

Executive Committee Meeting
Southeastern Yearly Meeting
September 30, 2011

The Executive Committee (EC) meeting began with Open Worship at 7 PM. in the Sarasota Meetinghouse, Sarasota, Florida. Attending were:

Ann Jerome, Executive Committee (EC) and IBM clerk	Warren Hoskins
Joel Cook, Assistant clerk	David Johns
Phoebe Andersen, Yearly Meeting (YM) clerk	Mary Jo Klingel
Ed Lesnick, SEYM Recording clerk	Caroline Lanker
Neil Andersen, Treasurer	Dustin Lemke
Lyn Cope, Administrative Secretary	Kay Lesnick
Sybil Ann Brennan	Mimi McAdoo
Ellie Caldwell	Ann Sundberg
Peter Crockett	Susan Taylor
Nancy Fennel	Nancy Triscritti
Tom Fennell	Andrea Walsh
Rolf Hanson	Nil Wilkins
Carl Hersh	

Out of the silence, Ann Jerome, EC Clerk, gave welcoming remarks.

Lyn Cope, administrative secretary, reported. [See also, the attached *Secretary's report*]

Lyn Cope explained how the "journal" format, compared to a "newsletter," provides a means to exchange ideas and an opportunity to know one another by our writings.

With the popular use of electronic communications, printed newsletters often become outdated by time of delivery. News about Friends and their activities would better be conveyed through a regular, online update in newsletter form. SEYM, following the lead of other yearly meetings and FGC, will use the company Vertical Response. This service will provide templates and up to 1000 free mailings per month. The two recent SEYM *Journals* have contributed to a greater awareness.

Members are encouraged to submit articles, art, graphics and photographs. It was noted that communication, relationships, and attitudes toward the SEYM's monthly meeting apportionment are inter-connected.

A member brought to Friends' attention that communication with SEYM members who do not have electronic mail, Internet connection, or simply choose not to use the technology. It was stated there are very few members in this category, and each year there number decreases. However, in order to serve these members needs, the following minute was approved:

11EC05 EC requests each monthly meeting provide SEYM electronic communications as printed copies to the individual members and attenders who desire them.

Committee objectives and responsibilities were discussed. The collaborative roles of the Worship and Ministry committee and membership support were discussed. Of particular concern was the process of assisting members in times of personal crisis. The Saturday interest group sessions (following the business meeting) was suggested a suggested venue to develop thoughts and share leadings on these matters.

In a discussion of apportionments, the role that inter-visitations can play and various other methods of communicating SEYM's message to monthly meetings and our Quaker community were brought forth.

Given the current economy, apportionments may become a rising issue. Also, the manner of computing current apportionments needs to be reviewed in terms of the equity and fairness of the calculations. Ideas for new membership categories, such as associate, m seasonal, and corresponding membership. Currently, there are adult members, child membership, and attender categories.

The administrative secretary asked Friends to consider a "care and community" committee to provide aid and comfort to those members who may seek assistance due to a particular need. Viewpoints included: making this a charge of the Worship and Ministry; recognizing that such needs are addressed in monthly meetings, and/ or by individuals known to the applicant; and there are differences between emotional support and professional care.

Following an explanation of the difference between the Nominating and Naming committees [See SEYM Handbook], Susan Taylor gave the Nominating Committee

report. Among changes are Mimi McAdoo and Karl Hersh to Trustees. Karl is the new clerk of Trustees. Nancy Rose Logan will serve as a representative to FWCC. And a Gathering committee clerk is needed.

Friends were requested to consider the length of terms, and possible changes to assuage any negative aspects of ending or beginning a majority of committee members' terms concurrently. [Attachment: Nominating Committee report presented and approved at Yearly Meeting]

Treasurer Neil Anderson offered a financial summary. Given the time of year and the budget calendar, spreadsheet data is incomplete. A \$3,000 YM Gathering surplus was transferred to the Youth Gathering fund. Not unexpectedly, the General Fund is -\$500; \$200 from the Michener fund has been transferred to the Trustees. Currently, there is an overall net worth increase of 7%.

Phoebe Andersen presented a Faith and Practice update. She spoke of a project whereby certified, professional librarians have composed a bibliography rating Quaker books in specific categories, including youth, new and old members.

The new, approved SEYM Faith and Practice has been completed. Sections appear on the SEYM website. The full document will be published in the summer of 2012.

Warren Hodgkins, Peace & Social Concerns clerk, gave a preliminary report. He noted the committee would have a full agenda Saturday morning. Included in the report will be a statement about Bank of America's problems and policies. Friends have been provided information about why SEYM should remove its funds and end its transactions with the Bank of America.

The meeting ended in silent worship.

Secretary's Report

to EC 09/30/2011 to be held at Sarasota Meeting House

This report describes activities and requests since EC Meeting 06/11/2011.

General office activities summer of 2011:

Office work turned toward publication-production with the first issue of *The SEYM Journal* featuring social concerns, committee activities, and milestones. It was a getting-to-know-us issue. The intent was to introduce *The SEYM Journal* by us, about us, and for us. The second issue provides spirit and arts. Just mailed, it may arrive prior to FIBM. Submissions to *The SEYM Journal*, SEYM's creative compilation, offer each member or attendee the opportunity to submit articles, poetry, artwork, queries, concerns, book reviews, large resolution photos, recommended websites, etc.

An objective this FY is to create community through communication and publications. A gathering to tape Cathy Gaskill, turned into a Swarthmore reunion with four graduates from three meetings sitting around "the office" dining room table to share a meal provided by Space Coast Friends.. The following day, Cathy shared a letter from an SEYM Friend, who after reading *The SEYM Journal* shared reminiscences of a shared location.

After researching online newsletter services, Vertical Response is used by FGC and other Friends' organizations. Vertical Response offers "free" services to non-profits (1000 emails/month) with minimal costs for add-ons. The objective is a monthly newsletter that provides a synopsis of and replaces many of the forwarded emails from the office. Meeting clerks will then be released from the obligation to forward communications to their members/attenders—a request that seemingly was burdensome. Recipients may "unsubscribe," and new attenders not listed in the *Directory* may subscribe at no cost.

Financial/Bookkeeping:

Treasurer has received data required for the *SEYM Annual Financial Report 2010-2011*.

A donations envelope, as requested by EC, was included in the first two issues of *The SEYM Journal*.

Regarding keeping funds in the Bank of America, BOA continues to provide courteous, convenient services. I had suggested to Warren Hoskins that he propose to the Finance Committee that SEYM create a General Fund Savings Fund invested with Friends Fiduciary Corporation. A portion of the savings presently held in BOA could be transferred and remain accessible, albeit invested in securities.

An example of needed flexibility is that the Gathering Committee just signed a contract with the Life Enrichment Center requiring a 4K deposit. Since this event has not yet occurred (no deposited registration fees), the Gathering Committee "borrowed" from the QBP bank account line item 501. All this is done virtually within QBP; it is my job to be aware of income and expenses so that sufficient monies are available to float expenses. Whereas this is bookkeeping and not banking, local BOA staff understand that multiple deposit slips of sometimes rather small donations or publication payments reflect various virtual SEYM QBP "classes"/accounts.

I/we do understand the dilemma regarding BOA; all banks appear problematic to some degree. How do we discern the value of green (use of fuel to other banks), convenience (secretary's hours) in time and bookkeeping, and safety in making deposits in multiple event-locations with the right use of the world's resources?

Website:

I anticipate working on the website in October and Nov. prior to the next issue of *The SEYM Journal* and the WIBM-DIA. My goal is to create drop-down menus, simplify the home page, and make website accessible on multiple devices.

Publications (Print and Electronic)

Directory 2011-2012 was produced and mailed to all members. Reports have been very positive.

Three booklets/pamphlets have been published and are available for purchase at FIBM.

Two issues of *The SEYM Journal* have been produced. Extra copies for your meeting will be available for pick up at FIBM. I am pleased to announce: Wendy Geiger is collecting Milestone submissions; Kathy Hersh has volunteered to be an acquisitions editor, meaning that she will encourage submissions and accept and edit submissions prior to sending them to the office; Ellie Caldwell continues to volunteer to be final copy editor—a vital job. There is still room for 2-3 more people to offer assistance in acquisitions and editing.

A NEW most exciting editing opportunity is helping with the new online monthly newsletter. This would include receiving forwarded emails from the office and sorting through/editing/assisting to create a one-page monthly email. Any volunteers? Or do you know of any one who might be interested?

Appreciations and a New Request:

I wish to thank those who have expressed concern this past year. Friends who faithfully stepped forward to accept clerkships and committee work are vital. Your numbers increased this past year. Several of you willingly provide clarity and encouragement—thank you. Accolades need to be declared in several instances; I try to thank you personally, you are the back bone of a vibrant yearly meeting.

My request?

To encourage EC to consider creating a new committee with a minimum of 3-4 qualified persons: a **Care & Community Committee**. Unprogrammed yearly meetings have no paid ministers; therefore, in stressful situations, members increasingly turn to the office. I care deeply about care and community—it is the lifeblood of a yearly meeting. Sadly, a single-staffed task-and-deadline oriented office is not available 24/7.

My SEYM support committee [Nancy Fennell, Cecilia Yocum, & Ann Jerome] provides such a great deal of care and community that I wish SEYM could replicate that support for members who in any given instance may need care and information, too! **This is not counseling; this is not spiritual seeking; this is support in decision making, and often consists of listening and encouragement.** And, it is delightful to be able to chat. We just need a focused few who are willing to be called and **who have been selected through the nominating process.**

Summary of Requests:

- Please attend EC Meeting, Sept 30, at Sarasota Meeting House for “Questions, Answers, and Brainstorming with Secretary” [see FIBM-DIA 2011].
- Please consider request for a Care & Community Committee.

Respectfully submitted by Lyn Cope