

BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

February 15, 2015

Held at Quakertown NJ Monthly Meeting

Clerk: Boris Simkovich (Makefield)

Recording Clerk: David Rose (Lehigh Valley)

Friends gathered in the meetinghouse at the appointed hour of 1:00 p.m. and settled into a period of worship.

Welcome expressed by Clerk to those that came out on a very cold winter day.

Agenda reviewed, adjusted and approved.

Roll Call of Meetings: Bristol: 0, Buckingham: 1, Doylestown: 0, Fallsington: 1, Lehigh Valley: 6, Makefield: 3, Middletown: 2, Newtown: 3, Plumstead: 2, Quakertown: 3, Solebury: 1, Southampton: 0, Wrightstown: 2, Yardley: 5

Minutes of November 15, 2014 reviewed, adjusted and approved.

Stories of Vitality and Strength. Time set aside for sharing

- Wrightstown MM is having a program this coming Sunday about mass incarceration and racial reconciliation. Will be having an auction for the Nursery School. Progressive Dinners are going strong.
- Plumstead MM had a new stove to heat the meetinghouse. Winter Get-together provided an opportunity for members to showcase their talents at charades.

Coordinator's Report given by Holly Olson (Middletown MM). Complete written report available.

Inreach portion reported on Christmas events, Holiday Sing at Friends Village, Quarterly Meeting documents becoming available on the web, Child Safety new mandated requirements (refer to Coordinator's Report for a list of the requirements from a NOVA workshop she attended) the New Year's Day Skating Party, and the PYM called meeting on racism.

Outreach portion contained notice that we have over 100 likes on BQM Facebook, planning for the Peace Fair, Quakerism in a Nutshell on March 21st and PYM Community Calendar suggestions for posting.

Misc. reports from her participation in the Western Quarterly Meeting and update on Kirkbride Estate.

New Pennsylvania Child Safety Law and Potential Quarter Training Session

Clerk introduced two persons in attendance, Tricia Coscia (Yardley MM) and Bill Hoblin (Plumstead MM), who could answer questions Friends may have about the new Pennsylvania Child Safety requirements and how they would affect meetings. Tricia Coscia spoke first as PYM Volunteer Coordinator. She has been spending a lot of time recently on this issue and is in the process of updating the PYM Handbook for working with youth. She provided her current understating of the law and informed the Quarter that if Meeting has been doing background checks they have a grace period to meet the new requirements till July of next year. If a Meeting has not been doing background checks new requirements need to be in place July of this year. PYM has been doing background checks at the request of Meetings. New requirement is fingerprinting and three background checks required if applicant has not lived Pennsylvania for ten consecutive years. Eventually any meeting should be able to access their own background checks. PYM has not officially changed its policy of providing the service to the meetings but knows that the additional requirements will cost some additional money. **Question** asked if background check done for other purpose can be used. **Response:** Teachers who have a current background check can use their approval as teachers. **Question asked:** How will you be notified if cleared? **Response:** They are on line for you to print out plus PYM gets notification. The decision is with each Meeting if they will use PYM as a

resource. Plumstead's Child Abuse policy was shared by Bill Hoblin who works for NOVA (Network of Victim Assistance). He stated that each meeting should have its own policy. Friends may use the Plumstead Policy, but it should be individualized.

www.keepkidssafe.pa.gov website is an important resource to help create a policy. One of the major changes in the current law is who is a "Mandated Reporter". He provided "Minimal Facts Interview Guidelines" for mandated Reporters. Friends were in support of a training on the new Child Safety Law being provided Quarter wide from NOVA

Break

Quakertown MM Annual Report given by Rich Talian. Complete Report available. Quakertown participated in Hunterdon County's Tricentennial on September 20th and received many visitors. Improvements done to the First Day school building and the meetinghouse were possible due to an unrestricted bequest received. Meeting continues to be involved in helping with a number of international and area agencies.

Treasure's Report given by Ed Snyder (Yardley MM). Full written report available. He noted that income line item for "Additional Contributions" of \$7,363.00 used to balance the current budget is at 0% received.

Draft Budget for 2015-2016 presented by Ed Snyder. Full written report available. He shared his experience in finding out that getting financial commitments from Meetings is a different process for each Meeting. The Draft Budget amount of \$271,929.00 is \$8,149.00 less than expected income of \$263,780.00 based on current information.

Nomination Committee report given by Betsey Bayardi (Wrightstown MM). Nomination Committee is looking for some name suggestions for the Clerk to follow Boris Simkovich noting that traditionally a female follows a male Clerk. She also reported that Friends Home and Village is still in need of Board Members.

Friends Home and Village: Tyler Hoff (Yardley MM), CEO, gave report. Full written report is available. He has been in the job now since July 2014 and reported on some of the things that have happened since then and some of the things that he would like to see happen in the future. He was happy to report that FHV has greatly improved its occupancy rate and is financially sound. He announced that a large fund raising effort will start shortly to replace the current, over 100 year old, elevator in Paxson Hall. He restated his goal of connecting FHV to the community and making it more visible, both in the area and throughout the community of Quakers.

Doylestown MM Annual Report was not read as no representative from the Meeting was present. Full written report available.

Outreach Report given by Kellie Schluskel-Edens (Yardley MM). Complete written report is available. Her report contained information on the development of a Quarter Outreach Idea Manual, Quarter Facebook page, PYM workshop presentation, Quaker Tent at Grange Fair, and the "Quaker Table in a Box". She encouraged increased participation in the work of Outreach and informed the Quarter that the committee will need a new chair next year as she is moving west, far west.

Makefield MM Annual Report given by Boris Simkovich. Full written report available. He reported that although Makefield is a relatively small meeting that it is a healthy community with a deep worship experience. Members are very involved in the life of the Quarter and other Friends institutions. He described this past year as diverse with some new activities undertaken and other usually scheduled events that did not occur.

After announcements and appreciation expressed to Quakertown for hosting Quarterly Meeting on such a frigidly cold day, **meeting ended with a period of worship at 3:00 p.m.**

