

## ANNUAL REPORTS

### Yearly Meeting Committees

#### QUAKER VOLUNTEER SERVICE, TRAINING AND WITNESS (See Minute 17)

For the second year in a row we must report almost no activity for this committee. We met once this year, before fall Continuing Committee. We currently see two important functions to the committee:

- 1) oversight of the national steering committee for the Quaker Volunteer Service and Witness Network (QVSWN), and
- 2) oversight of Project Lakota.

Regarding the first, we have failed to adequately give oversight to the QVSWN steering committee.

Regarding Project Lakota, we have maintained contact with them and they report to us: "You, QVSTC, are an incredible immense benefit to us." (Candy Boyd)

We as a committee question our relevance to the Yearly Meeting for several reasons, but do not feel clear to be laid down, at least until the national committee is clear on its own status. The national steering committee for QVSWN has been inactive this last year but has not been laid down. Clerk of the committee David Finke has agreed to assess with the other members and with Earlham the status of the national steering committee and report to us by fall Continuing Committee. Project Lakota could receive oversight from Columbia Monthly Meeting, where it began. As far as fostering volunteer opportunities in Illinois Yearly Meeting, we observe that service projects seem to arise organically, spontaneously, in the Yearly Meeting, without our initiative or support, and perhaps this is the wisest way for these to happen.

The original vision of Illinois Yearly Meeting for this committee was to foster opportunities for Friends to do our own volunteer work in the world as part of Quaker spirituality. It is not in our tradition to pay other people to do our responsibilities. Paid personnel, at best, are hired to facilitate our own work. We had seen the demise of opportunities for Friends to do volunteer work in the manner of Friends: with the accountability of oversight, with business handled as worship, with daily spiritual practices as part of work, and the practices of our testimonies of equality, simplicity, and integrity.

In recent times issues of war and peace, terrorism, and strife have come to the fore of our nation's concerns. Various Quaker projects have arisen in response to this and offer opportunities for volunteer peacemaking in the world. What are still lacking to Friends, though, are opportunities to deal with the eternal presence of poverty in the world, the general inadequate conditions of life for so many people.

Quite a number of people from Illinois Yearly Meeting have traveled to South Dakota and worked on Project Lakota construction projects. Evanston Monthly Meeting sent a van with a large amount of clothing and blankets to the reservation. Project Lakota seems like a worthy project that offers many opportunities for IYM Friends to be of service in the world. However, it is still far away, not easily available to all of us. There could still be a place for the development of a service project in the Midwest that would have the good characteristics that make Project Lakota so successful.

We have observed some of the wonderful effects that Project Lakota has had in our Yearly Meeting. Our involvement with this service project began when Greg Woods felt a leading to go to South Dakota to participate in the volunteer work that

was already going on there. There was an established, ongoing service project already at the reservation under the supervision of a competent Quaker who has a clear commitment to our highest ideals. Mike Grey is a released supported coordinator/facilitator of the ongoing work of Friends on the Lakota reservation. Out of this experience, Greg has grown into an extraordinary committed young Quaker leader, who further facilitates other Friends' involvement. This is the kind of structure we like to encourage – the facilitation of stable service opportunities with competent released facilitators where we can send either young people or adults to do service and grow in their own leadership abilities as servants. Out of Greg's leading to participate in the service project of Intermountain Yearly Meeting, Greg's monthly meeting has been greatly enriched, Candy Boyd was pulled into this work which has enriched St. Louis Monthly Meeting, and altogether many others now in the Yearly Meeting have been enriched.

For their part, Project Lakota feels it benefits from Yearly Meeting oversight. Candy says that in their fundraising it helps them to be able to report to other yearly meetings that they are under the care of Illinois Yearly Meeting. We are providing them with a financial audit, done by Judy Jager. They appreciate our suggestions, questions, and concern, and that we carry their concerns to the Yearly Meeting when they cannot be present. Candy will be permanently relocating, but maintaining her membership with us and Greg will be attending Earlham College this fall. They both take the initiative to stay in touch with us, including by phone and in person when possible.

These are a variety of thoughts which bring us to see, again, the opportunities we could develop. In 1999 there was a discussion of the need to have a supported released Friend to coordinate the efforts of the national steering committee. This did not happen, and so the volunteer efforts are floundering. Nor was there time at the Burlington Conference to develop an adequate structure for the national steering committee. We are distressed to see these opportunities for good in the world passing us by, as it seems. We seek for guidance from Spirit, the Source of All Life, regarding the future of what has been started. Candy assures us we have made a big difference in the issues we have raised and in the awareness among Friends of the need for these kinds of opportunities. She says Illinois Yearly Meeting has quite a reputation across the country and especially in the West, and so we seem to have done some good. Perhaps we have finished our work, or perhaps we have not. We ask your thoughts and prayers with us regarding the future of the work of this committee.

#### MINISTRY & ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE (Re: Field Secretary Position)

We would like to invite Friends to a special meeting of the M&A Committee on this Thursday afternoon (7/31/03) at 4 p.m. in the Meetinghouse on the continuation and role of IYM's Field Secretary.

**BACKGROUND.** The Field Secretary (FS) is one of two IYM employees (the other is the Administrative Coordinator who has an oversight committee). The FS has a 1/5th time position (about 390 hours per year) and reports to the M&A Committee, which reports to IYM. This position is up for renewal every three years, and this year is a renewal year. The M&A Committee invites all IYM Meetings and attendees to contribute to a discussion about whether to continue the position of the FS, and if so what work the FS should be given for the coming three years.

**RECENT WORK.** In the past year the FS (Roxy Jacobs) has made about 20 vis-

its. These included visits to 11 monthly meetings (giving 5 workshops, leading a discussion, attending a 50th jubilee year celebration, attending a memorial service, attending a called meeting for business, sharing her gift of photography, and providing a listening ministry for individuals struggling with personal or IYM-related difficulties). She also attended two M&A meetings, participated in an ecumenical discussion with a Western Yearly Meeting monthly meeting, attended an IYM Continuing Committee meeting, and attended a meeting of Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting. She mailed First Day School materials and offered assistance in organizing monthly meeting library and other materials. From January 2001 through July 2002 Roxy visited many IYM meetings, worship groups, and meetings of IYM, Blue River Quarterly, or IYM Committee meetings. During these years she attended a class at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary on Family Systems Theory which she reports has been very helpful to her in her work. Before January 2001 this position was filled by Barry Zalph (Louisville Monthly Meeting), who also visited Meetings and provided workshops.

**FUTURE ROLE.** Should the position of Field Secretary be renewed? If it is renewed, should the FS continue to work as she has during the past year and a half, or is there other work the FS might do? Please come and share your comments and suggestions, which will contribute to M&A's evaluation and recommendation regarding this position. We will present our report at Saturday's business session. Jinny Laughlin, Acting Clerk of the M&A Committee, will prayerfully clerk this special meeting. Please be aware that this session is meant to address the role of the FS in general terms and is NOT a supervisory evaluation of Roxy's job performance. If you have any personal concerns, please bring them discretely and privately to Jinny or to any member of the M&A Committee.

#### **MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT (See Minute 19)**

The M&A Committee met three times during the past year: at IYM; in late January in Oak Park (with a retreat led by David Shiner and Nancy Wallace of Lake Forest on "This I Affirm" statements); and in mid-May at 57<sup>th</sup> Street Meetinghouse (with a special focus on the upcoming renewal of the Field Secretary position). Along with Field Secretary oversight and visitation reports, M&A addressed issues requested by other IYM individuals and Committees.

IYM communication difficulties have been experienced, especially by those who do not have or choose not to use e-mail. We suggest that an IYM monthly newsletter be e-mailed to the listserv with a hard copy mailed to each monthly meeting and worship group, and have forwarded this suggestion to the Administrative Coordinator Oversight Committee.

Ambiguities regarding committee nominations were brought to our attention, and we have forwarded to the Nominating Committee the suggestion that any new IYM Committee submit a written work description and expectations of members, including length of term.

The Religious Education Committee asked M&A to look at its work on issues of child safety in meetings. As we considered the concern conveyed to us, about safety of our children from potential sexual abuse, we became aware of a number of resources available to us within IYM and the wider Quaker community. We were reminded – and take this opportunity also to remind Friends – that M&A has a subcommittee on "Sexual Abuse and Misconduct" since 1995. Its members, Roxy Ja-

cobs and David Finke, have been called on by at least one Monthly Meeting to facilitate a 2-day workshop, and they also have access to materials from a number of Friends groups. They stand ready to consult with the Religious Education committee, any other of our monthly meetings or worship groups, or individuals. Additionally, our Field Secretary has a Minute of endorsement from both her monthly meeting and this yearly meeting to do counseling and training in this difficult area.

As Sandy Bowles, M&A Clerk, laid down her work to prepare for and move to North Carolina, we welcomed Jinny Laughlin as Acting Clerk. Jinny joined us at our Spring meeting, which Sandy was able to attend as well. Although we are sad that Sandy has left, we are grateful for her years of faithful seeking for God's Will for this Committee.

The M&A Committee has struggled with a significant lack of time, energy, and commitment throughout the past 3 years. We have tried to be faithful to our ministry of visitation, but we acknowledge that some IYM meetings and worship groups have not been visited during this time. Although we currently have 9 members, some have not been able to attend M&A meetings. Some have had many other commitments and could not make more than one or two visits. The terms of 4 members expire at the end of this IYM session. However, we look forward to welcoming at least 3 new members, including the Acting Clerk, and she plans to undertake new approaches this coming year to lessen the strain on members. We also plan to give a folder of orientation materials to each new member. We thank David Finke for sharing his collection of visitation-related materials, which we have found to be inspirational and insightful.

Although M&A meetings and work continue to reflect the difficulty of its members to find the time and resources to visit IYM meetings and worship groups, and to attend to other IYM requests, we marvel at the devotion and ministry of Roxy Jacobs, IYM Field Secretary. Since last August she has made 20 visits, to 11 IYM meetings, to IYM Continuing Committee, to Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting, and to Chicago Monthly Meeting (in Western Yearly Meeting). An M&A member (often Sandy Bowles) usually accompanied her on her visits.

She spends hours preparing workshops, driving to distant meetings, and usually either leaves materials for further study or follows up later in some other way. She has received the records of Thorn Creek Meeting to look through them for membership information and to give them to Brent Eckert for archiving. She has spent hours of her own personal time assisting Friends in need. Whether she is giving a workshop, sensitively listening to the struggles of an individual, or simply joining in fellowship, she graciously witnesses to God's love in our midst. We trust that she has been helpful to many members of IYM and the wider Quaker community throughout her 2-1/2 years as IYM Field Secretary. (Please note that there will be a separate M&A report with an evaluation and recommendation on whether to renew the Field Secretary position for another 3 years.)

As we turn toward a new year, we feel God's blessings through fellowship with Friends. Although change can be difficult, we perceive a need for change ahead and have faith that it will produce greater fellowship. We strive to be faithful to our various ministries, wherever they take us.

MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT (See Minute 52)

Ministry and Advancement held an open meeting on Thursday at 4:00 p.m. In attendance were Friends from most if not all monthly meetings at IYM sessions. Based upon the input received at this meeting the following recommendation is now being brought forward:

As we approach the end of the three year term of the field secretary, M and A, which oversees the work of said field secretary, recommends wholeheartedly that this position be continued. We believe that the position should continue to be filled by an IYM member and only if we find that someone is truly called and committed to serve IYM in that capacity.

The field secretary position is budgeted for one fifth time, but our current field secretary is putting in at least twice that amount, occasionally up to 105 hours per month. The job is now paying 5600 dollars annually. We feel that the 33 1/3 hours monthly allotment is insufficient. The work of the field secretary is an important complement to the work of M and A and to IYM in general. We therefore also recommend referring to the finance committee the study of the need for an increase in hours allotted to the field secretary position to more accurately reflect the time spent on behalf of the yearly meeting.

#### MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT (Re: Book Sales)

This year's IYM book table sales totaled \$1642.79. IYM gets to keep 10% of the total sales which equals \$164.28. Shipping to return the unsold books cost \$89.12. Thus the net profit to IYM was \$75.16. A check for this amount has been sent to the IYM treasurer. FGC has acknowledged receipt of the unsold books and the accounting has been reconciled.

Sales this year were less than last year. I presume one reason is that many Friends went to FGC Gathering this year (since it was in Illinois) and spent their "book allowance" there.

- Respectfully submitted, Brent Eckert

#### MAINTENANCE & PLANNING (See Minute 23)

This has been a busy year for the M&P Committee. We have tried to work together and communicate frequently with the Trustees and the Site Envisioning & Building Committee. Our first meeting this year was held jointly with SE&B. Last year that committee was charged with obtaining a thorough evaluation of all our facilities by a team of professionals. That was accomplished and, of course, the findings are relevant to M&P Committee, as well. (I urge you to read the reports which have been nicely assembled into notebooks by Carol Bartles.) The major finding was that there is more damage to structural timbers in the Meetinghouse, by both termites and water, than we previously thought. Basically, the work entails replacing rotted floor joists and sill plates and installing a "termite shield" between the foundation and sill plates throughout the building. A related problem is moisture getting into the building and providing an attractive home for termites. We need to install a moisture barrier in the crawl space under the floor and re-grade around the Meetinghouse to get rain water to run away from the building. This is a restoration and preservation project which will go a long way toward making the Meetinghouse last another 128 years. Rough estimates for this work are \$50,000 to \$100,000. We applied for a \$25,000 grant from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency but due to the State's budget problems no grants were awarded this year. The work would take several

months to complete and should be started in the late summer, due to weather considerations. The Committee feels that we should have this work done as soon as possible, which means trying to be ready to start the work next summer.

Orkin has inspected and sprayed for termites and powder post beetles at least twice this year. An electrician has checked all of the wiring on the property and all deficiencies have been corrected. We are in consultation with the Health Dept. and have made several improvements related to meeting sanitation requirements: added a tankless water heater for the Meetinghouse restroom sink, added hot water to the sink in the dining room, added a mop sink in the trash/recycling area, added an air gap to the kitchen sink drain. Some of the wooden cabinets and tables have been replaced with stainless steel tables (which were donated by Monical's Pizza, thanks to Chip Rorem's initiative). We also confirmed that our septic system and grease trap meet code and are of sufficient capacity. Chip Rorem, who is food coordinator this year, has completed a food service sanitation course and has received a food service sanitation manager license. Also, yesterday we received a temporary food service permit from the Health Dept. for this annual session. We have some more work to do but we are well on our way to meeting all the Health Dept. requirements.

Our annual Memorial Day Work Weekend was very successful with participation of 24 Friends. Our accomplishments included: kitchen walls and ceiling cleaned and painted (and cracks sealed and holes filled), kitchen light fixtures painted, protective tubes installed over fluorescent tubes in kitchen and dining room, kitchen wall cabinet removed, illuminated exit signs/emergency lights installed in dining room, cabinets in dining room refinished, two air conditioners (donated) installed in dining room, a portion of east exterior Meetinghouse wall primed and painted, split rail fence repaired, weeds behind Meetinghouse removed, herb garden planted (by well), native prairie garden planted (east edge of property), trees trimmed, three trees planted on campground (red bud, sugar maple, and Ohio buckeye), old flood lights removed from campground pole, broken light receptacle in Fox Hole replaced, broken light receptacle in shower house replaced, screen repaired in shower house, memorial benches refinished. We also had a one-day "mini work weekend" in July to finish up some projects.

We realize that some Friends may not agree with our decision to not use the dormitory for sleeping this year, but we felt that we could no longer ignore the potential safety hazard of sleeping in this structure. The professional architect's evaluation deemed the dormitory to be not safe for overnight lodging in its present state. We also received a written concern from one monthly meeting regarding the safety of continuing to use the building as a dormitory. We know that the "dormitory tents" which we are using this year are less than ideal, but we could find no better option for this year.

The Maintenance & Planning Committee strives to provide a safe and attractive facility to meet the needs of Friends. We feel that our work this year has contributed to that goal and we hope that you agree.

#### IYM PEACE TAX FUND (See Minute 24)

The Peace Tax Fund of Illinois Yearly Meeting has the following purpose, as minuted in the 1989 IYM Sessions: "Certain members of the Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, having examined their consciences regarding participation in war, feel led to refuse to pay taxes used for military purposes. Wishing to stand in unity with these members and attenders of Illinois Yearly Meeting Friends

Meetings in their efforts to maintain the Quaker peace testimony, and in recognition and support of efforts other groups have made to redirect taxes to peaceful purposes, Illinois Yearly Meeting establishes the Illinois Yearly Meeting Friends Peace Tax Fund ....”

The fund's current status is as follows:

- Balance as of 5/30/03: \$5,934.51
- Place of deposit: ShoreBank, Chicago, a socially responsible institution
- Interest earned in 2002 available for distribution to groups whose work furthers Friends' life-affirming principles: \$80
- Amount deposited in 2002: \$10 (deposited to avoid dormancy service fees)
- Number of depositors: 6, none of whom made deposits in 2002
- Activity in 2002: Friends Media Project, a fledgling project lifting up Quaker witness in the media, and Compassionate Listening Project, a Mideast citizens dialog group founded by Gene Knudsen Hoffman, a Quaker, received interest earned in 2001.
- Activity in 2003: One Friend new to the fund has made a peace tax witness this year.
- Interest earned in 2002 will be distributed to: Quaker United Nations Office, New York and Chicago Fellowship of Friends.

- Marcia Nelson, Clerk

#### YOUTH OVERSIGHT (See Minute 25)

Our Young Friends are attending conferences, and learning about Quaker values and process even when the adult co-clerks have been, as one Friend put it, sunk up to our ears in life. Some of our youth attended Young Quakes Conference, fall 2002, in Boston. There was a Quake over Martin Luther King day weekend 2003, in Evanston. IYM youth oversight did not plan or lead this Quake. I understand that it was a wonderful time. Young people from three Yearly Meetings were gathered: I.Y.M., Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, and Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. Kri Anderson, of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, was one of the planners. She has worked with Young Friends at FGC, and with our high-schoolers during our Spring 2002 Quake, here on our IYM grounds. Young Friends attended FGC, and even did some of their own IYM business during sessions. Something else that we have come to understand is Young Friends and adult leaders really enjoy the possibility of attending workshops and conferences at Pendle Hill and other places out. For some this may be their first time east to “Quaker Land.” I remember as a youngster traveling with my family for FWCC It was quite a thrill. This winter we have Youth Quake 2003, in the Rockies of Colorado. Dorothy Day is our program Rep. Youth Quake brings together Friends from diverse Quaker backgrounds. Our young people will need to prepare for this 6 day conference. They will need to write responses to queries as part of their application for registration, and pay \$100.00 deposit. All of this will need to be done by a deadline of 9-15-03, or a late deadline of 10-15-03.

Will Alsup was nominated and approved to serve as Young Friends Co-Clerk through this ('03) IYM Louis Acquisto was also nominated and approved as another Co-Clerk. When he found that he would not be able to attend these sessions, Young Friends brought forward and approved Ken Nurenberg, to serve as Co-Clerk in his place. Ken will continue through '03 to IYM '04. Tim Kuhn was nominated and approved as Recording Clerk in '02, and has been able to serve during this session, but

was not interested in continuing. There were three names brought forward as nominations for Co-Clerks for '03-'04 and beyond. One withdrew her name as she realized that where she lives is too far away, making coming to planning meetings not possible. The Young Friends agreed to take advantage of having so many interested nominees, and after checking with each other as to their ability to work together, decided to approve the names of Alethea Tschetterwood and Trevor Munroe, as Co-Clerks working alongside Ken Nurenberg. Early on in the Meeting, Gaelan McQueen, was nominated and approved for Recording Clerk.

The Youth Oversight Committee will see some changes as well. Katherine Trezevant and Marti Matthews are the recommended nominations for Co-Clerks. In '03 a number of us are due to cycle off the committee, including Mark Robinson and myself. We have developed some procedures and program schedules that hopefully will be helpful. I am sure that they too will need some adjusting as IYM grows to meet with Good News our youth. I am honored, as I thank you for the trust that you have given this committee, with our children.

- In Peace, Ann Eckert

## ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS (See Minute 26)

### Overview

In a nutshell, the ECC was unable to meet this year, and its primary task is still outstanding. IYM is still in need of an "Electronic Publications Guidelines" document, which would address privacy concerns and which would provide both a process for discerning when permission is required to publish a document electronically, and a process for obtaining such permission. IYM is also still in need of donated web publishing skills, if IYM would like to expand its web site resources significantly. In the meantime, we have begun publishing IYM-related program information online (Project Lakota, retreats, workshops, and gatherings) including Electronic Registration for this year's IYM sessions. We have also published *Among Friends* and some Plummer Lectures online.

#### 1. An Electronic Publications Guideline.

The function of such a guideline would be to help an IYM Friend understand the ramifications of publishing a document, picture, or name on the IYM web site, and to choose the appropriate form of publication. Additionally, by discussing privacy issues it assures IYM Friends that we will do our best to prevent misuse of their email addresses, pictures, or writings, and that this requires that we abide by a set of conventions to achieve this. Examples of these conventions include using blind-copy addresses to send them email, using masking techniques when publishing email addresses on the web site, and obtaining their permission to publish their pictures or writings online.

In the software world, plagiarism is an art, and a means for avoiding reinventing the wheel. There are many non-profit organizations on the web and certainly a few of them will have published a privacy policy that IYM could adapt for its own needs. I estimate that a future working group could develop a publications guideline and privacy policy by committing approximately 60 person hours of research and drafting, and a day meeting to fine tune the wording amid worship.

#### 2. Permissions to publish online.



At the IYM sessions in 2002, we came to a consensus providing for publishing the Minute Books, Plummer Lectures and *Among Friends* on the web site. Several issues of *Among Friends* are now available online, and they are beautiful. However, there are writings, pictures, and email addresses published in those issues – and strictly speaking, we have not obtained explicit permissions from the individual authors and subjects to publish that information online. Is implicit permission (the consensus of IYM to publish *Among Friends* online) sufficient? This is the prime example of why we still need a Publications Guideline. Folks who submit content for *Among Friends* would use the guideline tips to craft their submissions so that the online version would be unlikely to be misused.

Please note that by far the greatest threat of “misuse”, at present, is the risk that an email address published online will be discovered by automated processes and fed into a junk email (spammer) database. There are at least two ways to reduce this risk almost completely in IYM publications. However, virtually any meaningful use of web resources puts your email address at risk of receiving spam. It is an inherent down side to the generally beneficial tool that is the World Wide Web.

### 3. Current and future online publications.

This year, we have had barely sufficient resources to publicize IYM-related program information. This began by converting IYM mailing list announcements to web pages, but later it included publishing forms and flyers in PDF format, and even our first-ever electronic registration form for the IYM 2003 sessions. This area of electronic publication is “safe” territory (in terms of privacy and permissions) as long as email addresses are protected, and it’s one of the best uses for the web.

We can do more of this in the future, but it would be extremely helpful to have more volunteers who are comfortable working with HTML and/or professional layout.

We would love to put past Plummer lectures online. This requires, in addition to volunteer time, some or all of the following skills: scanning/OCR, page layout, HTML authoring, and/or PDF generation. It also requires the permission of the lecturer.

To put the Minute Books online would require first resolving the permissions and privacy issues. Second, it requires a new process, to generate an online version as an offshoot of the paper publication process. This is also true of *Among Friends*; generating it into HTML is time consuming. For both publications, we should explore whether PDF files are a better solution for the online versions.

#### Recommendations

1. Renew the *ilym.org* and *illinoisyearlymeeting.org* domain names for one, two or five years at approximately \$13.50/year apiece. Continue storing the actual site files at *ilym.quaker.org* until we need more complex technology. (For example, we would need to investigate other hosting options if we wanted to manage databases for registrations or subscriptions.)
2. Continue the ECC for another year and solicit volunteers to develop the Electronic Publications Guideline. At the minimum, the ECC members really must include a member of the Publications Committee, the *Among Friends* editor, and a webserver. This effectively means (if possible) David Finke, Cindy Reynolds and Dawn Amos, plus others who have interest and time. Dawn Amos is willing to serve, but hopes there will be another person to serve as convener.
3. Solicit volunteers to help write web pages for the site. Continue publishing IYM-

- related program information online as human resources are available.
4. Continue publishing *Among Friends* online, notifying the submitting authors of this. Protect email addresses in the articles, if the author chooses, by instead publishing an [ilym.org](http://ilym.org) forwarding address. (Requires communication between the *Among Friends* editor and a webservant.) Use the practices developed for publishing *Among Friends* online to determine the most appropriate way to publish the Minute Books online.
  5. Continue publishing Plummer lectures online, with permission from the authors.

#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (See Minute 29)

RE committee met at the home of Grayce and Neil Mesner in Lacon, IL on October 12, 2002 and again on March 22, 2003 for discussion and planning of topics and concerns regarding religious education in meetings in IYM.

For IYM meetings with children we distributed the British Yearly Meeting publication "Meeting Safety: a code of good practice for volunteers working on children and young people's activities and events". In our note, included with the book, we concluded with this statement: "We hope that readers of this publication will find the experience of our Friends in Britain helpful in developing perspectives and ideas about ways to address a concern for children's safety in meeting programs and activities."

For an IYM workshop by Betty Clegg and Chris Jocius copies of the Pendle Hill pamphlet by Mary C. Morrison "Gift of Days: Report of an Illness" were distributed to all attendees. The essay and other handouts on aging and dying were read aloud and discussed.

- for the Committee, Chris Jocius

#### FAITH AND PRACTICE (See Minute 39)

##### Rationale for the Illinois Yearly Meeting Effort to Write a Faith and Practice

The Faith and Practice Committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting received a request from the Continuing Committee via a letter from IYM Clerk, Margaret Katranides, March 3, 2003. The relevant passage is as follows: "...we thought it might be useful to publish a thumbnail history of IYM experience with books of discipline, and a rationale for the current decade-plus effort...." A thumbnail history has been prepared by the Faith and Practice Committee and is being made available together with this "rationale." This rationale is structured by three questions.

**1. What functions does a yearly meeting's book of faith and practice serve for that yearly meeting?**

A book of "faith and practice" typically serves many functions for a yearly meeting. These include, among others, guidance for handling special occasions; information for seekers as to who the Friends are, especially Friends within the Yearly Meeting which adopted the faith and practice book; guidance for groups in the process of becoming monthly meetings; and practical directions in situations where a meeting is faced with doing something quickly and/or publicly as in the case of memorial services and weddings. Such a book serves as an educational resource not only for young Friends and new Friends but also for all who want to grow deeper. In addition, a book of faith and practice provides a connection among Friends and among meetings. It is an expression of the faith of the members of the yearly meeting and of how they endeavor to express this faith in their practice. A yearly meeting's book of faith

and practice is an expression of its identity during the period it is in use.

2. What are the differences between a book of faith and practice and the Illinois Yearly Meeting Handbook?

The Handbook includes descriptions of the committees and officers of the Yearly Meeting and their duties. It is a descriptive document intended to be useful to those considering accepting nominations and for those newly named to positions or committees. The Handbook is not intended for, nor does it satisfy, the functions listed above for a book of faith and practice. As it happens, the current Illinois Yearly Meeting handbook gives guidance on how a group becomes a meeting. This guidance would probably be better placed in a book of faith and practice. The Handbook is neither comprehensive nor concerned to articulate general principles underlying Quaker faith and practice, but is instead concerned to describe in very brief compass details of current IYM structure and practice.

3. Why should Illinois Yearly Meeting produce its own faith and practice book?

Given the value that we place on participation, integrity demands that we participate in the shaping of our own practices and in the expression of our faith rather than yielding to Friends in another yearly meeting the responsibility for decisions which a book of faith and practice reflects, a yearly meeting in which we have no part and whose members were not thinking of our situation in their deliberations. The spiritual work of coming into unity on an articulation of our own faith, structure, general procedures, and identity is of intrinsic value; however similar the result of our own discernment process to that of other yearly meetings, we are mindful of the ancient Quaker challenge, "What canst thou say?"

Apart from the demands of integrity and authenticity, our meetings are widely scattered and many are small, making structure designed in a region where Quakers are "thicker on the ground" less relevant here. Thus books of faith and practice written for more geographically compact and demographically larger yearly meetings tend not to fit our situation very well.

A further consideration is that yearly meetings' books of faith and practice are periodically revised. As we have found, adopting another yearly meeting's book of faith and practice leaves us subject to their revision schedule. It is not just that the books are revised on schedules not of our choosing; changes in content may be made which we might not have been led to make. Conversely, changes may not have been made that we might be led to have made, had we been writing our own revision. Indeed, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice has changed since 1955 as a result of changes within Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and, more importantly, through careful spiritual labor that we have not participated in or done on our own. The other possibility might occur as well, namely, that Illinois Yearly Meeting may work through an issue with deep spiritual labor that has not yet been done by another yearly meeting.

The spiritual growth of a yearly meeting as a religious community often requires the prayerful labor to come into unity in God, not the avoidance of such labor. In this respect, the effort to find an expression of faith and practice with which the whole yearly meeting can unite is an important and ongoing process. A book of faith and practice is not so much the conclusion of such a process, but a milestone along the way.

### Thumbnail History of IYM Experience with Books of Discipline

“Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends was established the 13th day of the Ninth month, A.D. 1875, at Clear Creek, in Putnam County, Ill., under minutes of approval from Baltimore and Indiana Yearly Meetings, by the joint action of the members of Prairie Grove Quarterly Meeting, Iowa, and Blue River Quarterly Meeting in Indiana and Illinois.”

-from *Rules of Discipline and Advices of Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends*, 1878

Illinois Yearly Meeting was established in 1875 and adopted its first book of discipline three years later, in 1878. The book included “as a bond of union... a statement of faith and principles as held by our body.” It included statements on gospel ministry; speech, deportment, and apparel expected of Friends; and testimonies regarding war, oaths, secret societies, days and times, gaming and places of diversion, and civil government. It provided for “Overseers and treatment for deviations” as well as for “appeals” of disciplinary actions. More familiar elements of the book of discipline addressed procedures for membership, marriage, meetings for business, and the organization of the yearly meeting.

In 1892 Illinois Yearly Meeting published a slightly revised version of its Rules of Discipline and Advices of Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends. A quick comparison identified only two changes in the Discipline. The last sentence of the discussion of war was changed to improve its clarity and the part of the section on Representative Committee that dealt with what constituted a quorum was changed, a change that had been approved already in 1881. Otherwise, the two editions appear to be identical. Apart from these two changes, the original book of discipline served Illinois Yearly Meeting for 45 years. During these years the Yearly Meeting grew at first and then settled into a long decline in both numbers of individuals and numbers of monthly meetings. These trends were tied in some measure to the demographic changes taking place in Illinois as a whole, but it is likely as well that Illinois Yearly Meeting like other yearly meetings had lost its vitality and needed renewal.

One force for renewal was brought about by the inauguration and growth of Friends General Conference. In 1927 the seven (Hicksite) yearly meetings “co-ordinated in the Friends’ General Conference” drew up a uniform book of discipline: *The Book of Discipline of the Religious Society of Friends: Christian Practice [and] Business Procedure*. This was adopted by Illinois Yearly Meeting in 1927 and by the other six yearly meetings at about the same time. It provided for revision by the yearly meeting and there seems to have been no expectation that the discipline would continue to be uniform throughout the future. The 1927 book of discipline differs from the original Illinois Yearly Meeting book of discipline. Perhaps most noteworthy, is a difference in the tone used to describe the duties of Overseers. These duties are in 1927 to be essentially pastoral in character and to involve encouraging members to be faithful in the performance of their duties. No provision was made for appeal, perhaps because the Overseers were not expected to take the sort of action that it would make sense to appeal.

Friends General Conference never revised the uniform discipline. A new spirit of ecumenism was working its way through the Religious Society of Friends. For example, when Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (Hicksite) reprinted the 1927 discipline in 1942, it added some material on United monthly meetings, meetings which had be-

come affiliated with another yearly meeting in addition to the (Hicksite) Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. As time went by yearly meetings from different streams of the Society which shared the same, or overlapping, geographical areas united. This required much prayerful consideration of the faith and practice of Friends in both yearly meetings. The two Philadelphia Yearly Meetings united and produced in 1955 a thoroughly new *Faith and Practice of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends: A Book of Christian Discipline*. Other unified yearly meetings did likewise. The uniform discipline of 1927 ceased to be uniform.

Books of discipline within the Religious Society of Friends change over time to reflect the changes within the yearly meetings which have them. Whether these changes are welcome or not, this change in books of discipline is a matter of both integrity and utility. The 1927 *Discipline* became out of print and badly dated. Illinois Yearly Meeting was faced with the choice of writing its own, new or revised, book of discipline or adopting another yearly meeting's book of discipline.

In 1957 Illinois Yearly Meeting adopted the 1955 Philadelphia *Faith and Practice*. The immediate advantage of doing so, escaping the arduous work of writing its own, was obvious. The disadvantages were evident as well. Illinois Yearly Meeting was, and is much different than Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. It is much smaller in number of meetings and number of individual members, while at the same time covering a much larger geographical area. The Illinois Yearly Meeting monthly meetings are much more widely dispersed, making quarterly meetings more difficult to attend. The real and financial properties of the yearly meetings, their quarterly meetings, and their monthly meetings are vastly different. It was necessary for Illinois Yearly Meeting to employ Philadelphia's *Faith and Practice* as a guide, rather than a governing discipline. A page was drawn up listing differences in procedure between Illinois Yearly Meeting and those described in the formally adopted *Faith and Practice* from Philadelphia. This page was also approved in 1957 as an addendum to the *Faith and Practice*. So developed a trend toward operating without a discipline and toward looking to books of faith and practice for "guidance" of how to proceed, but guidance that is disregarded if it seems at odds with IYM practice.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting adopted a significantly revised *Faith and Practice* in 1972, but Illinois Yearly Meeting continued to look to the 1955 edition for its guidance. Finally, in 1991 Illinois Yearly Meeting approved the following minute:

"Currently we look for guidance to the 1955 edition of *Faith and Practice* of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) with an additional page listing differences in procedure in IYM. The problem is this edition is no longer in print and many Meetings currently use the 1972 edition of the PYM *Faith and Practice*. Much discussion followed as to how to best address this problem. Subsequently approval was given to adopt the current PYM *Faith and Practice* as our working document. It is acknowledged that there exists a need to update material in the current PYM *Faith and Practice* so it is pertinent to the IYM constituency...."

It is instructive that Illinois Yearly Meeting never published a page listing differences between the 1972 book of discipline and IYM practices. Furthermore, monthly meetings in Illinois Yearly Meeting have consulted and continue to consult the books of discipline of many different yearly meetings. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting adopted a significantly altered *Faith and Practice* in 1997, and its most recent version was

published in 2002. No careful study of the differences between IYM faith and practice and those laid out in the most recent Philadelphia books of discipline has been made by Illinois Yearly Meeting. (Note: Adopted Faith and Practice sections in "Other Documents from Business Sessions", page 58.)

#### FINANCE (See Minute 42)

Finance Committee has arrangements in place for securing interest-free loans from within Illinois Yearly Meeting, should we need to use them to meet our financial needs. With the Trustees, we have been reviewing our insurance situation, including obtaining additional types of coverage. This work is ongoing. We wish to thank Marie White and others for their fine work on the historic preservation grant application for \$25,000 for termite repairs. We received many compliments on its clarity, but unfortunately none of the grant applications were funded this year, due to the State budget situation.

Our travel policy should be updated to the IRS 2003 mileage rate of \$.36 per mile. We understand that the IYM travel budget is primarily intended for the needs of those persons appointed by the Yearly Meeting to the business of wider Quaker organizations, as listed in the Minute Book.

We recommend that the Yearly Meeting establish an *ad hoc* committee to prepare a long term maintenance plan and budget for the Meetinghouse and other structures. This way we can save up for predictable expenses, such as painting, roofing and mechanical equipment replacement over the years in the Site and other funds. This committee should include representatives from Maintenance and Planning, Finance, the Trustees and Clear Creek Meeting. This group should report to Continuing Committee before the next annual session.

We have studied the issue of incorporation, which has been undertaken by several of our Monthly Meetings. Our present trustee system of ownership dates from the founding of the Yearly Meeting in the 1800's. Incorporation would have the advantages of having the property consistently owned by the Yearly Meeting as an entity, rather than by the changing body of Trustees. Less personal liability will be incurred by those who volunteer to serve the Yearly Meeting.

The process of doing this is straight-forward and would not affect our current Trustees or way of doing business. No by-laws are filed. We file a simple one-sentence statement of purpose, pick at least three persons to list, and a registered agent to handle correspondence with the State of Illinois, together with a \$50 filing fee. Each year the registered agent would update the names and renew the incorporation for \$5. We propose that we incorporate with the State of Illinois as "Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends," list the Clerk, Assistant Clerk and the two youngest Trustees residing in Illinois as our signatory, plus the Treasurer as our registered agent. We recommend that Finance Committee proceed with the paperwork to file for incorporation, after reviewing our application with an attorney. That review will also include the advisability of pursuing 501.c.3 status. After filing for incorporation, Finance Committee would work with the Trustees on updating our property title and other business paperwork.

We recommend the establishment of a new Property Improvement Fund. The Illinois Yearly Meeting's Property Improvement Fund would be established for designated gifts to meet our historic and new building needs at our property at McNabb, Illinois. The Fund would be spent over time for the major maintenance, restoration

and improvement of our property, including any new structures approved by the Yearly Meeting. The Fund will be spent under the direction of the Trustees, Finance, Maintenance and planning and other committee(s) designated by the Yearly Meeting. For its duration, we recommend that the Site Envisioning and Planning Committee be added to this list. Routine upkeep on the Yearly Meeting buildings and grounds will be continued to be paid from the Site Fund.

We recommend no change in the following monthly meeting contributions per adult resident member:

General Fund	\$60
Site Fund	25
Youth Fund	5
Staff Fund	<u>55</u>
Total Gift	\$145

We encourage monthly meetings and individual Friends to be mindful of our Special Gifts and Property Improvement Funds and will explain them in our fall letter to the monthly meetings.

We recommend the following budget: (See Budget p.24).

#### SITE ENVISIONING AND BUILDING (See Minute 44)

During the 2002 Annual Session, IYM asked the Site Envisioning and Building Committee to do a thorough evaluation of all the existing facilities by a professional team consisting of an architect, general contractor, structural engineer, termite inspector, and a member of the Site Envisioning and Building Committee.

IYM was inspected by the following contractors since the 2002 IYM Annual Session:

- Michael Lambert, Arris Architects, historic architect, Plainfield, IL
- Rick Collins, Old Blue Construction, Timber framer contractor, Knoxville, IL
- Roger Keyes, historic preservation contractor, Elgin, IL
- David Wickersheimer, Structural Engineer, Champaign, IL
- Mark Kuella, General Contractor, Ottawa, IL
- Orkin Exterminating Co., La Salle, IL
- Jim Fussinelli, S and J Electrical Contractors, Electrician, Spring Valley, IL
- Putnam County Health Department

Three sets of all inspections and reports will be available for review at IYM Annual Session and sitting on a table near the Advanced Documents.

Summary of a few items in these reports:

- IYM Meetinghouse is needing attention to restore its structural integrity.
- Get rain water to move away from the Meetinghouse.
- Termites are a problem in the Meetinghouse; additional treatment has been applied.
- The electrical wiring all across the IYM property must be upgraded to be safer; this has been completed.
- The dormitory is unsafe to function as a dormitory as currently configured.
- The Jr. Yearly Meetinghouse has powder post beetles but no visible sign of termites.

IYM applied for a \$25,000 Illinois Heritage Grant with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. No grants were approved because of Illinois budget limitations.

A Committee was formed to review the various recommendations of how to restore the Meetinghouse. A general outline of this restoration project is included in the report folder. The Committee members were: Brent Eckert, Bill Howenstine, Chip Rorem and Carol Bartles. - Carol Bartles

#### DEVELOPMENT (See Minute 54)

Development Committee had its full membership approved at spring Continuing Committee and we're off and running, planning our work on getting Illinois Yearly Meeting better known among our meetings, expanding giving opportunities, and encouraging giving to meet IYM needs.

We have minuted our unity on the need to maintain and improve our facilities in a safe and sound way to serve IYM and Clear Creek Friends and to nurture the Spirit within us.

We have worked with the Finance Committee on forming the Property Improvement Fund, approved at Friday's session.

We will continue to seek volunteer expertise from within the Yearly Meeting, from friends of the Yearly Meeting and from other Quaker organizations to establish a sound development program of communication and fundraising. We urgently request that Friends with fundraising expertise or knowledge of a capable fundraising professional contact our committee soon.

We request permission from the Yearly Meeting to promote individual giving and solicit gifts from IYM Friends on behalf of the Yearly Meeting, especially for the Special Gifts and Property Improvement Funds. We are starting from a very limited tradition of individual giving for IYM. This work will need to involve many Friends beyond those serving on the Development Committee.

Our upcoming year's work will involve substantial planning and preparing of materials explaining how to give to IYM and about our current priorities approved by this session before we work with Meetings and Friends.

At the point that the Yearly Meeting is clear on proceeding with a new building we will need to spend money (perhaps \$25,000) to conduct a feasibility study of our capacity to raise a large amount of money. This relates to the point above on the need to locate an experienced fundraiser to help us.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

These are the actions about which we reached clarity. When "little things" come up and the AC desires guidance the ACOC clerk should be contacted for input and a decision made together. The ACOC clerk will decide if further consultation is advisable.

Appropriate announcements will continue to be sent out via email as they are received. NOTE: By appropriate we mean this to include births, marriages, severe illnesses, deaths, change of address, upcoming MM events to which IYM Friends are invited—major events.

To meet our commitment to keep Friends who do not use email in the information loop we agreed that Sharon would send, via regular post, a monthly "announcement digest", a compilation of the email announcements. The monthly digest will be sent only to IYM Friends listed in the IYM Directory and having no email (or choosing not to receive email). One copy will also be sent to each Monthly Meeting. The first edition will request that Friends notify the AC if they wish to continue receiving the monthly digest.



We discussed what kind of emails should be forwarded to the YM email list by the AC. It was agreed that news regarding IYM F/friends, actions/announcements from IYM monthly meetings and IYM Committee related messages would be forwarded.

- Dawn Rubbert

#### ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE (ECC)

Our IYM-ECC has been more or less on the quiet phase this past year. Five IYM Friends went to the fall annual FCUN Meeting at Burlington, VT, October 20, 2002 (see FCUN Report for IYM). A November conference telephone call completed other plans for our future activities. Five Friends went to the spring conference of FCUN at Guilford College, NC (see the FCUN Report). Our whole IYM committee met with IYM Maintenance and Planning Committee for the Memorial Day longer weekend (May 23-26, 2003) of painting, repairing, pruning trees and enjoying the cheerful gathering of Friends.

Following an earlier frequent practice, we rose early, drove to nearby Putnam County Forest Preserve and enjoyed hearing the morning symphony of birds singing. They seemed to be saying "All is well in our world of tall trees, forest edges, open fields, wildflowers and pond. We enjoy and respect this interplay of God's creations. We wish that all humans would do likewise."

We will present a Workshop on "The Earth Charter – Challenge to Our Spiritual Life" at IYM, July 30-August 3, 2003. What do the 16 Principles in the Earth Charter mean for the lives, practices, and Testimonies of Friends? We decided to study this year the Earth Charter, its 16 Principles, its status in the United Nations and its value to Friends.

On the September 12-14, 2003 weekend, we will meet at excellent Dixon Mounds State Museum, south of Peoria, near Hwy. 24. We will camp nearby on Friday and Saturday nights. The theme will be "The Spiritual Life of Native Americans." We invite families with teenagers to join Nathan and Emily Pavlovic plus Jon and Caryn Wixom.

- Robert L. Wixom

#### PEACE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**PRC Objectives** - As approved in Minute 33 of IYM 2002 sessions, and listed on page 59 of the Minute Book:

1. To develop a proactive conscientious objection counseling program;
2. To assist young Friends in expressing their personal peace testimonies and documenting these beliefs for the spiritual growth as well as for a draft board should one be reinstated;
3. To share these processes with junior high, senior high, and young adult Friends in cooperation with the Youth Oversight Committee;
4. To explore possibilities of working with existing peace building activities such as the Quaker Volunteer Service Training & Witness Committee, Project Lakota, and the AFSC/Inter Mountain Yearly Meeting Joint Service Project to enhance peace building with a spiritual and service oriented basis for young Friends;
5. To encourage Friends to examine and reexamine the meaning of the Peace Testimony in the context of our response to modern terrorism and war which has made it possible to wreck major devastation on people and their environment with minimal direct human involvement;

6. To become a source of knowledge and to encourage Friends' considerations of the options for and rationale to payment of war taxes; and
7. To serve as a resource for monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, regional meetings, and IYM's program committee in identifying knowledgeable speakers and workshop leaders on the above topics.

### **Background**

#### Survey of Monthly Meetings & Worship Groups

In order to better understand how PRC can work with IYM monthly Meetings and worship groups, we determined that we should conduct a survey to find out what peace concerns are currently being addressed.

- We identified information resource persons for every MM and worship group in IYM.
- We developed survey questions and provided our survey in both hard copy and electronic format to each MM representative.
- Reviewed our first returns in December 2002. About half of those surveyed had responded.
- We plan to provide a compiled report of survey results at IYM in July 2003.

Financial & In-Kind Contributions & Support and Expenses. We are grateful for the generous financial and in-kind support from 57th Street Meeting, American Friends Service Committee, Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, Sauk Valley Peace Action, St. Louis Peace & Social Concerns Committee, Northside Monthly Meeting, participants in our CO trainings, private individuals, and others ranging from \$50 to \$1000.

We've been able to break even on our trainings - thanks to the support from AFSC.

Committee Meetings. During our first year, PRC has met in Chicago, St. Louis, McNabb, and Bloomington as well as via conference call.

Phone Number. We have experimented with a stand-alone phone number but have found it more sensible, at our current level of activity, to use member's home phone numbers as published PRC contact.

Email / Web. Dawn Amos has worked hard to provide us with email set up through IYM's web site. We anticipate that a full-fledged counseling program will need its own web site since the web will be the major source of information accessed by our likely audience.

Post Office Box. Our post office address is established in St. Louis.

Current Members. PRC members as of July 15, 2003 are: Elizabeth Sprague, Clerk (Northside), Bridget Rorem (57th Street), Chuck Hutchcraft (Lake Forest), David Finke (Columbia), Dawn Rubbert (St. Louis), Bob Wixom (Columbia), Trevor Munroe (Milwaukee), Ruth Marquez (Downers Grove), and Greg Woods (Columbia).

### **Activities To Date**

Develop a Proactive CO Counseling Program; Share processes with young Friends; Assist Young Friends in expressing their personal peace testimonies and documenting these beliefs for their spiritual growth as well as for a draft board should one be reinstated.

Developing a full-fledged counseling program is a major undertaking—the bare bones of which we have been able to put into place this year. PRC is meeting in a weekend retreat in September 2003 to envision and discuss components of a counseling program for the Midwest in collaboration with other organizations.

**Focus.** We agreed at our first committee meeting that our focus for this objective is Midwest population including young women and men, reservists, and those in active military service.

**Draft Counseling Trainings.** Our first session on January 25th was led by J.E. McNeil, an attorney and the Executive Director at the Center on Conscience & War (CCW). The March 15th training in St. Louis was led by Bill Galvin from CCW.

PRC has organized and facilitated training of 55 people representing 6-8 faith practices (Quaker, Methodist, Southern Baptist, Mennonite, Catholic, Episcopalian, Brethren, and Buddhist) from at least seven states. Most of those trained have faith practices other than Quaker. We have trained attorneys, veterans and COs of three military conflicts, experienced CO counselors (Viet Nam & Gulf Wars), parents, teachers, psychotherapists, and social workers. We have access to Spanish translators and have reached both urban and rural populations. Monthly Meetings represented to date include St. Louis, Columbia, Downers Grove, Northside, Lake Forest, Milwaukee, and Madison.

At the Chicago training, a lunch time session on effects of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" on the rights of gay and lesbian service members was lead by Joe Schuman, an attorney formerly with Midwest Committee for Military Counseling.

**Informational Sessions.** J.E. McNeil conducted three sessions on Sunday, January 26th: Downers Grove before Meeting (25 people including four teens), Downers Grove First Day School, and Sterling Wesleyan Methodist Church (35 people including four or five teens and students). Bill Galvin conducted one informational session in St. Louis on March 26th.

**Communication & Invitations.** Communication/invitations to attend training were sent to all IYM monthly Meetings and worship groups and included hard copy flyers and applications mailing to every Clerk, email to every monthly Meeting, two email announcements via IYM list serv, two email announcements via Metropolitan General Meeting listserv, hard copy to key IYM people who may not have email access. Dawn Amos worked with us to make sure that flyers and applications for both trainings were on the IYM website in four formats and worked very well for us for both workshops. Announcements and promotion of informational sessions in Downers Grove and Sterling, Illinois, included one radio interview; newspaper calendar listings, a newspaper editorial, and an offer of a live television interview. Carol Bartles provided all media announcements for McNeil's engagements at Downers Grove and Sterling in January. Other communication/announcements included listings on Grass Roots Voices & United for Peace web sites.

**Attorneys.** We have developed a referral relationship with a Chicago attorney, Marian Neudel, who has for years successfully represented both military and civilian COs. We have forwarded one referral to her in January from a reservist who contacted us in January. Ms. Neudel has attended one PRC meeting to assist us in understanding how the current climate with regard to terrorism and the Patriot Act may inform activities associated with fulfilling PRC objectives.

**Evaluations.** Trainings conclude with evaluations so that PRC can improve the way the sessions are offered. The evaluations from Chicago's sessions were overwhelmingly positive and enthusiastic.

**Young Friends.** A workshop about selective service and conscientious objection for Young Friends will be held on July 31st. This workshop is co-sponsored by Young Friends, Youth Oversight, and PRC.

Young people attending the informational sessions in January were very enthusiastic. A young woman at the Sterling session wrote an article for her school newspaper. We have become aware, during this year, that we need to understand how we

can more successfully welcome young Friends into full, active, and consistent participation on PRC. We are working with Nominating Committee on this.

#### Collaboration With Other Organizations

PRC has enjoyed close collaboration with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in Chicago and St. Louis for the draft counseling training workshops. We'll continue collaboration with AFSC to organize military counseling training (G.I. Rights Hotline) in 2003. During our trainings we were in touch with Brethren, Mennonites, and Pax Christi.

Encourage Friends to examine and reexamine the meaning of the Peace Testimony in the context of our response to modern terrorism and war which has made it possible to wreck major devastation on people and their environment with minimal direct human involvement.

With results of our survey of IYM monthly Meetings and worship groups in hand, we will be looking at ways to encourage IYM Friends to examine the extent to which our Peace Testimony speaks through us in our daily lives and our religious practice.

#### Resource for War Tax Options

Friends are encouraged to attend an IYM workshop about war tax resistance (July 31st) at McNabb to be facilitated by J.E. McNeil.

#### Resource for IYM Meetings & Worship Groups

We anticipate completion of a recommended standard collection list for Meeting libraries by July-August. Subject matter to include bibliography (print, video/film, web, brochures and pamphlets), CO basics and how to connect with counselors, and war tax basics. We will provide a basic set of materials for each Meeting and worship group library.

PRC is ready to respond to requests for information and resource assistance about peace education, selective service, and support materials. All questions and requests are both welcomed and encouraged.

PRC can be reached via email at [peaceresources@ilym.org](mailto:peaceresources@ilym.org) or at 773-274-9684.

#### **Next Steps**

A Fully Developed Draft Counseling Program. In our first year, PRC has put a foundation in place from which to build a viable CO/military counseling program. From this foundation our next steps include working with AFSC and other organizations to:

- Develop referral, quality control, team-building, and advanced skills with those we've already trained.
- Promote the availability of the counseling.
- Facilitate subgroups of counselors who are especially interested in working with young people to document their beliefs so as to start, maintain, and defend a file in anticipation of registration with selective service.
- Organize a military counseling training workshop with CCW for those who are interested in working with the G.I. Rights Hotline.
- Collaborate with other organizations on counter-recruitment activities and support.

Young Friends. Develop ways in which Young Friends can work more closely with us.

Welcome New Members. Work with IYM Nominating Committee to invite experienced new members to PRC, especially those with organizing experience or who can

bring military and CO backgrounds, who are Young Friends, and who have the enthusiasm (and endurance) to be part of a working committee.

#### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Our 2002 report could be repeated this year, although at shorter length, because everything is substantially the same: we refer you to that document, on p. 41 of the 2002 Minute Book. The quantity of our print output is the same: 2 *Among Friends*, 1 Plummer lecture, and 1 Minute Book, with the repeated good news that our costs have continued to inch downward. Greater stability in our personnel situation, both committee and staff, has increased the likelihood of timeliness, and we continue to save money by volunteer distribution systems to supplement what we pay for in shipping.

Last year we reported that *Among Friends* has stabilized around 28 pages: this year, that was the average between one issue at 20 pages and one at 36, each benefiting from wonderful photos being submitted to us.

The biggest news in publication, however, is the significant increase in how we use electronic means to supplement, and often to precede, what we issue in print. Thus, we refer you to this year's significant and detailed report from our sister committee with which we work closely, the Electronic Communications Working Group (page 32 of this present book.)

- David Finke

### REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### ASSOCIATED COMM. OF FRIENDS ON INDIAN AFFAIRS (ACFIA)

This year I wrote ACFIA reports for both issues of *Among Friends* – Fall 2002 Pg. 12 and Summer 2003 Pg. 29. I hope you have read them if you are interested. Keith Kendall, the executive secretary of ACFIA, has written a report for all Yearly Meetings and it is in the advance documents.

Of special note (I always consider the MOWA Choctaw Center as special since we had teen workcamps for a week down there for two summers) that I read in Keith's report is that the MOWA Choctaw Friends Academy has declined, and there are not enough students projected for the lower grades class for this fall. An adjustment is being made. K-1 will be a class and 3-5 will be together. Reasons for the decline in enrollment? Fewer children in the immediate Sanktown area, better public schools now with free transportation, no tuition, offering breakfast and lunch, and a much better road into the area which encourages people to get out more, are some of the reasons.

I attended the spring annual meeting near Kokomo, IN, hosted by the Sycamore Friends Meeting. Next year the meeting will be at Olney Friends School in Barnesville, OH. Neil informed me that he and I were both appointed to represent the Great Plains YM (formerly Nebraska YM) at the annual ACFIA meeting, so hopefully he'll be able to go with me next year.

- Grayce Mesner

#### FRIENDS ASSOCIATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (FAHE)

Friends Association for Higher Education gathered for its 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on June 26-29, 2003. We met at Pendle Hill and Swarthmore College—a friendly mile apart that facilitated both meeting rooms, dining rooms and campus residential