

Willamette Quarterly Meeting
Spring Quarter 2011; May 21, 2011
Camp Cleawox, Florence, Oregon
John Etter, Presiding Clerk

The Meeting opened with worship with 37 Friends present as Meeting began.
Our clerk welcomed us to what seemed like a different and special Quarterly Meeting.

2011-5-21 (1) Treasurer's Report: Lyn Gordon.

The written Report will be available electronically.

Highlights:

- Checkbook balance: \$3074.93 at the beginning of the year.
- Expenses to date: \$2375.55
- Checkbook balance as of 5/20/11: \$2529.38
- Assessments have been received from all Meetings and a few Worship Groups.
- The Men's retreat made a small profit and added the profit to its fund balance.

Note: The Expenses/Liabilities Line for Spring Quarter should indicate Camp Cleawox, not Sky Camp.
Friends accepted the Treasurer's report with gratitude.

2011-5-21 (2) Minutes

Minutes of the February 5, 2011, Willamette Quarterly Meeting for Worship for Business were read by the clerk. Friends approved the minutes.

2011-5-21 (3) Registrar's Report: Laura Arcidiacano reported.

There were 75 people in attendance with 11 of them being children.
Attendance was higher than expected.

2011-5-21 (4) State of Society Reports 1

Clerk, John Etter, read the State of Society Report from **Boise Valley Meeting**.

The Meeting's attendance is usually 5-20 weekly with 11 on average. Boise Valley continues to be happily solvent. The Meeting holds Worship Sharing monthly with topic selected by Ministry and Oversight Committee. Boise Valley is working through difficult times with conflicts among members, and especially experienced turmoil during the nominating process. An active core of dedicated members and attenders are strengthened and encouraged by newcomers and visitors.

Mark Babson read the State of Society Report from **Salem Friends Meeting**.

Salem Meeting provided physical access by installing a lift and a handicapped bathroom. Dwindling attendance is a concern; currently 8-10 adults and 6-7 children come to Meeting for Worship. Salem Friends ask, "Does the communal way of worship make the absence of one felt more? Friends questioned the concept of eldering. They found growth and opportunity around eldering as a Meeting. Every First Sunday the Second hour is an intergenerational activity. Meeting is made of people. People are made of thoughts and emotions.

Bob Marvos shared verbally for **Central Oregon Worship Group**.

They are a very small group; 3-5 people attend each Sunday with occasional visitors. Central Oregon has been remiss in holding business meetings, preparing State of Society Reports, etc.

The Clerk paused to remind Friends of the constituent Meetings and Worship Groups in Willamette Quarterly Meeting.

Jeanne Kimball shared verbally for **Florence Worship Group**.

Florence Worship Group has been meeting for over 20 years of silent worship; Friends from many other countries and other states have visited. They meet the second and fourth Sundays in Florence (3-8 in attendance); the third Sunday in Coos Bay (5-15 in attendance); Fifth Sundays in Deadwood. The Worship Group has lost some regular attenders but has gained others.

Tom Rawson, Salmon Bay Meeting, Pacific Northwest Quarter, shared that at the last NPYM Coordinating Committee it was suggested that Friends could get to know one another better if we visited each other's Quarterly Meeting. Tom invites Willamette Quarter Friends to visit the Pacific Northwest Quarter at Lazy F Ranch near Ellensburg, WA. (The real reason that Tom is here is that there are fish in Lake Cleawox.)

Friends adjourned preparing to meet again at 4:30 pm.

2011-5-21 (5) Microphone

At 4:35 p.m. Clerk John asked the approximately 35 Friends present to consider if Willamette Quarterly Meeting needs to purchase a microphone for our meetings. The Meeting settled into silence.

2011-5-21 (6) Excerpts from State of Society Reports

A Friend expressed a concern regarding the adding of excerpts from State of Society Reports to the minutes. Friends approved that these excerpts be included in the minutes and that the full reports be attached to the minutes.

2011-5-21 (7) State of Society Reports 2

Beth Hunt shared the State of Society Report for **Eugene Meeting**.

Looking back is a looking forward. Recounting what we have done portrays who we are. We strive to be who we were, who we are, and who we are becoming. We believe that light will lead us to our own Quaker integrity. The Meeting is richly blessed by so many children; there are often 20-30 youth on Sundays. Visits from three Friends from Central American countries enriched and gave perspective on Friends not so far away. While living in a troubled world, the Spiritual health of the Meeting remains vibrant in many ways. Eugene Meeting seems to be radically inclusive. Friends feel the need for spirit-led messages in Meeting for Worship. The gift of the Spirit can only be learned by example.

2011-5-21 (8) Ministry and Oversight Committee report:

We received a report from Ministry and Oversight Committee recommending that Willamette Quarterly Meeting discontinue its membership with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

Discussion included:

- This decision might lead to empowering and strengthening individual Meetings' relationships with EMO.
- How is this information from EMO disseminated to members? Answer: In the past a representative has made reports. Information does come to the clerk (currently to past clerk).
- A Friend donates to EMO and receives their newsletter.
- "The NL comes to our Meeting House. Does it come to other Meetings?"
- Are we laying it down because we don't have the energy and the finances or because we don't think it is important work for WQM?
- One Worship Group is a part of an interfaith network which is a part of EMO.

- If information were to be published on the WQM website, this would be a way to disseminate EMO information.
- Some Friends spoke strongly in support of EMO activities and the history of WQM involvement with EMO.

Friends clarified that the fee that WQM pays to EMO is \$75 per meeting and thus \$450 total.

It was suggested that Friends bring information about EMO to Fall Quarterly Meeting, perhaps as an informational session before business meeting.

Friends did not reach unity on the question of affiliation with EMO. This concern will be seasoned and we will continue the discussion at the Fall Quarterly Meeting.

Ministry and Oversight Committee continues to need a clerk.

2011-5-21 (9) State of Society Reports 3

Jim Flory reported for **Corvallis Meeting**.

Corvallis Meeting had several meetings about how to do outreach. Seven members wrote a pamphlet about "Why I come to Meeting." The Meeting developed business cards; and had a table at an OSU event. Responding to local and world needs, the Meeting hosted a Friend re Friends Peace Teams, and seven households participated in the Carbon Footprint project. The Peace Justice Environment Committee is involved in several projects regarding the homeless. The Library Committee created a clear acquisition and discard policy leading to a clearer understanding of the use of the library. Meeting is undergoing a major remodel of the Meeting House. Corvallis Meeting is not active in Willamette Quarterly Meeting or North Pacific Yearly Meeting.

Betsey Kenworthy reported for **Multnomah Meeting**.

Multnomah Meeting is growing both in numbers and spiritual activities. Friends are struck by number and dedication of young people coming to the Meeting. The Meeting does not have an actively engaged High School Group but have an active middle school group. The Meeting is looking for more space. People using the physical space of Multnomah Meeting often then come to Meeting for Worship. MM has had a Sunday morning exchange with Camas Friends Church. There have also been exchanges with West Hills Friends Church.

Gerhardt Quast reported for **Bridge City Meeting**.

Bridge City is a small but lively community of love and faith, receiving and giving care to each other. Many are involved in work in the wider world of Friends. Bridge City Friends have been focusing on how we care for each other in small groups, Friendly 7's and our Meeting retreat. We have given ourselves a year to find a new location. We are looking for a united action to make God's love visible to the community. A small group associated with Bridge City is exploring Spirit-led work. Friends new to us and new to Quakers are helping us to see that our language, process and unwritten rules can be mystifying to others.

Bridge City Friends added an addendum:

Bridge City is no longer able to meet at the Portland French School where many of you have joined us for worship. As of June 5th, we will be in temporary quarters. Please consult our web site or call Chris Cradler (503-287-6601) or Jane Ewert (503-249-3970). Hope to see you.

Ken Deveny reported verbally for **South Mountain Meeting**.

Nominating Committee has had a hard time the past few years. The new clerk will be Bill Ashworth. Peace and Social Concerns is searching for ways to reach out to the community. Friends marched in the Pride Parade and took part in the Hiroshima Vigil which was originally started by the

Meeting. The Meeting advertises in the Southern Oregon Newsletter. A writing group continues to meet. South Mountain co-owns its building with Peace House. Things are going very well between the Meeting and Peace House.

Joe Snyder asked a recurring question as Friends presented their State of Society reports. "How is it with your Nominating Committee?" He asked the question because it's one of the major concerns he hears from the Meetings.

2011 5-21 (10) Fall 2011

Fall Willamette Quarterly Meeting will be Friday Sept 30 – Oct 1, 2011 at the Multnomah Meeting House. The focus will be on the disparity of resources in our world and how we as Quakers can respond. Friends from Multnomah Meeting who will have traveled to Nicaragua will report.

2011 5-21 (11) Announcements:

Helen Park encouraged Friends to participate in Community Night.

A Friend noted that Corvallis Meeting received an award for its interfaith work.

The meeting closed with worship.

John Etter, Clerk

Nancy McLauchlan, Substitute Recording Clerk

The Fall session of Willamette Quarterly Meeting will be held at Multnomah Meeting in Portland, Oregon on September 30-October 1, 2011.