

Willamette Quarterly Meeting
2013 Winter, 2 February 2013

Morning Session

Clerk Betsey Kenworthy opened the meeting with a reading from Willamette Quarterly Meeting from circa 1970: "Our meetings are a living, pulsating group of Friends (not saints) in a revolutionary world, who are trying to learn the way of love and reconciliation with God, with ourselves, and with each other. What our meetings are depend on each of us and our degree of commitment, and dedication to the way of love."

This was followed with some announcements about quarterly meeting logistics.

2013-W-01 Ministry and Oversight report (Sakre Edson, Florence Worship Group)

The committee has been revising the Quarterly Meeting Handbook to make it reflect current practices. Revisions include:

- Eliminating the Camp Coordinator position
- Noting minor changes to the web page
- Removing specific dollar amounts and replacing them with generic terminology
- Clarifying the logistics for gatherings
- Clarifying the language regarding medical releases
- Eliminating duplications
- Cleaning up and updating job descriptions for clerk, recording clerk, Junior Friends advisors and archivist

The revisions were approved as proposed. Corrections and suggestions for minor revisions should be sent to Sakre Edson or Janet Jump by 1 March 2013.

2013-W-02 Nominating Committee Report (Esther Schiedel, Corvallis) (report attached)

New names brought forward were:

- Dave Ek, Multnomah Meeting, for Ministry and Oversight
- Rose Lewis, Salem Meeting, for Ministry and Oversight
- Laura Arcidiacono, Bridge City Meeting, for Ministry and Oversight
- Nina Joy Lawrence, Corvallis Meeting, for Ministry and Oversight
- Kehrnan Shaw, Bridge City Meeting, registrar
- David Knowlton, Eugene Meeting, Junior Friends Advisor

Positions are still unfilled for web keeper, assistant registrar (fall and spring meetings only), Junior Friends Advisor and Nominating Committee.

2013-W-03 Survey results from 2010

Planning Committee has evaluated feedback on previous quarterly meetings. **John Etter** presented information about spring quarterly meeting. There was generally positive feedback on the new site: more opportunities for physical activities, pleasant environment; but some negative: it's remote and difficult to get to, the accommodations were not the most comfortable for some Friends with limited mobility or other incapacities. To deal with the negatives, a heated cabin will be made available, and some nearby Friends' homes will be available.

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Jane Ewert presented information about fall quarterly meeting. Only 25 evaluation forms were returned. Generally, Friends enjoyed meeting at Multnomah Meeting House. The main complaint was the insufficient space for meals and for small groups to meet, and insufficient unprogrammed time.

2013-W-04 Exploratory Groups

Clerk **Betsey Kenworthy** briefly introduced the topics of the State of the Society reports and the Quaker Music Fest. Because of the increased attendance at the latter, Lower Columbia Worship Group feels that they no longer have the resources to host it, and are hoping that some other group will be able to take it up. **John Alcott** then introduced the topic of dealing with gun violence. Worship sharing followed. Friends spoke of some personal experiences around the use of guns, including some very tragic ones. Others spoke of frustration over the entrenchment of some people who still support uncontrolled access to guns even in the face of recent tragedies. Other messages referenced the idea that liberty comes with corresponding responsibilities, and that the powerlessness many people feel in our society seems to be ameliorated by the possession of a gun.

Afternoon Session

2013-W-05 Minutes from morning session were approved with corrections.

2013-W-06 Nominating Committee ((Esther Schiedel, Corvallis)

Names presented in the morning were all approved. Bob Marvos was approved as clerk of Nominating Committee. Priscilla Jones-Marvos volunteered for assistant registrar, and was approved. The committee will continue to look for Friends for the still unfilled slots: Junior Friends Advisor and web keeper.

There was a discussion of how future members for Nominating Committee are to be selected. It was decided that this responsibility should not be Nominating Committee's. Rather, Quarterly Meeting Clerk Betsey Kenworthy, along with Michael Williams, Eugene Meeting, and Quarterly Meeting Ministry and Oversight Committee, will bring names for Nominating Committee to Spring Quarterly gathering.

2013-W-07 Treasurer's Report was presented by Marian Rhys in the absence of Treasurer Lyn Gordon (report attached)

Income exceeded outgo by about \$1,400. Lyn recommends that we increase support for more Friends to attend quarterly gatherings, and for "experimental" gatherings such as the Quaker Music Fest. In other words, we should use Quarterly Meeting resources for their primary intended purpose: Providing Friends from around the Quarter with opportunities for fellowship, mutual support, and spiritual growth.

2013-W-08 Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (Joe Snyder) (report attached.)

EMO continues to be a powerful voice for Friends concerns of peace, justice and reconciliation, primarily for Oregon as a whole, but with some activities at the local level as well. Their public policy advocacy is well respected by lawmakers, and they are also

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active in providing various social services. EMO would welcome more involvement from Friends, and request that individual meetings consider appointing at least a contact person, even if they are not able to provide someone willing to serve as meeting representative.

The upcoming annual Earth Care Advocacy Day in Salem, on 28 February 2013, provides an opportunity for such involvement. EMO could also use more financial support. Joe also has brochures explaining EMO's major programs in more detail, and encourages interested Friends to read them.

2013-W-09 Reports from Exploration Groups

Quaker Music Fest: Although there was strong support for continuing this program, it was not felt that it was something that Quarterly Meeting should take on. It was proposed, however, to use Worship in Music as a theme for the next Fall Quarterly Meeting, and to see where further interest in the festival might be sparked.

There was also support for moving the location of the festival to the Portland area. Laura Arcidiacono and Betsey Kenworthy will contact other meetings and Friends churches in Portland to see if there is interest in making it a joint project.

State of the Society Reports: The suggestion was for these reports to be split into two separate reports. One would cover the statistics and activities of the individual meetings, the other, the spiritual life of the meetings. The statistical and activity reports would be placed in a binder for Friends to peruse at their leisure during Spring Quarterly Meeting, while the spiritual health reports would be read aloud at that session.

An ad hoc committee consisting of Sakre Edson, Betsey Kenworthy, Barbara Janoe, Debbie Averill, and Joe Snyder will work on contacting the meetings in the quarter to inform them of this change. We recognize that the change make take two years to completely implement, as some meetings may already be well into the process of preparing their reports for 2013.

This effectiveness of this new approach will be evaluated, and the decision revisited, at Winter Quarter 2015.

Gun violence and safety: The meeting approved the following minute: "Recognizing that the misuse and abuse of firearms has brought great sadness to our societies, WQM encourages the members of our communities to reach out to our neighbors and our leaders to help heal the root causes of violence and tragedy."

Individuals and meetings are also encouraged to write their own minutes and/or letters to legislators on this issue, using the attached list of comments and suggested wordings as a resource.

Announcements:

- The annual Quaker Men's Retreat topic is "White Privilege and the Quaker Testimonies of Equality and Integrity." It will be held on the weekend of 8-10 March 2013, at Big Bear Camp near Eugene.
Contact person is Bob Marvos, 541-330-3937, rmmarovs@gmail.com.

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- If Friends would like to give support to the Meeting nearest Sandy Hook, Connecticut, their contact information is:
Jeff Van Wagenen, clerk
Litchfield Hills Friends Meeting
1516 Straits Turnpike
Middlebury, CT 06762
- Spring Quarterly Meeting will be held on 3-5 May 2013, at Camp Cleawox, Florence, Oregon. Contacts: Lenora Kent, leonora.kent@gmail.com, John Etter, johnetter4449@gmail.com, Sarita Lief, saritalief@comcast.net.
- Beth Deutsch, long-time member of Eugene Meeting, is undergoing extreme treatments for cancer. If Friends would like to give support to her and her husband Steve, their contact information is:
7012 Sand Point Way NE, #B408
Seattle, Washington 98115