

**Friends Committee on Scouting
Minutes 2015 Annual Meeting**

Gwynedd Friends Meeting
Gwynedd, Pennsylvania

Friday night Scout reports:

7:30 Clerk Luanne Hagee begins meeting.

Friends Present: Luanne Hagee, John Hill, Bob Parker and John Norris, Henry Watson joined by skype, Dan Nelson and Tim joined at 9 pm

Scouts Canada – no report

Girl Guides Canada – no report

Boy Scouts

John N – Cub Scout advancement program changing June 1, 2015. Tiger, Wolf & Bear ranks will have seven requirements to complete. Arrow of Light will now be a separate rank and will not require Scouts to earn Webelos Rank first. Group discussed Arrow of Light changes.

There will now be a religious component for each rank from Tiger to Eagle, nothing new for the Cub Scout ranks. Do we need to support Quaker Scouts? Boy Scout changes a later date. Bob reviewed the new requirements specific to *Duty to God* from the BSA website.

Luanne summarized the other changes to the Cub Scout program, including redesign of the Tiger Badge and noted that the *Academic & Sports Belt Loop* program is being dropped effective May 31, 2015

All Scouts will be using one oath and law from Cub Scouts to Venture, beginning June 1, 2015.

Luanne discussed Friends issue of not taking oaths, and wording of “Scout Oath.” John H emphasized that the Scout Oath does not call on a deity; it is a promise to yourself.

Luanne suggested that the FCS website explain the Scout Oath and the fact that the Scout Oath is not an oath to a deity. John N suggested we address the history of taking oaths and how the Scout Oath does not fit this model as it does not call God to witness the taking of the oath. The Scout Oath is really a promise not an oath.

Do we need to develop a resource for US Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts as new religious requirements?

- Should FCS develop a *Faith and Practice OR Book of Discipline* for youth to help with new requirements?
- Committee agrees we need to develop materials and we need to establish a method for sharing and revising. Ideas: Facebook, webpage, blog.
- Begin with Cub Scouts now, develop Boy Scouts later (as the Boy Scout program revisions aren't out yet)

BSA National Jamboree is 2017

John H reported that the Boy Scouts have asked for each unit to appoint a Religious Emblem Coordinator. There are also coordinators at district and council levels.

Tim added that at the BSA Religious Relationship Task Force meeting it was reported that BSA wanted to make earning a Religious Emblem a requirement for the Eagle Scout rank, the proposal was rejected. BSA wants something in the requirements to show *Duty to God*. Committee needs to craft response for Tom T to take to the next Religious Relationship Task Force meeting. Response to be worked on this weekend and finished via email.

Girl Scouts

Between Luanne and Betsy the following report: GSUSA National Convention was held in Salt Lake City back in October 2014, this included a GSUSA Interfaith Committee session with representatives from GSUSA and PRAY. A religious award coordinator position was discussed, to be added at Service Unit level in Girl Scouts. Wondering if the *My Promise, My Faith* Award requirements, a fairly new award within Girl Scouts, was taking away from girls receiving/attempting to earn the religious emblems from their faith.

There was a real push by the delegates to put more emphasis on outdoor programming, and GSUSA agreed to do that! They have been polling girls and getting their input on each step they have taken so far. It is nice that they are really listening to those of us in the trenches. This Fall there they are due to release a new outdoor *Journey* for each age level. The girl delegates really spoke elegantly about how many skills they had learned from camping and other outdoor events and they wanted that to continue. The current program does not do it justice so we are eagerly awaiting the results. Girl Scouts are moving to more outdoor emphasis, and the girls are actually voting on the designs for the new outdoor themed *Journeys*.

Overall

Group discussed apparent lack of interest in taking leadership among parents of new Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Group discussed how to get more Quaker Meetings involved in religious emblems programs.

Do we, as a committee, do anything to promote Quaker Meeting support/chartering of scout groups

- Many Quaker Meetings are opposed to Boy Scout policies against sexual orientation of leaders, exclusion of atheist and will not support units.
- Cub Scouts may be the way to start expanding.
- Many Meetings will not have room to support
- Bob asked about trying to publicize the committee and our willingness to provide help/support if Meetings want to charter
- First step it to make Meetings aware of religious emblems and how many members of Meeting are Scouts
- Friends Journal and Quaker Life article with info about our webpage.
- Area on our webpage on Quaker Meetings supporting Scouting. Bob will work with webmasters to create
- Scouting can support the youth program of the Meetings.
- Issue of units with dropped charter would be a unit or Council issue.
- Do we need to redesign pamphlet and resend to all Meetings?
- We need to publicize through publications and Yearly Meetings to get word out about our existence.
- We need to send information to Quaker schools concerning religious emblem program.
- Send reminders every two years to Meetings and schools

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm purposed to meet again at 9 am Saturday morning.

Respectfully submitted

Bob Parker

**Friends Committee on Scouting
2015 Business Meeting
Gwynedd Friends Meeting, Gwynedd Pennsylvania**

Present: Luanne Hagee – Clerk, Dan Nelson- Assistant Clerk, John Norris- Treasurer, Tim Mullady, John Hill, Bob Parker, Jim Lehman- Membership and Outreach Clerk, Henry Watson – via skype, Betsy Wenny via - phone, Liam Murphy via skype

Recording Clerk Pro tem – Bob Parker

Centering Down:

Welcome & Introductions: *Luanne*

Minutes of 2014 Annual Meeting:

1. Names to be corrected, remove Bob Parker, Betsy Wenny, David Hadley, Sandy Moyer, remove Joanne, add Kim Acquaviva
 2. FWCC newsletter not FWCE
 3. Under webpage – Should read Tim not Time
 4. FCS membership – Welcome past clerk and former member Sandy Moyer
 5. Add that Betsy Wenny has taken responsibility for transferring archives to Swarthmore archives
 6. Delete Friend in front of each members name
- Minutes approved

Finances: John Income (Dues, donations, reimbursement from PRAY) and Expenses

1. Current Balance \$1897.41
 2. John reviewed deposits and payments for the year.
 3. Dan asked members to pay their annual dues.
 4. Jim reported that Sandy Springs Friends School is agreeable to FCS returning.
- Finance report approved

PRAY Report: Luanne emailed to all members (see attached)

Current inventory: 18 *That of God*; 15 *Spirit of Truth*; 12 *Friends Emblems*
22 *That of God* awards awarded in 2014

That of God supply is getting low. Luanne contacted PRAY and secured current prices for both youth awards. *That of God* award costs – \$160 for batch testing fee; \$7.10 each for 50; \$5.80 each for 100. The committee agreed that we did not need to order *Spirit of Truth* awards at this time.

Committee discussed purchasing more *That of God* awards. FCS purchases awards and PRAY reimburses FCS annually for all awards purchased (July 1st-June 30th) in July.

Committee approved ordering 100 *That of God* awards.

By ordering 100 *That of God* awards the total cost per award will be \$1.70 less than what we paid for the last order of 50. Committee discussed asking PRAY to give all or part of that \$1.70 to FCS.

Committee reached consensus that Clerk and Assistant Clerk would have permission to negotiate FCS reimbursement for awards from PRAY with the new contract that will be signed in June 2015 – to take effect July 1, 2015.

Committees:

Membership/Outreach: Jim

Jim Lehman reported that notices will be sent out to all yearly meetings;

Jim has approached Sandy Springs Friends School about chartering a Scouting unit;
Committee discussed outreach to meetings;
Post Cards instead of trifold letter;
Dan will develop a postcard with QR code to be mailed to meetings;
John H asked that yearly meetings receive report of Friends religious awards;
Committee discussed who is responsible for notifying Scout Councils of youth who receive Friends religious emblem awards? Does PRAY notify Councils?;
Henry suggested we notify Councils automatically of award recipients;
Luanne says PRAY notifies Councils already.

Religious Relationships Task Force / BSA: Tom T. No report.

Publicity: Displays, Articles, Webpage & Facebook

Displays – Tim asked for approval for funding of repairs and updating for large display. Tim and Jim will ; work on repair.

Dan will get updated Canadian badges and UK badges for displays;

Committee discussed creating a display that was easier to travel with;

Tim and Luanne will work on refreshing the content. Tim will lead the effort.

Luanne was asked to do an article on for Friends Journal on the new BSA membership policy, it is scheduled for the April 2015 issue;

Webpage needs updating – Luanne will work with Dan, add link to *Messengers of Peace* BSA webpage.

Curriculum: Luanne

Canadian curriculum needs to be updated – Luanne & Dan will work on this.

Committee reports were approved by consensus of committee

Affiliations: Written reports were sent out prior to our gathering

Committee acknowledges that Luanne sent reports to FUM and FWCC.

Last year at FWCC section meeting, in North Carolina, Jim set up FCS display and *Scouts for Peace* scroll, he made contact with Bolivian friends and he shared US materials with them.

After Jamboree, Jim recorded the English comments from the *Scouts for Peace* scroll from Jamboree.

OLD BUSINESS

UK 'My Faith' Badges: 'My Faith' resources sent out 3-21-15 by Luanne.

Work needs to be completed adding thinking points, guide points.

Committee discussed whether a workbook was needed for Beaver and Cub awards.

Also need for leader guide with suggested activities. Query 13 needs to be put in the leader/parent guide.

Tim agreed to review materials created by Luanne and Dan

UK 'Discovering Faith' Badges: Luanne still working on this with a UK Guiding Friend, and will make contact to get *Discovering Faith* badges for FCS display.

Movement towards FCS recognition by WOSM – Committee was reminded that we need to increase multicultural membership as we move toward recognition worldwide.
Committee discussed working with Kenyan Quakers

BSA 2017 Jamboree: Chaplains, Display including Display tenders, 'Scouts for Peace' banner and Peace Pole

Committee discussed staffing of Friends display in Faith and Beliefs area.

Jim and Tim will be applying for Friends Chaplain, Henry will possibly volunteer for Display or Chaplain, John H will volunteer for display.

Luanne discussed using Facebook page for recruitment for display tenders. Dan made posting during meeting for this.

Jim and Tim agreed that a job description for Friends Chaplains needs to be created so future Chaplains know what is expected of them.

Giveaway ideas – plastic version of FCS pin, postcards, stickers?

Discussion on using technology in display, what other faiths are doing?

▪ Ideas:

- Twitter hashtag;
- App to submit peace messages;
- Creation of permanent peace pole on Jamboree site;
 - Contains message of Peace in multiple languages;
- Stickers or patches to hand out, possibly seek support from Friends meetings, FUM, FWCC Grants etc.;
- Vinyl stickers

Archive FCS Materials – Knowing that Betsy wouldn't be attending this year, she didn't bring materials.

NEW BUSINESS

Patches and pins – Jim said his supply was low and he needed more. Luanne had some patches with her, which she gave to Jim.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next meeting – 2016 – Committee agreed to hold next meeting at Plainfield meeting. **Looking at April 8,9**

Quaker Communion: closed with prayer by John Norris

Meeting adjourned at 11:45am

Respectfully submitted

Bob Parker