

BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING
First Day, May 20, 2012
Held at Wrightstown Monthly Meeting

Clerk: Amy Ward Brimmer (Fallsington)

Recording Clerk: David Rose (Lehigh Valley)

Meeting began with a period of worship at 1:05 PM

Roll Call of Meetings: Bristol 4, Buckingham 1, Doylestown 2, Fallsington: 7, Lehigh Valley 2, Makefield 2, Middletown 2, Newtown 1, Plumstead 0, Quakertown 1, Solebury 1, Southampton 0, Wrightstown 4, Yardley 1

Minutes of February 2012 Quarter Meeting approved with the following corrections: 1. Doylestown did not bring a minute to last Quarterly Meeting, but rather a concern regarding PYM Finances. 2. Wrightstown Yard Sale profits were not designated for PYM. 3. The Clerk was not the one to make the suggestion that a Peace Committee Clerk Support Group be established.

Clerks Comments: Appreciation expressed to Solebury MM for hosting last Quarterly Meeting and the Called Session.

Stories of Vitality and Growth

- Wrightstown Yard Sale raised \$1500.
- Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting had a successful retreat in the Poconos with 54 people of all ages attending. Marcellus Shale has been the Social Concerns focus with two trips to Tioga County organized in conjunction with a local group.
- Quakertown is part of Interfaith Hospitality Network.
- Fallsington has an Outreach Committee. A number of Friends have volunteered and a website has been created.
- Solebury has had a number of interesting fundraising events for Mercer Street Friends. Speaker from MSF came for pancake breakfast with maple syrup from trees on the grounds of the Meetinghouse.
- Makefield has a new sign utilizing design from Quakertown NJ. Meeting also has Facebook presence. Some discussion resulted about promoting a Quaker presence on the web.
- Wrightstown has a remodeled upstairs and has started a midweek Meeting for worship.

Report of Coordinator: Holly Olson (Middletown MM) gave the report (written report available).

Inreach section gave an overview of the Meeting Support groups that have meet during the past few months including groups for Meeting Clerks, Religious Education Committees, and Peace and Social Action Committees. The suggestion from last Quarterly Meeting that a Quarter Peace Committee be looked into was followed up by the Peace Committee Clerks at their meeting. They decided to meet again for mutual support but not to constitute a separate Quarter committee. Outreach section noted that the Middletown Grange Fair is coming up in August and that volunteers will be needed to staff this outreach effort.

Lehigh Valley MM Annual Report given by Fran Dreisbach (written report available). The report provided the follow-up to the Quaker Quest program which was held last year. A result of the program has been a reevaluation of the forms of internal communication utilized, such as website and video display of announcements. Meeting members are connected through a variety of social opportunities and shared concerns.

Fallsington MM Annual Report given by Melanie Douty-Snipes (written report available). Meeting has decided to confront issue of declining attendance and has formed an Outreach Committee. Both internal and external communication has been improved. Efforts have also been made to make the

Meeting look more inviting through a new paint job. Financial issues created a budget process that was a community building experience through a special session to answer, “What Are We Called to Do?”

Bristol Friends Annual Report given by Paul Shaffer with excitement, enthusiasm, and optimism. Events at meeting extended from the old, a “rededication” of the burial place of a Civil War colored soldier by re-enactors to the new, the installation of central air. The meeting is in the process of becoming a full Monthly Meeting and has established a relationship with the Hispanic population by providing a meeting place for a newly established Puerto Rican church.

Treasurer’s Report given by Treasurer Tim Dwyer (Bristol MM). Written reports provided were: 1. BQM Revenue and Expenses as of 5/17/2012. 2. BQM Budget for 2012-13 FY, 3. BQM Anticipated Monthly Meeting Payments, 4. Assets and Liabilities as of 5/17/2012. After discussion on amount currently in reserve and the outstanding financial commitments from Monthly Meetings, the Clerk expressed the general sense of the Meeting to encourage the Treasurer to send a prudent amount of our outstanding commitment to PYM prior to the end of the fiscal year. Amount to be left to the discretion of the Treasurer.

Budget FY 2012-13 presented by Betsy Bayardi (Wrightstown MM) of Budget and Nominating. There has been a change this year in creating the budget. This year the dependent variable in creating the budget changed from the Quarter to the PYM Contribution. This meant that the budget process considered the Quarter obligations prior to considering the PYM contributions. After discussion, the following two issues were presented for decision:

- Budget as presented for FY 2012-13: **Approved.**
- Budget presented based does not include final amount from two Monthly Meetings. If Meetings decide to contribute over amount given in budget, the increase will be put in the line item for PYM Contribution: **Approved**

If there is a budget surplus at the end of the current fiscal year, consideration of applying it to the PYM contribution will be taken up at August Quarterly Meeting.

Nomination: Betsy Bayardi of the Budget and Nomination Committee presented a “Succession Proposal”, otherwise known as “Nominating Recommendation”. BQM should have a person in line as a “Rising Clerk” to assume the Clerkship. To assume the Clerkship in 2014 Boris Simkovich (Makefield MM) was recommended. Recommendation accepted and **Approved.**

Stretch break provided.

Clerk’s Report to PYM highlighted by the Clerk. She commented about the wide variety of ways that we work to create community and nurture each other in Bucks Quarter. She noted that there were two groups left out from the report provided that will be included in the final report: Peer Networking support groups left out Pastoral Care and Newtown Friend’s School was omitted from Quaker educational organizations. She said she wanted to lift up our Coordinator, Holly, because much of what we are able to accomplish is due to her.

Called session of April 1st regarding the PYM Budget. The Clerk took the opportunity to relate the outcome of the BQM Minute resulting from the Called Meeting of April 1, 2012. The Clerk was pleased with the process and felt that we sought to be guided by the Spirit. The minute was accepted by PYM and will be part of the process for approving the budget by being sent out with the draft budget to all monthly meetings. It was noted that some of the things we asked for have already begun being implemented by Financial Oversight and Financial Stewardship.

Minute from Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting, regarding Pennsylvania House Resolution 535, was read by David Rose (Lehigh Valley MM). The minute points out that the wording of HR 535, declaring 2012 the “Year of the Bible” violates the Pennsylvania Constitution on religious liberty by declaring the Bible, through government proclamation, the “Word of God” and directing all citizens, regardless of their personal religious belief, to “study and apply the teachings of the Holy

Scriptures". The **Minute was approved** and will be forwarded to PYM for its consideration.

Quarter Clerk will contact PYM Clerk to determine way to proceed.

Quaker School in Horsham Summary Report given by George Rowe. The report listed some of the events that are used to honor a particular segment of their community.

Chandler Hall Annual report given by Betsy Bayardi. Some of the challenges that they are facing result from the reduction in housing prices. Many people arriving are already past the stage of manor care living.

Oversight Committee Annual Report given by David Rose (written report available). The report indicated that this year the Meetings scheduled for Performance Evaluation input will be Quakertown NJ, Solebury and Southampton

Announcement time provided

Quarterly Meeting concluded at 3:30 pm with a period of silent worship.

Next Quarterly Meeting will be held on August 26th at Bristol Meetinghouse.