

+FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING ANNUAL MEETING
March 20, 2010 – Reisterstown, Maryland

The Friends Committee on Scouting (FCS) assembled at 9:00 am EST at the Pearlstone Conference and Retreat Center in Reisterstown MD, and called to order by the Clerk, Betsy Wenny. The following members were also present: Peggie Baxter, David Hadley, Jim Lehman, Tim Mullady (Recording), and John Norris (Treasurer). Dan Nelson (Asst. Clerk) and Luanne Hagee was unable to attend in person, but were present for most of the meeting via a teleconference computer connection.

**The following members sent their regrets, but were unable to attend: Henry Watson

This annual meeting was held in conjunction with the 2010 Annual Meeting of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas.

Meeting began with a brief moment of silence.

Minutes of 2009 annual meeting: All had read with appreciation. Minutes were approved with the addition of the 2009 Treasure's Report which was unavailable at the time.

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. As the outreach clerk, Jim Lehman agreed to send new membership cards out to the current membership roster asking for annual dues. It will also state "If you feel that you can no longer actively participate in FCS to please contact us. Anyone that does not reply after 90 days may be removed from the current roster. If we have not heard from you for a while, you may receive a courtesy call in the near future. We want to keep in touch and see what is going on in your life, if you want to remain on the list, or help with anything. Betsy agreed to contact former committee members and pass on the 2010 minutes.

Committee Assignments: After many years of service, Betsy Wenny has decided that she needed to step down as Clerk of FCS. After much thought to her replacement, Luanne Hagee agreed to take over in the role of Clerk of FCS. Friends stated their appreciation and will give Luanne whatever support she needs. Other current officers, Dan Nelson, (Asst. Clerk,) Jim Lehman (Membership & Outreach Clerk), Tim Mullady (Recording Clerk), John Norris (Treasurer) agreed to continue in those roles.

FCS extends their joyous appreciation for Betsy in her faithful service at the heart of committee.

P.R.A.Y. Report : In 2009 the following awards were given-

That of God – 11
Spirit of Truth - 0
Friends Award - 0

Usage of the program has drastically declined and no reports from PRAY have been received as of March 2009. PRAY regretfully came to the decision to terminate our agreement for handling the Friends religious emblems program due to the federal regulation which went into effect on Feb 10, 2009. This 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)."

After much discussion over the last year of the best way to proceed, it was decided to go ahead and fund the replacement and make a new agreement with PRAY to continue to handle the awards. Cost of the replacement will be \$968.78 for tooling and manufacture. Friends had overwhelmingly expressed their satisfaction with the current design so unless needed, no changes to the design will be made. Betsy agreed to call and make a new agreement with PRAY. They will hold on to the former stock as the medallion is the same for both youth and adult awards. It is possible that new adult awards could be made from the old stock in the future.

Publicity:

Website: FCS's website continues to be located at <http://scouting.quaker.org/>. It was decided that the website is currently in need of updating and new features. Dan is going to contact his friend Alex Killby for help on the website changes. New features proposed are addition of an interactive chat area or Blog for communication, addition of a "join FCS" area where prospective new members can get information on joining, and setup for a way to electronically pay yearly dues/donations via a PayPal account. This account would be under the care of the treasurer. We will all be asked to contribute information to this site whenever we have something to share. We feel this is the way to go to get information out there without doing an actual newsletter. This is the new way in which organizations are communicating with the world.

Yahoo Group: The group is relatively inactive and is currently reported to experience little activity. This will be shut down in favor of the new interactive features of the FCS website.

Facebook: FCS now has a page on Facebook which will be another way we can connect with Friends connected to Scouting/Guiding. <http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=102491556452978&v=info&ref=ts>

Displays: The small display was transferred to David Hadley and will be available in Plainfield, Indiana. Anyone in the Indiana area who would like to have it available for presentation should email David at drhadley@ameritech.net. The large display was transferred to Tim Mullady and is currently in Edgewater, Maryland. Please contact Tim at mulladyt@si.edu if you wish to use this one. Tim is planning to take the display to the 2010 National Boy Scout Jamboree this July 24th – August 4th and Jim Lehman has reserved space for it in the exhibits tent. Several people will be needed to staff the exhibit during the week. John Norris agreed to look into applying as one of the display minders during the week.

Advertisements and Articles: Dan Nelson recently wrote an article "An introduction to Quaker Scouting" in the Canadian Friend magazine. He offered these as a template that could be used for constructing an article for Friends Journal, Quaker Life or other publications. As a way of getting the word out about the FCS programs, it was also suggested that we send the FCS brochure out to Yearly Meetings in FGC and FUM as well as Meetings that charter a scout unit. The addresses for Yearly Meetings can be found in the back on Quaker Life. Tim Mullady will contact BSA headquarters and provide an updated list of Boy/Cub Scout units chartered by a Friends Meeting. Unfortunately no such information exists for the Girl Scouts but it is likely that such Meetings would sponsor both.

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. In early 2009, Jim Lehman and Tim Mullady both applied again to serve as Friends "Chaplains". After much difficulty, Tim has been accepted but unfortunately Jim's application was not approved due to a falsely negative review within his home council. Many letters of support were written by Friends but made no change. Jim expressed his gratitude toward Friends for their support. Jim was able to reserve space at the Relationships exhibit for our large display but will be unable to help staff it. John Norris is looking into the possibility of working as day staff to tend to our display. <http://www.scouters.us/jamboree/jambo.html>

Curriculum in Spanish: The Spanish translation of 'That of God' and 'Sprit of Truth' was handed off to Tim Mullady during the meeting. Tim is planning to scan the documents and make them 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.

FGC committee change: During the last central committee meeting of FGC in October 2009, a massive committee restructuring was the primary item on the agenda. Due to financial reasons, the different committees,(such as CIRC Christian Interfaith Relations Committee that currently oversees FCS) were being restructured to be more cost efficient. For some time it has been a concern to the FGC representatives as to FCS being overseen/part of CIRC and it was decided to inquire about having FCS placed with a more relevant committee such as Youth Ministries or Religious Education. The restructuring is still occurring and our concerns were noted to be incorporated into the new changes.

Boy Scout Report: The Boy Scouts of America are currently celebrating the 100th anniversary. Attendance is currently up mostly due to the celebration

Girl Scout Report: The Girl Scouts of America are also preparing for their 100th anniversary on March 12, 2012. Reconfiguring of the local councils and downsizing was reported. Many are not happy with the changes.

Canadian Scout/Guide Report: Scouts Canada have launched a bold new plan “Scouting Now!” www.scoutingnow.org and hope to double their numbers in the next 5 years. Dan is currently steering a uniform review committee.

Next Year’s Meeting: It is currently undecided where and when to hold the next annual meeting. Several idea were suggested and as we are Scouters, having the meeting in an outdoor location and possibly camping for the weekend was also suggested. As a many of our members are also part of other committees within FWCC Section of the Americas, we may not have our next meeting in conjunction so that they do not need to be in two places at once. Plans for the next annual meeting will be announced via email at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mullady, Recording Clerk