

+FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING ANNUAL MEETING

June 16, 2009 – Internet Conference Call via Skype

The Friends Committee on Scouting (FCS) assembled at 5:00 pm EST on an internet conference call, and called to order by the Clerk, Betsy Wenny. The following members were also present: Dave Hadley, Luanne Hagee, Jim Lehman, Tim Mullady(Recording), Dan Nelson (Asst. Clerk), John Norris (Treasurer), and Tom Taber.

This annual meeting was held via the free internet conference service ‘Skype’ which was utilized to communicate with Dan Nelson during the 2008 annual meeting. This meeting was planned as an experiment to see if using a conference call from home would allow more members to attend. For the most part Skype seemed to function very well for our purposes.

Meeting began with a brief moment of silence. Introductions were made welcoming new members. The FCS roster for 2009 was updated.

Minutes of 2008 annual meeting: All had read with appreciation. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report:

Outreach Committee Report: In order to help fund program cost, it was decided that an annual dues of \$10 would be needed. This would be used to help further actions in outreach, advertisement, and publicity as well as other program functions. Further information will come in the future.

Roster and Committee Assignments: This meeting marked the 3 year term of service for the current executive committee. Friends stated their appreciation. Current officers, Betsy Wenny (Clerk), Dan Nelson, (Asst. Clerk,) Tim Mullady (Recording Clerk) agreed to be extended for another term. John Norris (Treasurer) had to leave the meeting early so was unable to confirm. Jim Lehman will continue in the role of Membership Clerk.

P.R.A.Y. Report : In 2008 the following awards were given-

- That of God – 25
- Spirit of Truth - 2
- Friends Award - 1

Unfortunately due to new federal regulations concerning lead content in children’s jewelry, PRAY regretfully came to the decision to terminate our agreement for handling the Friends religious emblems program. The regulation which went into effect on Feb 10, 2009 states “consumer products (jewelry) intended for children 12 and under cannot have more than 600 parts per million [PPM] of lead in any accessible part” (quoted from the CPSC Enforcement Policy).” It is mandatory that all such items be tested for lead content and the costs are too expensive for PRAY to continue carrying our award. PRAY has a current inventory of “Spirit of Truth” awards (46 - \$11.35) and “Adult Friends” emblem (22-\$10) that they will sell us at cost. The “That of God” award is intended for children under 12 and since it was purchased before 2009 is considered non-compliant. These can no longer be sold.

This problem is affecting all of the religious awards programs under PRAY. PRAY has decided to change the style of the award to be a generic medal for all religious programs with a pin that denotes the specific faith. Information can be found on their website http://www.praypub.org/main_frameset.htm

We had a great deal of discussion as to how to proceed. Betsy agreed to first start by contacting Mark Hazelwood at PRAY to discuss further options. If possible we would desire PRAY to continue hosting our program.

Other options that were discussed were:

- Buy back the "Spirit of Truth" and Adult awards from PRAY and distribute them through the committee. Costs to do this would be \$742.10 which we do not currently have in the budget. An awards sub-committee would be needed to distribute the medals and handle the applications. At our current rate this supply would last 5-8 years. Most of our recipients are for "That of God".
- Confirm cost of lead testing and seek out new manufacturer for the "That of God" medals.
- Redesign awards to use materials that are exempt from lead testing regulations. Surgical steel and most natural materials could be used without need for testing. It was also suggested to change from a medal to a patch.
- Inquire if our program award could be changed to the new generic PRAY award with a Friends pin.

This will be a topic of great concern during the year. More will be decided once we hear 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.

Yahoo Group: The Yahoo group can be found at <http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/quakerscouts-guides/> and anyone is welcome to join. The group is relatively inactive and is currently reported to experience little activity.

Displays: The large display is currently in Plainfield, Indiana with David Hadley. Anyone in the Indiana area who would like to have it available for presentation should email David. Jim Lehman is currently looking into reserving space at the 2010 National Boy Scout Jamboree next August to have it on display in the relationships tent. Several people will be needed to staff the exhibit during the week. The small display is currently with Tim Mullady. He plans to take it to Chesapeake Quarterly meeting and FGC central committee meeting in October. Please contact Tim if you wish to use this one.

Advertisements and Articles: It was suggested that advertisement about the PRAY/Friends religious awards program be sought after in the following publications (Quaker Life, Friends Journal, Canadian Friend). This will be looked into during the year.

Representation at the 3rd World Scout Interreligious Symposium: Dan brought this to our attention and is interested in us having some representation at the event. This will be held in Kampala Uganda 21-25 October 2009. Cost of registration is 200 euro. <http://www.wsis2009.org/>

National Boy Scout Jamboree 2010 July 26-August 4th: This will be a major event as it will be the 100th anniversary celebration for Boy Scouts of America. Jim Lehman and Tim Mullady have both applied to serve again as Friends "Chaplains". Confirmation of appointments are expected before end of the summer. As mentioned, we are reserving space at the Relationships exhibit for our large display and will need people to help staff it. <http://www.scouters.us/jamboree/jambo.html>

What is our Mission?:

It was decided that over the next year we would like a set of goals both short and long term in which FCS would like to work toward in the future. These will be used to update the FCS bylaws in the near future.

Lasting or short term goals discussed:

- Oversee the Friends religious awards program for United States & Canada
- Outreach to promote program
- Address Friends concerns over Scouting programs

Long term goals discussed:

- Make steps toward more international affiliation. Consultative status on WOSM and WSIRF

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

(More information can be found in minutes from the 2007 and 2008 annual meetings)

Any further thoughts or ideas can be emailed to the Clerk or executive committee.

Concerns about military involvement at Scouting functions: Some Friends brought up concerns about military involvement during scouting functions. This was especially noted during the previous National Boy Scout Jamboree in 2005 which is held at a U.S. Army training facility at Fort A.P. Hill Virginia. During the event many weapons of warfare were on display. These are not deemed appropriate to a Scouting function. Some letters of concern were written after the Jamboree in 2005 but no reply was received. The 2010 Jamboree will be the last hosted at Fort A.P. Hill and a permanent new site at the Goshen Scout Camp has now been found to host future Jamborees. This may address some of the concern as the Army will no longer be involved in hosting.

Opportunities for Outreach in Kenya: Ann Riggs representing the Friends Theological College will be sojourning in Kenya for the next year starting this August. She will be director of the theological institution in Kenya. Tim has been in touch with Ann (both attend Annapolis Friends Meeting) and has inquired about making contact with Friends in the Kenyan Scouting program. Ann is very open to the idea and very willing to help out.

Curriculum in Spanish: The Spanish translation of ‘That of God’ and ‘Sprit of Truth’ is still planned be scanned and made into a .pdf for distribution on the website and by possible other means in the future. The translation is now several years old so will be reviewed before being distributed. It has been found that the translation is only useful for Spanish speaking scouters (Boy Scout/Girl Scout/Campfire) within the United States. Scouting organizations in Mexico and South America it has been discovered are viewed as “elitist” societies only for the wealthy. It is currently unknown if they have a religious awards program.

FWCC affiliation: It was briefly discussed whether we should change our affiliation from FWCC Section of the Americas to expanding to World affiliation through the London office. No formal decision was reached at this time.

FGC committee change: For some time it has been a concern to the FGC representatives as to FCS being overseen/part of CIRC (Christian Interfaith Relations Committee) of FGC. Although CIRC does some very important work we do not feel it is the best pairing for our work in FCS. It was decided to inquire about having FCS placed with a more relevant committee such as Youth Ministries or Religious Education. Dan and Tim will discuss this with the staff at FGC in the near future. The Annual FGC central committee meeting will be this October.

Next Year’s Meeting: We discussed when and where to hold next year’s annual meeting. It was decided to hold it in conjunction with the annual meeting of FWCC Section of the Americas. This will be at the Pearlstone Conference and Retreat Center in Reisterstown, Maryland. Unfortunately they do not yet have a date listed on their website. It will be announced via email at a later date but should fall near the end of March or beginning of April.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mullady, Recording Clerk