

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

WINTER INTERIM BUSINESS MEETING

Orlando Meetinghouse, Orlando, FL

First Month 17, 2015

9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Following silent worship, Joel Cook, SEYM Assistant clerk, (clerking the meeting in the absence of the IBM clerk), greeted and welcomed Friends present. Seated at the clerk's table were Joel Cook, SEYM Assistant clerk (Palm Beach MM); Jan Dahm and Lisa Erasmus, SEYM Recording co-clerks (Tampa MM).

Susan Taylor, Nominating Committee clerk (Tallahassee MM), gave the preliminary Nominating Committee report. Friends were asked to discern the call to fill leadership positions that are being vacated as of the rise of Yearly Meeting sessions. The report is in the DIA; an addenda to this report is attached to these minutes. Friends were asked to seek within themselves and their Meetings for gifts and leadings that may be emerging. The Archives Committee is seeking Friends with tech-savvy skills to serve on this committee.

Clerk thanked Orlando MM for their hospitality for the WIBM. Additionally, clerk asked for any announcements. Kate Sundberg shared with Friends the recent SEYM youth actions and invited Friends to participate in making a Valentine quilt that will be part of an EQUAT action on 14 Second Month. The Earthcare Committee announced the availability of copies of the Earthcare proposed minute for a field secretary position. Friends are invited to Miami MM on 28 2nd Month for a workshop on Elias Hicks presented by Paul Buckley. Shawls are available for purchase; all proceeds go to the Youth Committee.

Committee Meetings gathered from 9:45 a.m. – 12 noon.



The afternoon session opened at 1:00 p.m. with silent worship.

Clerk welcomed Friends and introduced the clerk's table. Clerk then drew Friends' attention to changes and additions to the agenda. Clerk then asked for a roll call of meetings and worship groups (see below). Those present during the roll call introduced themselves. At the time of roll call, Friends also shared Milestones from their Meetings [See Appendix: Milestones].

Clearwater MM

Debra McMaster
Elizabeth Woodward
Rick Brice
Eileen Zingaro

Ft. Lauderdale MM

Mary Jo Klingel

Ft. Meyers MM

Nancy Fennell
Tom Fennell
Richard Frechette

Gainesville MM

Connie Ray, Archives Committee Clerk
Tim Ray
Sandy Lyon
Cheryl Demers-Holton
Jean Larson
Laura Winefordner

Havana Worship Group

Mercedes Soca

Jacksonville MM

Elaine Martin

Lake Wales WG

Caroline Lanker
Bill Rapp

Miami MM

Warren Hoskins, Peace & Social Con. clerk
Andrea Hoskins
Clara Diaz
Floyd Daniels

Orlando MM

Vicki Carlie
Bill Carlie
Jerry Knutson
Kay Lesnick
Ed Lesnick
Minerva Glidden
Stephanie Preston
Liz Jenkins

Palm Beach MM

Joel Cook, YM and IBM assistant clerk,
Barb Letsch, Committee for Earthcare clerk
Serrin Anderson
Ellie Caldwell
Jack Bradin, Clerk of Trustees

St. Petersburg MM

Peter Crockett, Gathering Cte co-clerk
Davida Johns, Gathering Cte co-clerk
Herb Haigh
Pam Haigh
Peter Schmidt, Finance clerk

Sarasota MM

Mimi McAdoo
Nancy Corindia
Rolf Hansen
Kate Sundberg

Tallahassee MM

Phoebe Andersen, YM clerk
Neil Andersen, Treasurer
Susan Taylor, Nominating Committee clerk

Tampa MM

Jan Dahm, SEYM recording co-clerk
Lisa Erasmus, SEYM recording co-clerk
Nancy Triscritti, Worship and Ministry co-clerk
Karen Putney
Cece Yocum
Marjorie Arnaldi
Barbara Wolfe

Clerk asked for announcements from Friends. Nancy Fennell brought forward the need for more Friends to be certified for Child Abuse Prevention (CAP).

Susan Taylor (Tallahassee MM), acting recording clerk for 2015 WIBM Executive Committee, gave the EC Report on the WIBM EC meeting of 01-16-15. The following action minute was brought forward regarding publications:

- 15WEC01 - Executive Committee recommends that the Publications Committee be reactivated and formed an ad hoc committee to recommend the charge of the Publications Committee: Phoebe Andersen (Tallahassee), clerk; Stephanie Preston (Orlando). Other Friends will be asked to serve.

The following minute was brought forward and approved:

- 15WIBM01 Southeastern Yearly Meeting as Winter Interim Business Meeting reinstates the Publications Committee. Nominating Committee is charged with finding members for the Publications Committee.**

Susan Taylor, Nominating Committee clerk (Tallahassee MM), gave the report for the (attached) and clarified the various positions under discernment. The terms of two members of Nominating Committee are ending. Joel Cook and Peter Schmidt are the Naming Committee to discern the two new Nominating Committee members.

Nancy Triscritti, Worship and Ministry co-clerk (Tampa MM), gave the Worship and Ministry Report. The Michener Lecture speaker for 2016 will be Diane Randall from FCNL. A Friend from La Jolla MM in California, Roena Oesting is available to do "A Visit with Elizabeth Fry" performance at Monthly Meetings in SEYM. Brochures are available for Friends to take home to their Monthly Meetings.

Nancy Triscritti made some remarks of gratitude to Orlando Monthly Meeting for the amount of work they do to prepare for the WIBM and Michener Lecture. The following minute of appreciation was brought forward:

15WIBM02 Southeastern Yearly Meeting as Winter Interim Business Meeting greatly appreciates the hard work and joyous spirit that Orlando Monthly Meeting gives to us in hosting Winter Interim Business Meeting and the Michener Lecture each year. Thank you for your gift of service and love to our Yearly Meeting.

Nancy Fennell (Ft. Myers MM), shared with Friends the work that she has been doing to put together a Spiritual Formation Program. Nancy gave the general expectations of such a program should it be implemented in a Monthly Meeting. The following minute was brought forward regarding SEYM's support of this program:

15WIBM03 Southeastern Yearly Meeting as Winter Interim Business Meeting approves and supports the initiation of the Spiritual Formation Program as presented and approved by Worship and Ministry.

Neil Andersen, Treasurer (Tallahassee MM), gave the Treasurer's report on the period 1 Sixth Month, 2014 through 30 Eleventh Month, 2014. The report is in the DIA. Friends were asked for comments or questions regarding this report.

Peter Crockett (St. Petersburg MM), brought forward a query regarding the creation of a Committee on Aging. The proposed charge for the committee is included in DIA. Friends were asked to direct any questions or comments to Peter Crockett.

Eileen Zingaro (Clearwater MM), gave a report on Florida Impact. Friends were encouraged to invite someone from Florida Impact to come to Monthly Meetings to give a presentation. Friends were asked to discern whether or not to allow Florida Impact to place SEYM on their website as "partners" in their mission. The following minute was brought forward:

15WIBM04 Southeastern Yearly Meeting as Winter Interim Business Meeting approves Florida Impact listing SEYM as a supporter with our logo and a link to the SEYM website, on the Florida Impact website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Jack Bradin, clerk of Trustees (Palm Beach MM), gave the report for the Trustees. Paper copies were made available for Friends to peruse.

Peter Schmidt, Finance Committee clerk (St. Petersburg MM), gave the Finance Committee Report. The full report is in DIA.

Sandy Lyon (Gainesville MM) gave the Youth Committee Report (attached). Friends were asked to discern whether they might be called to help the Youth Program in any way during Yearly Meeting.

Peter Crockett, Gathering Committee co-clerk (St. Petersburg MM) gave the report for the Gathering Committee. SEYM Gathering is Fourth Month 1-5, 2015. The speaker will be Nancy Irving. The overall theme is "Community." The first retreat session will be: Supporting and Reinforcing the Spirit of Life." The second retreat session will be: Supporting Self through Community." The Walton Lecture theme will be: "Creating Space for Community, Inside and Out." The theme for the 2016 Yearly Meeting is "Active Peace." Friends are asked to discern names of speakers for this topic.

Barbara Letsch, Earthcare Committee clerk (Palm Beach MM) gave the report for the Earthcare Committee. A minute was proposed for a field secretary position. This minute is available in DIA. The committee asked Friends to discern this minute within their Monthly Meetings and to bring feedback to the Earthcare Committee.

Warren Hoskins, Peace and Social Concerns Committee clerk (Miami MM), gave the report for Peace and Social Concerns. A copy of the minutes of the last Peace and Social Concerns Committee meeting is attached. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee brought forward a minute from their meeting supporting the Earthcare Committee's minute regarding a field secretary position:

The Earthcare Committee of SEYM has brought forward a proposed Minute for an SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare, which is being seasoned. SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee sees this as a seasoned minute and supports the SEYM Earthcare Committee process. We request that every SEYM monthly meeting gather in worship and seek unity in moving forward with this proposal. The Earthcare Committee will bring this Minute forward for approval at Yearly Meeting sessions, 4/1-4/15.

The following minute was brought forward for approval by WIBM:

15WIBM05 Southeastern Yearly Meeting as Winter Interim Business Meeting instructs the Yearly Meeting secretary to email and postal mail the Earthcare Committee proposed minute for a field secretary for Earthcare to Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups. Monthly Meetings are requested to worshipfully consider the minute and respond to the Earthcare Committee with feedback by 2-28-15.

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee brought forward a minute from their meeting regarding support of the Youth Committee's work on a campaign for renewable energy:

SEYM Peace and Social Concerns minutes its support of the SEYM Youth for a new campaign on renewable energy, and their training, clearness, and focus procedure, and urges SEYM Monthly Meetings' intergenerational involvement and support.

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee also brought forward a minute from their meeting regarding Quaker House's involvement in SEYM:

SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee, having heard of Quaker House's involvement in SEYM in 2014, asks Monthly Meetings of SEYM to consider matching support for Quaker House, suggesting a minimum annual contribution of \$100.

Connie Ray, Archives Committee clerk (Gainesville MM), gave the Archives Committee report. A paper copy of this report was made available. The following minute of appreciation was brought forward:

15WIBM06 Southeastern Yearly Meeting as Winter Interim Business Meeting thanks Peter Day for his leadership and organization skills as clerk of SEYM Archives Committee over the past several years.

REPRESENTATIVES TO ORGANIZATIONS

Herb Haigh and Pam Haigh (St. Petersburg MM) gave the ProNica report. The full report is in DIA.

Stephanie Preston (Orlando MM) gave the FLGBTQC report. Florida is the 36th state to approve same-sex marriage. Friends are asked to hold in the Light the Supreme Court hearing regarding lower court rulings regarding same-sex marriage that will be taking place soon. FLGBTQC Midwinter Gathering is in February. There is a listserv for the FLGBTQC. Friends were made aware of the

Friends New Underground Railroad; Friends were asked to consider support of this project which will be brought before Friends at the Yearly Meeting Gathering. Friends were also asked to hold in the Light the concern regarding support of marriage equality in the state of Florida.

Karen Putney (Tampa MM), SEYM Representative to FCNL provided a paper copy of the FCNL report for Friends to peruse.

Mercedes Soca gave a report on the Havana Unprogrammed Worship Group.

David Johns (St. Petersburg MM) gave a report on Circus McGurkis. David Johns read a thank-you letter to SEYM regarding the sponsorship of the 501(c)3 necessary for St. Petersburg MM to be able to host their table at Circus McGurkis.

The Winter Interim Business Meeting concluded with silent worship.

Appendix – Milestones

Ft. Lauderdale MM - Brian Humphrey is the new clerk of Fort Lauderdale Friends Meeting. Mary Jo Klingel has laid down her clerking of the meeting after about six years as clerk.

Ft. Meyers MM – One new member: Helen Snodgrass; one marriage under the care of the Meeting – Sam DeOliviera, a member, and Fara Kahn. The number of attendees has grown from 16 to 27.

Gainesville MM – New members: Tim Fogarty and Peter Harrell; there has been an increase of attenders

Lake Wales WG – Elizabeth Rapp (attender at Lake Wales WG and member of St. Petersburg MM) passed away 4th Month 2014; A Memorial Meeting was held on 30 9th Month 2014 for Gary Lanker, husband of Caroline Lanker (member of Tampa MM and attender of Lake Wales WG).

St. Petersburg MM – Deaths: Virginia Clark and Bruce Lippincott

Tallahassee MM – New member: Phillip Andersen; Young adult member, Jessica Swihart, now Jessica Rainey, married Rick Rainey in a “Quaker inspired” wedding on the beach at Cape San Blas, FL on 15 11th Month, 2014. Several members of our meeting attended

Tampa MM – Work continues to raise funds needed to begin construction on the new worship space. Thanks to all Friends and Monthly Meetings who have held our project in the Light and sent financial help.

Attachments: Committee Reports

Executive

Nominating

Youth

Earthcare

Peace & Social Concerns

Archives Committee

FCNL Representative

SEYM Executive Committee (EC) Report

Winter Interim Business Meeting, First Month 16, 2015

The Executive Committee meeting began with open worship at 7:00 PM at Orlando meetinghouse. Joel Cook, Assistant Clerk, served as Clerk in the absence of Ann Jerome, Interim Business Meeting and Executive Committee Clerk.

The acting Clerk circulated the agenda. There were no additions.

There was no Clerk's report.

Vicki Carlie, Administrative Secretary gave the Secretary's Report, which is in Documents in Advance. She and Amy Carlie have been working on the new SEYM website and have found a host that is less expensive than the former one. Links to the developing website will be sent to EC members for comments during the process. Executive Committee was pleased with the part of the website she showed us on her iPad.

The Administrative Secretary's experience is that SEYM needs to have a publications committee to handle the many issues involved with publishing. Lively discussion followed that affirmed that need.

The Secretary was thanked by the Committee for Earthcare on the stunning website she created for the committee. The Executive Committee gave appreciation to the Administrative Secretary for her work.

Committee reports were given:

Committee on Earthcare: Barbara Letsch, co-clerk, reported: The report is in the Documents in Advance. Their proposed minute has been revised to include a Field Secretary.

Worship and Ministry: Nancy Triscritti, clerk, reported: The committee welcomes Michener Lecturer, Benigno Sanchez and his wife, Karen, who have arrived. Benigno has recently returned from Cuba and will join us for WIBM Saturday events. Diane Randall, Executive Secretary of FCNL, will be the 2016 Michener Lecturer.

Committee for Ministry on Racism: Ellie Caldwell, co-clerk, reported. The committee has been overwhelmed by all of the national events reflecting the depth of racism in our country. The committee hopes meetings and worship groups are attending to this endemic racism as they are led.

Nominating Committee: Susan Taylor, Clerk, reported. The committee's report is in the DIA. Susan reminded EC that two members of the committee, Susan Taylor and Andrea Hoskins, would be going off the committee in 2015.

The Acting Clerk reminded Friends that a Naming Committee to name members for Nominating Committee was formed at the Fall Interim Business Meeting Executive Committee meeting: Joel Cook and Peter Schmidt.

The Yearly Meeting Clerk reminded committee clerks to draft any minutes they might have for Yearly Meeting sessions and give them to her before business sessions.

Peter Crockett (St. Petersburg) brought forward his leading on working with issues around aging and his informal proposal for a new Committee on Aging. The Executive Committee was very supportive of his leading and much discussion followed. The committee recommended that he ask St. Petersburg meeting for a clearness committee to further season the idea and see what the charge for this committee might be. Peter mentioned that George Schaefer, LCSW (Licensed Clinical Social Worker), Care and Aging Coordinator for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, would be giving a workshop at

our annual Gathering. An excellent website for information on aging is www.quakeragingresources.org.

There was discussion on updating the Yearly Meeting's **Operational Handbook, Procedures and Job Descriptions**. This handbook is on the SEYM website and in hard copy loose-leaf binders for ease of revising. It does not have to be approved by the Yearly Meeting. Past and current officers and clerks of committees will begin to revise the sections appropriate to them. Their revisions will go to a larger committee for further review and editing before final approval by the executive committee.

Further discussion on publications ensued. The Yearly Meeting Clerk will call Lyn Cope, who has a contract for SEYM publications, to ascertain the status of four outstanding publications and her ideas on future publications. The two mandatory publications for the Yearly Meeting are the Michener and Walton Lectures. Endowments for those lectures require that they be published. Nancy Triscritti will call Deborah Fisch, who has recovered from a life-threatening illness, to discuss the publication of her last year's Michener Lecture.

Other ideas on publication brought forward by committee members included the desire to have younger Friends on a Publications Committee, possible digitalization of old lectures and introducing newer ways of sharing information using internet technology. The latter is especially important to younger Friends. Friends suggested that it is important to review the 2013 SEYM information on communication within the Yearly Meeting dealing with short-term issues. It is also vital to consider long-term issues with publications. A Friend asked, "What is our philosophy about publications?"

The Executive Committee approved the following minute:

15EC01 Executive Committee recommends that the Publications Committee be reactivated and formed an ad hoc committee to recommend the charge of the Publications Committee: Phoebe Andersen (Tallahassee), clerk; Stephanie Preston (Orlando). Other Friends will be asked to serve.

The meeting closed with open worship around 9:15 PM

Submitted by Susan Taylor, Acting Recording Clerk

SEYM Nominating Committee Report

Winter Interim Business Meeting, First Month 17, 2015

The two members of the Nominating Committee who were able to be present for our meeting met in worship for conducting our business.

We will be speaking with Friends about opportunities for service within the Yearly Meeting that they may be called to. Our top priorities are: Interim Business Meeting/Executive Committee Clerk, Treasurer, Recording Clerk or Co-Clerks, and Gathering Committee Clerk or Co-Clerk.

The convener for the Youth Committee, Dustin Lemke, will be stepping down this year and his term, which ends in 2017, will need filling.

We heard the call from Archives Committee to find more people for their committee- people with computer and technical skills.

Names to be brought forward for approval at Yearly Meeting for terms ending in 2018:

Peace and Social Concerns Committee:

- Elaine Martin (Jacksonville)
- Tim Ray (Gainesville)

Committee on Earthcare: Al Geiger (Jacksonville)

Trainer in the Child Abuse and Prevention Program: Sandy Lyon (Gainesville)

Youth Committee: Kate Sundberg (Sarasota)

Please continue to hold in the Light, Southeastern Yearly Meeting and those who serve and are called to serve us. As mentioned in our preliminary report we trust that way will open for all opportunities for service within the Yearly Meeting to be filled.

Susan Taylor (Tallahassee), Clerk, Nominating Committee

For the Committee: Cheryl Demers-Holton (Gainesville), Eduardo Diaz (Miami) & Andrea Hoskins (Miami)

Youth Committee Report

We have gone almost a year with no clerk. The current convener will step down at the end of this year. CAP staff and a framework for programs are in place for the Youth Program at the 2015 Yearly Meeting. "The Ties that Bind" is the overall theme. We are trying to build more intergenerational opportunities into our program. We need a minimum of ten participants for the High Ropes course on Friday morning. YAQs and adults will be welcome on a space-available basis. On Saturday morning, canoeing will be available as space permits in the 14 canoes.

Our teen clerk, Kate Sundberg, met with QEW and Peace and Social Concerns Committees this morning to work with them on opportunities for activism and training in our youth program, specifically for the teens. We are exploring the possibility of our middle school youth using their consuming interest in technology to make a video documentary of the Yearly Meeting.

Earthcare Committee Report to WIBM 2015

The Earthcare Committee reported the status of the seasoning process of the Proposed Minute for an SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare (FSE). The committee reported that feedback from around SEYM was received. The committee labored in a subgroup to take the F/friends input and rewrite the proposed minute offered today for an SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare (see attached proposal documents below).

We are pleased to report that \$1,000 in matching donations have been raised in a "kick-starter" funding proposal for an FSE. We request \$500 be budgeted for the Earthcare Committee from the Finance Committee to administer oversight of the FSE. Initially funding for this position would be per diem to cover expenses.

The committee answered questions asked by WIBM participants, including those on duties and oversight of this position. Separate documents on these subjects will be emailed with the proposed minute. It was made clear that we are still in the seasoning process. We will be sending out emails to all MM clerks requesting they discern with their meetings this proposal and provide the Earthcare Committee with their feedback by February 28. The committee will require adequate time to edit their input and distribute a revision of the proposed minute prior to the start of YM on April 1.

Peace & Social Concerns clerk, Warren Hoskins, read a minute of support for the proposed FSE during our report. We were very grateful for the support we have received today and for the thoughtful questions we have received.

Prayerfully submitted, Brad Stocker & Barbara Letsch,, co-clerks

Peace & Social Concerns WIBM 1/17/2015

1. War, and peace, and paying for them as good taxpayers - at FIBM we endorsed AFSC's campaign, "1 Minute for Peace" - importance of connecting up with FCNL and AFSC, Quaker House has toured SEYM now
2. Earthcare - support for SEYM earthcare and QEW work, Quakers and the bees, preservation of Florida's ecology, concern for water for wildlife and for consumption, more reason than ever to live mostly vegetarian, opposition to coal and nuclear electricity generation (significantly for long-term waste "disposal" issues now)
3. SEYM activism with EQAT / SEYM youth in peace and social concerns work
4. SEYM activism in support of CIW / SEYM youth in peace and social concerns work
5. Mass incarceration issues - systemic issues: New Jim Crow, school-to-prison pipeline, escalating violence by police, increasing militarization of police, use of arrests as a way to tax the poor to support courts and jails, and use of police and courts to control the poor and minorities, harsh sentencing, solitary confinement, the death penalty in many states, loss of rights with felony convictions, and more. Restorative justice, #blacklivesmatter and the rise of social media as organizer of both communities and of protests, of keeping social justice issues in view of the dominant culture, of formal witness and of formal testimony, and of consolation for bereavement and of celebration of loving communities
6. The rise of AVP and the increasing reach of the Alternatives to Violence Project into the world. Florida prison work of AVP.
7. Support in SEYM for the work of Friends Peace Teams, Healing and Reconciliation of our Communities workshops, trauma healing work of Friends, conflict resolution skills training, peace education - and the rise of Compassionate Communities
8. Student debt and social control through debt
9. Outreach to programs - Amnesty International, Friends of Sabeel, Sierra Club, ?
10. Florida Impact - works with schools, after-school programs, community programs
11. Historic Peace Churches annual gathering - Sat. 1/31/2015 in Sarasota, FL

---Warren Hoskins, (as clerk of the committee)

Archives Committee Report Winter Interim Business Meeting 2015

The Archives Committee met at the University of Florida on June 23 and 24, 2014. We filed additions to the Fort Myers, Palm Beach and Gainesville Monthly Meeting files. We sorted and filed Pro Nica information and SEYM Newsletters. Photographs were put in archival condition. We added two years of SEYM minutes to the collection. Augusta Monthly Meeting materials have been sorted, filed, and placed in their own small box.

Most of SEYM's documents are in order. Overlapping files have been examined to determine the best preserved copies of information. Duplicate and triplicate copies in worse condition have been removed. There are still unsorted boxes of SEYM documents. Documents in Advance are being collated with the corresponding minutes and then placed in separate files by year. There are still boxes of materials to be identified, sorted and filed.

The Archives Committee also met at the University of Florida on August 20 and 21, 2014. Martha Morris and I consulted the Archivist, Flo Turcotte, concerning the advisability of storing our materials on modern digital form as opposed to paper. She advised us to use digital forms, as the paper is taking up much space in the Special Collections Library. The library is able to "forward" the digitally preserved materials to the most modern form. The committee is going to have to learn how to cooperate with the library to achieve this.

In the meantime, we have some advice for everyone who sends, or preferably gives us material to archive. Everyone who has worked on SEYM minutes is lucky to have any hair left. Please date all materials, preferably with a date or number on each page, especially supporting documents and reports. Sometimes the front page is missing, or there is another copy in another file and to archive the best copy, we need to be sure the papers go together. Double –side your documents, if you can. If you need to separate things, and we would appreciate separation by year, please use plastic paper clips. Metal ruins the paper and we have to take the time to remove it. Please label all digital devices with the meeting or organization, and dates covered. Please give us just minutes and supporting documents, correspondence, committee reports, and, in the case of yearly meeting, Documents in Advance. Please do not give us bills, bank statements, invoices and the like. The treasurer's reports and Budget Committee reports that are attached to minutes are sufficient information. If you send us pictures, please write on the back in ink the date, place and the names of the people in the photographs. It is time consuming for us to have to guess. Albums are acceptable as long as there is no metal.

The best way to get your materials to the archives is still to give them to Bill Rapp or me. You can still send them to the University of Florida, Smathers Library, Special Collections, clearly marked SEYM. These, of course, will be placed in a new box all unsorted, for us to figure out when we go again.

We are grateful to Lisa Erasmus for the last two years of SEYM minutes, and to those of you who have given us materials from your meetings or other organizations in SEYM. We are a small committee with a lot of work. We are grateful to Martha Morris for her help these past work days. We would welcome anyone who wishes to join the committee or lend a helping hand.

Submitted by Connie Ray, clerk SEYM Archive Committee

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Policy Institute and Annual Meeting Report, November 20-23, 2014

“Living Our Faith Through Action”

SEYM Representatives, Eileen Zingaro (Clearwater), Nancy Corindia (Sarasota), Karen Putney and Lou Putney (Tampa) attended the FCNL Annual Meeting in November of 2014. Representative Jack Bradin (Palm Beach) was unable to attend and was missed. In addition, Friend Elaine Petrella (Miami) and William Lefler (Pittsburgh/Orlando) were able to attend and join in the Florida lobby effort. Representing Friends in Florida, we met with Legislative Aides in the offices of Senator Bill Nelson and Senator Marco Rubio as well as paying individual visits to the offices of Rep. Kathy Castor, Rep. Vern Buchanan and Rep. David Jolly with our request as detailed below. Every action we took, skill we learned and message we heard focused on the ongoing theme for this annual gathering of over 200 Friends from around the country ~ “Living Our **Faith Through Action**”. We appreciate the opportunity to serve SEYM and thank Friends for your spiritual and financial support for this work. We welcome opportunities to share more about our work and witness and Karen Putney offers several workshops for Monthly Meetings who would like a deeper understanding of our witness in Washington.

As a newly appointed SEYM Representative attending her first FCNL Annual Meeting, Nancy Corindia shares her reflection on our work:

Spirit Led Action

After attending the Public Policy Institute and Annual Meeting of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), I returned with a renewed enthusiasm for the power that each of us has to effect the direction and change in our government; and, affirmation of FCNL’s tireless efforts toward Spirit led legislative action, so well recognized on Capitol Hill. It is my goal to share what I’ve learned and the inspiration I feel, over the next year.

This year Friends asked legislators to make open statements on the floor, by email lists, or social media to keep open a space for diplomacy and negotiations with Iran on the development of its’ nuclear program. Since last year, after Iran accepted the Vienna Treaty that curbed growth of its nuclear program and allowed verification of its nuclear plants. Iran has been compliant. The terms of the Vienna Treaty established an exchange that meant a decrease in some sanctions imposed on Iran for its compliance. Now it is time to renegotiate the terms of the treaty.

The Policy Institute began with an information-building day on the situation in Iran and some of the physics of nuclear power for the use of domestic energy versus nuclear weapons. Speakers included:

- **Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson was Chief of Staff under Colin Powell:** He calls Iran the most stable country in the Middle East right now and not to have them at the negotiating table would be a catastrophic mistake.
- **Joe Cirencione is a member of John Kerry’s International Security Advisory Board and the Council of Foreign Relations:** He is the CEO of the Ploughshares Fund; a public grant making foundation focused on nuclear weapons policy and conflict resolution.
- **Senator Chris Murphy (CT)** was presented the Edward F. Snyder Award for National Legislative Leadership in Advancing Disarmament and Building Peace. He is a leader in the Senate supporting diplomacy with Iran, working on climate change, and reducing gun violence. (Many are looking for him to earn his way to the presidency.)
- **Representative Rush Holt Jr. (NJ)** is 1 of 2 physicists in Congress and the only Quaker in Congress. He served on the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee

on Natural Resources, where he served as the Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources helping to develop a long-term strategy to decrease our nation's dependence on fossil fuels in order to protect our environment for future generations. He's retired from the House, accepting the position of president of The Academy of the Advancement of Sciences.

In the afternoon, sessions began on the "how to" and etiquette of lobbying--a whirlwind experience. One piece of motivating information came from a senior staffer from a congressional office who said that her office has regular meetings of staffers who review the letters and emails that they receive from constituents. (I was so glad to hear that those emails were really read and considered.) Last year after FCNL's lobby day, the White House asked if FCNL would send them the summary sheets of the lobby visits. This year 11 Congressional offices asked FCNL for language to use in statements encouraging diplomacy in Iran. Eighteen legislators made statements in favor of diplomacy, after the lobby day.

We hear about lobbying as part of our democratic process, but until last month when I was lobbying at conference tables in congressional offices, I never appreciated how much closer this brings Americans to representatives of the government. It sent home to me in a way that hadn't before, that "We the people " are truly responsible for what our government does. We cannot be excused from the responsibility.

The keynote speaker, Parker Palmer, did as much or more to give me patience and optimism with our democratic government as any part of the weekend. He talks about opening our hearts to hold the tension that is inherent in a democracy. A heart that is broken open is able to hold the tension and continue to make progress, where a heart that is broken apart precludes progress. He encourages us to make an effort to meet people who do not share our beliefs and listen, learn, and talk with compassion.

It was cold in Washington D.C., the schedule was punishing, and I felt like I had a full graduate level course in nuclear physics and foreign politics in 3 days. But, lobbying on the same day with 200 Quakers and like-minded citizen activists, from 43 states is very empowering. I met Friends from New England Yearly Meeting, new Friends from all over the country and sought out and met the FCNL staffer for Climate Change Legislation, as climate change is SMM's current, whole Meeting, initiative.

This time at FCNL gave me more positivism in our government than I've had since before I was old enough to vote and start to recognize the ways of the world—about 6th grade. It was a privilege and a pleasure for me to represent SMM and Southeastern Yearly Meeting at FCNL's Policy Institute and Annual Meeting this year. I truly appreciate the confidence you had in me, as well as, the financial and Spiritual support that you gave me as your representative.

Nancy Corindia, Sarasota MM

SEYM Representative, FCNL General Committee