

North Pacific Yearly Meeting Steering Committee

Minutes of the January 29, 2005 Meeting

Friends gathered at 9:30 am in silent worship. The meeting was clerked by Beth Hunt. Turtle Robb, a visiting Friend from Bellingham MM, graciously agreed to take minutes, since Pablo Stanfield, SC Recording Clerk, was unable to attend due to illness.

In attendance: Beth Hunt (Steering Committee Clerk), Dorsey Green (Presiding Clerk), Janet Jump (Steering Committee Associate Clerk), Helen Dart (Interim Secretary), Alan Mountjoy-Venning (Olympia), Debbie Townsend (Eastside), Heather Jackson (Heartland), Turtle Robb (Bellingham, visitor, acting Recording Clerk), Carol Uhte (Multnomah), Jo Ann Kidder (Missoula), Meghann Willard (Young Friends), Cathy McDaniel (South Mountain), Kathleen Donham (South Mountain), Lorina Hall (Bellingham), Kathleen Moyer (Boise Valley), Deborah Lewis (Port Townsend), David Coahran (Pullman Moscow), Jerry Scott (Salem), Olin Byerly (Salem), Ethen Perkins (Eugene), Lyn Marx (Eugene), Susanne Kromberg (Salmon Bay), Charlene Smith (University & South Seattle WG), Dorene Cornwell (University), Deric Young (Olympia), Lisa Devaney (Bridge City), Tim Travis (Bridge City), Rae Lawrence (Multnomah), Barbara Moore-Lewis (Port Townsend), Nancy Yarnall (FWCC Staff), Lynn Travis (Finance & Legal Comte).

SC 05/01.01 Consent Agenda

SC 05/01.1a Minutes of Appreciation were made to:

- John Prescott, Presiding Clerk, NYPM 2003-2004
- Ted Etter and the Annual Session Planning Committee, 2003 & 2004
- Margaret Sorrel for the Site Committee, 2004
- Steve Wilson and the Nominating Committee 2004
- Eugene Norcross Renner, Asst. Steering Committee Clerk, 2003-2004
- Ann Stever and the World Gathering of Young Friends Selection Committee, 2004
- Sue Ellen White, NPYM Staff Secretary, 2003-2004
- Don Goldstein, Staff Directory Coordinator, 2003-2004
- Deborah Gottlieb Lewis and Margaret Cochran, Clerk's Workshop Committee, 2004
- Kathy Hyzy, Elee Hadley, John Allcott, Megan Perry, and other members of the Intergeneration Committee, 2002-2004 (added by approval at this meeting)

SC 05/01.01b The Treasurer's report for 10/1/04-12/31/04, fiscal year 2004-05, was approved.

SC 05/01.01c The Nominating Committee report was approved as follows:

Program Coordinator, Ginger Boyle (University Meeting)

Physical Arrangements Coordinator, Carolyn Laskowski (Tacoma Meeting)

SC 05/01.02 Quaker Organizations Reports

AFSC reports will be communicated directly to Meeting Clerks or forwarded to SC Reps.

The **FWCC Northwest Regional Gathering** will be held on February 25-26, 2005, at the North Seattle Friends Church, 7740 24th Ave. NE in Seattle. The theme is "Holding Everything Together." Registration and information about the program is going out to Meetings. Some train travel as a group is being arranged from Salem. Contact Renee Stringham (drrenee@open.org, 503-375-3600) for more information about group train travel.

A friend expressed her concern that it is not appropriate for reporting Quaker organizations to express a partisan political affiliation. (This concern arose from disappointment about the election that was expressed in some of the organization reports.) This topic was allowed time for discussion to clearly state our thoughts/feelings about this issue.

Friends generally agreed that the work of Quaker organizations should be broader and more spiritual than partisan politics. Some Friends pointed out that our representatives' reports were about their individual experience and were not the official reports of the organizations. There was an observation that the expressions of dissatisfaction in some of the reports did lead to deep worship sharing. Friends pointed out that we are political, which is not the same as partisan. Another Friend noted that we need to challenge our assumptions when we think we know how others think.

SC 05/01.03 Announcements

- The Clerk shared an FCNL letter thanking NPYM for its contribution in 2003.
- Urbana Friends are seeking donations to build a new Meetinghouse. Donations can be sent to U-C Friends Meeting Fund Raising Committee, c/o Helen Satterthwaite, 308 E. Colorado, Urbana, IL 61801. Checks should be made out to U-C Friends Meeting and marked for the New Meeting House. A blueprint of the meetinghouse can be obtained at the above address.

SC 05/01.04 Proposal to revise the Prenominating Committee Job Description

The Clerk presented a draft revision of the job description for the Prenominating Committee. According to the current job description, the Prenominating Committee is charged with finding two people from each Quarter to serve on Nominating Committee. The proposed change in the job description would read: "There should always be at least one person from each Quarter on each committee."

This revision acknowledges the practice in recent years of only being able to find one person from the MGoF Quarter to serve on Nominating Committee. The intent of this revision was to make the Prenominating Committee process less stressful and burdensome for the MGoF Quarter.

Current policy is that it is the goal of NPYM to have equal representation on NPYM committees, although we realize full representation can't always be accomplished.

To revise the job description as proposed was uncomfortable for many Friends because it contradicted the goal of equal representation from Quarterly Meetings. A Friend expressed discomfort with setting a precedent of dropping the goal of recruiting two nominees, considering that other committees may also have this challenge. Another Friend felt that it is important to record what we really do rather than what we would ideally like to do. An alternate suggested wording for change was: "A Quarter may choose to only appoint one person to Nominating Committee." A suggestion was made that Meetings from the MGoF Quarter be consulted.

Lacking clarity on this revision, SC decided to leave the job description as it has been. If MGoF Quarter would like to review this question and come back to NPYM with their

discernment on how to proceed with the job description, we can revisit this question.

SC 05/01.05 World Gathering of Young Friends Report

Meghann Willard and Kathy Hyzy, our NPYM reps to WGYF, reported.

The NPYM and Northwest YM reps are working to organize a spring retreat with the WGYF reps from various other yearly meetings, including Canada YM.

The at-large delegate selections will not be final until after February 5th. The Young Friends Support Committee is waiting to start intense fundraising until all positions have been filled and we know the cost of registration.

The North America organizers have submitted to NPYM a request for scholarship funds, including funds for delegates from third world nations. NPYM's fundraising goal, as developed at previous SC meetings, is to raise money for registration for at least three delegates (two from NPYM and at least one third world delegate.) Donations can be made in the following manner:

For a tax-deductible receipt, make your check out to "University Friends Meeting," earmarked for WGYF, and send it to University Friends MM, 4001 9th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98105.

If you do not need a tax-deductible receipt, make your check out to "World Gathering of Young Friends" and send it to World Gathering of Young Friends, PO Box 85884, Seattle, WA 98145. Alternately, you can donate online at www.wgyf.org.

Kathy Hyzy is researching how to use frequent flyer miles contributions. If you have miles to contribute, you can contact her at kathy@thoroughlymodern.com, 503-232-8859.

SC 05/01.06 Young Friends Report

Meghann Willard reported that only three people were able to attend the YF Winter Gathering at the Multnomah Meetinghouse. More would have like to attend but were prevented by other commitments and by a snowstorm in Montana. Those who attended connected with some Portland Young Friends, had fun socializing, and did not do business or worship.

About fifteen YF's were in active attendance at 2004 AS, most of them around college age. Meghann is hoping to organize a YF camp this summer. It would be two nights at the most, probably after Annual Session.

The YF's have a listserv, which is managed by Helen Dart, the YF Adult Liaison. Anyone who would like to be added to the listserv can contact Helen at helendart@comcast.net.

The YF's need a Co-Clerk (at the upper end of their age range of 18-35) for Annual Session 2005. Friends are asked to send suggestions to the NPYM Nominating Committee, which also has the job description.

It was suggested that a fact sheet about the Young Friends program be made available to Meetings to inform Friends who might be interested, and that Young Friends be made aware that scholarship money is available to attend Annual Session.

SC 05/01.07 Junior Friends

Junior Friends are planning a ski trip over Presidents' Day weekend. They need drivers and large vehicles to take Junior Friends to the ski trip in McCall, Idaho.

Questions and offers of help should be directed to Kathy Hyzy, JF Advisor, at kathy@thoroughlymodern.com, 503-232-8859.

SC 05/01.08 Annual Session Planning Report

Dorsey Green reported.

Annual Session will be held July 14-17, 2005, in Tacoma, Washington. The theme will be "Using Our Light in Practical Peacemaking." The AS Planning Committee's goal is to come up with queries and interest groups that address this theme for all age levels.

Dorsey reported good representation at the ASPC Committee meeting earlier this month. It was helpful to have Jr. Friends present on the committee. The committee still needs people for the following positions: Interest Group Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, Assistant Physical Arrangements Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, Assistant Registrar, Worship Sharing Co-Coordinator, and Community Night Coordinator. Please give names to Dorsey Green (gdorseyg@aol.com, 206-323-7185) or Kristina Sullivan (kristinaks@comcast.net, 253-536-2361). The committee will meet again in March.

SC 05/01.09 NPYM Finance and Legal Budget Visioning Process

The visioning report was presented by Lynn Travis of the Finance & Legal Committee. She reported that ten Monthly Meetings held visioning meetings and sent in reports, resulting in a thirty page document. Lynn presented an eight page summary of that document. The meeting broke into small groups and discussed the summary.

When we regrouped, Lynn asked the following questions about the summary:

- Does it pass the "smell test," i.e., does it correctly represent the reporting Meetings' responses? Generally, yes.
- What things are left out? Legal and Finance committee feels that they have gotten all the information they need from this exercise.
- What to do next with this information? There are some contradictions and themes in the summary which could be worked with.
- Should we take this back again to Monthly Meetings? Many reps do not wish to take the discussion back to their Meetings yet again, until it has been reviewed by a "mulling" type committee. Other reps, whose Meetings didn't yet do the visioning exercise, want to give their Meetings another opportunity to go through it. A number of reps reported that NPYM was seen as not relevant to many of their Meeting members. It was decided to leave it up to the individual Meetings whether or not to continue the visioning process within their own Meeting.

SC 05/01.10 Ad Hoc Mulling Committee

Steering Committee approved appointing an ad hoc Mulling Committee to consider what changes might make NPYM more relevant, useful and helpful to MMs and to suggest how those changes might be implemented. Executive Committee was asked to appoint the Mulling Committee with help from Nominating Committee if needed. It was requested that the committee have representatives from east, west, large and small Meetings and Worship Groups, with members ranging from new to experienced Friends of varying ages.

The following people indicated an interest in serving on the Mulling Committee: Charlene Smith (University), Debbie Townsend (Eastside), Heather Jackson (Heartland), Deborah Lewis (Port Townsend), Doreen Cornwell (University) Nancy Yarnall (Corvallis), and Dave Coahran (Pullman Moscow).

SC 05/01.11 Request for use of mailing list

The Clerk asked that Executive Committee be given permission to consider a request for a one-time use of our mailing list by a national Friends group whose letter of request she had accidentally left at home. Steering Committee **approved**.

SC 05/01.12 Clerking Workshop

Deborah Lewis presented a report on the Clerking Workshop with Arthur Larrabee that took place in October, 2004. (The report is attached.) The workshop was a great success. Deborah was thanked for her vision and work in putting this workshop together.

Deborah suggested that a similar workshop be held every other year, with perhaps an additional one in 2005 to provide a chance to attend for those on the waiting list and others who were unable to attend in 2004. Space for registration of Northwest Yearly Meeting participants would be provided, and Canadian Quakers also could be invited. She said it might also be possible to do two consecutive workshops, one in Oregon and one in Seattle. Upon consideration, Friends decided that one workshop would be sufficient.

SC approved holding another NPYM clerking workshop with Arthur Larrabee in Seattle in 2005. Deborah was approved as organizer. Friends are asked to send Deborah names of other people who will work with her to organize the workshop, especially people in the Seattle/Tacoma area.

SC 05/01.13 Proposal for NPYM Five Day Silent Retreat

Deborah Lewis distributed a proposal for a five day silent retreat, to be sponsored by NPYM. She said that Friends in Washington have been holding an annual weekend silent retreat for the past 16 years with great success. Costs for individuals would be based on the cost of lodging and food. A concern was raised that accessibility issues be considered.

Deborah asked SC reps to take this proposal back to their Meetings to gauge interest and get feedback. **SC approved** doing so, asking reps to bring feedback to the May SC meeting.

SC 05/01.14 Announcements

- The NPYM Secretary/Directory Position is open, and the new job description is available on the NPYM website. Please announce and post the position in your Meetings until the application deadline of February 18.
- Multnomah Meeting has put in an offer for the Masonic building across the street from their current Meetinghouse.

SC 05/01.15 Seasoned Concerns

Dorsey Green, Presiding Clerk, asked reps to inform their Meetings, Worship Groups and clerks that now is the time to formally season any minutes to be brought to Annual Session for consideration. She will not put minutes on the AS agenda that have not been seasoned. (Dorsey will be sending information about the seasoning process to the Meeting clerks and contact people.)

The next NPYM Steering Committee meeting is on Saturday, May 14, 2005, at the Multnomah Meeting House.