

Friends Committee on Scouting Annual Meeting
April 8-10, 2016
Western Yearly Meeting/Plainfield Meeting Facilities
Minutes

Friday Evening: Scouting Reports + FWCC Plenary

Present: Luanne Hagee, Dan Nelson, Tim Mullady, John Norris, Betsy Wenny, Matt Fisher, Bob Parker

Girl Scouts – -Betsy – Girl Scouts seeing a decrease in adult leadership and are having difficulty keeping and recruiting leaders.

- Emphasis on outdoor skills has returned after discussion and surveys of youth and adults
- John noted consolidation of councils in his area, Betsy noted that councils are now working together more closely.

Boy Scouts - Tim – Membership requirement changes have created some upheaval in areas. It appears that the resistance is slowly decreasing. Charter organizations now have right to approve leadership and have the right to reject leaders based on how leaders match their organizations faith and beliefs.

- Cub Scout requirements changed in 2015 with more emphasis on Duty to God.
- Boy Scout requirement changed Jan 2016 with increased emphasis on Duty to God.
 - o Scout is now a rank with requirements
 - o Other early ranks have more requirements
 - o Tim is getting questions on how to implement Duty to God requirements in early ranks
 - o Requirements focus on how scout does his Duty to God, not on Scout going to church etc.
 - o Suggestion made to create Duty to God helps for Quaker scouts and post on our webpage.
 - o Cub Scout pilot program called Lions for Kindergarten age boys is being tested in several councils
 - o Committee discussed issues leading to loss of membership

Scouts Canada

- Dan reported on the status of changes in the Canadian Scout Program which are based on the Irish scouting program.
- Scouts Canada has lost over 100,000 members in last 20 years. They are down to 64,000 members at this time.

Girl Guides Canada - Dan has had a contact from a Girl Guide leader in Toronto who is working for Friends Service Committee.

FWCC World Plenary Session (January 2016) - Luanne & John N. –

- Held in Peru in January, both John and Luanne attended.
- Luanne reported on FWCC Plenary meeting and contacts made with Friends from around the world.
- Luanne had a small display for FCS. She explained FCS global program to interested persons and is working to get global curriculum translated to Spanish and posted on our webpage.

Project # 1 – UK resources for *'My Faith'* (Scouts) and *'Discovering Faith'* (Girl Guides) badges-

- Committee reviewed UK scout My Faith Activity Badge requirements and began discussion on creating resources to help Quaker Scouts complete the requirements at the Beaver, Cub and Scout level
- Dan also discussed the need to revise the Canadian program that was last updated in 2005
- Committee discussed current US program and whether we could use any of the materials

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 pm purposed to meet again at 8:30 am Saturday morning.

**Saturday Morning: Business Meeting
Western Yearly Meeting Plainfield Indiana**

Present: Luanne Hagee- Clerk, Dan Nelson- Assistant Clerk, Tim Mullady, John Norris- Treasurer, Betsy Wenny, Matt Fisher, Bob Parker- Recording Clerk

Present on Skype – James Lehman – Membership and Outreach Clerk. Liam Murphy, John Hill

Phone in – Tom Tabor

Welcome & Introductions:

Recording Clerk: The committee unanimously approved the appointment of Bob Parker as Recording Clerk

Centering Down:

Minutes of 2015 Annual Meeting: Minutes read and approved by consensus

Finances: John

Current Balance \$1721.74

Transactions – Donation to Gwyneth Meeting for \$50 (for use of facilities)

Expenses related to 2015 meeting

Paid – \$745 for medals

Received from PRAY - \$320.90 (reimbursement for July 1 2014 to June 30, 2015 awards)

Donations/Dues / Payment for meeting – (3 transactions) \$218

PRAY Report: Luanne - presented report from PRAY – attached

- Contract agreement with PRAY was presented, Luanne has not signed agreement sent to her in October 2015 and has noted that she has not received a signed copy from PRAY.
- Dan explained that FCS takes the risk by purchasing a larger quantity of medals and has asked for the additional profit generated from this purchase to be returned to FCS for outreach.
- Luanne sent a letter to FCS on March 29th which she shared with committee
- The committee discussed possible options including taking over the awards from PRAY
- Committee discussed options moving forward, a consensus was not reached on a path so the committee agreed to wait on the response to the March 29th letter to PRAY
- Committee also discussed Friends doing the general protestant award

Committees:

Membership/Outreach: Jim

- Jim sent letters to various yearly meetings, no report as to if they were publicized in each yearly meetings materials

Religious Relationships Task Force / BSA: Tom T. – Tom called in by phone and reported that next Relationships committee is in May in California, he is not sure if he will attend.

Publicity: Displays, Articles, Webpage & Facebook

- Large display still needs to be repaired- Bob will work with Tim to get it repaired in hopes of Bob taking it to North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) in July
- Luanne submitted article to Friends Journal which was not published
- Friends Journal has requested a general article on our committee
 - o On hold pending PRAY, committee agreed that article would move forward soon
- Committee discussed increasing publicity in Quaker Life and Friends Journal
- Webpage –
 - o Need to update page on Scouting and homosexuality as BSA membership policies have changed Dan and Luanne will update as webmasters
- Luanne will update adult Friends emblem application, as fillable pdf on webpage

- Facebook – Luanne and Dan are screening membership requests and removing those who do not reply to the initial request to introduce themselves.

GSUSA Interfaith – Betsy

- Betsy reported that GSUSA is trying to restart its Interfaith committee
- Committee looked at using faith as a way to get girls into scouting

FCS Committee approved committee reports as presented.

Affiliations:

FUM: Luanne - Luanne has not submitted report waiting on PRAY, committee agreed.

- We do not have another FUM representative. Matt Fisher agreed to be a representative to FUM. Luanne will contact FUM about adding Matt as a representative.

FGC: Dan & Tim - Tim shared that last years report focused on BSA membership policies. Neither attended FGC conference last year.

(FWCC: done Friday night)

Affiliation reports approved

OLD BUSINESS

UK Resources 'My Faith' Badges:- Boy Scouts - Dan is working on updates

UK Resources 'Discovering Faith' Badges: Girl Guides – Luanne is working on resources

Old Business reports approved

NEW BUSINESS

BSA 2017 Jamboree: Chaplains – Tim Mullady (approved by National) and Jim (not sure at this point)

-F&B Display – information just received this last week – cost \$1,450

- Committee discussed the options
 - We are providing chaplain staff
 - We are a program not an exhibitor
 - No charges in the past for a basic display area
 - Should we solicit support from yearly meetings
- Bob will craft a letter today to BSA F&B discussing the cost structure and our inability to pay
- Committee agreed that if BSA does not yield on cost we will
 - Solicit donations to offset cost
 - Liam will create donation letter
 - Make a decision on September 15th based on donations received.
- F&B Display tenders – Henry Watson & John Hill have expressed interest in this, John Norris is also a possibility
- Other Staff – Bob Parker and Matt Fisher

Approved

Dropbox – Bob proposed that we create a dropbox folder to house archival documents and other material.

- Dan offered to set up a google biz site we can store documents

Approved

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Tim and Jim shared an article on loyalty oaths from scouting magazine.
 - Does committee wants to craft a statement relating to Quaker belief in not taking oaths
 - Committee agreed that we would provide some direction on our website

2017 Annual Meeting -

Committee discussed March 23-26, 2017 FWCC/Section of the Americas Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA along with other possible dates

- Discussion points – cost, ability to meet and work as a group, interaction with FWCC
- Luanne will reach out to FWCC about cost and if we can join them.

Committee meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m. purposed to meet again in spring 2017 if consistent with Divine will.

PRAY Report

The table below shows the usage of the Friends Awards from 2010 through December 2015.

AWARD	ORDERED Spring 2010	2010 (Jan - Dec)	3/22/11 per PRAY	2011 (Jan - Dec)	2012 (Jan - Dec)	April 2012 Added	2013 (Jan - Dec)	2014 (Jan - Dec)	2015 (Jan - Dec)	ORDERED Spring 2015	2016 (Jan - Mar)	CURRENT INVENTORY (Dec. 31, 2015)
<i>That of God</i>	+ 50	(18)	29	(10)	(14)	(+7)+ 50	(10)	(22)	(24)	+ 101	(?)	101
<i>Spirit of Truth</i>	+ 25	(1)	23	(2)	(1)	(+19) 0	(2)	(2)	(1)		(?)	14
<i>Friends Emblem</i>	[21/22]	(0)	20	(2)	(3)	+(15) 0	(1)	(1)	(1)		(0)	11

Note:

Friends Emblem [22] this figure off an email from Betsy (6/5/2010) that came from Mark @ PRAY – these were not ordered, but were in stock. Another email from Betsy (12/30/2010), again from Mark @ PRAY gives an inventory amount of [21]. Email from Deb @ PRAY to me (3/22/2011) gives inventory amount of 20. Not sure what's up with the difference in numbers – if they've mis-counted OR if they have sent them out to someone for a display or something.

Figures in () represent number of Awards that were sent out during that time.

Figures in (+) in 'April 2012 Added' is the number of Awards/Recognitions on hand on April 9, 2012 per Jennifer @ PRAY.

Friends Emblem Recognitions presented 2010-2015:

To members of FCS: 2011 – 1; 2012 – 2; 2013 – 1; 2014 – 1; 2015 – 0 = 5

To other Scouting Friends: 2011 – 1; 2012 – 1; 2012 – 0; 2014 – 0; 2015 – 1 = 3

In 2015 . . .

That of God awards: split ten to Girl Scouts and fourteen to Cub Scouts from 14 different Monthly Meetings + 1 independent from 13 states

Spirit of Truth awards: one Boy Scout.

Friends Emblems recognitions: one to a Boy Scout/ Girl Scout volunteer.

2015 had a slight increase in 'That of God' award usage overall BUT a HUGE increase with Girl Scouts and a big drop in the number of Cub Scouts earning the award. I don't see this as a trend, as eight of the ten Girl Scouts were from the same Meeting. It's sad to see such a large drop in the number of Cub Scouts earning the award since BSA requires 'Duty to God' for advancement in all Cub Scout ranks. With the new requirements that have been introduced in both the Cub Scout and Boy Scout programs, in the last two years, and with the Girl Scout Interfaith Committee being re-started I'm hopeful that the usage of our youth awards will begin to increase.

So far in 2016 . . .

I have not received any report from P.R.A.Y. since early January, and that report was for youth awards sent out during the fourth quarter of 2015 (October-November-December).

Contract/Agreement with PRAY: I received an email from Jennifer at P.R.A.Y. in October with a copy of the agreement I had signed and returned June 30, 2013 – not signed by P.R.A.Y., with the request to initial & date each page of the agreement as once again P.R.A.Y. had no changes to make. I replied that FCS had changes to make – requesting the additional profit of \$2.32/101 'That of God' awards that were ordered in 2015. Multiple emails, phone calls and finally I sent a certified/return receipt requested letter on March 29th and received the receipt back on Tuesday, April 5th having

been signed for by Jennifer on March 31st. As of our Annual Meeting, April 9, 2016, I have not received any kind of reply from P.R.A.Y.

Respectfully Submitted,
Luanne Hagee, Clerk
April 7, 2016