

**Bucks Quarterly Meeting
Of the Religious Society of Friends
May 15, 2016
Held at Fallsington Meeting**

Clerk: Boris Simkovich (Makefield)

Recording Clerk: David Rose (Lehigh Valley)

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

Welcome given by Clerk: Appreciation to Fallsington Friends for hosting Quarterly Meeting and providing a wonderful morning program and a delicious meal.

Agenda reviewed and approved.

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

Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2016 reviewed and approved.

Stories of Vitality and Growth shared:

- Southampton has offered the use of the Meeting to a group which helps refugees with citizenship classes.
- Middletown: This coming weekend will be a very active one at the meeting since their “Movie Night” is on third Saturday of the month and there is also a Car Wash Fund Raiser organized by the first day school children. Funds are being raised for a small parochial school in Camden.
- Fallsington Meeting hosted a Elizabeth Von Trapp concert at the Meetinghouse with over 150 persons present. Sallie Gordon was welcomed as a new member.
- Buckingham dedicated the Margaret Richie memorial tree.
- Lehigh Valley Retreat at Spruce Lake in the Poconos gathered over sixty Friends for the weekend.
- Ad Hoc Group to Support Small Meetings has continued its work while Boris Simkovich was busy and unable to participate. He was very encouraged when other members stepped up in his absence.
- Makefield Games Night had been attracting new members from the Quarter and community. Due to the work involved, there was consideration to lay it down during a period of low turnout which has since revived and now they are glad it is not laid down.

Report of the Coordinator of the Quarter given by Holly Olson (Middletown MM)(full report available) Inreach portion gave accounts of Games Night, Caregiver Training, update on Grange Fair/Peace Fair changes, Newtown Meeting’s Book Club, Quaker Woman’s Social Hour and Kellie Schlusel-Edens’ farewell party. Outreach reports included meeting of BQM Outreach Committee, Quakerism in a Nutshell. She also gave information on upcoming workshops on Mass Incarceration, PYM Continuing Sessions workshops attended, and the organizing of CBICASRF (Central Bucks Interfaith Coalition to Adopt a Syrian Refugee Family).

Lehigh Valley MM Annual Report read by Rick Dow for Ted Morgan. (full report available). “A rich and meaningful” meeting for worship continues to be center of spiritual life and community with many activities noted that express the strength of the community. Of

special note was the recent Meeting Retreat, the work of the Social Concerns Committee and programs and presentations promoting racial understanding.

Quaker School at Horsham Annual Report given by the new Head of School Alex Brosowsky. (full written report available) Alex reviewed the fundamental purpose for the founding of the school in the early 1980's to teach students who are not being served in typical environments. This purpose remains the same however how they get their students, and the type of student they receive, has changed over time with current students having numerous issues that need to be addressed. Student enrollment has increased 25% this past year, a reverse of the decline in enrollment over the past few years. He noted that a continuing challenge is to find ways to continue the services that their students need as they transition into High School.

Break at 2:07

Buckingham Annual Report given by Bethann Morgan for Tim Cunningham. (full written report available) She noted that good inreach creates a welcoming environment which results in more effective outreach. As with most meetings, they struggle with time and energy. To help in this struggle, they hired a first day school teacher last year who moved on and they are now looking for a replacement. Having a Friends school on the property is both a blessing and an "opportunity". Much care and concern is needed to nurture those who are involved with the school.

Chandler Hall Annual Report given by Betsy Bayardi (Wrightstown MM), Board Member for Lynette M. Killin CEO. (Full written report available) She highlighted the repurposing of space and the reallocation of resources that has been occurring throughout the past year. A new program, called "Try for 30 days" which suspends long term commitment for 30 days has become a good source of conversion from Trial to long term care. She spoke of the board's difficult decision to close down the Child Development Center and indicated that they are working to find a solution.

Membership Development Support Fund Committee of PYM announcement given by Kellie Schlüssel-Edens. They have not been meeting because they have not been getting any requests. The money is still available for short term projects of \$500 and long term \$5000.

Bristol Annual Report given by Paul Shaffer. (Full written report available) Meeting is small and a decline in attendance has resulted in Meeting for Worship only held on the day of Business Meeting. They are looking forward to meeting with the Ad Hoc Group to Support Small Meetings to find ways to revitalize and grow the meeting. He described an outreach idea which has received a positive response from the local community and would involve the creation of a disc golf course in Bristol. See Paul Shaffer for further details.

Treasurers Report and FY 16-17 Proposed Budget presented by Ed Snyder (Yardley MM). (Full report providing updated Profit and Loss, proposed budget for FY 16-17, and current Balance Sheet available). Ed reviewed the Profit and Loss report through March 2016 and advised that taking into consideration the varying schedules for expenses and income, we are about where we want to be at 75% of the fiscal year reported and projected that our budget will be in balance at the end of the current fiscal year. Betsy Bayardi joined him for a review of the FY 16-17 proposed budget. After a review and explanation of changes in income and expenses from the current budget, the Clerk asked for approval. **BQM Budget FY 16-17 approved as presented.**

Fallsington Annual Report given by Amy Ward Brimmer for Jonathan Snipes. (Full written report available.) Meeting is engaging in Outreach through hosting events and making connection with other groups. Inreach fun times together include contra dance, singing, Friendly Eights, and lunch together after meeting. Social activism also plays an important role in the meeting. Meeting has recently instituted a policy regarding latecomers. Latecomers enter the meeting room when the first day school children exit.

Oversight Committee for the Coordinator Annual Report given by David Rose (Lehigh Vally MM). (full written report available) Committee expressed appreciation to the Quarter for the support given to Holly Olson during a trying time this past summer. Quarter Clerk followed up the report with the observation that the health of the Quarter is expressed in the involvement of Friends in the work of the Quarter, especially through Budget and Nominating, Oversight Committee, and Clerk's meetings.

Following announcements of upcoming events, Quarterly Meeting closed with a period of silence at 3:10 pm.