

**Southeastern Yearly Meeting
Executive Committee Meeting 3/19/08**

The Executive Committee (EC) convened at the Yearly Meeting Gathering held at the United Methodist Life Enrichment Center, Fruitland Park FL. The meeting started with a period of silent worship.

EC members and committee representatives attending were: Nancy Fennell, clerk of EC and Interim Business Meeting; Sybil Ann Brennan, Assistant clerk; Ed Lesnick, Recording clerk; Susan Taylor, Yearly Meeting clerk; Caroline Lanker, clerk of Finance Committee; Wendy Geiger, clerk of Worship & Ministry; Herb Haigh, clerk of Trustees; Steve Kinney, clerk of Gathering Committee; Andrea Walsh, Gathering registrar; Dan Vaughen, Nominations committee clerk; Becky Steele, Peace and Social Concerns Committee clerk, and Lyn Cope, Administrative Secretary.

Others who attended were Tom Fennell, Ellie Caldwell, Ed Hotchkiss, Barbara Letsch, and Mark Grantham.

Not present were the Youth Committee clerk, Half Yearly Meeting clerk, Treasurer, Faith & Practice clerk, and Young Friends clerks.

Following introductions, IBM and EC clerk, Nancy Fennell, offered greetings. The agenda was distributed and approved.

Caroline Lanker gave the Finance committee report. Caroline updated the information in the Documents in Advance (DIA), pages Net income is shown as \$2,800. As of March 14, net income is -\$5,500. This was expected because of SEYM contributions scheduled and made to other organizations. Monthly meeting contributions continue to be received; about two-thirds of meetings have submitted their apportionment. Although, the fiscal year is nearly over, meeting contributions tend to increase between Yearly Meeting gathering and the end of SEYM's fiscal year. Final income expenses should break even.

The Finance Committee will consider the 2008-2009 budget in detail at the committee meeting on Thursday (3/20).

Since the DIA, a reconsideration of meeting apportionments and expected individual contributions will be made. Because of stock market conditions, expected dividends for the upcoming fiscal year will probably go down 6 to 7%.

This may necessitate a recommended increase of 3-4% in meeting apportionments instead of 2%. Certain costs are fixed; e.g., liability insurance. We are committed to a cost of living adjustment for the secretary.

There are also proposed increases yet to be approved: (1) increase in the EC/ IBM budget, (2) a Peace and Social Concerns Committee request for \$350 for (to be) selected donations, and (3) a decision on how to determine representative travel costs to FWCC and FUM gatherings. Further information is available in the *DIA*, pages 6 and 9.

Nancy Fennell asked for a consideration of budget problems faced by monthly meetings. Also, given the circumstances, EC can forego an increase as earlier discussed. EC concurred. A suggestion was made to shrink the budget. Both the EC and YM clerks saw a problem with removing the FUM line item because of the intent to keep communications open between SEYM and FUM.

Lyn Cope gave the Administrative Secretary's Report. The report to the EC appears as Attachment 1: Administrative Secretary's Report.

On pages 23-24 of the *DIA* is a proposal on Publishing Consultants and Guidelines, including background leading to the proposal. Following discussion, including the proposal's application to other areas; e.g., web/online publications, the need to keep the process as "simple as possible," the EC approved the following minute for the yearly meeting's consideration.

08EC02 EC recommends for approval by the Yearly Meeting the *Proposal and Guidelines for Publications Submissions* as attached to allow SEYM Publications to publish manuscripts other than the Michener Lecture, Walton Lecture, and *Faith and Practice*.

Susan Taylor, Yearly Meeting clerk, offered comments and concerns.

We look forward to a gathering not filled with distractions but held in love and grounded in worship. It is important to begin our sessions on time. A worshipful approach will be benefiting all. The YM clerk suggested a letter from SEYM to Kenyan Friends in support for peace and non-violence. The item was referred to the Peace and Social Concerns committee.

Nancy Fennell gave the EC – IBM clerk's report. As her term is about to end, Nancy referred to the Nominating committee report in the *DIA* page 10. Dan Vaughn stated, "I would like to suggest that some appropriate committee of the YM consider whether having two separate clerks for yearly business meetings is necessary." The result may be one clerk for EC, IBM, and YM.

Friends discussed the clerk's responsibilities, how roles differ among yearly meetings, the origin and rationale of SEYM's structure, and what is possible both in the short and long term. It was mentioned that neither the YM nor IBM – EC clerk have an eldering process to assist them. As the alternative to traditional eldering, the two clerks can be supportive of one another. Also, any current difficulty in enlisting new clerks may be due to the yearly meeting, interim business meeting, and assistant clerk positions all expire (and begin) in the same year. Caroline Lanker saw the diffusion of leadership as positive, an avoidance of a hierarchy or dependency upon the few. Others felt the current structure provides openings for more members to serve SEYM.

EC is led to continue with our current organizational structure and not to consider further discernment at this time.

The clerk distributed an SEYM list of possible workshop leaders and presentation resources for use by monthly meetings and possibly others. This list will appear on the SEYM web page. The clerk will keep this project under her care. Eventually, either a reconstituted education committee or Worship and Ministry Committee may facilitate this project. (The Religious Education Committee is currently inactive.) More information will be forthcoming in the *SEYM Newsletter*.

The fall EC meeting and Interim Business Meeting will be hosted by St. Petersburg MM.

Sybil Ann Brennan, Assistant clerk, spoke of her role as shepherd of representative travel and her experiences as a delegate from SEYM to FWCC.

A concern was raised whether SEYM should give complete financial support to a traveling representative. It was pointed out that the *Representative Travel Guidelines* do not specify a dollar amount or cost percentage which SEYM would reimburse.

On the opening day of the annual gathering, Steve Kinney, Gathering clerk was pleased to report that all was in place. The new registration process will expedite Friends' arrival at the LEC. Fourteen visitors from around the U.S. are registered.

Gathering income and expenses should balance. The committee clerk states there needs to be more clarity regarding scholarships; i.e., SEYM subsidized registration costs.

Ellie Caldwell spoke of event scheduling. The Friday and Saturday workshop sessions *Enspiriting Our Work With Young People* were emphasized for its value and importance.

Among final comments, it was announced the *Michener* Lecturer for 2009 will be Marcelle Martin. Mary Ellen McNish, Executive Secretary for the AFSC, will be the 2009 *Walton* workshop leader and lecturer.

The EC meeting concluded with silent worship.

Secretary's Report **to EC 03/19/2008 to be held at the Life Enrichment Center**

This report describes activities that have taken place since WIBM-2008.

General office activities following WIBM-2008:

Routine office work continues. Thank you to those of you who are using the 321.729.0078 line for voice during regular business hours. The 321.734.1162 line continues to provide both phone and fax but the new fax machine interferes with incoming calls. Currently there is no phone in the office receiving voice calls on that line. FYI, my cell phone is: 321.960.0319, but this is for-use at events only phone.

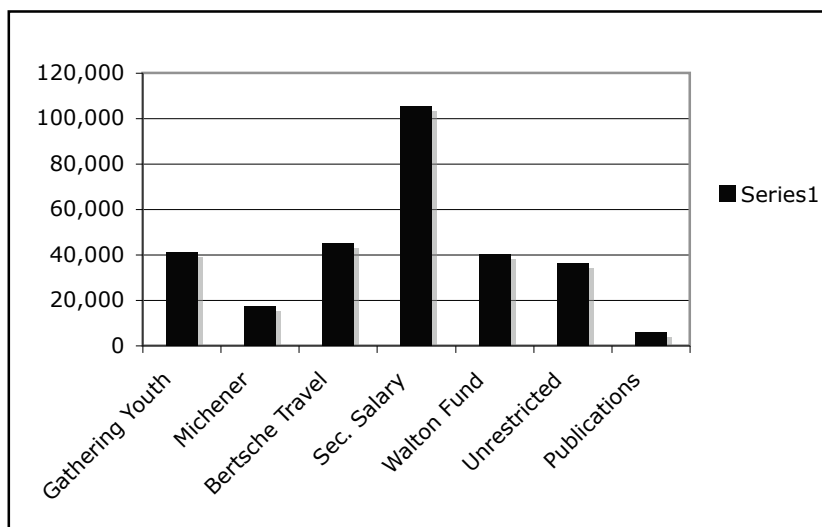
Financial/Bookkeeping:

The books were closed Friday 03/14/2008 prior to YBM-Gathering to allow Financial Reports to be synchronized. Expenses, including donations to organizations, to date have been approximately \$59,300. Eight meetings have paid their apportionment donations for this fiscal year in full: thanks **Miami, Winter Park, Clearwater, Ft. Lauderdale, Sarasota, Lake Wales, Tallahassee, and Tampa**. Five meetings have contributed partial apportionment/donations: thanks **Orlando, Ft. Myers, Palm Beach, Space Coast, and St. Petersburg**. Meeting donations to date are \$42,576 (of the budgeted \$63,010 or nearly 68% near the end of the third fiscal quarter). Generous individual donations of \$2,885 (budgeted \$3,100) have been received. Gracious HYM donors gave much food and transferred \$261 in addition to the \$400 for event insurance to the GF. Dividend income for this fiscal year is \$7897 from the Secretary's Salary and Bertsche Outreach Travel Endowment Funds. The Clerk of Finance and Treasurer will go into greater detail.

The Michener Lecture showed a net income of \$638. Speaker Steve Smith, on principle, donated his \$500 honorarium and generous donors helped cover the cost of food. This money has been invested in the Michener Endowment Fund.

Publications are in the black. Since WIBM, an additional \$540 in sales bring the net profit to date to \$2005 for this fiscal year.

The trustees have transferred the Gathering Youth Endowment Fund dividend of \$1,027.92 to the Gathering Committee for youth meals and expenses. Thanks to all who donated to this fund *and who continue to donate*.



■ Funds invested in
Friends Fiduciary
Corporation as of
03/14/2008

Publications (Print and Electronic):

Following WIBM, the YBM-DIA and the SEYM Spring Newsletter were bulk mailed. Due to increasing costs of bulk mail, the YBM-DIA was sent to approximately 300 recipients. The Newsletter was bulk mailed to all members and attenders as listed in the *Directory 2007-2008* and should be arriving in your mailboxes momentarily. Pamphlet/booklet sales continue to be brisk to FGC Books and to Pendle Hill. Due to such brisk sales, Niyonu Spann's 2007 Michener Lecture, *Letting Go of Illusion* will go to the printer for a second print-run on Monday prior to YBM-Gathering 2008!

By popular request, a selection of sizes and colors of Lion & Lamb logo sweatshirts were screen-printed prior to HYM. These will be available at YBM-Gathering should we happen to have cool weather or should you wish to be prepared the next time we do! SEYM Publications is also accepting Special Screen Printing Orders. If you wish to have a particular style (sleeveless, T-shirt, or Sweatshirt), size, or color, please jot your request down and slip it into the Publications cash box.

- Please review the YBM-DIA, pages 22-24, with the content additions/corrections as requested by EC for the proposal for *Publishing Consultants and Guidelines*. A minute of request for approval is also included for your consideration. Note that three qualified persons, as specified in this proposal, have agreed to have their names brought forward to the Nominating Committee.

Website:

The <www.seym.org> website is current with organizational details. Michael Shell continues to do an outstanding job keeping current peace and social concerns web pages. Ft Myers and Ft. Lauderdale (?) are designing new web pages to be hosted free on the SEYMmeetings.org site. Those meetings that do not yet have a web presence are reminded that the SEYMmeetings.org site-hosting is one of the benefits SEYM offers.

New Concerns:

- With renewed chatter regarding building community, following HYM and my trip to Pendle Hill, and with recommendation from Pendle Hill, I talked with Ken and Katharine Jacobson, formerly of Pendle Hill and Olney Friends School. They graciously conferred with me via phone regarding feasibility of this project and the appropriate process. They recommended that a clearness committee of 6-7 be named for this concern/leading. I emailed the nineteen people who have expressed an ongoing interest. As of Friday, March 14, 2008, three people have stepped forward to be on the Clearness Committee. FYI: if you are interested in learning more about a planned community, in addition to the letter to the Editor, article, and websites listed in the SEYM Spring Newsletter, *The Cohousing Handbook, Revised Edition, Building A Place for Community* by Chris Scotthanson & Kelly Scotthanson is highly recommended. If a sufficient number do not step forward for the Clearness Committee, this concern/leading will be laid down.
- No other new concerns other than those expressed at the WIBM EC committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Lyn Cope, 03/19/2008