

+FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING ANNUAL MEETING

March 26, 2011 – Plainfield, Indiana

The Friends Committee on Scouting (FCS) assembled at 10:00 am EST at Plainfield, IN, Friends Meetinghouse, and called to order by the Clerk, Luanne Hagee. The following members were also present: David Hadley, Alan Harnish, James Lehman Jr. (Membership Clerk), Tim Mullady (Recording), Dan Nelson (Asst. Clerk), and John Norris (Treasurer).

**The following members sent their regrets, but were unable to attend: Peggie Baxter, Elizabeth Price, Jane Stokes, and Betsy Wenny.

Meeting began with a brief moment of silence and a query on conducting meeting for business according to the Spirit as well as our consensus.

Minutes of 2010 annual meeting: All had read with appreciation. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

It was discussed that our three main sources of increasing funds were: donations, medals, and memberships. A query will be sent to PRAY on the possibility of raising the price of all awards to \$20 (currently That of God is \$15 and Spirit of Truth is \$20). Additional profit would be used to further promotional awareness.

Outreach Committee Report: It was decided last year that annual dues of \$10 would be needed to help further actions in outreach, advertisement, and publicity as well as other program functions. As the outreach clerk, Jim Lehman sent out letters for membership asking for dues and new membership cards last December. Jim received several responses back from this postal mailing and had 3 new members join FCS. (If you still have not sent your information or current membership dues it is not too late.) This seems to be a good way to keep our membership information updated so will be continued. Jim will send out a new letter in Dec 2011. In the future the PRAY report as well as a letter of appreciation will be added so that members can see how FCS is serving the community. FCS patches and pins are still available for \$3.00 (current inventory is 47 patches, 63 pins)

It was suggested that we build a database of recipients from for all the awards that have been earned by both adults and youth in the past. Luanne contacted PRAY after the meeting and that information is available from their records up to 1992 which only leaves a gap of 4 years. From that date it was found that there has been 421 – That of God, 55 – Spirit of Truth, and 25 – Adult Friend earned to date. As over 20 years have now past, contacting some of these past recipients could be a good way to help spread word of the program and bring in new members.

Committee Assignments: Current officers, Luanne Hagee (Clerk), Dan Nelson, (Asst. Clerk,) Jim Lehman (Membership & Outreach Clerk), Tim Mullady (Recording Clerk), John Norris (Treasurer) agreed to continue in those assignments. Friends expressed their appreciation for their continuing in these roles.

P.R.A.Y. Report : In 2010 the following awards were given-

That of God – 18 (14 Cub Scout, 4 Brownies/Juniors)

Spirit of Truth - 0

Friends Award – 0

Currently in 2011
That of God – 2
Spirit of Truth – 1
Friends Award – 1

P.R.A.Y. sent out a new contract to continue sponsoring the Friends award program last May.

FCS Friends united in nomination of our former clerk, Betsy Wenny for the Friends Award for her years of dedicated devotion to the Girl Scouts, Friends and at the heart of FCS. Jim Lehman and Tim Mullady will work together to present this award to Betsy at Birmingham Friends Meeting in the near future.

New medals that comply with the federal regulations on children's jewelry have now been in use as of May 2010. Old stock was broken down with the medallion saved for use in future adult awards and the unusable parts have been destroyed.

Publicity:

Website: FCS's current website is now very outdated and the technology does not allow it to be updated to modern standards. It was decided to purchase a new domain and home for the FCS website. This will allow for upgradable content, links to our other groups (such as facebook), provide an interactive blog, as well as being more attractive and giving potential to have new members join FCS. Dan has made a generous offer of providing storage/server space so FCS will only have to purchase the new domain name. The new site will be located at <http://www.quakerscouting.org>. At the moment only a placeholder is working and you will be redirected to the old website.

Dan will be working on transferring the content and adding new features over the next year. With the new website we also have 5 email addresses that can be setup. Right now only 1 is being used clerk@quakerscouting.org which is linked to Luanne. If you would like to use one of the others, contact Dan and he will set it up. More email addresses can be purchased if needed. Dan will inform us in the near future when the new website and features are active.

Facebook: The FCS Facebook page is active and been a useful way for Friends involved with Scouting/Guiding to communicate. It was noted that it has attracted some readers that are not members of FCS but could be potential joiners. <http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=102491556452978&v=info&ref=ts>

Displays: The small display currently resides with Luanne Hagee in Plainfield, Indiana. It was noted that a new storage box/protective cover for it was needed and Luanne will look into having that made.

Anyone in the Indiana area who would like to have it available for presentation should email Luanne at luhagee@yahoo.com. The large display was transferred to Jim Lehman and is currently at Sandy Spring, Maryland. Please contact Jim at lehmaj@verizon.net if you wish to use this one.

Pamphlets: The current FCS pamphlet is also very outdated and in need of corrections. Currently, much of the information, address for PRAY, and soon our website/contact information will be inaccurate. Luanne sent around a newly designed pamphlet for comments last fall that contained updated information with a much more basic design. The current trend is to use a simple 'postcard' design with direct information that is easily sent by mail. Dan and Luanne will look into having these made in the near future. We will start to phasing the old pamphlets out of circulation but for the time being continue to use them when needed.

Promotional items: For large gatherings where many faiths are represented (such as the National Jamboree), many groups give away some promotional item (patch, pin, rubber chicken keychain, to name a few) Although FCS does not currently have the budget for something of this nature, some discussion was had suggesting that a possible promotional item may be donated by one of the companies that the general public associates with 'Quaker' such as 'Quaker Oats' or 'Quaker State'. Nothing was decided at this time but a possible 'giveaway' item will be looked into for the future.

FCS 25th anniversary patch: As 2013 will be the 25th anniversary of FCS, a new patch commemorating this occasion was suggested. This will be looked into by Outreach in the near future. Possible designs may be a rocker for the existing patch or a silver bordered edition. These would be sent out with the yearly membership letter in Dec 2012 as a new incentive.

Certificates: Inquires were made about a certificate of achievement for recipients of the awards. Although these are issued with the Adult award it does not seem that they are supplied with the youth awards directly from PRAY. Certificates are easily created and it was decided to have some available for distribution on our new website. Luanne also created some congratulations cards for recipients of the youth awards. First was sent out to Joey Vang son of Michael Vang and was received with appreciation.

Curriculum:

Spanish Translation: The Spanish translation of the curriculum for 'That of God', Spirit of Truth', and the Adult Friends Emblem have now been scanned and preserved electronically. This version was originally translated from the original 1989 version of curriculum so much of the information is outdated and in need of correction. Luanne offered to talk to some Spanish teachers that she knows to update the documents to a more modern format.

Earning of awards by others denominations: FCS has received questions about earning of the Friends religious awards by youth/adults affiliated with another denomination. As some (especially youth) may have affiliations with more than one faith though their parents, they therefore should be able to earn more than one religious award. It was decided that an award can be earned as long as it is sponsored through a Friends Meeting or Church.

Moving toward International affiliation and WOSM:

-International curriculum development: It has been found that many Scouting programs in other countries do not have a formal religious award program as it is here in North America. As a first step to become more 'international' and finding use outside of North America, it was suggested that we create a more generic curriculum alternative close the "My Faith" award available in the United Kingdom. This could be easily tweaked to meet requirements in use for religious awards for Friends in other countries.

-Change language of website to 'universal' instead of a N. America basis.

-Research into programs for other English speaking countries (Australia, New Zealand)

-Jamaica: Friends from Jamaica have contacted Luanne last November about possibility of earning the awards. Luanne has contacted the Jamaican Scouting organization but has not yet received any reply.

-Kenya: Tim has contacted a friend, Ann Riggs that is a principal at the Friends Theological College in Kenya. The last time she was back in Annapolis they talked and she is very interested in helping us and has a contact affiliated with the Kenyan Scouting program she will put him in contact with.

Boy Scout Report: The Boy Scouts of America just finished celebrating the 100th anniversary in 2010. FCS had two representatives serve at the National Jamboree in August along with several other Friends. The complete after-action report is attached. Next Jamboree will be at a new location "The Summit" in West Virginia in 2013. Chaplain staff will need to set up new sites for worship but with our 'simple' needs no problem is anticipated. The 2019 World Jamboree has been slated for the location and will be an excellent opportunity for FCS to have international exposure in the future.

Emphasis has been placed on training leaders nationally. This has caused some problems re-chartering and many feel that it is too much to expect from 'volunteers'.

Girl Scout Report: The Girl Scouts of America are preparing for their 100th anniversary on March 12, 2012. (Add Betsy's report)

Canadian Scout/Guide Report: Major change was just made to the Scouts Canada uniform and has met with mixed reviews. Uniform is now red shirt with tan/khaki pants. This was launched the Fri evening before our meeting.

Next Year's Meeting: It was agreed to once again meet at Plainfield, Indiana for 2012. Date for next meeting is currently undecided and will be discussed over email. The option to connect through a computer via Skype or alternative will be looked into and made available.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mullady, Recording Clerk