

**Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
Southeastern Yearly Meeting
1/15/2010**

The Executive Committee (EC) met at the Orlando Meetinghouse, Orlando FL, Friday evening, 1/15/2010

Present: Susan Taylor, Yearly Meeting clerk; Gary Arthur, Assistant YM clerk; Nancy Triscritti, Worship & Ministry co-clerk; Caroline Lanker, clerk of Finance Committee; MaryJo Klingel, Nominations Committee clerk; Herb Haigh, Trustees' clerk; Ellie Caldwell, YM Gathering clerk; Andrea Walsh, YM and HYM Gathering co-registrar; Barbara Letsch, Committee for Earthcare clerk; Catherine Puckett, Youth Committee; Lisa Stewart, FUM observer; Steve Kenney, Tampa MM; and Nil Wilkins, Tampa MM; and Sybil Ann Brennan, FWCC representative.

Also present were Davida Johns, ProNica; Jack Bradin, FCNL and committee for Earthcare; Peter Crockett, St. Petersburg MM; and Mimi McAdoo, Trustee.

Ed Lesnick, Recording clerk, Niel Andersen, Treasurer, and Phoebe Andersen, Faith & Practice clerk, sent their regrets about being unable to attend the EC meeting.

As Assistant YM and IBM clerk, Gary Arthur was acting clerk for the session. Susan Taylor was acting Recording clerk.

The meeting began at 7:10 pm. with open worship. Clerk prayerfully asked us to be present with one another and stay centered in worship as we addressed the business at hand.

Following introductions the agenda was approved as amended. A FWCC recommendation to contribute to Haitian earthquake relief was referred to Peace and Social Concerns in order to minute our concern from the Yearly Meeting and to recommend action to be taken.

No amended **personnel policy** was available to discuss.

Finance Committee: There were no additions to what is reported in *Documents in Advance*. The Committee needs input from Committee clerks as to how much money they need.

The **Secretary's report** was read aloud. A secretary's report appears in the Documents In Advance (DIA) and as an attachment to these minutes. The wedding of Becky Steele, IBM and EC clerk, and Doug McCown was observed as a nice event. The wedding in the manner of friends was held January 9, 2010 in the St. Petersburg Meetinghouse.

Administrative Secretary Lyn Cope's report also included: (1) The original estimate for the Secretary's life insurance is now inadequate; and (2) Rent for SEYM office in the Secretary's house has not been raised for the past 10 years. The Finance Committee will address these two concerns.

Worship and Ministry Committee is grateful for the support of Orlando Meeting. Everything is in order for the Michener lecture.

YM Clerk Concerns: Regarding our SEYM youth, the clerk will attend Gathering Committee meeting, 1/16/10

The clerk spoke of how to move forward with SEYM relationship with FUM . The YM clerk shared from her experience in October with FGC Central Committee, the importance of Committee structure at FGC and the Central Committee in resolving, in the spirit, difficult issues. She requested a Committee to craft a working minute to be presented at YM Gathering in the spring to provide structure for way forward.

The Clerk discussed the Spirit-based threshing session held earlier in the day on the relationship between SEYM with FUM and felt an opening on way forward with this ongoing concern. Mary Jo Klingel, Herb Haigh, Ellie Caldwell and Jack Bradin were appointed to craft a minute to be presented at Interim Business Meeting.

Gathering Report: Ellie Caldwell and Catherine Puckett reported. A critical issue is our SEYM youth. Friends previously involved on Committee are no longer able to serve. Catherine Puckett has been led to clerk, but needs additional members and support on the Youth Committee.

It was stated Gathering teachers miss being a part of morning activities at YM Gathering. Suggestions were requested. With wee Friends, perhaps a different person each day could lead a session. Young Friends need a program. As times have changed, working parents do not have the time nor energy to work with children at YM. It is important for YM to put prayer and thought into this concern.

Ellie Caldwell, Gathering Committee clerk, suggested there should be guidelines for teens at YM Gathering and crafted a draft of five stipulations. We need to be more responsible with our teens and communicate clear expectations. It is important for teens to be involved. EC discussed the concern.

A request was made for EC to approve 1 adult and 2 teens from SAYMA (Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association) to lead the teen program with adult support from SEYM. SEYM would cover all costs. A consistent adult presence is necessary. Yet, it is difficult to find adults from SEYM to be with teens.

Acting clerk stated a sense that EC approves the plan with SAYMA. Gathering Committee will bring a minute forward to Winter Interim Business Meeting, 1/16/10.

The need to promote the Gathering in monthly meetings was discussed.

A request for Nicaraguan teen, Marian Torres, to come to YM Gathering as a cross-cultural exchange with her mother and have SEYM cover costs for Marian, including airfare. Teens can fundraise. It is important to be tender with Marian because some Nicaraguans have experienced not wanting to return after being in U.S. There is such a huge cultural difference. It was suggested that teens who went to Nicaragua in 2009 pay her expenses. Teens would reimburse ProNica for the airfare cost.

EC approved the following minute:

01EC10 EC recommends that Marian Torres, Nicaraguan teen, be invited to attend 2010 YM Gathering as part of a cross-cultural exchange between Nicaraguan and SEYM teens. SEYM teens will be asked to raise half the necessary funds and SEYM will match their contributions. Pro Nica organization will make the travel arrangements.

SEYM-FUM: As approved at the Fall IBM and announced in the *Documents In Advance*, a threshing session was held on the afternoon prior to the EC meeting.

Mary Jo Klingel read a working minute regarding SEYM's relationship with FUM to be presented at WIBM on Saturday. (See WIBM Minutes, 1/16/10)

The minute will be presented in a worshipful way. It will be sent to all monthly meetings as information.

02EC10 Having experienced a worshipful and gathered threshing session over the concern of our Yearly Meeting's relationship with FUM, Friends present at that session expressed the desire to bring forward a minute to be considered by the YM body. It is the sense of the Yearly Meeting Clerk that this minute describes where our YM is with regard to this issue. We ask WIBM to approve distribution of the following working minute. With your approval, this minute will be sent to monthly meetings to inform them of what will be brought forward to YM sessions 2010.

The meeting closed at 10:20 p.m. with open worship

Secretary's Report to EC 01/15/2010 to be held at Orlando Meeting House

This report describes activities that have taken place since EC Meeting, 10/02/2009.

General office activities during the fall and early winter:

The most delightful event this past quarter is the wedding-ceremony celebration of IBM Clerk Becky Steele and ProNica Board member Doug McCown, St. Petersburg, this past weekend.

Routine office work continues throughout the week, with an attempt to be more mindful of taking appropriate evening and weekend time for renewal. To encourage eye-health, it has been especially important to intersperse tasks away from the computer with tasks that require the computer. The former include the daily runs to the post office and to the bank and warehouse as appropriate.

Due to incompatibility between the fax machine and phone, the fax-phone line will only be connected when notified of incoming faxes. The preferred phone number for SEYM continues to be 321.729.0078 solely used for SEYM and includes phone book listings; personal phone/fax line is 321.724.1162.

The office has enjoyed regular and ongoing communication with Clerk Susan and Gathering Clerk Ellie regarding several issues. Half Yearly Meeting [HYM] was very very successful this year with fabulous camaraderie and food prepared lovingly by numerous people. As need arose, cleanup volunteers miraculously appeared. HYM is truly one of the ongoing highlights for those able to attend.

Financial/Bookkeeping:

Routine financial bookkeeping is up to date.

This fall, I had to spend considerable time figuring out the new national Electronic Federal Tax Payment System [www.eftps.gov] due to the fact that banks are no longer allowed to be intermediaries in collecting and submitting 941 taxes. A password protected account has now been set up to enable direct electronic transfer for the IRS 941 tax payment. To complicate things further, without notification, the IRS blocked 4th quarter payment [reason too large], requiring the quarterly 941 tax to be paid in two installments, one in Dec. with remainder dated January! Henceforth, the 941 tax will be paid monthly. The SEYM accountant has received appropriate records for end of year tax preparation for quarterly payment and W-2 form preparation. SEYM is appreciative for meeting apportionment contributions.

The Trustees are again encouraged with the value of the FFC Funds holding better than might be expected and are appreciative of Friends' and Meetings's donations. Domini is recovering its value.

Website:

The SEYM website <www.seym.org> content is up to date. Michael Shell continues to do a thorough and thoughtful monthly update on The Peace and Social Concerns web pages. The office is particularly appreciative of his inspirational selections for the month, and for his careful consideration of content. I would like to encourage Friends to consider if someone might step forward to create a monthly Worship and Ministry webpage with advices/queries for meetings, or with ideas for topics for adult and/or youth enrichment.

The online registration form for HYM had to be updated this year for security purposes. The online registration form for YBM-Gathering 2010 is presently being updated with code being written and tested. The goal is to have it up and running by the end of this month.

Publications (Print and Electronic):

The white cover "draft" *Directory 2009-2010* has caused a flurry of submissions for corrections. At least a half a dozen meetings have submitted corrections before the January 30 deadline. The office's goal is to have the corrected copy in print and available for distribution to meetings and individuals at Yearly Meeting to encourage wider distribution and save considerable expense in mailing.

Walton Lecture 2009 is nearly ready to submit to printers. The Michener Lecture draft manuscript still requires work. A first manuscript has been submitted by a SEYM author to the office and forwarded to the Publication Consultants for consideration for publication under the SEYM guidelines approved in Minute 08YBM09. The secretary wishes to refrain from enthusiasm until the publications consultants have reported, but will report that the submitted manuscript provided personal recognition and laughter. Look for newsletters to resume shortly.

New Concerns:

Budget: the office requests that SEYM Finance Committee consider increasing office 'rental' reimbursement or to pay the increasing monthly charges. It should be noted that the monthly rent reimbursement has remained static for the past 10 years at \$100/month. This amount was originally budgeted to cover the cost of land lines, utilities, and rental of off-site warehouse storage. The utilities cost is approximately 1/6 of household utilities charges or \$550/year. The warehouse prices are grand-fathered into an upstairs, no elevator unit that costs just over \$650 /year. Phone lines cost \$840 /year or approximately \$34-36/month per phone. Additional costs include maintenance, household insurance, and taxes.

In addition, Herb's original estimate for health insurance 2-3 years ago was \$5000. Unable to obtain it until September of that year, the budgeted amount for the following year was reduced. Health care costs have increased annually, and approximately 3 monthly payments were not covered fiscal year 08-09, and approximately 4 months will not be covered this FY.

Endnote:

I wish to again thank SEYM and SEYM members and attenders for providing such a special work environment and such great personal support as I continue to deal with sight issues. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted by Lyn Cope