this important area of benefits for its employees during the upcoming year.

A. Hays Butler
Clerk
Personnel Committee

Quaker United Nations Committee – Geneva

Report to FWCC Annual Meeting 2007

The Quaker United Nations Committee–Geneva, a body of Friends providing oversight and support for the Geneva Office, consists of five members appointed by Britain Yearly Meeting’s Quaker Peace and Social Witness and five members appointed by FWCC Sections and the World Office (presently Stephen Guloba from the Africa Section, Topsy Evans from Asia-West Pacific Section, Tom Head from Section of the Americas, Martin Kunz from the Europe & Middle East Section, and Nancy Irving from the World Office).

The program work in Geneva falls into three broad categories: human rights and refugees, peace and disarmament, and global economic issues. These programs are undertaken, respectively, by the three Representatives, Rachel Brett, David Atwood and Martin Watson. David Atwood also serves as Director of the Geneva Office, providing overall leadership and coordination of the work in Geneva. These representatives are supported by a professional staff as well as a number of one-year program assistants.

Communication and coordination of work between the Geneva Office and the Office in New York is an on-going activity, greatly enhanced by face-to-face meetings such as the Quaker United Nations Group meetings which recently took place at Haverford College, outside Philadelphia, as part of the Quaker International Affairs Meeting in December 2006. All representatives from Geneva and New York as well as the clerks of the two committees gathered at this time.

Recent publications include:

Geneva Reporter - Geneva, August - October 2006

Dealing with Small Arms Demand: A Report of QUNO Activity at the 2006 Small Arms Review Conference, October 2006

Small Arms Review Conference Whimper, July 2006

Righting Historic Wrongs: The 1st Session of the Human Rights Council, July 2006

These, and many others, are available in downloadable form on the joint QUNO website, <http://quno.org/>.

The website is also an excellent source of information about program activities and accomplishments.

Tom Head

Quaker United Nations Office – New York
Report to FWCC Annual Meeting 2007

QUNO-New York is delighted to welcome Rob Callard as the new Director. Rob began at QUNO in November 2006 following a 28-year career as a diplomat with the U.S. Department of State. A long time Friend, he attended Meetings in Lima, Peru; Wellington, New Zealand; and Toronto, Canada, during his postings in those countries. He worked closely with the Yugoslav crisis in the 1990s with UN peacekeeping operations and sanctions, leading up to the Dayton Peace Accord. Most recently Rob actively liaised with the U.S. Congress on Africa, HIV/AIDS, refugees, non-proliferation, and South Asia. He has also been concerned with immigration issues, both in the field and with the Congress.

With Rob on board, QUNO-NY's committee, made up of representatives from AFSC and each section of FWCC, set priorities for program areas and recently envisioned program development for QUNO in its minute to AFSC's International Program Executive Committee:

- *Appreciating the new opportunities with the arrival of our new Director, Rob Callard and Sarah Clarke's shift from extensive administration to increased programming responsibilities;*
- *Basing the priorities on the QUNO Strategic Plan and the emerging IP strategic plan, including the ten questions on criteria for choosing program developed in the QUNO Strategic Plan;*
- *Seeking to be ready to respond to developments at the UN and to take advantage of "windows of opportunity."*

QUNO will now move forward with planning for a new program area that incorporates its past work on Prevention of Violent Conflict as well as new possibilities through the new UN Peacebuilding Commission. This body was established at the Summit Meeting in September, 2005 to coordinate peacebuilding activities in post-conflict situations which can help establish institutions and civil society which will enhance the potential for long term peace. Since this UN body is at a formative state, QUNO will explore potential work to support the peace work of this UN body and to encourage the inclusion by the UN body of civil society and NGO's in this important work.

QUNO's work on Emerging Conflicts and Crises continues to monitor big emergencies that dominate the UN Security Council's agenda, such as Iraq, Sudan, Somalia, North Korea and Israel-Palestine. Information on these and other crises can be found on QUNO's new "Crisis Watchlist" at www.quno.org Through its quiet diplomacy and informal briefings at Quaker House, the ECC program also urges member states and the UN Secretariat to focus on "under-attended" or "forgotten" conflicts, such as Northern Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Zimbabwe. Finally, QUNO will seek to take advantage of strategic opportunities in cooperation with the Mennonites to open dialogue with Iran at this moment when Iran is so very isolated in the international community.

- Jessica Huber

QUAKER YOUTH PILGRIMAGE COMMITTEE

REPORT TO FWCC ANNUAL MEETING 2007

The SOA QYP Committee has just completed a very busy and sometimes intense year of activity. As reported at the last Annual Meeting, the SOA agreed to take on the unexpected task of planning and managing the month-long travels of over twenty young Friends and their four adult leaders.

At the outset it was clear that if we were to be able to coordinate a project of this magnitude in such a short period of time we would have to rely heavily on Section Staff. Susan Lee Barton, Midwest Field Staff, was of enormous help right from the start as we began to consider itineraries and the like. However, none of us anticipated the extent to which Section staff, especially Susan Lee, would be involved in the Pilgrimage.

Due to the short lead time, a novice committee clerk, Susan Lee's wealth of knowledge and connection to the region, as well as some uniquely challenging circumstances with at least one of the pilgrims, the Pilgrimage monopolized Susan Lee's time both before and during the pilgrimage. Other Section staff, including the Executive Director, was drawn in to various aspects of the Pilgrimage, as well.

The circumstances of the 2006 Pilgrimage were unusual, but we still must emphasize that the work of planning and coordinating cannot rest so heavily upon Section staff. The Pilgrimage program is envisioned as one planned and coordinated primarily by the committee, with administrative support (documents, mailings, etc.) provided by Section staff. Unless this can be assured for future Pilgrimages, the committee and the Section will need to reevaluate its commitment to the Pilgrimage.

Despite these concerns and the issues that arose, the Pilgrimage was a fabulous success! Most of you have had the opportunity to read Cristina Van Regenmorter's report in the Section Newsletter or on the website. The report begins "I feel ... in possession of a large measure of **hope for the future of Quakerism**" What a ringing endorsement of the goals and effectiveness of the Pilgrimage!

The pilgrims themselves were uniformly positive about their experience, too, including engaging in construction work in 90+ degree weather in Illinois! The gracious hospitality and support of Friends in the region of the Pilgrimage (Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana) contributed enormously to the success of the Pilgrimage.

One of the positive aspects of Susan Lee's close involvement in the Pilgrimage, at least for the committee, was the extent to which the committee was able to get a much more detailed evaluation of the Pilgrimage: what worked especially well, what worked especially poorly, etc. Susan Lee's insights have been very valuable to the committee.

At our fall meeting the committee felt clear to commit to working with the European Middle East Section (EMES) on the next Pilgrimage, which will take place in the summer of 2008 in Europe. Further, the committee is confidently exploring the possibility of the 2010 Pilgrimage taking place in the Pacific Northwest. We have also been exploring ways in which the experience shared by the pilgrims might be made available to a wider group of young Friends. Whether the Pilgrimage will continue in its present form beyond 2010 will be determined by the Section.

We have continued our work on policies addressing abuse prevention, as well as a revision of some of the other forms to address parental involvement in the process.

We had hoped to have dates of the 2008 Pilgrimage fixed by this time, and even to have begun the selection process for leaders. However, coordinating European and North American school holidays is proving to be more difficult every year.

The committee, the pilgrims, and the Pilgrimage leaders are grateful for the many prayers that supported the Pilgrimage.

Sharon Jones Hayden, clerk
Quaker Youth Pilgrimage Committee
Section of the Americas

Right Sharing of World Resources

Report to FWCC Annual Meeting 2007

RSWR experienced another year of consistent and steady growth. In all of the areas in which we work, Quakers in the United States, among Friends in Kenya and other places in the world, and in India and Sierra Leone, our program has continued to develop deeper roots and grow more abundantly the fruit of our labors.

In the United States, Friends provided RSWR with an income which was 10% more than that of 2005. In the past five years, RSWR has experienced an increase of 135% in its annual income. As a Quaker ministry, RSWR remains unique in two ways. First, financial support comes almost completely from Quakers in the United States. RSWR is a ministry of Friends. **a** of all grants disbursed go to Quaker groups in the developing world. Increasingly, RSWR is a ministry to Friends. Second, RSWR works with the poorest of the poor (those families who live on no more than a dollar a day) by providing small (up to \$5,000) grants to new and small groups. There are very few funding organizations in the world which focus work on these small groups. Often RSWR is their only source of international funding.

2006 saw the engagement of field staff, Jackie Speicher, to work among Friends in the United States. Her specific emphasis is on simplicity as a spiritual discipline. Jackie's initial work has been in Western, Indiana, and Wilmington Yearly Meetings. However, plans are for her to travel more widely among Friends.

As a part of implementing the strategic plan approved in 2005, RSWR is developing a more solid footing in each of the areas of work. In particular, RSWR will establish three offices (south India, Kenya, and Sierra Leone), which will provide a clearer and stronger RSWR presence in these areas. In short, RSWR is a ministry of Friends, increasingly to Friends.

Finally, the RSWR office will be moving from the campus of Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana to space on the first floor of the offices of Friends United Meeting. As of January 15, 2007 RSWR's address will be 101 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond, IN 47374.

**101 Quaker Hill Drive
Richmond, IN 47374**

rswr@rswr.org

www.rswr.org

Site Selection Committee

Report to FWCC Annual Meeting 2007

The committee was greatly encouraged with the increased participation and extremely positive response Friends reported after our Annual Meeting in Guatemala. It was a powerful spiritual experience and was life changing for many. Numerous connections were made among Friends from the two Americas. As way opens, we hope to announce another Annual Meeting in Latin America in the not too distant future.

The work of the Site Selection Committee continues. It is one of discerning where we are being led to hold our future Annual Meetings. Are you part of a group of isolated Friends which needs the strength and the Spiritual power of our gathered Meetings? Do you represent Friends who have something to share which will enhance the energy or Spirituality of those attending the Annual Meeting? Do you have a specific opportunity to create or renew connections between Friends of different traditions? Please talk with us. We rely on information from representatives and staff as they travel among Friends. We welcome invitations from Yearly and Monthly Meetings, and other groups of Friends, to host the Annual Meeting. The committee has created a packet of information designed to help Friends discern if they are led and able to host an Annual Meeting and how to proceed.

We had productive meetings at Annual Meeting in Guatemala and teleconferences in September and December. We are functioning with a full committee of enthusiastic and active members. We have searched for venues other than hotels, and for less expense settings, and have had some success. We will continue looking. We are always conscious of our Quaker values.

The committee was heartened by your response to our e-mail in 2004 requesting representatives to consider hosting an Annual Meeting. A number of people came forward expressing some interest. As a result, we were in a position of thinking about possible sites for three or four years into the future. In 2006, the committee decided to send out another e-mail soliciting your help. You will have received it by the time you read this report. We look forward to your responses and hope to speak with some of you at the 2007 Annual Meeting. If you have not responded, please consider doing so. Planning far in advance provides you greater choice and more time to accomplish what you would need to do, and it enables the committee to continue planning years in advance.

If you have questions, need information, or have suggestions please speak with any committee member. At the time of this writing they are Jeanette Norton, Clemence Ravacon-Mershon, Stephen Angell, Marie Kirk Hawkins, Dorinda Joy Taylor, and Maggie Edmondson. Jeanette has reached her term limits and thanks you for the joy of serving on the committee.

The committee thanks you for your prayers and support.

Submitted on behalf of the committee.

Jeanette Norton, and Clemence Ravacon-Merson, Co-Clerks

Southeast Region

Report to Annual Meeting 2007

The Southeast Region had a very successful Regional Gathering in Jamestown, North Carolina this fall with 24 persons attending. The theme was “Quakers Responding to Militarism at Home and Abroad.” The speakers were from our region, and speak out against terrorism while and actively working for peace. We left with a rich source of references and literature for not only learning more about alternatives to violence, but steps we can take to help others understand why non-violence approaches to controversies can and do work.

Debbie Parker and Paul Mitchell spoke to issues related to torture and led discussions on how to respond from our deep spiritual roots. Bill Jeffries helped us to see our responsibilities as people of faith to speak up for all disadvantaged peoples.

Along with the many facts relating to torture, we spent the weekend contemplating and discussing how we as individuals have and can respond from our Quaker roots of non-violence. While recognizing the difficulty in responding, we looked to our faith and hope in prayer, to speak truth to power, look for that of God in everyone, and see that our candle is not hid under a bushel, but shines brightly for the world to see. Discussions helped each of us to find ways to support each other when responding to individuals and in working with one or more of the many groups who are actively helping others to recognize the violence torture prorogates.

We are continuing to work on better including all six of the Yearly Meetings in our regional conferences, and encourage everyone who is interested to join us.

We continue to learn more about each other and the many programs and projects individual monthly and yearly meetings are supporting in response to needs throughout the world.

Nancy Craft, Clerk, SE Region

SOUTHWEST REGION

Report to FWCC Annual Meeting 2007

Since the last Annual meeting, the Southwest Region didn't meet. We hope to get together during the time scheduled for Regional Meetings at the 2007 Annual Meeting.

Several Friends from the Southwest Region attended the last Annual gathering in Chiquimula, Guatemala. The representatives from Intermountain YM were: Jerel Peterson; Cheryl Spier-Phillips, and Chris Viavant. From Pacific YM, representatives Ann Boone, Roena Oesting, Donna Smith, and Sara Woolcott were in attendance; in addition, nine other members from PYM were there. Finally, representing Western Association of Friends was Jeanette Norton.

Intermountain YM was held at Ghost Ranch [*Rancho de los Brujos, un centro de retiros en Nuevo Mexico*] in Abiquiu, New Mexico last June.

Pacific YM was held at Redlands University from July 31 – August 5, 2006, the sixtieth session of this yearly meeting. Friends were invited by Ministry and Oversight Committee to “initiate during this week a year of discernment, exploring who we are and how we should live as members of this Meeting of sixty years”. Tony Prete, a Biblical scholar from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, spoke on the Sabbath and on discernment. Pacific YM's FWCC representatives gave a brief report, during a plenary session, of the annual gathering in Guatemala, and Nancy Yarnall, Western Field Staff of FWCC, led an interest group (complete with a PowerPoint presentation) on the conference. Young Friends who attended the World Gathering of Young Friends in Lancaster, England in 2005 reported on that rich experience. Nancy Yarnall's report on this meeting follows this report. Emelyn Buskirk, PYM liaison to Evangelical Friends Church Southwest, gave a lively report on their annual conference which was held in June, 2006, in which she emphasized commonalities between programmed and unprogrammed Friends' styles of worship and theology.

Roena Oesting, a PYM rep to FWCC, has developed a friendly relationship between her meeting, La Jolla, and a nearby Friends' Church. La Jolla Friends have visited the church; Friends from the church have visited La Jolla.

Nancy Yarnall also attended the Western Association of the Religious Society of Friends (WARSF) March 3-4, 2006 at Berkeley Friends Church. WARSF is a membership organization of California Friends who wish to be part of Friends United Meeting. Membership includes Bakersfield Quaker Meeting, Berkeley Friends Church, First Friends, Whittier, and individual Friends. Any Friends Meeting, Church, Worship Group, or individual Friend who has an active connection with a Friends Meeting, Church, or Worship Group is welcome to become a member. Nancy's full report follows this report.

Finally, Friend Nancy attended the Evangelical Friends Church Southwest Annual Conference, June 23-24, 2006, at Yorba Linda, California, along with the Pacific YM liaison, Emelyn Buskirk. The theme for that conference was “God's Story, Our Stories”. Summaries of these yearly meeting visits are included in advance documents. Complete reports are available from the FWCC office, and will be on hand at the Annual Meeting.”

-Ann Boone and Cheryl Spier-Phillips, co-Clerks

SUSAN BAX FUND / FONDO SUSAN BAX

Report to FWCC Annual Meeting 2007/ Informe a la Reunión Anual de 2007 del CMCA

The following awards for women traveling in the ministry have been granted:

Se otorgaron las siguientes becas para Amigas que viajan en el ministerio:

Patty Federighi and Carolann Palmer

Northwest YM

Travel to Burundi and Congo for quilt ministry.

JA del Noroeste

Viaje a Burundi para fomentar un ministerio de crear y distribuir colchas.

Judy Hopkinson

South Central YM

Travel to plan for Women's Spirituality regional conference in Oklahoma.

JA Sur-Central

Viajes al comité de planificación de la Conferencia Regional sobre Espiritualidad Femenil en el estado de Oklahoma.

Margaret Fraser

Philadelphia YM

Travel to El Salvador to study domestic and general violence in post civil war society and the programs in churches and civil society to help with the problem

JA de Filadelfia

Conocer "in situ" sobre el trabajo que se hace para las personas víctimas de violencia de género, violencia intrafamiliar y proyectos de apoyo social y eclesial en El Salvador.

Deborah Saunders

Philadelphia YM

Travel to be keynote speaker for the 13th annual Young Peoples Camp Meeting of Kakamega Yearly Meeting Kenya

JA de Filadelfia

Viaje a Kenya para dar el discurso principal a la Reunión de Jóvenes de la Junta Anual de Kakamega en Kenya.

Visitation Planning Committee

Yearly Meeting Visit Summaries and Report to Annual Meeting 2007

The primary work of the Visitation Planning Committee is to do what our name says. We plan and facilitate the visitation of FWCC representatives and others who know and love FWCC to the yearly meetings in North America. We had visitors to 16 yearly meetings. Visitation across our diversity is key to the work of FWCC. It is bringing us together face-to-face, getting to know each other. We try to have a visitor to each yearly meeting at least once every other year. We also receive reports about these visits and try to find ways to make this information available to as many people as possible. Summaries of these reports are included in this report. If you wish to see the full reports, contact the Philadelphia office. They will be available as attachments to e-mails and in English only.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting, (8/1-3/2006 out of 7/31-8/6) – David Male visitor. The theme for Baltimore YM was “Living in Harmony: With One Another and All Creation”. During the time the visitor was there, BA was not in harmony over issues with FUM. BA is dually affiliated with FGC and FUM, but is culturally aligned with FGC. There was no unity on financially supporting FUM because of differences with FUM policy although they do affirm the work FUM is doing in Africa.

The visitor had opportunities to visit with individuals, sharing about FWCC as a way for Friends to learn about each other. He encouraged Friends to learn about what we all have lost in the splits through FWCC.

Evangelical Friends Church, Eastern Region. (7/22-25/2006) - Nancy Craft visitor.

EFC-ER meeting at Malone College in Ohio was relaxed and comfortable. Our visitor initially interacted with Spanish speaking members from Baltimore who were unaware that FWCC, Section of the Americas had been held in Guatemala. The FWCC brochure in both English and Spanish was popular.

Sunday was devoted to worship. A local church celebrating its 100th anniversary worshiped from 10 AM until almost 1 PM. including participation by previous ministers. Luncheon following offered many opportunities to visit in a warm and friendly community full of families, parents and children. There were two breakfasts and a luncheon for woman. During the first business session, our visitor was welcomed and given time to speak. A presentation that included Stan Leach, Superintendent of Evangelical Friends Church Southwest, a partnership of 40 multi-ethnic Friends Churches in the Southwest, emphasized planting new churches including those outside the United States. The joyful dedication of several newly recorded pastors occurred on the last evening.

Evangelical Friends Church Southwest, (6/23-24/2006) – Nancy Yarnall visitor. EFC-ER met in Yorba Linda, CA. YM began with an evening dinner and speaker who spoke of “the elephant stake,” explaining that the elephants are trained to believe that the stakes they are chained to can physically restrain them, when, in fact, their strength is much more than that of the stake. Those attending were asked to consider the stakes in our lives. Are we chained to a memory of the past? - And to remove the stakes by getting in the presence of God, listening to God’s voice, and doing what God says. A tribute was made in honor of Don Little, the retiring business manager. Toward the end of the YM, Jay Bond was approved as the new clerk. The retiring clerk, George Cossand, was acknowledged for 20 years of service. Nancy attended a presentation by a missionary who had spent 30 years in Central American, among El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras Friends. Nancy had an opportunity to share her experience at the FWCC triennial in Chiquimula during this time, and her words were well received. The featured speaker, Dr. Jim Garlow, gave a complete history of Christianity, date, place and what happened- in a breezy, radio commentator style.

Illinois Yearly Meeting, (7/26-30/2006 – Margaret Fraser visitor. The theme for Illinois YM was integrity in their lives. The first evening included a panel on the theme. The keynote speaker was Joycelyn

Burnell who spoke of a break of trust within her meeting when the treasurer embezzled a large amount of money from the meeting. It was a challenge rebuilding trust in the meeting and staying in contact with the one who broke the trust. The Quaker Youth Pilgrims were at Illinois YM. There were more Pilgrims than the IL youth present. They did have a good time together, sharing their lives. Margaret missed some of the YM sessions while helping out with the QYP's. IL is working on a new *Faith and Practice*. They are currently using Philadelphia's. They discussed turning their rural YM setting into a retreat and resource center and air-conditioning their meetinghouse.

Iowa (FUM), (8/2-5/ 2006) - Elizabeth Mertic visitor. Communication opportunities came at the end of the final business session, through participation in a workshop on the Middle East as well as interactions with members during worship, and with at least 30 people during daily activities. Payment and care of pastors and YM staff, and better utilization of a camp under the care of the YM were specific concerns at Iowa YM. The visitor attended presentations on how churches respond to homosexuality, on Friends Disaster Service response to the Hurricane Katrina, and a session of USFWI (United Society of Friends Women International). USFWI and FUM connections provide this YM with an awareness of Friends in other parts of the world. Elizabeth's presence complemented this by reminding people of the existence of FWCC.

Lake Erie YM, (6/15-18/2006) - Liz Oldham visitor – Lake Erie met at Bluffton College (OH) with 174 in attendance. This was an increase of 50 from last year. Their theme was “Moved by Faith within Community.” Mark Woyda was the keynote speaker with a message of, “Authentic Listening: Finding God's Deep Long Thread of Guidance.” There were workshops on *Worship through Singing, Eat it as Long as You Can, On Listening to God, What do you Hear?, Meeting for Worship for Healing* and *African Great Lakes Initiative and Peace Teams*. They had an early morning Bible Study that was well attended. Some of their concerns were having very few clerks of their meetings in attendance at Yearly Meeting and how they were going to find 92 people to fill the yearly meeting service positions.

Northern Yearly Meeting, (5/26-29) – Vicki Hain Poorman visitor. Northern YM was held in Rosholt, Wisconsin, on May 26-29, 2006. The theme was “Moving toward a Blessed Community.” Vince and Ernie Buscemi as plenary speakers led a Spirit-filled and moving plenary meeting. Three visitors from El Salvador Yearly Meeting, Daniel Posada and his wife Alicia Lemus de Posada and Lidia Arevalo de Cardoza, (with the help of volunteer interpreters) enriched the gathering by leading worship that included Bible reading, hymns, and a short message, and taught the children how to make the Salvadoran dish pupusas. Vicki Hain Poorman, the author of the report, gave a talk during one of the business sessions about FWCC.

New York Yearly Meeting, (July 23-29, 2006) Sharon Frame visitor. New York YM was held in Silver Bay, New York. The theme was “Unleashing the Blessed Community.” Racial understanding, outreach to youth and gender identity and sexual orientation were issues carried over from previous meetings. There was a sense that the community had been dealing with difficult issues and yet seemed both stronger and more tender toward one another for it. Sharon Frame, the author of the report, met all the FWCC representatives of the Yearly Meeting at a lunch held in her honor attended by about 20 people. She was a “very visible FWCC visitor.”

Northwest Yearly Meeting, (7/22-28/2006) Nancyrose Logan and Nancy Yarnall visitors. Northwest YM, a gathering of Evangelical Friends from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, met on July 22-28, 2006, at George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon. The theme was “Celebrate Jesus!” There were reports on missionary work in Bolivia, Rwanda, and Russia. NWYM again considered affiliation with FWCC. Nancyrose was an enthusiastic visitor who actively sought out people to interact with. She deeply held the meetings in prayer. After a session described as “an incredibly worshipful gathering,” the Yearly Meeting agreed to continue affiliation with Friends World Committee for Consultation. The other main issue was reorganizing the yearly meeting structure. A study committee gathered information from boards and monthly meetings and

recommended that all current boards be disbanded. New boards will be set up with possibly different job descriptions than the previous boards. This recommendation was approved.

Ohio (Conservative) Yearly Meeting, (8/16-20/2006) - Clemence Mershon visitor.

Ohio YM met at Barnesville, OH with approximately 50 in attendance. FWCC was highlighted during two of its sessions. One was a gathering of current and former reps to discuss the effect which the 2005 Lower Great Lakes Regional Gathering had on the Region. Ohio YM is important to the region and the Section for its spiritual roots and reading the Bible in the manner they do. Another time there was sharing from the 2006 Section meeting in Guatemala followed by two young Friends sharing from their experience at the World Gathering of Young Friends. Their main concerns were caring for their property and how to nurture isolated Friends. Olney School is now independent from the YM, but there are still issues concerning the property. Most members of the YM are concentrated among a few meetings. There are still many who live hundreds of miles from a meeting. They are concerned about how to nurture these people. There is a new monthly meeting added to the YM. It is Keystone Friends Fellowship (previously Caln Allowed Meeting) and includes members throughout central Pennsylvania.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, (7/26-30/2006) – Dorothy Day visitor. Ohio Valley met at Richmond School of Religion in Richmond, IN. Their theme was “Seeking an Earth Restored: The Spiritual path of Stewardship.” This theme was carried out in two plenary sessions and in several workshops. They also had two continuously running videos of two documentaries on the subject.

Jane and Ron Haldeman shared deeply moving stories of their spiritual life. The YM also had an ice cream social, an intergenerational discussion group and a talent show.

Pacific Yearly Meeting, (7/31-8/5/2006 – Nancy Yarnall visitor. The focus of Pacific YM was Sabbath and Jubilee. They asked themselves what this would mean and how they would live this out. Would it be a time of reflection and renewal of one’s faith in God? Would it mean freeing themselves of formal assignments and administrative duty? The Jubilee and Sabbath focus was an invitation and not a proposed minute. YM committees were encouraged to consider their work, look at what is essential and take a step back to the center. They were encouraged to consider how they plan YM next year in a manner that leads them to this center. FWCC was very visible at PYM. The display was well placed and they had an interest group that was well attended. There were 339 in attendance at PYM.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, (7/25-30/2006) – Jane Simkin visitor. Jane had the opportunity during a business session to formally introduce herself as an FWCC representative and to invite Friends to visit with her. Nancy Irving of the World office was also in attendance. She and Nancy had opportunities to display information about the FWCC during a 2-hour “fair” when all exhibits were to be displayed. Another opportunity was during meal times when a designated table was available to share about FWCC. This was PYM’s first residential meeting in several years and during the business sessions they decided to continue this practice for 5 more years. The 2-hour “fair” was also new to PYM as they tried new ways to interact. A major innovation for this YM was having multigenerational and intergenerational activities available every day; Jane participated in all such activities except for the day of a big wind and rain storm.

Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting (8/10-13/2006) Jerry Peterson, visitor. The theme this year was “Urgency of God.” The objective was that participants leave with a sense of calling. Ministry is centered in “Three Streams --healthy local churches, Quaker Ridge Camp, and missions. With Quaker Ridge Camp playing a key role in RMYM ministry, a significant issue was raising sufficient funds to complete the new Conference Center Building. Other discussions involved reports from missions, stewardship and from the ministry “Where Grace Abounds.” At a business meeting our visitor was warmly introduced and space for an FWCC display was provided. He participated fully in all the worship activities.

South Central Yearly Meeting, (4/13-16/2006) – Dorothy Day visitor. South Central met with the theme of “Hearing with Heart, Speaking with Peace.” They had a non-Quaker speaker who spoke about Nonviolent Communication techniques. He demonstrated this with a family problem within the group. Meetings in SCYM were catastrophically affected by Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. The yearly meeting came together to support these meetings and offered scholarships to encourage members to attend YM. SCYM is supporting Little Rock MM in their Bunk Bed project. They build bunk beds and deliver them with linens to families living in crowded quarters. They project their need at 1,000 beds each for this year and next.

Southeastern Yearly Meeting, (4/12-16/2006 – Bob Fetter, visitor. The reception throughout Bob’s stay was most welcoming. Bob was invited to introduce himself and FWCC when he spoke briefly during one of the business sessions. SEYM has many positives and some challenges as do most yearly meetings. The reports from the World Gathering of Young Friends were received with great interest. SEYM had many committee assignments to fill, including representatives to FWCC. The relationship between SEYM and Friends United Meeting (FUM) was familiar to Bob. They shared many of the same concerns as Baltimore YM, his own YM, concerning their relationship with FUM. Reflections and minutes had been prepared in advance of the yearly meeting and were available on the web site. These issues were carefully handled. There was time to gather a feel of the yearly meeting through the business sessions, Bible Study, Memorial Service, workshop, as well as the informal visiting during meal times, and visiting the bookstore and exhibit tables.

Western Field Staff

Report to FWCC Annual Meeting 2007

Nancy Yarnall

- March 2006* – I attended WARSF (Western Association of the Religious Society of Friends) and then Berkley Heritage Day, “*God’s Agenda for us; Will we cooperate?*” then off to Guatemala for Annual Meeting.
- May* – I took the train to Vancouver, BC, then drove with Friends to Sorrento, BC, for Western Half Yearly Meeting, Canada where I gave a report on FWCC and Annual Meeting in Guatemala.
- June* – I attended Evangelical Friends Church Southwest in Southern California, “*God’s Story, Our Story.*” At the end of the month, I attended North Pacific Yearly Meeting in Tacoma, WA. “*NPYM History*”
- July* – I started the month at Friends General Conference in Tacoma, WA then attended Northwest Yearly Meeting, “*Celebrating Jesus,*” at the end of the month.
- August* – Pacific Yearly Meeting met at the University of Redlands where they considered a year of discernment; a sabbatical year. Loida Fernandez and I traveled among Friends.
- October* – Margaret Fraser and I visited Friends in Washington State, after which I sat in on meetings of Quaker Youth Pilgrimage and Finance Committees in Seattle.
- November* – We started planning for the Northwest Regional Gathering which will be March 2-3, 2007 at Reedwood Friends Church, Portland, OR.
- December* – We sent out flyers for the Northwest Regional Gathering. Theme: *Poverty, Compassion and Economic Justice.* Speaker: Colin Saxton, Superintendent, Northwest Yearly Meeting

Special Travel

Loida Fernandez and I traveled among PYM and WARSF Friends in Southern California. We then flew to North Carolina to visit with Friends. A highlight of our trip was several visits with Friends at Friends Home, the Quaker retirement center in Greensboro. We also enjoyed an enactment of North Carolina Quaker Women’s history at the North Carolina United Society of Friends Women.

Financial Campaign

As Western staff I am on the Campaign Committee, providing an additional Western perspective for the Campaign. Margaret Fraser and I traveled together twice and I visited one Friend on my own. On these visits we’ve had the opportunity to meet with Friends in their homes and find out what is important to them. And Friends have been so generous in their support of the work of FWCC.

Office/Staff

I continue to work out of my office here in Vancouver, WA. My office often becomes a center of communication among Friends in the west as Friends seek information about each other. While at a distance from the Section office, I met with staff at Annual Meeting and at a staff retreat in the Poconos in August. We’re also in frequent communication by conference calls, individual conversations, and e-mail.

I receive Newsletters from Meetings and Churches throughout the west. Monthly or every other month, I compile a summary of events from those Newsletters and distribute these summaries to my western (US) distribution list. Let me know if you’d like me to add you to the list.

Wider Quaker Fellowship

Report to FWCC Annual meeting 2007

During the past year, staff and clerk of the Wider Quaker Fellowship have continued to review the possibilities of reducing the cost of the program by surveying the readership responses. Very few readers have indicated that they no longer want to receive any mailings; such a highly positive response is gratifying, since it lets us know that the work of WQF is much appreciated. About 300 Fellows (the name for the participants of Wider Quaker Fellowship) on our mailing list now receive the materials electronically, thanks to the work of the staff that makes this option possible.

During the open committee meeting at the 2006 Annual Meeting in Chiquimula, Spanish-speaking Friends showed great interest in this ministry of literature. The committee clerk encouraged pastors to share their experiences with each other through the Wider Quaker Fellowship. The clerk of Jamaica Yearly Meeting, Horace Hall, expressed the wish to have an exchange of letters between the children of his yearly meeting and children of other Caribbean or Latin-American meetings. A Friend from the United States pointed to the value of exchanges between children and older Friends.

Committee members have actively participated in the review of possible materials for the mailings, and several have submitted articles or suggestions of articles. All committee communications have been through email this year, which works well, although face-to-face meetings and conference calls are still an option for the coming years. As a result of the work of the committee and our valuable staff person Vicki Hain Poorman, we were able to send out two English language mailings consisting of 3 pamphlets, a late-year mailing of the Motto calendar with an appeal letter, and a Spanish-language mailing. The English language mailings included a tribute to Tom Fox, the Friend and peacemaker who lost his life in Iraq; a story written by Elizabeth Watson, a Friend who had recently passed away; a short meditation given at Annual Meeting 2006 by Horace Hall; articles by Yvonne Boeger and Paul Lacey printed in pamphlet form; and the reprint of an article by Joe Roos, published by WQF in 1993. This reprint was in honor of the 70th anniversary of WQF.

The work done on the Spanish-language mailing, the collecting and reviewing of materials, was done primarily by Vicki with input from Loida Fernandez, since few committee members are fluent in Spanish. That mailing consisted of an essay on reading the book of Ecclesiastes, by Manuel Guzmán Martínez of Mexico; a translation of Horace Hall's talk from Annual Meeting; and a collection of excerpts from reports on the 2005 World Gathering of Young Friends that were written by Latin American young Friends. Manuel's essay appeared originally in English in the book *The Quaker Bible Reader*, published by Earlham School of Religion. Jeff Keith of Philadelphia YM provided much work on the material submitted by the young Friends about the WGYF, and we thank him.

This outreach to Friends and friends of Friends, connecting Fellows from around the world through Quaker literature, is an important ministry of FWCC. It is exciting to be part of this work

Tina Coffin, clerk