

+FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING ANNUAL MEETING

April 5, 2008 - Morgantown, Indiana

The Friends Committee on Scouting (FCS) assembled at 9:00am at Morgantown, IN, Waycross Camp and Conference center, and called to order by the Clerk, Betsy Wenny. The following members were also present: Peggie Baxter, Dave Hadley, Luanne Hagee, Tim Mullady(Recording), and John Norris (Treasurer). Dan Nelson (Asst. Clerk) was unable to attend in person, but was present for most of the meeting via a teleconference computer connection.

**The following members sent their regrets, but were unable to attend: Tom Costello, Jeff Crim, Jim Lehman, David Morrison, Mitch Richardson, and Rachel Singleton-Polster

This annual meeting was held in conjunction with the 2008 Annual Meeting of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas.

This meeting also marked the 20th anniversary for Friends Committee on Scouting.

Meeting began with a brief moment of silence. Introductions were made as some members had never met in person. The FCS roster for 2008 was updated.

Randy Giffin Obituary: FCS is saddened to hear of the passing of one of its founding members. Randy passed on at his home in Barnesville, Ohio this January 14, 2008 at the age of 71. “He was a convinced Friend and a solid Friend , who took seriously the daily leading of the Spirit of Christ in his life and in worship and he placed no limits on the way God works within and among His people” (Bill Medlin). Randy was a member of Ohio Yearly Meeting and Friends Meeting of Barnesville. He will be missed.

Minutes of 2007 annual meeting – All had read with appreciation. Minutes were approved with only one minor change.

Treasurer’s Report:

Outreach Committee Report: Outreach committee joyfully welcomes four new members to FCS.

Jim Lehman in the role of Membership Clerk, reported that he has no problem in continuing in this position. He has throughout the past year, contacted many people through the old listings and elicited the four new members mentioned previously. FCS thanks Jim for his efforts. The supply of pins, patches, and membership cards is diminishing (5 pins, 13 patches, 50 cards left). We should consider having a new supply of pins and patches made in the near future.

Outreach also brings the following to committee attention.

-Develop a ‘standard’ notice to be placed in all the Yearly Meeting newsletters to elicit awareness, new contacts, and more support. To accomplish this we would need to 1) write the notice, 2) find YM addresses, 3) identify a contact person within FCS, 4) and find time to do it. Outreach will discuss this via email with the executive committee in the near future.

Some questions about benefits of membership with FCS were raised. What should members get from membership besides a card, pin, & patch? What expenses do we anticipate and are yearly dues needed? These questions were discussed but no outcome or decisions were decided on at this time.

Roster and Committee Assignments: Few changes were made to the inside committees of FCS.

Yearly class compositions were updated. The class of 2008, (Peggie Baxter, Tim Mullady, Ted Quinn, Mitch Richardson, Bob Stevens, and Betsy Wenny) were moved over to 2011.

Dan Nelson agreed to review and rewrite the By-Laws. As stated, ideally we should have two representatives from each group of Friends. We currently have 17 members and continue to have difficulty finding representatives from EFI and Conservative Yearly Meeting. With the departure of Peter Sam, we also no longer have a representative for Independent Yearly Meeting. It was expressed that in the revision, ideally we still wish representation for as many Friends affiliations as possible but to also make the wording more “Quaker friendly” and less formal.

P.R.A.Y. Report : In 2007 the following awards were given-

That of God – 15
Spirit of Truth - 4
Friends Award - 3

Bill Medlin brought to attention a concern about the review process and time-table for applications for the adult Friends Emblem. Recently two cases have been received asking for “speedy consideration” in order to meet a local event deadline. It was requested that on the FCS website as well as in the documentation from PRAY that the following be made clear; 1) Approval of the Friends award is not automatic and is not done by an administrator. It is done by an international committee that reviews all the material, reflects, and consults before approval; 2) that applicants for the Friends award should expect to allow 3 to 4 weeks for committee approval (not including time for mailing and shipping via PRAY), and perhaps longer if the application is incomplete or the committee has questions that need additional information. Betsy agreed to review and revise the old vs. new form for the Friends Emblem. On inspection during the meeting it was found that needing ‘Resume’ and ‘References’ were no longer listed on the application from PRAY.

Publicity:

Website: FCS’s website continues to be located at <http://scouting.quaker.org/> . Many thanks to Dan Nelson, who continues to oversee and update the site. The website will soon be updated with the new PRAY material. Dan requested that minutes from the FCS annual meetings be added. Tim will supply the minutes from 2006 – 2008 in an abridged form removing any information of a personal nature.

Yahoo Group: The Yahoo group can be found at <http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/quakerscouts-guides/> and anyone is welcome to join.

Displays: The large display is currently going back to Plainfield, Indiana with David Hadley. David plans to take it to Western Yearly Meeting in August. Betsy Wenny then will use it for the Girl Scout National Convention in October. Anyone in the Indiana area who would like to have it available for presentation should email David. The small display is currently with Tim Mullady. He plans to take it to Chesapeake Quarterly meeting in the near future and then return it to Sandy Springs under care of Jim Lehman. Please contact Jim if you wish to use this one.

Advertisements and Articles: Luanne Hagee is proposing to write an article to Quaker Life about the Friends award program and her two children who have recently received “That of God” and “Spirit of Truth”. FCS approved of this idea and agree it would be very good for awareness and outreach of the program.

Representation at World Scout Jamboree 2011 in Sweden: Dan brought this to our attention and is interested in us having some representation at the event. There is a very large area dedicated to world religions. It is believed we would need to be a member of WOSM (see below) to be represented. Any scouters interested could come either with their unit or as a volunteer and part of the International Service Team. Dan will keep us updated with more information in the coming years. Looks like a lot of fun!

<http://www.worldscoutjamboree.se/en/>

National Boy Scout Jamboree 2010: This will be a major event as it will be the 100th anniversary celebration for Boy Scouts of America. Tim reports that he has been asked to return as a Friends 'Chaplain' for this event and would assume that Jim has as well. Dan has also expressed interest in attending. It was agreed that we would try to have the large display available for this event. Tim will get further information and see if we can generate further interest.

<http://www.scouters.us/jamboree/jambo.html>

Girl Scout Report: The merging of councils from 300 to 108 nationwide, has caused a lot of restructuring to occur. The program itself is also looking at a new structure and division by school grade and age group. Daisy (K-1), Brownie (2-3), Junior (4-5), Cadette (6-8), Senior (9-10), and Ambassador (11-12).

Boy Scout Report: A new Cub Scout program, 'Cub Soccer team' may be available next year. Some other new programs are also emerging but little information is currently known.

Canadian Scout Report: Very little new to report. A lot of local organizations have taken more interest and lending resources and support to Scouts.

WOSM affiliation: (World Organization of the Scouting Movement)

FCS is still interested in seeking consultative status on WOSM. This would gain us more legitimacy and awareness as an organization within Scouting. One of the requirements to seek consultative status is to be an 'international' organization. At the moment FCS does have representatives from two countries (Canada & United States). We would need to research and communicate with Friends and scouting organizations in other countries to expand the program. The decision of FCS was to continue to seek this status as one of our long-term goals and continue to make steps to accomplish it. (*Information about WOSM and WSIRF gathered from last year's minutes is included below*).

Part of WOSM is WSIRF (World Scout Inter-Religious Forum). The Forum aims to group together all the religions and beliefs represented in Scouting. The groups represented organize and run the inter-religious activities during world Scouting events. There are seven main religious groups currently representing the WSIRF. Three of them hold consultative status with the other four groups created informally and working to obtain their WOSM consultative status in the future. The groups currently represented are Catholics, Orthodox Christians, Muslim, Jewish, Won-Buddism, and Buddhists.

Dan has contacted WSIRF and has expressed that FCS may become interested in participating. One requirement for this status would be FCS would have to become an international (ie. Worldwide) organization. This idea will be reviewed by the "Membership & Outreach" committee during the coming year. Anyone who wishes to know more about WOSM or WSIRF can find information at their websites

World Order of the Scouting Movement: <http://www.scout.org/>

World Scout Inter-Religious Forum: http://www.scout.org/en/about_scouting/partners/interreligious/wsirf

Curriculum in Spanish: The Spanish translation of 'That of God' and 'Sprit of Truth' is going to be scanned and made into a .pdf for distribution on the website and by possible other means in the future. It has been found that the translation is only useful for Spanish speaking scouters (Boy Scout/Girl Scout/Campfire) within the United States. It is currently unknown whether South American Scouting organizations have a faith program.

FWCC affiliation: For those who do not know, FCS is an affiliated program under Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), Section of the Americas. One of the items on the Business agenda for the FWCC meeting this weekend was to discuss the Affiliation Policy and there was the possibility that FCS could no longer maintain this status. During the annual meeting it was discussed whether we wish to become an 'independent' program and what that would entail. The decision was reached to wait and see what happened after the FWCC meeting.

The Affiliation Policy item was addressed Saturday night at the 4th Session of business meeting. One Friend did bring up “Why FCS could exist but not these other two organizations seeking the same status?” It was answered that FCS was an “affiliated program” not an organization as we do not have a separate 501K meaning we are an independent non-profit organization.” The policy was discussed at length over some time and did not come to unity. The policy will be discussed and revised again at the 2009 executive committee meeting of FWCC and brought back to business meeting next year. It did not seem likely that they are going to drop our FWCC affiliation.

Next Year's Meeting: We discussed when and where to hold next year's annual meeting. It was decided that for next year we try to meet via teleconference instead of all gathering live in one location. We used this experimentally this year to connect with Dan remotely from Canada. It worked reasonably well. Hopefully this will allow more people to attend the annual meeting. In order to do this all you would need is a home computer with internet connection. For this meeting we used a program called 'Skype' <http://www.skype.com>. It is available for both Windows and Macintosh computers. (I believe you can also connect to the conference with just a phone though) Dan and Tim will get more information and we will try to set up a trial run sometime next winter/spring before the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mullady, Recording Clerk