

**Abington Quarterly Meeting**  
**Religious Society of Friends**  
**Annual Report of the Clerk**  
**Summer 2004**

Abington Quarterly Meeting gathered in session five times this year, at Norristown (twice), at Plymouth (twice), and at Abington. In addition, Representative Committee of the Quarter met five times, once, for the first time, at Foulkeways.

The Quarter is capably served by its Trustees, who are charged with the oversight and administration of the Quarter's designated funds. The Trustee's accounts have been externally audited and found to be in good order.

The Home and Care Committee provides services for the Quarter's elderly and those in need via the General Fund for Aging, the Spruance Fund, swing loans, prescription drug assistance, the PACE program, and the Enabling Fund. The Committee has met regularly, and its administrator, Grace Rose Blumberg (Cheltenham), continues to facilitate the mission of the committee. Initial planning has commenced to collect demographic data from monthly meetings in the upcoming year in order to assist the Trustees and the Home and Care Committee anticipate and plan for future needs.

During the past year the Quarter approved the combination of the separate oversight committees of the Junior Friends Conference and the Middle School Friends Conference into a combined Youth Programs Oversight Committee. This Oversight Committee has benefited from the addition of new members. Cathy Bintliff (Unami) and Karen Shanoski (Norristown) continued to serve as directors of the JFC and MSFC respectively. The JFC and MSFC programs were held simultaneously at George School in June thereby enabling the sharing of some staff and resources between the programs. Currently the Oversight Committee and directors are busy bringing the current practices and protocols for protecting our children into conformance with the sexual misconduct prevention guidelines required by GuideOne, the underwriters of the Friends Insurance Group.

The Finance Committee, in its second year, continued with its goals of long range budget planning, developing uniform bookkeeping and reporting protocols for the youth programs, and providing guidance and support for AQM's Treasurer, Christine McPeak (Abington). Members of the Finance Committee and of the Trustees were instrumental in educating Friends about the value of incorporating the Quarter. An ad hoc Committee for Incorporation was created, and an attorney, an attender at Norristown, has been guiding the process.

Perhaps the highlight of the year has been the creation of a fund raising and education project, in association with AFSC, centered on building a school in Afghanistan. The initial concern to build a school was brought forward to the Quarter by an individual Friend last year; this year was a year of testing and discernment. At a special called meeting of the Quarter in January, the concern was lifted up in the Light of worship. At

the following business meeting in February Friends clearly recognized that we were corporately led by God to move forward and raise the \$50,000 to build this school. An ad hoc Afghanistan School Committee was formed at that time to facilitate communications between AFSC and monthly meetings and to coordinate the fundraising efforts. By the end of this summer over 80% of the \$50,000 goal will have been raised by contributions from individual Friends, from monthly meetings, from Friends at Foulkeways, and from several schools attended by children in the Quarter. The school in Afghanistan, currently under construction, is a robust expansion of an existing high school for 617 girls in Panjab village of Bamyan Province. It will add nine classrooms in a new building to the school's current six classrooms. AFSC anticipates that this school will be ready to open at the beginning of the winter term.

Alan Folsom (Horsham) continues to administer the AQM website:  
**(<http://www.pym.org/abington-qm>).**

This website is a valuable resource to access calendar information and maps to meetings, to post photos of events, and to exchange ideas and announcements through a Message Board. Susan Makler (Abington) has taken over the work of editing and distributing the AQM Directory, produced for many years by Helen and John File (Byberry). This Directory is another valuable resource, and a copy can be obtained from monthly meetings' Representatives.

Representative Committee of the Quarter is a talented and enthusiastic committee which has served the Quarter well in its role of discernment and decision-making between Quarterly Meetings for Business. It is currently exploring a model of service to PYM Nominating Committee due to the chronic under-representation of AQM Friends on that body. The Clerk feels strongly supported by the energy and expertise of the Representative Committee.

The Clerk has been inspired by the strength of our leadings, our commitment to follow them, and by the steadfast attention of many Friends to the work of the Quarter. It has been a privilege to serve as the clerk of such an active and healthy quarterly meeting.

Rob Kuhlman, Clerk  
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