

Pacific Northwest Quarterly Meeting
Continuing Committee meeting of Saturday, January 23, 2010
Eastside Friends Meetinghouse, Bellevue, WA
Minutes

10-01-01 The Continuing Committee meeting began at approximately 10:05 am with open worship followed by a round of introductions and check-ins concerning news from our local meetings. In attendance were **Iris Graville** (PNQM Co-clerk, presiding), **Alan Mountjoy-Venning** (PNQM Co-clerk and acting Olympia Rep), **Don Goldstein** (Recording Clerk and Listkeeper), **Louis Webster** (Treasurer and Eastside Rep), **Margaret Coahran** (Registrar, Site Liaison, and acting Pullman-Moscow Rep), **Pablo Stanfield** (M & O Co-clerk and acting University Rep), **Sandy Harold** (M & O Co-clerk), **Adrienne Solenberger** (Children's Program Coordinator), **Rebecca Sullivan** (Junior Friends Co-clerk), **Lorina Hall** (Bellingham Rep), **Clint Weimeister** (Port Townsend Rep), **Sea Gabriel** (acting South Seattle Rep), and **Kelly Larson** (NPYM Junior Friends Co-clerk) .

10-01-02 Copies were distributed of a **Treasurer's Report** prepared by Louis Webster. The report showed a surplus from the fall 2009 QM session of \$762.21, which did yet take account of refunds paid to those who registered but were unable to attend, in the amount of at least \$170 and possibly more. Income received from fees paid was \$12,015.00. The report also showed a further small increase in self-awarded financial aid (\$1,065, as opposed to \$911 for spring 2009) but a substantial decrease in early-registration discounts (\$340, as opposed to \$610 in spring 2009). Total fee waivers and stipends, which had been \$2,225 in spring 2009, were down to \$1,770 this time. There was also an increase in late registration fees paid, from \$300 in spring to \$425 in fall 2009. Fees charged by Lazy F were down from \$12,876 in spring to \$10,667.65 in fall 2009, largely due to lower attendance and to Lazy F's decision not to charge us for meals reserved but not eaten because of late cancellations caused by illness.

The surplus from the fall 2009 QM session was somewhat surprising, since we had expected the likelihood of a substantial deficit. The fees-paid-related factors listed above made a net difference of almost \$700, more than offsetting reductions in fees received owing to reduced attendance. Lower fees charged by Lazy F (also due to lower attendance) accounted for the rest of the swing from a very large deficit in spring 2009 to the surplus realized in the fall. Our current cash available, after payment of the deposit to Lazy F for spring 2010, is \$8,064.80, as compared with \$7,116.49 as of June 30, 2009. [A copy of the report, updated to include the fall 2009 refund expense and also figures from the 2010 Silent Retreat, are being distributed with the final version of these minutes.]

Iris reported that registration for this year's Silent Retreat is full and has a waiting list, so there should be no concerns about a deficit from that QM-sponsored event. [There was in fact a surplus of over \$1100.]

10-01-03 Louis also reported for our **ad hoc Finances Subcommittee** (Margaret, Clint, and Louis), which held two meetings recently by Skype and telephone to discuss suggested fees for the spring 2010 QM session and the PNQM assessment levied on meetings and worship groups. The subcommittee was in unity that Quarterly Meeting sessions benefit all of us and our meetings, not just those who are able to attend, and that therefore it is justifiable to expect assessments to provide a somewhat larger share of our income than in the recent past, as had also been approved at Quarterly Meeting for Business in fall 2009. That Meeting specifically approved an increase in the assessment beginning in 2010, leaving the amount up to a recommendation from the Continuing Committee for final approval at Quarterly Meeting for Business in spring 2010. The subcommittee recommended to us an increase in the assessment of \$1.00 per active adult participant, and thus a new amount of \$2.00 per person. However, in light of our surplus from the fall 2009 QM session and the fact that Lazy F has decided not to increase per-person fees charged in 2010, as compared with 2009, the subcommittee recommended that suggested QM fees be left at the same level as for fall 2009 (\$110 for full-time adults, \$55 for Central and Junior Friends, and \$40 for younger children, with a \$20 discount for adults who camp).

Clint pointed out that we actually realize net income (over Lazy F charges) only from adult fees, and from that income, plus donations and late registration fees, we need to pay program expenses, fee waivers,

stipends for Children's Program teachers, subsidies for children and Junior Friends, and discounts for early registration and camping. We need to realize income of between \$2000 and \$2500 per session, over and above Lazy F's charges, in order to pay all of these costs. Margaret reminded us that the payment of travel expenses for our M & C Co-clerks is a new expense that is another justification for increasing assessments, and that Lazy F charges will continue to increase in the future despite the temporary reprieve for 2010 due to the current economic situation. Such fee increases, by 5% annually, will resume in 2011 and continue for several years until their pricing is comparable to that of similar retreat and conference facilities.

Pablo proposed, in light of our currently good financial health, that the assessment increase per person be just 50 cents rather than \$1.00, and that it be implemented in 2011 rather than this year, with additional small increases in the annual assessment to follow later as circumstances warranted. He pointed out that the impact of an assessment increase was a substantial one for large meetings, such as University, some of which are already struggling to meet their current budgets. Don reminded us that the minutes sent out to all groups in fall 2009 contained news of an assessment increase coming in 2010 and should have induced appropriate budget planning for the coming fiscal year in each meeting. As Treasurer of Bellingham Friends Meeting, he reported that its budget for 2010 included an anticipated increase in the PNQM assessment to \$3.00 per person, not just the \$2.00 per person currently recommended. A general discussion of the assessment, its amount and timing, and communication concerning it followed, near the end of which the following proposal was made and subsequently **approved**:

Continuing Committee recommends to Spring 2010 Quarterly Meeting for Business that the PNQM assessment, per year per active adult participant, be increased effective this year to \$1.50, and that a second increase in the assessment rate to \$2.00 be effective in 2012.

It was also **agreed**, per the subcommittee recommendation, that:

Suggested QM registration fees shall be left unchanged (from last fall) for the spring 2010 QM session.

10-01-04 Nominations. Iris reported that Louis (as Treasurer), Margaret (as Registrar), and Pablo (as M & O Co-clerk) have all agreed to be nominated for an additional two-year term beginning this July, subject to Continuing Committee agreement and approval by Spring 2010 Quarterly Meeting for Business. We **agreed** to these three renominations, with thanks. The only remaining position to be nominated by the Continuing Committee is that of PNQM Co-clerk, replacing Alan this July at the rise of NPYM's Annual Session. We discussed a number of possible candidates for this nomination and came to agreement on a list of seven names and the priority order for contacting them, which task shall be undertaken by Iris and Alan as they arrange with each other. [Since our meeting, Susan Richardson has agreed to accept nomination as Co-clerk.]

Rebecca Sullivan, as PNQM Junior Friends Co-clerk, was reminded that the Junior Friends were expected to nominate a Junior Friends Advisor (replacing Deric Young, and subject to final approval by the Continuing Committee in July) and Junior Friends Co-clerk (replacing Irene Muller) during the QM session this spring.

10-01-05 Junior Friends concerns: Rebecca and Kelly spoke to us about the NPYM Junior Friends' service trip to Jamaica, July 25-August 1, 2010, which will include 15 or 16 Junior Friends and 4 or 5 adults. The participants will be mentoring children attending a summer camp on Jamaica, in subjects such as computer skills, drama, and carpentry. The trip will be under the aegis of Amizade, the organization which had facilitated the Junior Friends' service trip to Mexico in 2008. The per-person trip cost is \$1300 per person, and the Junior Friends are still looking for additional adults to join them (deadline, March 15). Rebecca and Kelly thought that there might also be one or two spaces left for Junior Friends, and recommended that any interested Junior Friends apply as soon as possible. [An information/application document may be downloaded from www.databasezone.com/npymjf/ApplicationFor2010.doc, and questions may be addressed to the co-clerks of the Service Trip Committee, Teague Harry and Irene Muller, by sending email to servicetrip09@yahoo.com.] Both collective and individual-participant fundraising is needed to support the trip.

We thanked Rebecca and Kelly for their report and encouraged them to publicize and raise funds for the service trip during the spring 2010 QM session. We also reminded them that the spring QM session will

include availability of the Lazy F Challenge Course, in which many of the Junior Friends may want to participate.

10-01-06 Louis, reporting for the planning committee, told us that **planning for the Spring 2010 QM session** is proceeding well and will continue with a committee meeting to be held very soon. The committee has reviewed its responsibilities as outlined in the PNQM Session Planning Guide, and plans to deliver the materials and information it needs to provide for the registration packet by February 13th. Don indicated that the registration packets would be distributed during the period from February 20th to 25th, in order to meet our agreed timeline. The session itself is April 23-25, 2010, which means that the registration deadline will be April 7th. [A new flyer for the spring 2010 QM session, with a nice graphic and confirmation that the plenary guest speaker will be Leah Green, is now on our website and also accompanies these minutes.]

Louis asked about funds available to compensate an outside facilitator for their plenary session, and was told that the planning committee could (without notice to the Continuing Committee) spend up to \$200 for such an honorarium, and also had up to three fee waivers at its disposal for those whose attendance was essential to the program, and/or someone like the massage therapist who has attended recently and provided a free service to Friends.

10-01-07 Iris read a report received from the planning committee (calling itself the Joy Committee) for the **Fall 2010 QM session**, hosted by Sandpoint Friends Meeting, as follows: "The first meeting of the Joy Committee met on a cold night in December to discuss Sandpoint's hosting of Quarterly Fall 2010. Judith Clarke volunteered to do major work as Clerk of the Joy Committee, Volunteer Coordinator, and Session Coordinator. The topic considered: 'Lighten Up – Physically, Mentally, and Spiritually'. Parise Whitley offered to put together a flyer that we can bring to Spring Quarterly."

10-01-08 Pablo presented a report from **Ministry & Oversight**, supplementing the written report circulated prior to this meeting and also being distributed with these minutes. In the hope of achieving better continuity and communication, the M & O Co-clerks request that each meeting appoint a representative to attend the M & O meeting that occurs during QM sessions, let the M & O Co-clerks know who that is, and keep the information up to date.

Briefly summarizing his and Sandy's travel to the eastern end of our Quarter in November, Pablo reported that:

- Spokane Friends may form a new worship group (the previous was laid down in 2002), and have been offered space by the pastor at Spokane Friends Church on Sunday afternoons for this purpose.
- Sandpoint Friends are satisfied with their meeting but feel lonely and would welcome much more visitation by Friends from elsewhere.
- Pullman-Moscow Friends are still experiencing considerable pain and conflict. Our M & O Co-clerks have prepared a more detailed report on this conflict, which is available on request. A follow-up visit is being planned in the hope that outside help can help improve relationships in this meeting.
- Walla Walla Friends (visited by just Pablo) anticipate that they will perennially remain a Preparative Meeting.
- In general, Friends in far eastern Washington and northern Idaho want more frequent visitation.

As for travel expenses, Sandy reported that the allocated amount of \$250 was adequate for now, as only \$80 had been spent on their trip. Don reminded Sandy and Pablo that driving expenses are usually reimbursed on the basis of mileage, paid at the rate established by North Pacific Yearly Meeting, currently 20 cents per mile. He thought that would increase reimbursement beyond that provided by just repayment for gas, although not all present agreed.

Pablo requested that State of Society reports for 2009 should, if possible, be emailed to him (pablo.paz@juno.com) not later than April 1st so there is time for printing, compilation, and discussion of how they will be shared with Friends during the spring 2010 QM session. He will also send out a direct reminder to all meetings.

10-01-09 Adrienne asked for clarification as to what assistance she will have in recruiting teachers for the **Children's Program** this spring, and it was explained that this is a responsibility of the two most recent host

meetings, in this case Bellingham and Port Townsend. Others, of course, are invited to help as they are able. She reported that running the program for two fairly large groups, Preschoolers and Early Elementary, in the Trading Post had been problematic due to overcrowding last fall. A couple of alternative arrangements were suggested, and Adrienne was reminded that space assignments for Children's Program groups were part of her job, although coordinating with the Site Liaison was strongly recommended. Final space assignments for each group are not needed until about 3 days prior to the session, when group sizes should be known.

Don reminded Adrienne that she is entitled to have an Assistant Children's Program Coordinator of her choosing, who serves in that role until the end of her own term. Although it is advantageous if that person might also become her successor, this may not be possible or the most important qualification. Adrienne was clear that she would like an assistant who knows a lot of people around the Quarter, to make up for her own lack of such acquaintance, and a specific Friend was suggested who could fill that requirement well.

10-01-10 Don reported for the **ad hoc subcommittee on Silent Retreat Attendance Policy**, consisting of Sandy Harold, Kathy Knowlton, Judy Meyer, and himself. For a variety of reasons he did not get information sent out to the other three until this week, but since any changes to the policy would not be in effect for this year's Silent Retreat (January 29-31) anyway, he does not see this as a serious problem. Other members of the subcommittee have been apprised of the history of the matter and asked to respond with their thoughts on the proposed policy amendments within the next few weeks, so that the subcommittee will hopefully have specific recommendations to bring to the Continuing Committee at its meeting in April.

10-01-11 Alan announced that the Friends Committee on Washington Public Policy (FCWPP) will hold its second annual **Quaker Lobby Day** in Olympia on Monday, February 15th, Presidents Day. FCWPP has previously facilitated a grass-roots lobbying day in conjunction with other religious lobbying organizations, but successfully started to organize its own event for Quakers last year. There will be limited overnight hospitality available in Olympia. Those needing hospitality should contact Alan (AMVenning@gmail.com). [A flyer with more details, including a form for registering one's intent to participate, is being distributed with these minutes.]

In other **announcements**:

- Margaret is helping to develop an online registration system for NPYM's Annual Session, and will be using the new software (offline, on her own computer) for our spring 2010 QM registration as a test, in parallel with the Access-based registration application she has used for PNQM for several years, in order to identify and fix problems with the new system.
- Don announced that he expects to be contacting meetings around our Quarter soon in order to find a new temporary home for Freda the Peace Dove, which has spent over a year now in Bellingham. He also reminded Friends that they may claim mileage reimbursement for driving to today's Continuing Committee meeting, at the new NPYM rate of 20 cents per mile, by contacting the Treasurer. If anyone traveled here by another means, actual costs are reimbursable upon request.

10-01-12 The meeting concluded at about 3 pm with open worship followed by a guided tour of the Eastside Friends Meetinghouse remodel, currently in progress. Our next meeting will take place at Lazy F Camp and Retreat Center on Saturday, April 24th, immediately after dinner together in Ridgeview Lounge.

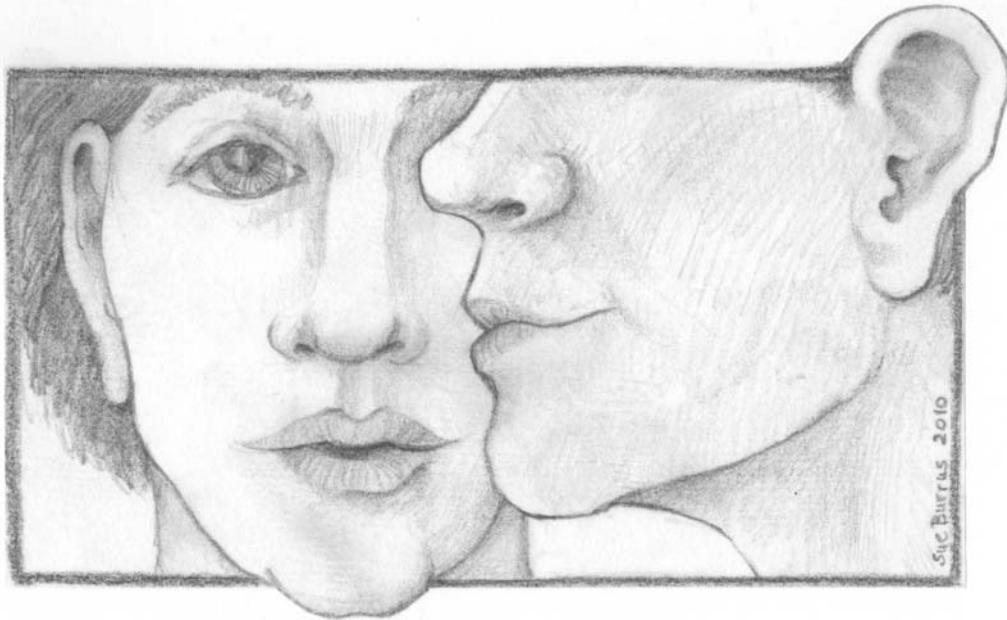
Don Goldstein, Recording Clerk

Iris Graville, Presiding Clerk

PACIFIC NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING
APRIL 23RD TO 25TH, 2010
at LAZY F CAMP & RETREAT CENTER near Ellensburg, WA
Hosted by EASTSIDE FRIENDS MEETING

COMPASSIONATE LISTENING:

FINDING GOD IN THE MIDST OF FEAR



"Then we must listen. We must listen and listen and listen.

*We must listen for the Truth in our opponent, and we must acknowledge it.
After we have listened long enough, openly enough,
and with the desire to really hear,
we may be given the opportunity to speak our truth.
We may even have the opportunity to be heard.*

***For no one and no one side is the sole repository of Truth.
But each of us has a spark of it within.***

*Perhaps, with compassion as our guide, that spark in each of us can
become a glow, and then perhaps a light,
and we will watch one another in awe as we become illuminated.
And then, perhaps, this spark, this glow,
this light will become the enlightening energy of love that will save all of us."*

The quote above is from Gene Knudsen Hoffman, a Quaker who inspired the Compassionate Listening Project

**A report from the Pacific NW Quarterly Meeting
Ministry & Oversight Committee
on visitation to MMs East of the Cascades.**

11/23/2009

Sandy Harold and Pablo Stanfield, co-clerks of QM M&O, traveled under concern to meet with Friends in Spokane, Sandpoint and Pullman-Moscow. Pablo also visited Walla Walla PM. We found welcome and interest in each place. Friends in our most isolated Meetings are independent and resourceful. We also found a sense of neglect, confusion about Quarterly Meeting, and concern for better contact and support. Most times, there were no obvious, practical means to immediately meet their needs, but it was clear that even this visitation was meaningful and appreciated and a beginning toward a greater sense of inclusion as part of our Quarterly Meeting.

Spokane Friends met with us at a dinner in a local restaurant; the group included Friends from the Worship Group that has been laid down, as well as pastor Nick and Susan Block of the Spokane Friends Church (NWYM). They were invited to the dinner because the pastor had also started an unprogrammed worship on Firstday mornings that NPYM Friend Norm Pasche attends. Friend Block, who is from the FUM tradition, has begun the practice of a period of silence during worship programs (“semi-programmed meetings”) to accommodate the spiritual needs of Silent Friends. He has also invited Spokane Worship Group to use the church building for a traditional silent worship on Sunday afternoons. Those who attended this dinner, including those who have become discouraged with trying to keep the Spokane worship group going, expressed interest in considering this offer. Sandy and Pablo will follow up on their considerations of this option.

Sandpoint Friends welcomed us with hospitality and options of sight-seeing in their beautiful community. We met with them at an afternoon meeting of the M&O, followed by a potluck dinner and a meeting with the entire Monthly Meeting. Many concerns were expressed about the sense of isolation that Sandpoint Friends feel, given their few numbers and the distances from Friends’ centers on the west side of the mountains. They would like visitation from others to help keep contact and feel a part of the larger Friends’ world. Because Yearly Meeting has difficulty with visitation, the group affirmed that Quarterly M&O is a good and necessary function of the Quarterly Meeting. It was suggested that they might explore what they feel that the Monthly Meeting is doing well and find ways to continue and expand those aspects of the worship and community. Possibilities offered by Pablo include “well meeting clinics” and Meeting retreats.

In Moscow we met for Firstday Worship in a deep silence, followed by a discussion on the meaning of membership, and a potluck supper. During a discussion with several members, including their M&O Committee, we uncovered long-standing, unhealed wounds from a dispute with roots as much as 15 years ago. As we listened we heard profound sadness and pain and a general desire for reconciliation, for resolution and improved communication. Most are beyond pointing blame, ready to own their part in the mistakes that escalated the tensions. Even so, they find themselves stuck, unable to move forward, and with no clarity on how to proceed. There is fear that the Meeting may split or die. We recognize the difficulties inherent in working through problems when some refuse to participate or when individual psychological issues prevent unity. Ministry and Oversight urged Pullman-Moscow Monthly Meeting to plan a process for seeking unity in resolution and to agree on an outside mediator as soon as possible. They were assured of the support of QM Ministry and Oversight Committee to help in whatever ways we can. A more detailed report has been prepared and shared with P-M MM, members of QM M&O, and QM officers as well as NPYM’s Outreach & Visitation Committee. Follow-up conversations are being planned.

Walla Walla PM continues as a small but healthy worshipping group. They are not a large community but have several very strong Quakers and their families in the group. There are always a certain number of seekers/ enquirers and currently some have become regular attenders from as far away as Pendleton OR. During the visit, Pablo was able to clarify several ideas about the QM and answer questions. Because of the pandemic of over-commitment, Members do not attend QM sessions as often as they would like. This visit stimulated interest in attendance by newer attenders and others who have never been. The sense of the Meeting was that they are adequately cared for by their mother Meeting (Eastside) and know that they can call on PNQM CC or M&O Committee if they need help. Nonetheless they appreciated an official visit for the first time in their existence.

The Co-clerks are currently investigating when they can visit some meetings and worship groups in the Puget Sound Basin.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Harold and Pablo Stanfield,
Co-clerks, Committee on Ministry & Oversight
Pacific Northwest Quarter of the Religious Society of Friends, NPYM



Friends Committee on Washington Public Policy (FCWPP)
— A Quaker Organization

P.O. Box 452, Olympia WA 98507-0452

fcwpp@quaker.org
www.quaker.org/fcwpp

Second Annual Quaker Lobby Day – February 15, in Olympia

When: Monday, February 15

Where: Olympia Friends Meetinghouse and Capitol Campus

Friends have been a leading voice for prison reform and economic justice for several centuries. But our voice has never been needed more than it is today, when our nation has a higher reported rate of imprisonment than any other country in the world and many lack basic health care. So the Friends Committee on Washington Public Policy invites you to participate in **our second annual Quaker Lobby Day**.

The day will begin at the Olympia Friends Meeting House about 9:00 am, where we will discuss our key legislative priorities (sentencing reform, drug reform, economic justice and health care, and voting rights) and share a lunch together before we go over to the Capitol Building to talk about these issues with our individual legislators. We will have access to the whole Meetinghouse as the Pre-School does not meet on February 15 (Presidents' Day).

Our voice is critically important to 18,000 men and women behind bars and many marginalized citizens of our state who cannot speak effectively for themselves. There's no cost to participate in Quaker Lobby Day, so consider inviting others from your meeting to come along. **Please join us in Olympia on February 15!**

Questions? Please feel free to contact Carol Estes (redtuffy@embarqmail.com, 206-276-9128) or Sam Merrill (smerrill@zhonka.net, 360-866-8839).

REGISTRATION FOR QUAKER LOBBY DAY:

Name (s): _____

Email: _____

Phone number: _____

Street address: _____

Friends Meeting, if applicable: _____

Please email this information to Carol Estes (redtuffy@embarqmail.com) or Sam Merrill (smerrill@zhonka.net).

Directions and other details will be sent to registrants. We'll see you on February 15!

Thank you for your continued support of the Friends Committee on Washington Public Policy.