

## FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING ANNUAL MEETING

April 8, 2006 - Plainfield, Indiana

The Friends Committee on Scouting (FCS) assembled at 9:30 at Plainfield, IN, Friends Meetinghouse, called to order by the Clerk, Betsy Wenny. The following members were also present: Dan Nelson, Tim Mullady, John Norris, Dave Hadley.

### General Scouting news:

- Betsy reported that Girl Scouts are trying to raise more adult-generated funds instead of relying on girl cookie sales to support the organization.
- Dan said that in Ontario, Canada, the Council is centralizing its administration.
- John said Sagamore Council is an amalgamation of councils. they are also closing some of their council camps.

Minutes of 2005 annual meeting- All had read with appreciation. They were approved. We agreed for future minutes that when they are distributed, those who were present at the meeting should immediately take a few minutes to read them and send corrections/comments to the secretary because a year later it is too hard to remember the details.

### Treasurer's Report:

Nominating Committee: John stated that the committee has not convened. We discussed possible replacements for blank spaces on our roster and it was decided to appoint (with their approval) Jim Lehman of Sandy Springs, MD (the other chaplain at the Jamboree), and Edie Nolan of Princeton, NJ (on the FGC Central Committee). This would be 3 year terms as at-large members, replacing Tim Giesbers and Randy Giffen. John will contact them.

Tim Mullady was approved as a replacement for Michael Cooper (FGC), and he will also take David H's place on the nominating committee.

We have no names from EFI, but we will ask Tim Giesbers if he could provide the names of two potential representatives.

We will ask FWCC about possible reps and contact their yearly meetings.

Betsy will ask Mitch for a list of Friends meetings that sponsor Boy Scout units. We have had those lists in the past.

We will try to divide up the membership responsibilities in FCS so all can be active.

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P.R.A.Y. Report: In 2005 the following awards were given-

That of God - 17  
Spirit of Truth - 2  
Friends Award - 2

So far in 2006:

That of God - 15  
Spirit of Truth - 4  
Friends 0

Our clerk has been receiving reports from PRAY. An attractive poster of all religious awards handled by PRAY was passed around. There are regular PRAY bulletins on the Internet, one for Boy Scouts and the other for Girl Scouts. Several people asked to be put on PRAY's list to receive them. Betsy will do that.

We looked at a redesigned application form from P.R.A.Y. for the Friends Award. They had condensed the information so that not so much paper was needed. The PRAY office wanted the Friends Award process to be more in line with the other adult religious awards. For all other groups, PRAY checks the

applications to make sure that all required segments are in and then sends out the award. PRAY felt that ours took too much time to process since all the committee members must receive copies of the application and have to allow lead time for it to be sent, read, and comments returned before it can be approved. The committee felt the application condensation was fine, but were uncomfortable with not having any control over the award approval. After discussion, it was agreed that we can speed up the process. When Betsy receives the application papers, she will immediately copy and send them to the committee members, who will be given one week to reply to her with their comments of approval or disapproval. She will e-mail committee members to let them know that they are on their way and will set a date for comments to be returned. If she doesn't hear by that date, she will go ahead and make a decision and let PRAY know the result. She could scan the information into her computer, which people could get a lot sooner, but from past experience, she knows that some people are unable to download the documents, so she will simply mail them. We will also ask PRAY to put on the application that they should allow at least 30 days for the process to be completed. They should put on their application the date by which they would like to have the award in hand.

**FCS Patch:** Dan Nelson showed us the new patch which he had ordered, designed after our lapel pin. He had 50 made – cost is \$3 each. We appreciated his going ahead with this.

**FCS Website** Many thanks go to Dan Nelson who created a more comprehensive FCS website. Check it out at <http://scouting.quaker.org>. We had a long discussion about a letter of concern which was sent to John by Anna Baker, of Northwest Yearly Meeting, (who talked with him in Guatemala.) She feels our website feeds into the feelings of some in her yearly meeting who want to withdraw from FWCC over the homosexuality issue. She would like that page of our site to be eliminated entirely, or at least changed. She feels that some fault FWCC for supporting FCS even though we say on the site that our committee does not take a stand on the issue because there is not unity in the committee and we feel withdrawing from BSA will only hurt the youth. We felt it is important to include the topic on our website because it is one of the major questions people have about Scouting and Quakers.

We composed a letter which Betsy will send to Anna, stating our position on the issue and why we feel it is important to address it on our website. In the letter we invite NW Yearly Meeting to produce a statement of their own which we could include on our site. Anna did not like the direct link to FGC but we explained to her that this was intended to provide source references only.

The other issue which Dan addressed on the site was Peace, since some Quakers see the “paramilitary” stance of BSA as significant to Friends internationally. We felt Dan had an excellent page on this topic on the site.

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**Displays** - John gave the large display to Dave for Western Yearly Meeting sessions. John took it to Quaker Haven Camp last year. Tim would like to have one for Baltimore Yearly Meeting. He needs to add Jamboree pictures to the display. These can be transmitted electronically. Dan sent sets of Canadian patches to Betsy, for use in the displays. She will send them on to the holders of the displays. The smaller display is being stored by Sandy Moyer in MA, and she will send it to anyone who could use it.

The display did not get to the Girl Scout National Convention in Atlanta last October because Betsy was unable to go. She hopes there will be no conflict with the next convention, which will be in three years in Indianapolis. Girl Scout Councils across the country are in the process of re-grouping and consolidating their resources.

**Publicity** - Publicity about our FCS awards has been presented to FGC Youth Ministries program. Letters of information about our programs and awards have been sent to youth leaders in various Yearly meetings, e.g. Indiana by John and Western by Dave. Betsy will ask Mitch about getting names and addresses of Boy Scout Quaker units. We can publicize at summer Quaker camps and at Youthquake.

John brought copies of our brochure, passed them out, and they should get wide distribution. Betsy will check with Sandy about the supply of remaining brochures – send 100 to each active member.

**Jamboree** - BSA. An excellent report was written by Chaplains Tim Mullady and Jim Lehman, sent to all of us, read with appreciation for their service in a great experience, including unusual tragedy.

**Canadian Scout Report** - Dan had sent us previously information about the Canadian “Religion in Life Programme.” This program has its own brochure and badge. He discussed a new program they are proposing. There were some minor concerns with phraseology, spelling and grammar in the written text. His report was approved.

**World Organization of Scouts Movement (WOSM)** Do we want to have a membership in this? Achieve consultative status? There is no cost. We minuted the following: “Check out the website and see if you think it is worthwhile for FCS to obtain consultative status.” The website is [www.scout.org](http://www.scout.org) It is the only world organization representing all Scouts, and meets occasionally.

**Curriculum** - John asked how to contact Latin American Scouts. Maybe FWCC would be able to provide addresses of Spanish Friends churches. What should we do with the materials translated into Spanish? Tom Boyd finally sent to Betsy the original translations he had done so she will make a hard copy of those and send the copies to John, who says he can produce an electronic version, using Word and Adobe Acrobat. He’ll make PDF format and send to Dan to put on the website. We would like to encourage the use of the materials to Spanish speakers in the U.S. and elsewhere. Unfortunately, Tom had the curriculums translated before we did some revisions, but this is a place to start. There have been no major criticisms of the curriculums since the last revisions.

**Miscellaneous** - We discussed having a wider organization – perhaps a Friends Scouting Association, more formal with dues, pin and patch; creating a data base, having an electronic format. The patch Dan ordered is mentioned above. Our pins are available, cost \$1.50.

**Next Year’s Meeting** - We discussed when and where to meet for next year’s meeting. How much to reimburse? Have a big reunion with ability to camp? Who might attend? We can contact existing Quaker camps, put a request on our website, e.g. “If you are interested, please check here. What is your email address?” We decided that we would not coincide with FWCC next year so that we could have a camping event involving Quaker Scouts. We chose the weekend of April 14-15, 2007, at Plainfield IN-Yearly Meetinghouse, if approved by Plainfield and Western Yearly Meetings.

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Dan suggested that we condense the business portion of our meeting and think about other Scouting activities while we’re here.

Maybe Quaker-related Scout troops here could act as hosts. There are historic trails here, such as the White Lick Trail for hiking, jogging, running and bicycling. We brainstormed and Dan drew a possible schedule for the weekend on the chalk board, followed by random thoughts of possible activities, etc.

Friday night	assemble
April 13	Opening - snack – tents or dormitories
Saturday:	Opening before breakfast
April 14	Breakfast (Meeting’s men’s group host???)
	FCS meeting (open meeting, with committee members) or hiking
	Lunch
	Hike 1-2 hours or workshops
	Supper Patch trading
	Campfire after supper, real or simulated (depending on Fire Dept. permission)

Sunday: Breakfast  
April 15 Meeting for Worship (with congregation or on our own)  
Closing  
Head for home

Lodging – either tents outside or bunks in the WYM basement - 16 for boys and 16 for girls.  
Flag ceremony - building a flagpole, having a traditional opening, hoisting 4 flags (Canadian, U.S., Boy Scout, Girl Scout).

Those coming would be expected to pre-register. We would have our display present. “Don’t preach to the converted,” but suggest joining our membership.

We can have a “Cracker Barrel.” Involve the Girl Scouts/Guides. (We have never had any response from Campfire groups).

We might call it “International Quaker Scout Fellowship” – have a social with “tales to trade,” patches to trade too (called “swaps” by Girl Scouts). Songs and skits. Teach cooking and other skills.

Look at last year’s minutes for further ideas of topics which might be of interest to some others.

Attendees might even include older Scouts (16 yr. and up) and adults.

Publicity: We finally decided that Dan would prepare a publicity flyer about this meeting. He will send it to all of us for comments/suggestions and we will get back to him promptly. We should start advertising in November or even at summer Yearly Meetings, so the sooner word gets out, the better. We will send it to Yearly Meetings and ask them to put the information in their newsletters to members.

Respectfully submitted,

David Hadley, Recording Clerk