

+FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING ANNUAL MEETING

April 14, 2007 - 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: Dave Hadley, James Lehman, Tim Mullady(Recording), Dan Nelson (Asst. Clerk), and John Norris(Treasurer). Luanne Hagee was also present as a visitor but we are delighted that she joined FCS formally after the meeting.

The following members sent their regrets, but were unable to attend: Peggie Baxter, Tom Costello, Edy Nolan, Mitch Richardson, Peter Sam, and Rachel Singleton-Polster

This annual meeting was also part of the First International Friends Scout/Guide Gathering which will be mentioned in more detail at the end of the minutes.

Meeting began with brief moment of silence. Introductions were made during breakfast that morning. The FCS roster for 2007 was updated with the adding of cell phone #'s and checking of address/email contacts.

Minutes of 2006 annual meeting – All had read with appreciation. Minutes were approved with no additions or comments.

Treasurer's Report:

Roster and Committee Assignments: Several changes were made to the inside committees of FCS. Betsy Wenny and Dan Nelson completed their current terms as Clerk and Asst. Clerk as of 2007. Both have accepted to take on these positions for another term. Friends expressed their appreciation for their continued efforts.

David Hadley finished his term as Recording Clerk. Tim Mullady was nominated to the position and has accepted to serve for the next term.

After some discussion it was decided to rename the 'Nominating Committee' to 'Membership & Outreach'. John Norris finished his term as the convener and Jim Lehman was nominated and accepted to succeed him in the new role of 'Membership Clerk'. Dan and Tim agreed to continue to serve on this renamed committee.

The role of Membership & Outreach will now be to:

- (1) increase awareness of FCS and the PRAY program.
- (2) identify and recruit new members to FCS.

It was decided that the Website Committee was no longer needed. Dan Nelson has agreed to continue to run and update the website. FCS continues to appreciate his efforts.

We continue to have problems finding representatives from EFI and Conservative Yearly Meeting Friends. As stated in the Bylaws, ideally we should have two representatives from each group of Friends. It was decided that the FCS Bylaws, which were written 20 years ago, need to be revisited and have possible changes made. Dan Nelson has agreed to head up an ad-hoc committee on 'By-Laws & Membership to review and rewrite the FCS Bylaws. He will distribute these to the committee for review by email in the near future.

Dan also expressed concern that due to changes in Canadian Yearly Meeting he may have to step down as an FGC rep. He has agreed to continue to serve in this capacity until this is necessary.

P.R.A.Y. Report : In 2006 the following awards were given-

That of God – 28
Spirit of Truth - 4
Friends Award - 2

So far in 2007(First Quarter):

That of God - 8
Spirit of Truth - 0
Friends Award - 1

Publicity:

Website: FCS's website is located at <http://scouting.quaker.org/> . Many thanks to Dan Nelson, who continues to oversee and update the site. The issues associated with the area of "Scouting and Homosexuality" on our website seem to have been addressed as no further feedback has been received.

Yahoo Group: Dan has also started a yahoo group for Quaker Scouts and Guides. It can be found at <http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/quakerscouts-guides/> and anyone is welcome to join. The Yahoo group allows members to converse on the message board or read or post announcements concerning Friends, Scouts, or Guides. Photos can be shared here and the site already has pictures from the 2006 Annual FCS meeting. The site also features a files section with contains electronic copies of the P.R.A.Y. requirements for both American and Canadian programs, reports, and other documents useful for Scouting/Guiding Friends.

Friends Journal Article: Rachel Singleton-Polster has written an article in the 'Canadian Friend' about her experiences as a Friend and Girl Guide of Canada. Dan will send the link to the article online when it becomes available.

Displays: The large display was updated with more pictures and will be travel back to Maryland with Jim Lehman. Anyone who would like to have it available for presentation should email him. The small display is currently with Bill Medlin. Contact him if you wish to use this one.

Rachel expressed interest in having a display (small or large one) available to present at Canadian Yearly Meeting this year. Tim received quite a bit of interest in the program at the FGC annual meeting last fall and would like to have one of the displays available for this year's FGC meeting.

Girl Scout Report: A lot of changes and restructuring are occurring at the moment as many councils are being merged together.

Boy Scout Report: Similar restructuring and merging of some districts has occurred recently. Some concerns were raised over the "Learning for Life" program being used as a way to inflate the numbers in councils so it appears that they have more 'registered' scouts.

Canadian Scout Report: After many years and much deliberating, 'Boy Scouts Canada' has now been officially renamed 'Scouts Canada'

WOSM affiliation: (World Organization of the Scouting Movement)

At last year's annual meeting Dan Nelson presented the idea of FCS seeking consultative status on WOSM. 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’ are going to be scanned and made into a .pdf for distribution on the website and by possible other means in the future. John will try to scan them but if unsuccessful will send them to Tim by mail. Dan will add them to the website when finished.

Miscellaneous Items

Event Patches: Dan Nelson presented the design for a ‘rocker’ patch for the Scout-Guide Gathering. This patch was designed to connect with the lower part of FCS’s regular patch. After some short discussion it was decided that due to cost and minimum order being 50, it was not worth investing in this additional patch. Attendees to the Gathering would be given one of FCS’s regular patches.

Special Awards: Several members have been recently recognized for their outstanding service to Scouting and Friends.

Dan Nelson received quite a birthday surprise at his normal Wednesday night scout meeting. The Area Commissioner showed up and presented him with the Medal of Merit for “especially good service to Scouting”.

Betsy Wenny was recently awarded the ‘Thanks Badge II’ for her outstanding service within the Girl Scouts of America. (this is equivalent to ‘Silver Beaver’ within BSA)

David Hadley was awarded the ‘Friends’ Emblem for his exemplary service within FCS, Scouts and Friends. This was awarded to him (as a complete surprise) during meeting for worship this Sunday at Plainfield Friends Meeting.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all!

Next Year’s Meeting: We discussed when and where to hold next year’s annual meeting. As Plainfield continues to be a central location where many members can attend, it was decided to continue having next year’s meeting here as well. Date for next year’s annual meeting is set for April 18 – 20 2008. Next year is also the 20th anniversary for FCS.

First International Scout-Guide Gathering

This weekend also marked the occasion of the First International Scout-Guide Gathering. Friends, both adult and young friends were invited from around the continent to come and join us, meet other Friends associated in scouting/guiding, and attend the FSC annual meeting. Although our original plans included having a hike around Plainfield, camping outdoors, and a campfire ceremony in the evening, the weather was rather uncooperative. Starting Friday evening, a torrential rainstorm (with predictions of possible snow) started and continued throughout the weekend ending only early Sunday. Despite the inclement weather, all attendees still seemed to have a good time. We were overjoyed to have twelve attendees including three young Friends (all boy scouts) who kept us all well entertained.

Those in attendance were: Jonathan Bailey, David Hadley, John Hadley, Luanne Hagee, James Lehman Jr., Tim Mullady, Dan Nelson, John Norris, Alex Small, Bob Stevens, Robby Stevens, and Betsy Wenny.

Friends gathered mostly on Fri afternoon with many arriving throughout the evening. Due the cold and wet weather, most used the inside dormitories of Plainfield meeting, although a few brave souls did spend the night outside. The Gathering started on Saturday morning with a wonderful pancake breakfast hosted by the men’s group of Plainfield meeting. After breakfast we returned to the common room and had a brief opening ceremony. On display were both American and Canadian flags as well as the international flags for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, & Guides. Alex, Robby, and Jonathan constructed us a couple of flagpoles in traditional scout fashion using some rough cut poles and round lashings. Betsy and Dan opened the Gathering and Dan gave us a very humorous reading, “20 Steps to Light a Campfire”

from the Canadian Scout book "Best of The Leader Cut-Out Pages". The committee then adjourned to start the annual meeting while other attendees and our young Friends entertained themselves. The annual meeting lasted until lunchtime. After lunch we had several slide and picture presentations. Betsy showed slides of different trips she had taken with Senior Girl Scouts to Girl Scout/Girl Guide World Centers in London, Switzerland and Mexico. James and Tim talked about their experiences as Friends 'chaplains' at the 2005 National Boy Scout Jamboree and presented some slides of the event. The entire group pitched in to help create dinner which consisted of a large pot of spaghetti and tossed salad. With the weather still very dreary and cold, the evening passed with the viewing of a classic Walt Disney scouting movie, "Follow Me, Boys" starring Fred MacMurray. Many thanks to whomever thought ahead to bring it. The evening concluded late in the evening with root beer floats, s'mores, and a lot of laughter in the kitchen. Needless to say, the energy (or was it the consumed sugar) of the younger generation kept us well entertained.

Despite the weather the entire Gathering seemed to go well. Throughout the event there was a lot of patch trading going on in typical scouting tradition. Many new friendships were made, fellowship exchanged, and all seemed to have a good time. It was decided though that if we wish to do this again, 1) to have a back-up plan in case of inclement weather, 2) more scheduled youth program for while the committee meeting is in session.

FCS extends it's heartfelt thanks to Plainfield Friends Meeting and the Hadleys for continuing to host us and for all the preparation that occurred for this gathering.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mullady, Recording Clerk