

**BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS**

November 17, 2013

Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting, Bethlehem PA

Clerk: Amy Ward Brimmer (Fallsington)

Recording Clerk: David Rose (Lehigh Valley)

Friends gathered around the appointed hour of 1:00 PM and settled into a period of worship.

Agenda Review: With adjustments, agenda Approved

Roll Call of Meetings: Bristol:1, Buckingham:1, Doylestown:0, Fallsington: 1, LehighValley: 9, Makefield: 2, Middletown:3, Newtown:2, Plumstead: 0, Quakertown NJ: 0, Solebury:0, Southampton: 0, Wrightstown:1, Yardley: 2.

Minutes reviewed and approved.

Stories of Vitality and Growth

- **Buckingham MM** has a game night held on the second Saturday of every month with a potluck and around 30 persons attending playing a wide variety of games.
- **Lehigh Valley MM** had a successful craft fair which was not only a fund raiser but also outreach.
- **Middletown MM** has an auction open to the community. This fundraiser is becoming very successful in raising money for unbudgeted expenses
- **Yardley MM** has hired a First Day teacher for Middle School. This has had an effect in bringing in more families with children. Taking meeting for worship on the road to visit with homebound Friends has greatly enriched the sense of having a spiritual community.

Coordinators Report: Report given by Holly Olson (Middletown MM). Full report is available. Inreach portion reported on Quaker Parenting Initiative, Clerks Meeting, Camp Onas, Religious Education meeting, Skating party, and upcoming prayer course. Outreach portion reported on Preparing for the Best of Your Life workshop, Fallsington Day, “Keep Calm” Quarter T Shirts and Sweatshirts, and upcoming Diversity day at Chandler Hall. Report concluded with a discussion about the Peace Fair and the need for the Quarter to assume responsibility and active involvement for it. Since there is no longer a commitment from PYM Young Friends to help out, without commitment from the Quarter to help plan and create the Peace Fair it will not be possible to continue it. In response to a question regarding information to give to people with questions regarding the event, there is a description of the event at www.peacefair.org. Meeting approved the creation of a minute which will be sent out to all Meeting Clerks from the Quarter asking for a commitment to be responsible for a “team” task. Boris Simkovich (Makefield) to create minute for consideration.

Newtown MM Annual Report given by Clerk Wendy Kane. Full Report is available.

Membership has grown by 15% over the past five years, currently at 235 adult members, 48 minor and 15 associate members. Numerous outreach efforts and opportunities for involvement with the meeting community were described. Report raised the question: What is the reason for the growth? Response given was one reason is a coordination of events with Newtown Friends schools and that meeting events publicized, such as discussion on the book “The Big Disconnect”

Camp Onas Annual Report given by Tom Olson (Middletown MM) for Paul McAndrew (Lehigh Valley MM). Annual Report available. Camp has had full enrollment.

Consideration for camper openings are first given to returning campers. 18% of campers are Quaker. Camp has new Directors, Holly and Matt Hecht. Information provided on

Camperships. Middletown MM will be having an informational session on December 1 at 12:30. There are still openings for full meeting representation on the Camp Onas board.

Friends Home and Village report was given by Mary Ann DuGann, Executive Director.

Background to FHV provided. Friends Home Started in 1897 as a boarding home for Quaker Woman in Newtown. Building is 117 years old. In the 1970 donation of land outside of Newtown resulted in building of Village. FHV is now licensed to provide home care. FHV is now connected with Friends Life Care. There are vacancies on Board which is 100% Quaker comprised. Residents are around 20% Quaker. In response to a question, FHV considers a senior as someone who is 62 years old or older. While FHV is not a Continuous Care community, they do take people back from rehab. A number of comments from persons present that FHV is a caring community.

Budget Report given by Betsey Bayardi (Wrightstown MM). Investigation completed as promised on overage on Administration line item. She reviewed the possible causes of such an event. First, misallocation of expense was not the issue. Second, unexpected one time such as computer expense were noted. Third, Increase in unit of service, such as mileage or postage was not an issue. Increase in cost of unit of service was at first not considered an issue, but upon closer look both printing and phone costs had increased. Scheduling of billing for expenses was another minor reason. Some lessons that were learned were that book keeping is good and that we need to increase budgeting for printing and phone. Committee is looking for ways to review expenses as part of the process of paying the bills. It would help reduce expenses if more persons received Quakerphernalia electronically.

Treasurer's Report given by Tim Dwyer (Bristol MM). Contributions have been received from individuals plus Solebury and Yardley Monthly Meeting toward the Additional Contributions line item which closed the budget gap of approximately \$3,500. Receiving of contributions from Meetings is in line with prior history. Personal expense line item is at 49% due to pension payment that was made to PYM. Treasurer has a new phone number to be reached at: 257- 795-7195. He would appreciate text messages.

Nomination request was made by Betsy Bayardi asking the Quarter for help to fill the need for successor to the current Treasurer and an Assistant Treasurer. Boris Simkovich was presented for approval as the person to be slated as the new Clerk of the Quarter. Meeting approved.

Announcements:

- Thanks for Fallsington for hosting last Quarterly Meeting. Middletown will be hosting Quarterly Meeting in February.
- Plumstead will be having a Thanksgiving Day worship service.
- PYM General Secretary Search Committee is still welcoming applications for the position.

Minute regarding Peace Fair read by Boris Simkovich (Makefield MM and incoming QM Clerk)

MINUTE 1

The Bucks Quarter Peace Fair, held each year in the fall on the Buckingham Friends campus, is one of the Quarter's most important outreach events. Attendance at the Fair is both strong and growing.

Although the Fair is under the care of Bucks Quarter, it has been staffed primarily by volunteers from Buckingham Friends Meeting and Young Friends from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM).

This approach to staffing, however, is no longer viable – in part because of the Fair’s growth, and in part because PYM is no longer able to support participation of PYM Young Friends to the same extent as in the past. Thus, unless an alternative approach to staffing the Fair can be found, it will not be able to continue, and will need to be laid down.

The Quarter therefore requests that each of its monthly meetings consider

- Appointing a member or attender of the meeting to be on the Peace Fair organizing committee
- Taking on, as a meeting, responsibility for one of the 5-6 main activities required to prepare for, publicize, carry out, and wind down the Peace Fair (a list of such activities, with approximate time commitments, is attached)

The Quarter also requests that each of its monthly meetings provide feedback to the Clerk of the Quarter by February 1, 2014 about the meeting’s ability to assist with the Fair’s planning and organization in the ways outlined above.

This feedback will then be reviewed by the current Peace Fair organizing committee so that a decision about the Fair’s future can be made at the Quarter’s meeting for business on February 16, 2014.

Minute approved.

Closing comments by outgoing Clerk Amy Brimmer: Clerk wanted to use this opportunity to fully express her appreciation to Holly Olson as Coordinator who is the main reason that Bucks Quarter is seen as an example for other Quarters. She asked us to keep in mind that we need to support the smaller meetings in the Quarter. There are also some committees within the Quarter that need more involvement and support in addition to Board Member involvement of local Quaker organizations. She expressed her gratitude for all that she has learned during her two years as Clerk and for the constant support from Friends that she experienced.

Meeting closed with a period of silent gathering at 2:45.