

***Haverford Quarterly Meeting***  
*of the Religious Society of Friends*

M I N U T E S

*of Quarterly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, held*

**27<sup>th</sup> Day, Tenth Month, 2002**  
**at Radnor Friends Meeting**

After a period of silent worship, Clerk Jane Kronick welcomed Friends to Quarterly Meeting at 8:50 AM. She went on to review the events planned for the day, which would include Worship with Radnor, followed by a forum to be given jointly by Peter Lems, of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and Kathy and Tim Barner, of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). An agenda for business was approved without changes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Will Roth, Treasurer for the Quarter, announced that since June 1<sup>st</sup>, we have fulfilled our PYM covenant with a payment of \$45,148.50, which included an overpayment of approximately \$15,000 because one Meeting had inadvertently sent their 2<sup>nd</sup> payment directly to PYM instead of sending these funds through the Quarter. This will be credited toward our covenant for the 2002-2003 fiscal year. Also since June 1<sup>st</sup>, we have received contributions and other income of \$12,340, leaving us with a current balance of \$11,696.96, which will be adequate to pay our anticipated current expenses of \$4,400 in tuition assistance to Friends Children in Friends' Schools (\$200 per child). To date, only two Meetings have made payments toward their current year covenants. Meetings are reminded that Budget Information is needed by **November 16<sup>th</sup>**, for the budget conference. Also, Old Haverford and Willistown Meetings are requested to notify the Treasurer as to how their contributions for this year are to be divided between the Quarter and the Yearly Meetings. The treasurer's report was accepted with thanks.

**Minute #1: Lifting up Peace and Justice as a Primary Concern.**

Kathy Follwell presented the following Minute approved by Radnor Meeting:

*“Radnor Meeting strongly urges Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to give priority to peace and justice, as one of the areas of concern, as essential in these difficult times. The other two areas – creating visible and hospitable communities and religious education – should follow out of the concerns for peace as way opens.”*

Friends discussed this concern with respect to the three foci proposed for PYM this year (as published in PYM News) and felt that, although the third area does address this, not enough explicit attention is given to peace. There was a concern, however, that we should not focus all of our attention on the single issue of peace, and therefore the Friend was uncomfortable with the language of the second sentence. The Meeting united with Radnor in approving the following Minute to be forwarded to Interim Meeting of PYM:

*Haverford Quarterly Meeting unites with Radnor Monthly Meeting in response to Interim Meeting's lifting up of three priorities for the Yearly Meeting, and urges that we explicitly give priority to Peace and Justice as the major area of concern.*

**Minute #2: General Approval for a Quarterly Meeting Coordinator:**

Doug Ross presented a draft mission, vision, and job description for a Quarterly Meeting Coordinator to be shared between Haverford and Chester Quarters.

*The Quarterly Coordinator will connect Friends in local Monthly Meetings around two related areas: Peace and Youth. The coordinator will provide energy, focus, and resources, but most importantly serve as a channel to keep the Monthly Meetings informed about the peace activities of the Quarterly and Yearly Meetings. This will allow the Monthly Meetings to better support each other by collaborating in peacemaking activities. At this critical time, when our communities and nation look to Friends for leadership and vision, it is important that our calls for creative solutions and actions be amplified, not fragmented. It is also important that our young adults receive encouragement in becoming full partners in the peacemaking process. Thus, the coordinator can support Meetings in special gatherings of celebration, inquiry, and action for young people. For example there may be interest in thinking about the response each individual makes to violence in the world. Young Friends will need support as they consider participation in military actions, including the Selective Service and issues of Conscientious Objection.*

*This position will require the energy and talent of a spiritually grounded individual with computer and organizational skills, a sense of humor, flexibility and a vision for what Quaker Testimonies and patient, unfettered, spiritually-based truth-seeking can provide for a world yearning for new pathways of relating in our local communities and in our global family. The Quarterly Coordinator will inspire and align the peacemaking inquiry and activities of the Monthly Meetings and support the growth of our youth as they enter a confused and tumultuous world.*

There was much discussion among Friends as to whether the Job Description should explicitly limit the focus of the Coordinator to Peace and Youth, since the needs and concerns of Friends may change over time. Friends also asked about Chester Quarter's draft job description, which offers eight pages of description of responsibilities but lacks an overarching mission and vision. Several Friends pointed out that trying to specify quantitatively, the amount of time devoted to each responsibility would be a mistake, since the coordinator must necessarily be a spirit-centered and spirit-led individual, and we must therefore trust to his or her leadings, as guided by the oversight of a committee comprised of representative Friends from each of the Monthly Meetings. It was also considered essential that the Committee overseeing this position act as a buffer between the Coordinator and the many Friends who will have ideas, concerns, issues, or criticisms. In this way, the Coordinator will not feel that they are pulled in too many directions at once.

*Friends approved in principle that the Quarter should proceed with the process of hiring a Quarterly Coordinator, with funding and responsibility for oversight to be jointly shared by the Meetings of Haverford and Chester Quarters. Friends further approved the delegation of responsibility to the planning committee and the ad-hoc coordinator committee, for finalizing – jointly with Chester Quarter – the mission, vision, and job description for this position, as well as identifying sources of funding and a standing committee within the two Quarters to support this position with guidance, oversight and spiritual discernment.*

**Minute #3. Announcements:**

PYM will have a Friends School Tuition Aid Conference, to be held on November 9<sup>th</sup> at Arch Street. Contact Tom Hoopes at PYM ([tomh@pym.org](mailto:tomh@pym.org)) for more information.

The “*Leave No Child Behind*” legislation that has been passed contains language that requires all public schools to submit to military recruiters, the names and phone numbers of all high school age children (both young men and young women.)

The Campaign for Peace Tax Foundation is in serious financial difficulties and support is needed for this important work.

Susan Campbell, of Merion Meeting, will represent the Yearly Meeting at an FWCC Conference in January 2003.

Tippy Schwabe, of Haverford Meeting, reports that each Tuesday, a Peace Vigil is held by the Bryn Mawr Post Office from 2 to 3 PM, sponsored by WILFPF.

Doug Ross, or Radnor Meeting, added that another Peace Vigil takes place on the First Sunday of the Month, in the park adjacent to Ludington Library in Bryn Mawr, sponsored by the Peace Coalition.

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Swarthmore Meeting will host noted Thai Buddhist and Human Rights Activist Sulak Sivaraksa, at 11:30 AM.

Kate deRiel, of Haverford Meeting, reminded Friends that Haverford Quarter has only 2 of our 4 allotted posts filled on the PYM Nominating Committee. Interested Friends who are willing to spend 7 or 8 Saturdays a year in this important work should contact Kate.

Ann Moore, of Valley Meeting, will be attending a conference in New Delhi, India, for the Nonviolent Peaceforce ([www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org](http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org)).

**Minute #4: Roll Call of the Meetings and Adjournment:**

The Meetings of the Quarter were represented by the following numbers of Friends:

Haverford	9	Radnor	7
Merion	3	Valley	7
Newtown Square	1	Willistown	4
Old Haverford	1		

Having concluded the business at hand, Friends settled into worship, joining Radnor's regular Meeting for Worship. Friends will next gather as a Quarter on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2003, at Haverford Friends Meeting (Buck Lane).

At the rise of Meeting, the Clerk thanked Radnor Meeting for their hospitality in hosting Haverford Quarter.

**Appendix: Forum of Peter Lems of AFSC and Kathy & Tim Barner of FCNL.**

At the rise of Meeting, Friends gathered to hear Peter Lems, of the American Friends Service Committee, followed by Tim and Kathy Barner of the Friends Committee on National Legislation. Here follows a brief synopsis of their discussion.

Peter Lems reported on conditions in Iraq, where he has recently been working on AFSC sponsored relief efforts, and also on other Peace activities sponsored by AFSC, including the previous day's Peace March on Washington DC, in which many PYM Friends participated. It is AFSC's position that peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved by continued sanctions or by war. The AFSC was founded during World War II to provide conscientious objectors an opportunity to aid victims of that conflict. Currently, the AFSC maintains an office in Baghdad, as well as in many other regions of the world. Peter then went on to describe some of the effects of the sanctions imposed after the Gulf War, most notably the UNICEF estimate that as many as 500,000 children between the ages of infancy and 5 years, have died due to the lack of clean water and basic medical care. In the last decade, the UN reports that Iraq's change in mortality rates for children in this age group are now the worst of any of the 181 nations surveyed. Since June of this year alone, the Iraqi currency has lost nearly half of its value due to the anticipation of war. Dependence on the food for oil program has made many vulnerable to starvation if war does begin, since this program would likely be disrupted or ended by open conflict.

Richard Butler, a UN Weapons Inspector, has recently stated that most Americans fail to appreciate the US weapons of mass destruction are just as much of a problem as those of Iraq. Another factor that must be considered in terms of changes since the Gulf War, is the change in Iraq's relationship to the Arab community. Since 1990, the Al-Jazeera satellite network has emerged as the "CNN of the Arab world." Since their broadcasts are via satellite, and cannot be easily blocked by national governments, they have facilitated a more open debate of the issues facing the Arab communities in the world. Another factor is that, because of the enormous number of young Iraqi men who were conscripted for the Iran-Iraq war, Iraq was forced to import 5,000,000 guest workers, who in turn supported nearly 20,000,000 family members in their home countries. This has created a large and sympathetic community of interest within the Arab world, outside Iraq. With the acknowledgment of the sovereignty of Kuwait, Iraq paved the way for increased support from the Arab League. The Arab League has acknowledged that the way to peace is through compliance with the UN Security Council resolution, however, they have also stated that an attack on Iraq will be viewed as an attack on the Arab League. All of this means that American aggression in the region will not be ignored by Arabs outside of Iraq. They may be powerless to directly counter that

aggression, but their sympathies will be allied with Baghdad. Friends were encouraged to visit the website [www.PeacePledge.org](http://www.PeacePledge.org).

Tim and Kathy Barner then spoke about the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) with headquarters in Washington DC, directly across from the Hart Senate Office Building on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Founded in 1943 by Friends who wanted to further causes advanced by ASFC, the FCNL is the oldest registered religious lobby in the country. Their mission is to gather grass roots support on important issues through the FCNL newsletter, website, and letter writing campaigns.

With respect to the current issues surrounding the possibility of war on Iraq, FCNL points to the fact that last year, California representative Barbara Lee was the only member of Congress to vote against the resolution authorizing the war effort in Afghanistan. One year later, the House leadership actually chose to include a proposed amendment by Barbara Lee, which urged the United States to re-engage the diplomatic process through United Nations inspections and enhanced containment efforts, rejected the doctrine of preemption and pointed out the grave long-term risks of a unilateral first strike, although this proposal failed by a vote of 355-72. Nevertheless, much progress has been made from a year ago, when Lee's dissention was the only voice of restraint in the House. FCNL awarded Barbara Lee their Ed Snyder Peace Award.

The FCNL is in the middle of a fund raising campaign to raise \$6,170,000 to rebuild their headquarters in Washington DC. As of the end of September, they had raised nearly two thirds of this amount from 552 donors. Friends are urged to consider scheduling a visit to their Meeting from FCNL, or arranging for a video taped presentation of about 20 minutes to be played in which FCNL presents the case for supporting this worthwhile work advancing Friends' causes and concerns in our nation's capitol. Friends can also sign up for either a print or e-mail copy of the FCNL news, and stay abreast of FCNL issues by visiting their website at [www.fcnl.org](http://www.fcnl.org).

*Stephen Loughin  
Recording Clerk*