

## **Secretary's Report to EC 01/16/2009 to be held at Orlando Meeting House**

**This report** describes activities that have taken place since EC Meeting, 10/03/2008.

### **General office activities during fall:**

Routine office work continued as would be expected. The fall provided a great flush of activity regarding Friends' passions for PEACE and EQUALITY, and how those concerns would be reflected in the 2008 election. Many were seemingly consumed and called or emailed the office with updates of their efforts. Apparently I insufficiently vetted several emails before forwarding. Cognizant of the fragility of our 501(c)3 status, I did catch several partisan endorsements but apparently I missed a couple. I had also forwarded the report of the PEACE March where Martha Morris, Warren Hoskins, and I, at times, were walking beside my local congressional candidate (pictures without names appeared in the local press). FCNL, the Quaker Lobby which represents all branches of Friends, and the Peace and Social Concerns Committee did a good job keeping the office apprised of concerns and often emailing suggested actions.

### **Financial/Bookkeeping:**

Hoping that the QBP records were finally reconciled proved not to be true—there is still a flaw buried somewhere in the program that refuses to be routed out. This flaw fails to recognize the previously reconciled month's figures. Curious... The final five(?) transactions needed to be completed to enable closing several past fiscal years should be completed by WIBM.

FYI, no action required, as of Dec. 31, new US government rules eliminated deferred non-profit 403b employee investments for small organizations. Therefore the SEYM employee managed Pax Fund is defunct.

### **Publications (Print and Electronic):**

Publications are enjoying brisk sales. As we neared the half-way mark in the fiscal year, income has surpassed the cost of printing/reprinting the three pamphlets published this summer. Unless requested to do otherwise, the only publications materials that I plan to bring to WIBM will be the pamphlets. Sales for the screen printed cloth items were not sufficient at FIBM to warrant transportation (carting them downstairs and upstairs in the warehouse). With Orlando Meeting House's limited space and need for food service space, it seems wise not to intrude. I will have a full complement of t-shirts, etc. at YBM.

A sufficient number of submissions has now been received to enable me to proceed with the next newsletter.

### **Website:**

**Please use the SEYM website <[www.seym.org](http://www.seym.org)>.** The SEYM calendar has links to event-directions, agendas, etc. The 'Library' folder has links to DIAs, Minutes, and more. The **Financial folder** provides current budget and apportionment information.

### **New Concerns:**

The office received a request to consider making out-of-print SEYM lectures available for free downloading from <[www.universalistfriends.org](http://www.universalistfriends.org)>. Unfortunately many of our out of print lectures were reproduced by fast copy and are not of adequate quality to scan. Therefore, if we are interested, we need the following:

1) volunteer(s) to retype the manuscripts, and 2) to give permission for on-line availability. Please advise.

Secondly, increasing concern is being expressed regarding the undercurrent within our meetings/yearly meeting to being an affiliate under FUM. It is more than spiritual semantics causing distress—it is a sense

of challenged integrity. The depths of differences need to be acknowledged. Because of our history and melding together of two totally different forms of governance, we have a conflicting inheritance. This may be easier to accommodate in a natal family or small meeting than in a community of over 900 members and attenders. FGC and FUM are diametrically opposed in prescribed doctrines. In 1900, FGC's mission and avowed purpose was to supply Hicksite meetings with useful First-Day School materials and programs. Its YM associates are respected as equals in deciding which programs, committees, and services will be offered to all Friends and Friends' groups. FUM's mission and avowed purpose is to give pastoral support to its meetings and churches throughout the world, "where Jesus Christ is known, loved and obeyed as Teacher and Lord." Friends belonging to meetings affiliated with FUM are under the authority of its Board. It is no surprise that meetings and this office are caught in the cross-fire of trying to be both a top-down obedient (FUM) member (affiliate) and bottoms-up (FGC) associate (affiliate) without causing distress to either organization or to ourselves.

Whereas the office's role is to listen, advisement is needed on which publication is appropriate for publication of these letters and reports, as presently being forwarded on the internet: the YBM-DIA or as a stand alone supplementary printout attached to the DIA? As newsletter editor, they do not seem appropriate for the newsletter. I refer questions about the YBM process to Clerk Susan.

### **Other related (or unrelated) information:**

HYM was reported to be very successful and greatly enjoyed. **HYM is truly SEYM's community-building activity.** I did not to attend HYM [my attendance is not required], but took advantage of the long holiday weekend to spend Thanksgiving with family in IL.

My focus shifted in December to getting well following a bout with pneumonia—I wish to thank EC for encouraging me to take the appropriate time to heal which allowed me to avoid hospitalization [our printer's wife was in hospital with pneumonia for five days]. I had to cancel a mid-month trip to Tallahassee to join Trustee Herb, Treasurer Neil, and Phoebe on a visit to members Lynn and Ginny Coultas regarding their land. They are also discussing purchase with Koinonia and the Bruderhof. Lynn and Ginny wish to encourage a community of like-minded people on their 40A. Their property is approximately 30 minutes from the Tallahassee Meeting House.

Also during my period of rest, I pondered and felt led to accept an invitation for a 3-year term to be on the Quaker Universalist Fellowship Steering Committee. For those not familiar with the Quaker Universalist Fellowship [QUF], it is a Quaker Organization that fosters understanding among people from the diverse spiritual cultures. QUF draws inspiration for its work from the traditional and respected statements of Quaker faith [see website]. Well known members include(d) Steve Angell, former SEYM Clerk and Walton Lecturer 2008, Dan Seeger, Michener Lecturer 2001, and George and Elizabeth Watson. I am choosing to be on the steering committee, not as a representative of SEYM, but as an individual who feels strongly led toward liberal Quaker Universalism.

Respectfully submitted by Lyn Cope,  
Administrative Secretary