

Executive Committee Meeting
Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
6/13/2009

The Executive Committee (EC) met at the Tampa Meetinghouse, Tampa FL, Saturday, 6/13/2009 from 10:00 to 1:15pm.

Executive Committee members present: Becky Steele, EC and Interim Meeting clerk; Susan Taylor, Yearly Meeting clerk; Gary Arthur, Assistant YM clerk; Ed Lesnick, Recording clerk; Treasurer Neil Andersen; Nancy Triscritti, Worship & Ministry co-clerk; Phoebe Andersen, Faith & Practice clerk and Membership Recorder; Caroline Lanker, clerk of Finance committee; Mary Jo Klingel, Nominations committee clerk; Ellie Caldwell, YM Gathering clerk; and Administrative Secretary Lyn Cope.

Also present were: Jack Bradin, Trustee; Andrea Walsh, YM and HYM Gathering registrar; Barbara Letch, Committee for Earthcare clerk; Kay Lesnick, Orlando MM, Steve Kenney, Tampa MM; and Nil Wilkins, Tampa MM.

The meeting began with silent worship followed with greetings by EC and IBM clerk, Becky Steele. Tampa MM was thanked for accommodating EC, including refreshments and lunch. Following introductions, the meeting's agenda was approved.

Neil Andersen gave the **Treasurer's report**. Neil provided the preliminary results for the 200-2009 (June 1, 2008 through May 31, 2009) Fiscal Year: cash flow and budget and balance sheet.

Cash Flow and Budget

The General Fund for the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year ended with a positive cash-flow of approximately \$3,406.92, resulting from a total income for the fiscal year of \$75,243.41 offset by total expenses for the fiscal year of \$71,836.49 including the inter-fund transfers to the Gathering and the Triennial Travel funds. Both total income and total expenses including transfers were less than their budget of \$76,855 for the General Fund for the year.

In response to annual apportionment requests for the fiscal year, the Meetings and Worship Groups contributed a total of \$62,517.86 to the General Fund, amounting to 97% of the total apportionment request of \$64,514. Of our 21 affiliated Monthly and Preparative Meetings and Worship Groups, 14 contributed their full requested apportionment or more (Thank You!), and 4 more contributed more than 85% of their requested amount. The participation rate was 90%.

Unrestricted donations received from individuals totaled \$2,105.00, or 66% of the budgeted request of \$3,200.

Most of the expense line-items in the General Fund were kept at or under the Budget during the year, in part due to the diligence of our Administrative Secretary and in part due to suspected under-reporting of expenses that assuredly did occur in categories such as Committee Operations and Representative Travel. A transfer of

\$1,092.84 was required to be made to the Gathering accounts to allow the total expenses for that program to be met. All of the budgeted donations to other organizations were completed.

Notable results in other areas during the year included a Half Yearly Meeting surplus of \$520.54 which was transferred to the General Fund, a Michener Lecture surplus of \$652.90 which was transferred to be invested in the Trustee's Fund for that function in accordance with standing policy, and a Publications "paper-deficit" of \$213.23 caused by an unrealized loss of \$642.96 in the Publishing Fund investments account.

For all the accounts except the Trustees, the total combined net income for the Fiscal Year was approximately \$3,193.

Balance Sheet

Discussions have been continuing since the Executive Committee meeting at the recent Yearly Meeting business sessions about developing a way to separate the accounts of the Yearly Meeting from those of the Yearly Meeting Trustees, for purposes of reporting Balance Sheet and other results. Until this issue is resolved, the Treasurer of the Yearly Meeting can only report that during the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year, the combined assets of the Yearly Meeting and its Trustees decreased by approximately \$30,780 (to approximately \$326,980), primarily due to market fluctuations in the Restricted Endowment Funds and Unrestricted Funds.

Consideration was given to the status of the relationship of two worship groups to SEYM. Golden Isle WG was assigned to be under the care of Jacksonville MM and Key West is under the care of the YM. Three questions arose: (1) Do Golden Isle and Key West wish to continue a relationship with SEYM as constituent members of the yearly meeting? (2) How does the YM assess the monthly meeting apportionments knowing Key West and Golden Isle have been non-contributors to SEYM's apportionment requests? (3) Is it possible for a worship group or meeting to remain affiliated without making contributions?

Caroline Lanker, Finance committee clerk, in gently pursuing financial support from the worship group has received negative and harsh replies. Wendy Gieger and Susan Taylor were graciously welcomed by the group a few years ago.

The primary contact between the yearly meeting and Golden Isle, Friend Maud Tucker, is in poor health, and other attendees retain membership and identity with the yearly meetings that hold their memberships and where they reside during the summers. Maud, who is a member of Orlando MM, has been a benefactor to SEYM.

Recently, there has been minimal contact with and no contributions from Key West WG.

Briefly, Friends shared their understanding of laying down or reading out groups from SEYM. Also, the status of Halifax and Ocala Friends as unaffiliated participants in SEYM functions was clarified. Halifax and Ocala are listed separately for membership purposes.

The Finance committee would like to take Golden Isle and Key West out of the apportionment computations since these worship groups are not responding as constituent members of SEYM. The Treasurer stated the dropping of the two worship groups from the apportionment calculations will mean an approximate increase of \$120 to the larger monthly meetings and probably no increase to the smaller meetings and worship groups.

Other Friends recognized the dilemma, but wish to reach out in an effort to find closure or an accommodation.

0906EC01 The YM clerk will contact Key West and Golden Isle worship groups regarding their interest to continue affiliation with SEYM. For the 2009-2010 FY Budget, Key West WG and Golden Isle WG will not be included in calculating apportionments.

Lisa Stewart, Palm Beach MM member and SEYM observer to FUM has requested assistance for her three-month sojourn to Kenya, which begins in June. Palm Beach discerned Lisa's leading and noted their approval at business meeting in May.

Lisa has established relationships with Kenyan Friends. She will be providing administrative relief and assistance while engaging in dialog with Kenyan Quakers as a non-programmed Friend. It was stated that this is a "ministry in earnest," one which EC should act upon now.

0906EC02 Recognizing and responding to Lisa Stewart's call to ministry as an unprogrammed Friend among Kenyan Friends, EC approves a contribution of \$500 to this ministry in support of her living expenses during the trip. This contribution will come from the contingency line item in the SEYM budget.

The **Administrative Secretary's report** is included as an attachment to the minutes.

Permission to use the SEYM child abuse prevention materials by Gainesville Friends School:

0906EC003 EC gives the Gainesville MM school committee permission to use the SEYM child abuse prevention materials for the proposed Gainesville Friends School.

Considering upgrading the SEYM website calendar to multiple-use (under advisement from Finance Committee which has yet to discern correct approach) was referred to committee.

Consider encouraging naming clerk-assistants and or officer-assistants to help when one is incapacitated or unable for any reason [see Sec. Report] was set aside until October's EC meeting.

The EC clerk will review the *SEYM Personnel Policies* draft, provide recommendations, and email to EC for further comment.

Introduce review of role of Trustees as in the old F&P (as it impacts 501c3 and liability issues). The Finance Committee and Clerk of Trustees and Connie Brooks met at YBM-2009 to discuss the complexities of this issue. This item was set aside for continued consideration.

It was announced Herb Haigh is organizing a guided 10-day trip to Great Britain for September 2010. The cost is estimated to be under \$2500/person for travel, lodging, admissions, and perhaps breakfasts. More information will be forthcoming in the *SEYM Newsletter*.

The YM **Clerk's report** was offered by YM clerk Susan Taylor. Susan noted the need to continue discernment regarding SEYM's relationship with FUM while awaiting a reply from the FUM board. In the spirit of the minute passed at YBM, there is a commitment on SEYM's part to continued communication. SEYM newsletter and FUM visits to our YM Gathering are two ways to keep communication ongoing.

IBM Clerk Becky Steele requested EC to consider the location of the Fall Interim Business Meeting. The FIBM will be held at the Palm Beach meetinghouse, October 2-3, in Lake Worth.

Mary Jo Klingel, committee clerk, gave the **Nominating Committee report**. Mary Jo is Grateful by the wonderful help and support she and her committee have received in identifying Friends who might serve SEYM.

The Nominations Committee seeks two additional members to serve on the committee. This was referred to the Naming Committee: Susan Taylor, Herb Haigh, and Ed Lesnick.

Ellie Caldwell offered the **Gathering Committee report**. With some minor adjustments to be determined, the 2009 Gathering showed a loss of \$1029. This continued a three year short fall compared to surpluses early in the decade. There were about 200 attenders during the surplus years. Recently, attendance has been in the range of 150 to 165.

For 2010, there will be more flexible plans for meals and housing. One option is a selection of one meal per day.

The Walton lecturers will be Betsy Neale and Richard Mitchell. Their topic is "The Historical Jesus."

Workshops and interest group planning will begin soon. Consideration is being given to conducting the Healing center on Thursday and Friday from 1 to 5pm.

Evaluations of the 2009 Gathering is still being analyzed

Nancy Triscritti, co-clerk, reported for **Worship and Ministry**. Nancy updated the EC on the inter visitation program. SEYM is divided into four regions to facilitate the process. A number of friends, including nine from Tampa, four from Tallahassee and one from Miami, have shown interest in this initiative.

Nancy and co-clerk Wendy Gieger request ideas and suggestions.

The third draft of the *Proposal for Revising the SEYM Apportionment Process* was distributed. It will be considered at a subsequent meeting.

Following lunch provided by Tampa MM, Cece Yocum facilitated a workshop on “self care.”

The meeting for worship with an attention to business concluded with silent worship.

Secretary's Report to EC 06/13/2008 to be held at the Tampa Meeting House

This report describes activities that have taken place since YBM-2009.

General office activities following YBM-2009:

Routine office work continues. Unfortunately due to illness or absence on the part of significant committee clerks, officers, or their families, some necessary information and details have not been made available to the office. Friends are reminded that the flow of information is interconnected. The role of any given yearly meeting is to receive and provide requested service and information and for others to assist in providing that information when someone is incapacitated.

Financial/Bookkeeping:

The books are not yet formally closed for fiscal year 2008-2009 but much work has been done toward accomplishing that goal. HYM-2008 contributed \$520 to the General Fund. Michener Lecture Donations of \$755 were received and invested in the Michener Lecture Endowment Fund held by Friends Fiduciary Corporation. The dividends from this fund go toward the expenses of bringing in the following year's speaker(s). In addition, the other Trustees-managed funds contributed the following:

- 1) \$5,693 to the General Fund toward the Secretary's salary,
- 2) \$2,450 to the General Fund from Bertsche Outreach Travel Endowment Fund for representative travel expenses,
- 3) \$2,229 from Gathering Youth Endowment Fund—this covered the 1/2 the cost of all youth meals for those ages 10-18, and total meal costs for those under the age of 9, and
- 4) \$2,170 from the Walton Endowment Fund toward the cost of the lecture and facilities rental.

The YBM-Gathering's expenses were greater than income. Funds to cover the shortfall have been transferred from the General Fund in the amount of \$990 to cover this shortage. One meeting (thank you) paid their apportionment contribution for FY 07-08 and FY 08-09's which enabled the General Fund to come in on budget. Fourteen meetings contributed their full share toward the approved FY 08-09 budget. Thank you. The Clerk of Finance and Treasurer will go into greater detail.

The committee to review how apportionment contributions are figured hopes to meet this summer:

Minute 08EC 03 EC "appoints Jean Larson, Gainesville MM, as a member of the Ad hoc Apportionment Review Committee. Other members of the committee are Caroline Lanker, Phoebe Andersen, and Neil Andersen."

In the mean time for bookkeeping purposes, the office has assigned each meeting an arbitrary percentage. *Remembering former Clerk of Finance Annie McPherson's jolly good sense of humor, this futile exercise is in lieu of her suggestion that an alternative might be to request that each person submit a bank statement to his or her meeting that will then compile the financial status of all members and attenders, submit that to the Clerk of Finance who could then determine an equal and fair share!*

Publications (Print and Electronic):

The membership recorder has now compiled the data for *Directory 2009-2010*.

YBM-2009 Minutes are being compiled by the YM Clerk and will be posted on the web when available.

YBM-2009 epistles have been sent electrically around the world; bounced back address corrections were sent

to the membership recorder.

The newsletter promises to be full of images and content.

The Michener and Walton Lecture pamphlets will be transposed and printed this summer.

Website:

The <www.seym.org> website is current with organizational and archived reports. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee web pages continue to provide information for the heart and soul. Please use this wealth of information for personal and meeting enrichment.

New Concerns:

- Increasing concern for the physical health of SEYM committee clerks, officers, or their families may require us to consider providing designated assistants and/or understudies to step in and to allow time for healing and so that tasks are accomplished in a timely manner so as not to impact the work of others who are dependent on their data. [A great example is Ed Lesknick's request for designated Assistant Recording Clerks. Two other examples come to mind: the smooth transition this year on the Gathering Committee, and the anticipated smooth transition next year on the Finance Committee.]

Respectfully submitted by Lyn Cope, 06/09/2009