

## **Southeastern Yearly Meeting Interim Business Meeting, 10/7/2006**

The Fall Interim Business Meeting of the Southeastern Yearly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends, gathered at the St. Petersburg meetinghouse, St. Petersburg FL, on October 7, 2006. Following morning worship, committee meetings were held. These minutes record the FIBM held in the afternoon. The numbered minutes appear within the narrative and as a separate attachment. [Attachment 1: Numbered Minutes, SEYM Fall Interim Business Meeting, 10/7/2006.]

The meeting began with silent worship. IBM clerk, Nancy Fennell, had welcoming words for Friends as they “settle in the Light and love.” The clerk read from the Young Friends of New England Yearly Meeting epistle. The possibilities Young friends and adults can achieve as they cooperate was the epistle’s theme.

The clerk proceeded with the **Roll Call of Meetings and Worship Groups**, including milestones. [Attachment 2: FIBM Attendees]. As the Roll Call of Meetings and Worship Groups proceeded, several milestones were noted.

- ❖ Deland PM and the Vaughens welcome a grandchild.
- ❖ Gainesville MM, Karen and Jim Porter celebrated a long awaited child adoption. Connie Ray presented a memorial minute for Eleanor Patrick, a founding member of Gainesville and a longtime Quaker activist. [Attachment 3: Gainesville MM Memorial Minute for Eleanor Patrick] Gainesville will be hosting an “Open House” for the community, area ministers, and those who constructed its new meetinghouse.
- ❖ Lake Wales WG is growing.
- ❖ Orlando MM noted the passing of member Ruth Lanning and the matriculation of Brittany Cahoon (Tufts University) and Annie Schmalstig (Rollins College).
- ❖ Palm Beach MM reported on the passing of Richard Broughton.
- ❖ St. Petersburg stated the loss of active members due to relocation, including Ruth Hyde Payne.

Following announcements and changes to the agenda, Dan Vaughen gave the **Nominating Committee** Report.

Friends’ attention was directed to the SEYM directory’s list of committee members, representatives, and current and future vacancies, Archives, Nominating, and Finance committees need increased membership participation. The committee clerk requested that those committee members, representatives, or officers whose terms expire in 2007 please notify the nominating committee if they are not led to serving another term.

Ed Lesnick gave the **Executive Committee** Report. The EC presented three minutes for IBM's consideration.

**06IBM05** FIBM recommends the clerk of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, clerk of the Youth Committee, clerk of Half Yearly Meeting, and the Membership Recorder as permanent members of the Executive Committee.

**06IBM06** FIBM recommends any remaining funds from the Yearly Meeting gathering, after all expenses are paid, be invested in the YM Gathering Youth Fund as has been done for the past three years.

**06IBM07** FIBM recommends any remaining funds from the Michener Lecture be transferred to the Michener Lecture Endowment fund.

Following discussion, Friends approved the aforementioned minutes.

At this point, Sybil Ann Brennan became presiding clerk.

Barbara French offered the **Worship and Ministry committee** Report. Friends were reminded of the "Thinking of You" cards being distributed. Attention was given to the Pendle Hill sojourner's scholarship, and the 2007 Michener Lecture. [See the Worship & Ministry Committee Report in the DIA, page 6.]

Nancy Fennell has been led to undertake a traveling ministry. As per practice, a traveling minute is required. Friends approved the following:

**06IBM08** FIBM of the Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends approves a travel letter for Friend Nancy L. Fennell, who will conduct workshops on conflict resolution within Quaker meetings.

Following approval of 06IBM08, Nancy Fennell returned as the meeting's presiding clerk.

Phoebe Andersen gave the **Faith & Practice Committee** Report. The new section on "The Yearly Meeting" has been sent to the monthly meetings for their consideration. This is the next to last section of the revised *SEYM Faith and Practice*, a revision that has taken over fourteen long yet loving years.

Among topics still to be completed are updates to earlier approved sections, bibliography, index, and glossary of terms. Also to be undertaken is a brief

history of the Quakers in the Southeast. A request was made for monthly meeting documents, including pictures, for the history section.

Steve Kinney presented the **YM Gathering Committee** Report. The United Methodist Life Enrichment Center has changed its accommodations and meal policies. There no longer will be simple meals, although the pavilion can be used by those camping. Regular room rental will include three meals a day in the LEC dining center. Dormitories will be upgraded. Registration materials will be forthcoming.

Friend George Newkirk has contributed to the cost of providing for the Walton Lecturer and workshop leader, Arthur Larabee.

Cece Yocum, **Peace and Social Concerns** clerk, presented her committee's report [A complete summary is in the *DIA*, Pages 4-5.] Friends were reminded of the counter-recruitment efforts of Palm Beach and Ft. Lauderdale and the reactionary activities of the federal government.

In consideration of the continuing oppression by many South American military forces towards their own people and our own government's willingness to train such forces, Friends were led to approve the following minute.

**06IBM09** SEYM encourages monthly meetings, worship groups and other Friends to join St. Petersburg MM Friends at the School of the Americas (a.k.a.) Western Hemisphere Institute for Strategic Cooperation) vigil, which is held the weekend prior to Thanksgiving every year in Columbus, Georgia.

As part of our Quaker Peace Testimony, we believe we must do all we can to end the U.S. government's involvement of training Central and South American armies, which have a history of turning their military forces against their own people.

The **Archives Committee** had no report. However, in the administrative secretary's report to EC, Lyn Cope mentioned several concerns regarding SEYM archives. The relevant section is included as Attachment 4: Administrative Secretary's report to the EC regarding SEYM archives.

Lyn Cope reported the **Handbook Ad Hoc Committee** is moving towards completion of the SEYM's operational and procedural handbook. Lyn also reported on the **Half Yearly Meeting**. Members and attenders are encouraged to

take part in the annual Thanksgiving weekend event at Wekiwa Springs State Park.

Davida Johns, stateside coordinator for **ProNica**, noted Ruth Payne's retirement and years of service to the organization. ProNica is outreaching to other yearly meetings, colleges, and youth groups. A complete summary of Davida's report appears as an attachment. [Attachment 5: ProNica Update]

Following distribution of the budget(s), Neil Andersen presented the **Treasurer's** update. The Budget vs. Actual 2005-06 FY showed a net income in the General Fund of \$4071.05. In the YTD (through 8/31) Budget vs. Actual 2006-07 FY (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter) there is a net income of \$6779.07. Income from individual and Meeting donations is \$2,775.26 more than expected at this time in the fiscal year.

Caroline Lanker commented on the **Finance Committee** report in the *DIA*, pages 3-4. The timely monthly meeting contributions and individual contributions from four families of \$2200 were noted. A \$5,000 gift to the newly renamed Bertsche Outreach Travel fund was given in memory of the Bertsches by their daughters. Edwin Bertsche was the acting clerk at the first sessions of Southeastern Yearly Meeting.

Following its distribution, Herb Haigh explained the major implications of the **Trustees'** Report. Net income for the first five months of the fiscal year is \$7, 132.42. Total equity as of October 4, 2006, is \$339,575.60.

Friends attended to the Reports to Representatives to Organizations

The **AFSC/SERO** report is in the *DIA*, page 7.

Herb Haigh reported that in spite of a large individual donation **FGC** still needs \$7 million to stay solvent. The conference will conduct a fundraising campaign.

There were no reports from **AFSC Corp, AFSC-EMAP, FCNL, FWCC, and FCC** representatives. **Friends Peace Teams** is looking towards a fundraiser.

Kody Hersh presented the **FLGBTQC** report. It is included here as an attachment [Attachment 6: Report on the summer gathering of Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns]. The Clerk thanked Kody, and noted how fortunate we are to have him as a representative.

Phoebe Andersen reviewed the activities of **Friends United Meeting (FUM) General Board** - Also, see *DIA*, pages 7-8. THE FUM General Board is in the midst of a strategic planning process. Also, in cooperation with other groups,

efforts go forth to obtain a medical insurance plan for Quaker organization employees.

Regarding FUM, its activities, and SEYM's ongoing concern. Phoebe requested Friends consider the queries presented in the SEYM summer newsletter, page 5. With the leading of the Sprit, these help SEYM, monthly meetings, and individual Friends continue with the discernment process.

This session's minutes were reconsidered and approved.

The meeting ended with silent worship.

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10/7/2006

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**As part of our Quaker Peace Testimony, we believe we must do all we can to end the U.S. government's involvement of training Central and South American armies, which have a history of turning their military forces against their own people.**

**06IBM10 Friends of FIBM offer a minute of appreciation to St. Petersburg meeting for generous hospitality, a delicious meal, and warm friendship. It is always a pleasure to be in this space with St. Pete Friends.**

## Attachment 2 - FIBM Attendees

### Clearwater

Day Peter  
Day Sue  
Rushforth Robert  
Zingaro Eileen

### Palm Beach

Caldwell Ellie  
Letsch Barbara  
Stewart Lisa

### Deland PM

Gaskill Cathy  
Vaughen Dan

### St. Petersburg

Grantham Mark  
Haigh Herb  
Haigh Pam  
Hotchkiss Connie  
Hotchkiss Edward  
Johns Davida  
Jorgensen Lynne  
Knobloch Barry  
Mahal Barbara  
Pihaylic Martha

### Ft. Myers

Fennell Nancy  
Fennell Tom  
French Barbara  
Webber Al  
Webber Marilyn

### Sarasota

Weston James

### Gainesville

Brennan Bud  
Brennan Sybil Ann  
Ray Connie

### Space Coast

Cope Lyn

### Lake Wales WG

Lanker Caroline

### Tallahassee

Andersen Neil  
Andersen Phoebe  
Taylor Susan

### Miami

Hersh Kody

### Tampa

Johns Davida  
Kinney Steve  
Mercer Cindy  
O'Shea Rod  
Wolfe Andrea  
Yocum Cece

### Orlando

Lesnick Ed  
Lesnick Kay

Attachment 3: A Memorial Minute  
from the Gainesville Monthly Meeting  
of the Religious Society of Friends

Eleanor Bangs Patrick  
1909 - 2006

Eleanor Patrick was a founding member of the Gainesville Monthly Meeting. Her husband, Rembert Wallace Patrick, had attended Oakwood School, which is a Quaker preparatory school, where Eleanor met him at a nearby resort. They graduated from Guilford College and were married in a Friends Meeting in New York.

Eleanor had a gift for serving others and the meeting. She offered hospitality to visiting Friends, including Bernard Walton in February 1952 and again in February 1953, as well as Harold Chance of the American Friends Service Committee at a later date. When the University of Florida would be closed for vacation, the meeting for worship was often held in her home. Frequently meetings for business, when they came to be held separately from meetings for worship, were also held in her home.

She was in attendance on March 16, 1951 with twelve others when a tea was held for Elizabeth Christ of Moorestown, New Jersey. Those present discussed the responsibility of forming a meeting. The group decided to meet for worship in a room at the university.

Eleanor attended the meeting in December 1951 when the Geigers and the Greenleafs came from Jacksonville and officers for the meeting were approved. She was also in attendance for the first appointed meeting to be devoted to business held on November 20, 1953. Up until that time business was conducted sporadically after meeting for worship.

Eleanor took an interest in the "negro nursery school," and reported on plans to raise money to finish the school. She attended the Ministerial Union. She joined with others in planning pot luck meals, particularly those with Jacksonville Friends and those at Lotte Graeffee's house.

In the spring of 1957 she was appointed to the clearness committee for a couple requesting to be married under the care of the meeting. This was the first Friends marriage in the state of Florida. The law permitting a marriage in the manner of Friends had been passed in 1953.

In April of 1961 she was appointed to the Ministry and Oversight Committee with Melvin Fregly and Louise Stone. During her year of service, the committee processed the applications for membership of John Mahon and Anita Read.

When the first meeting for business was held in the meetinghouse, on April 15, 1962, she was appointed to serve as "chairman" of the "Peace and Social Order Committee." During her year of service, she concentrated her efforts on the non-renewal of the Draft Law, which was due to expire that year. She made bumper stickers from the

“Women for Peace” available to people in the meeting. She was involved in the meeting’s efforts to collect clothing from the community for the American Friends Service Committee Algerian Relief Project. She continued to help raise money for the African American Bell Nursery.

In the fall of 1962, the Patricks donated an electric stove for the meetinghouse.

In April of 1963, she took on the job of producing the meeting’s newsletter and stepped down from being “chairman” of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. She helped with the program for a foreign student reception, arranged a forum discussion on the “Politics of Peace,” helped arrange a coffee for a Friends Committee for National Legislation fundraiser, and helped plan an evening lecture by Cornelius Kruse on “Quaker Programs at the United Nations.”

Eleanor’s husband, Rembert, was the first Graduate Research Professor of History at the University of Florida, and Chair of the History Department. When he was offered a position at the University of Georgia in 1965, he accepted, and the family moved to Athens. “For him to go to the University of Georgia, was a real coup for Georgia,” says David Chalmers, University of Florida history professor and member of the Gainesville Monthly Meeting.

Eleanor was a very athletic person. She played field hockey, tennis and golf. She was a competitive swimmer and danced with the New York City Ballet. She also volunteered for thirty years to help “Recording for the Blind.”

She considered her greatest accomplishment the rearing of her three children to be their own persons and to question authority. Eleanor was a very nurturing person in her family and in the meeting. She returned to Gainesville to live with her daughter, Sherrie Southworth, and spent the last four years of her life here. She died on Friday, January 6, 2006.

Attachment 4: Portion of Administrative Secretary's Report (to EC) regarding SEYM Archives.

It came to my attention that EC needs to review and perhaps create a policy regarding Archive materials. Earlier this summer I had opportunity to discuss archival issues with several former Augusta Meeting members, and much to our consternation, learned that the SEYM Archives Committee declined Augusta's photographs and other artifacts. To prevent these from being thrown away, I agreed to house them in my living room until a decision could be made. However, the former Augusta Meeting members, in fear their archives would be thrown away, have not shipped them. In the mean time, we contacted Friends Historical Collection, Guilford College for their criteria. The Friends Historical Collection would greatly appreciate SEYM's support with their efforts to have as complete a collection as possible from Quakers in the Southeast.

. . . An additional problem regarding archives arose this summer, when it was discovered that well intentioned member(s)/attender(s) at Orlando Meeting had cleaned house, and discarded several boxes of what they discerned were "old materials" no longer needed. Apparently this included several year's collections of SEYM materials waiting to be taken to the University of Florida Library.

It is my understanding that the UF Library does not microfilm the SEYM archives. Congruent with this concern is my new awareness that we have no official location for obituaries nor assigned voice to send condolences when a SEYMer dies. My concern is that SEYM has no set policy nor precedent for Meetings as to whom they should contact when a death occurs.

Attachment 5: ProNica Update  
by Davida Johns, Stateside Coordinator

2006 marked many milestones for ProNica. With detailed reports gleamed from four years of diligent record keeping, the IRS declared that ProNica is a publicly supported, not privately funded, 501c3 non-profit organization. In Nicaragua, ProNica became an official non-governmental organization (NGO). As an NGO we could finally transfer the vehicle, El Centro office/residence and Quaker House to ProNica.

ProNica and the St Petersburg Meeting celebrated Ruth Hyde Paine's retirement and move to California to be near her family. We miss her gentle guidance as we move onward.

Transferring to QuickBooks for financial record keeping has been a challenge. With Caroline Lanker's expert assistance, we're getting closer to Ruth's correct-to-the-penny records. Treasurer Doug McCown, Bookkeeper Peg Richards and I are learning much more than we ever imagined about accounting principles. Interfacing Managua and stateside financial systems will make reporting more efficient.

Outreach educates potential supporters. ProNica displays were set up at four Yearly Meetings – Philadelphia YM, New York YM, Intermountain YM, and Wilmington YM. Special thanks to SEYMer Ed Lesnick for setting up at Friends General Conference. ProNica presentations were given at Clearwater Meeting, Eckerd College, and a Presbyterian church.

The Peace Room of the St Petersburg Meeting, where ProNica offices are located, was reorganized to accommodate historical files formerly stored in private homes, such as Ruth's garage. The space again functions as a meeting room, classroom and project work area.

In Nicaragua, two volunteers are currently serving in agriculture and library projects. This year ProNica placed 7 volunteers in health, education and social service projects. Three prospective volunteers are in the process of application.

In January, ProNica hosted a 15-student/chaperone delegation from Eckerd College. The Arts-Focused Friends Witness is scheduled for November. 2007 delegations are in the planning stages with Washburn University, Wilmington College and the University of Florida, along with a Quaker youth group and another group led by former ProNica volunteer, Jaime Contois.

The Quaker House in Managua is staffed by Caretaker Caroline Nagy until June 2007 when we will begin the search again. The number of guests at Quaker

House continues to increase, making it not only financially sustainable, but a beacon of solidarity building between North and Central Americans.

Visit our website [www.pronica.org](http://www.pronica.org). Contact me for a presentation at your Meeting. Encourage volunteers or Friends Witnesses. Remember ProNica in Meeting budgets and personal giving. With SEYM's continued spiritual guidance and financial support, together we can assist the Nicaraguan people to improve their lives. All these milestones make ProNica's future bright and strong.

Attachment 6: Report on the summer gathering of Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns.

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns convened for our annual summer gathering in the first week of the seventh month, 2006, in Tacoma Washington as part of Friends General Conference's annual Gathering. Friends from around North America joined us in a deep spiritual fellowship. We worshipped together daily, gathered in Spirit-filled discernment of our business, and shared music, ministry, and lots of laughter in the time in between.

FLGBTQC is, at this time, holding tenderly a concern for racial healing within our organization. God is moving in such a way as to remind us that being an inclusive community is not just about being willing to accept someone; we must actively and sincerely engage in the work of understanding and education if we wish to be truly open. With this in mind, FLGBTQC also took up the issue of gender designations in our housing and bathroom arrangements, recognizing that these designations may pose a barrier to the safe and comfortable participation of transgender, intersex, and other gender-variant Friends. We minuted our intention to provide gender-neutral housing and restroom options at all future gatherings.

FLGBTQC's Midwinter gathering will be held in North Carolina during second month, 2007. We will take this time together to explore the diversity of Quaker presence and history in the area. Friends will have opportunities to worship in both unprogrammed and semi-programmed styles. The focus on understanding and experiencing a variety of Quaker branches and traditions has already led Friends to begin lifting up important questions about our organizational identity. Are we an organization of unprogrammed Friends, or do we wish to serve and include Friends from all branches? How can we better reflect our theological diversity in our worship opportunities? If we hold a tender openness in our hearts to the promptings of Spirit in this matter, I believe that we, as Friends united around a body of deeply-held concerns, can be called into a truer understanding of our living witness both within and outside of the Religious Society of Friends.