

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
Yearly Meeting #34
Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC
June 10-13, 2004

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June 10, 2004 - Fifth Day (Thursday) 2:00 p.m.

34 - 1 Opening

After a period of worship, Sharon Annis, clerk, welcomed Friends to the 34th Yearly Meeting sessions. She told Friends that we will be using readers during our meeting for business sessions, and they will be reading from the State of the Meeting reports.

34 - 2 Introduction of Visitors

Richard and Mary Barnes, Pendle Hill
Julie Harlow, representing Friends House Moscow, from California
Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch, Traveling Ministries Program
Deborah Shaw, traveling companion through Traveling Ministries Program
Ken Miller, Friends General Conference, Friends Meetinghouse Fund
David Eley, Austin, TX

34 - 3 Roll Call of Meetings, Attenders List

Administrative Assistant Mary Calhoun read the roll of meetings and worship groups. The following were represented at the beginning of this session:

Atlanta, Berea, Birmingham, Brevard, Celo, Chattanooga, Cookeville PM, Foxfire, Memphis, Nashville, New Moon WG, Royal WG, Swannanoa Valley, West Knoxville.

A list of yearly meeting attenders is included as **Appendix A**. Separate lists are not included for particular yearly meeting sessions.

34 - 4 State of the Meeting Reports

Assistant Clerk Kristi Estes read the reports from Anneewakee Creek Worship Group and Asheville Friends Meeting. State of the Meeting reports are included as **Appendix B**.

34 - 5 Epistle Committee Formation

The clerk asked for volunteers for the epistle committee. Marmon Thompson volunteered. Additional volunteers will be sought in later sessions.

34 - 6 Nominating Committee Report

Penelope Wright, clerk of the Nominating Committee, presented the committee's initial report.

Clerk -- Kristi Estes, 2004 - 2006

Ecological Concerns Network -- Carol Gray, co-clerk, 2004 - 2006

Faith & Practice Committee -- Kristi Estes and Errol Hess have asked to be released from this committee. Melissa Meyer and Free Polazzo added to the committee. (Open terms)

Finance Committee -- Susan Cozzens 2004 - 2006

Ministry & Nurture Committee -- Bob McGahey, interim clerk through Fall Rep Meeting

Nominating Committee -- Clerk, Sharon Annis 2004 - 2006;

members -- Perry Treadwell 2001 - 2006, Jane Goldthwait 2001 - 2006,

Penelope Wright 2001 - 2006

Personnel Committee -- member (supervisor of Administrative Assistant, ex officio), Kristi Estes
SAYF Steering Committee -- Kathleen Mavournin, third term 2000 - 2006
Yearly Meeting Planning Committee -- clerk, Errol Hess
 Adult Program -- Kim Carlyle
 Local Arrangements -- Bob Welsh
 Bookstore Coordinator -- Deanna Nipp
 Assistant Bookstore -- Edie Patrick
Tim Lamm will continue as a volunteer web manager.
AFSC SERO -- Ginny Bauman 2004 - 2005
Friends General Conference -- second 3-year term, Penelope Wright 2001 - 2007
Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer Concerns --
 Annie Black 2002 - 2006
Friends World Committee for Consultation -- representative - Hannah MacDermott 2004 - 2007
Friends Peace Team -- Bob Welsh, representative 2002 - 2006
Quaker Earth Witness -- Joyce Rouse, representative 2004 - 2006
Kitenet List-server [Electronic Communications] ad hoc committee -- Bill Reynolds, Clerk;
 Sharon Phelps, member

Minute -- *Each of the above names was approved as presented.*

34 - 7 Faith and Practice Revision Committee

Geeta McGahey, clerk, presented the committee's report:

The Faith and Practice Review Committee has had ten meetings over two years. We presented the further draft changes to part I and all of Part II to Representative Meeting in September for discernment by the monthly meetings. We received responses from Anneewakee WG, Asheville MM, Athens MM, Berea MM, Birmingham MM, Boone MM, Brevard MM, Celo MM, Charleston MM, Columbia MM, Crossville MM, Foxfire MM, Greenville MM, Huntsville MM, Memphis MM, Nashville MM, Oxford MM, Swannanoa MM, and West Knoxville MM.

The suggested changes were extensive and thoughtful. We were only able to finish through the Function of Representative Meeting Section Part II. The document you have has many of them incorporated. With the amount of feedback generated from MM, it is impossible to take input from individuals, but each meeting should give them an opportunity to have their input incorporated, after seasoning in the deliberations of the MM.

We are happy to report that Free Polazzo will be able to rejoin the committee this year. I have heard that we may have two resignations from this committee, but have not received any personal input. In light of this, we asked Nominating Committee to seek out 1 or 2 more Friends to serve with us.

The time frame outlined in the current F&P for review and revision of the document (every decade from 2000) appears to be unreasonable, based on our experience with this first decade revision. **Action: Recommend that it should be ten years after the completion of the previous review.**

The link from "Documents" on SAYMA's web page to the current Faith and Practice (as changes are approved they will be inserted), the link to our "working" document, and the link to the proposed changes to Part I and II have been working well. Thank you, Tim Lamm.

The ad hoc committee (with representation including members from M&N and F&P Revision) to draft text that describes rightly ordered process for worship group/monthly meeting relationships, and the process for a monthly meeting becoming a member of SAYMA, has met once. A draft has been given to M&N, and after their seasoning will be prepared by the ad Hoc Committee for seasoning by MMs, and then back to F&P to include in next year's Yearly Meeting discernment.

At the April Rep meeting, it was decided that the name change was not the purview of the committee, but that discernment will continue through another process. Therefore it will not be before you today. It would have been helpful in preparing this report to have those minutes available.

We listened to comments last year and will continue a reading list, but also have a resource list. We welcome suggestions of resources submitted electronically to Geeta McGahey by 15th Day Seventh Month.

Action: The attached proposed revisions, which have been circulated among Friends for the past nine months and available on the SAYMA website, Documents section, are submitted for approval.

Our next meeting will be 23rd Day, Seventh Month. We have found that two-day meetings allow us to increase our work significantly. We also met at Spring Rep meeting and have been pleased to decrease vehicle miles by this and sharing rides. We will submit the work on Part II after incorporating the meetings' revisions; next year hope to finish Part IV, the Reading List and Resources, and Queries for presentation to September Rep Meeting. We anticipate the final work will be ready by September 2005.

She then read the introduction to the proposed changes. The proposals will be brought up for approval in a later session.

34 - 8 Ecological Concerns Network

Susan Carlyle, clerk, presented the following report:

By way of introduction, SAYMA's Ecological Concerns Network provides assistance, including spiritual and consultative support, to Friends in Yearly Meeting who are following their leadings to work on ecological concerns. It also works to raise the level of awareness among SAYMA Friends of ecological concerns.

This year, our emphasis has been in several directions.

-- Meetings and worship groups were encouraged to lead discussions considering the Earth Charter. This dissemination of information has been a project of ECN for the past 18 months. Some of our network people visited meetings and worship groups to lead these discussions. A minute for endorsement of the Earth Charter will be presented at Yearly Meeting, June 2004.

-- At the request of three monthly meetings, ECN Friends visited these meetings and led discussions on the topic of "peace on earth is peace with earth." We would like to visit all of SAYMA's meetings and worship groups. Please consider inviting us for forums or second hour discussions.

-- Three people in the network worked together and submitted queries to the Faith and Practice Revision Committee. Three others are currently working on an Earthcare testimony as well.

-- We continue to work on encouraging conservation of resources by facilitating a car-pooling mechanism for our Representative Meetings and Yearly Meeting.

-- We make available, at Yearly Meeting, compact fluorescent light bulbs and information about their use.

-- We are writing articles for the YM Newsletter about the use of post consumer recycled content paper and about paper reduction in general. We have asked yearly meeting to consider using only 100% pcr processed chlorine free paper. Samples of this kind of paper, as well as some tree free paper, are available to see and feel at our display here at YM.

-- This year, ECN is giving 100% organic cloth napkins to those people who wish to use them instead of paper napkins for meals.

-- We continue the monthly email newsletter distribution of ECN Connections.

There are 53 people connected to the network at present.

Susan Carlyle then presented the proposed minute about the Earth Charter:

Proposed Minute

We of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association of the Religious Society of Friends (SAYMA) find the Earth Charter to be consistent with Quaker testimonies.

We affirm its substance and encourage its application at all levels of social organization (local, global, public, private, and corporate).

We endorse the Earth Charter as a guide consistent with our faith for spiritual practice and for social action.

By endorsing the Earth Charter, SAYMA signifies its commitment to the spirit and aims of the document and will continue its work on the implementation of its principles.

Discussion focused on what it means for the yearly meeting to unite on a minute such as this one. What difference will it make to how we live our lives? To allow more time for consideration of these questions and of this minute, we will consider this minute again at a later session. (Clerk note: Due to time constraints we were unable to return to this recommendation. It will come before Representative Meeting 9th month 2004.)

34 - 9 Report from Web Manager

Tim Lamm, SAYMA web manager, presented the following report:

Report to Yearly Meeting 2004 from Web Manager

The Yearly Meeting web site, www.sayma.org, is first of all a medium for increasing communication among the individuals and meetings within SAYMA, and secondly a means of outreach to everyone in our region. Each monthly meeting and worship group in the Yearly Meeting has a page which announces the time and place of their meetings and can include a map, contact information and a link to their own web site, if any. The on-line documents page is a library of minutes from Yearly Meeting and Representative Meeting sessions, the *Guide to Our Faith and Practice*, and other documents. The web site publishes program and registration information about Yearly Meeting events. There is a calendar of events and links to other web sites for SAYF, FGC, and other Quaker organizations.

Over the past year, I have worked to bring this information up to date and keep it current. In the future I hope the web site will see more use for internal SAYMA affairs, for example, by publishing the *Southern Appalachian Friend* newsletter and providing a central workspace where Yearly Meeting committees can post documents and announcements.

As Web Manager, I also maintain a set of e-mail addresses—one for each Monthly Meeting and Worship Group and a number of Yearly Meeting position of responsibility. A major problem has been the quantity of junk mail that the addressees receive, due to the public nature of the address.

In order to mitigate the junk mail problem and also to open up more possibilities for interactive web sites, I have recently changed service plans with our web hosting provider, Interland, Inc., of Atlanta. The new service options will include a spam filter, support for Microsoft web page technology (ASP.NET) and database support. The web site costs \$17.95 per month for hosting and \$35 per year to reserve our domain name "sayma.org."

I would like to thank my support committee—Ceal Wutka, Kendall Ivie and Sharon Phelps—for their interest and advice over the year. One task for next year is to write up a statement of web policies. I'm also hoping that next year we can do on-line registration for Yearly Meeting!

34 - 10 Minutes Recommended by Representative Meeting for Yearly Meeting Consideration

Proposed Minute of Support for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and Priscilla Adams

May God's Loving spirit uphold you as you and Priscilla Adams continue faithful in your peace witness towards the United States Government. We are especially mindful of Priscilla's leading to withhold war taxes. And we are holding her and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting in the Light. Please let us know in what practical ways we may be of help to you all at this difficult and challenging time.

***Minute** -- Friends approve the proposed minute. It will be sent to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and Priscilla Adams by the clerk.*

Proposed Minute regarding SAYMA's Peace and Social Concerns Committee

We recognize that from time to time, the Spirit moves Friends and monthly meetings to articulate a concern that may rise to the level of action. In order to serve the Yearly Meeting and its members, the Peace and Social Concerns committee will:

1. Nurture minutes of concern from monthly meetings, and facilitate their seasoning by the members of the yearly meeting;
2. Actively solicit feedback from the monthly meetings;
3. Assist in presentation of seasoned minutes to the Yearly Meeting;
4. Foster communication and interaction among the monthly meetings in SAYMA about our concerns and actions;
5. Operate as part of the whole by coordination with other committees working within SAYMA; and,
6. Report to Yearly Meeting and Representative Meeting.

Guidelines for the work of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee:

1. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee is not expected to generate minutes of concern.
2. The committee may be called to present a minute once it has been seasoned, or it may be called to shepherd and support the presentation of a minute.
3. The committee may help friends discern or understand the importance or impact of a minute, or actions that may arise from the minute.
4. The committee's work is based on holding in the Light the concerns and proposals that are brought to it.
5. The Committee may facilitate the seasoning of a minute by encouraging opportunities for all monthly meetings to examine proposals and concerns in the Light.

***Minute** -- Friends approve this recommendation with an addition in the first charge so it will read: "1. Nurture minutes in the area of peace and social concerns from monthly meetings, and facilitate their seasoning by the members of the yearly meeting." The next meeting for business session will consider specific recommendations about the membership of this committee.*

34 - 11 Announcements

-- Joan Williams asked North Carolina voters to sign a petition that will appear in newspaper ads calling for a moratorium of the death penalty in North Carolina.

-- Meal times are incorrect in the program. Breakfast is from 7:30-8:30 and supper is from 5:00-6:00.

-- Copies can be made in the print shop on campus but it will close for the weekend at 4:00 p.m. on Friday.

34 - 12 Closing

Session ended with a moment of silence.

June 11, 2004 - Sixth Day (Friday) - 8:30 a.m.

34 - 13 Opening

After a period of worship, Clerk Sharon Annis read the following:

There are varieties of Gifts, but the same Spirit. There are varieties of service, but the same Lord. There are many forms of work, but all of them, in all men, are the work of the same God. In each of us the Spirit is manifested in one particular way, for some useful purpose. One man, through the Spirit, has the gift of wise speech, while another, by the power of the same Spirit, can put the deepest knowledge into words. Another, by the same Spirit, is granted faith; another, by the same Spirit, gifts of healing, and another miraculous powers; another has the gift of prophecy, and another has the ability to distinguish true spirits from false; yet another had the gift of prophetic utterance of different kinds, and another the ability to interpret it. But all these gifts are the work of one and the same Spirit, distributing them separately to each individual at will. (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

34 - 14 Introduction of Visitors

Roland Krieger, General Secretary, Right Sharing of World Resources

Mary Ellen McNish, General Secretary, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Executive Director

Peggie Baxter, AFSC Southeast Regional Office (SERO), Director, Emergency Material Assistance Program, Highpoint, NC

Samir Moukaddam, Program Director, Middle East Peace Education, AFSC SERO, Atlanta, GA

34 - 15 Reading

Young Adult Friends Galen Labotka and Christine VanRegenmorter read the State of the Meeting reports from Charleston, West Virginia, Chattanooga, Tennessee, Cookeville, Tennessee, and Crossville, Tennessee.

34 - 16 Site Selection Committee

Larry Ingle spoke to the difficulty in finding a site for yearly meeting further west. The committee has visited Shorter College in Rome, GA and has found out that the site is available for our use next year on a good weekend. The campus is compact and relatively flat. The facilities would meet our needs and the prices are somewhat less than at Warren Wilson. Friends asked questions about the available facilities and the committee will get additional information and bring it to a later session.

34 - 17 Treasurer's Report

David Ciscel presented the treasurer's report. It is in **Appendix C**.

Minute -- *Friends accept the report.*

34 - 18 Epistle Committee

Mary Ann Downey and Steve Livingston volunteered to join Marmon Thompson on the epistle committee.

34 - 19 Ad Hoc Committee on WG/PM/MM/YM Relationship

Kristi Estes presented the following report:

The recommendations from this ad hoc committee will go to Ministry and Nurture for further consideration, then back to the Ad Hoc Committee, then to Monthly Meetings for review and comments. Revised recommendations will then be sent to the Faith and Practice Revision Committee. Proposed changes will then be brought to the Yearly Meeting by the Faith and Practice Committee. Recommendations from Ad Hoc Committee are in **Appendix C**.

34 - 20 Personnel Committee

Kristi Estes, clerk of the personnel committee, reported for the Personnel committee:

As reported at the Spring Representative Meeting, the Personnel Committee has met several times this year. The committee has created an updated job description for the SAYMA Administrative Assistant position and reviewed the time necessary for performing this job. It is our judgment that the job currently requires more than quarter time. We recommend that the job description be changed to a 1/3 time position and the salary be adjusted accordingly. We also recommend that each employee (the SAYMA and SAYF Administrative Assistants) be given a cost of living adjustment for the current year.

The current job description for the administrative assistant's position will be posted in the hall so Friends can review it. The committee's recommendation for the change in time from one-quarter time to one-third time in the administrative assistant's position will be considered in a later session. See **Appendix C**

Minute -- *Friends accept the report.*

34 - 21 Announcements

- Mary Ann Downey is on the Friends Journal board and announced that Friends Journal won an award for the issue on diversity and the first place award for the best article went to the article on hearing loss that was in that issue. She has copies of the Journal to distribute and special deals for new subscribers.
- Joyce Rouse sang an announcement recruiting performers for the talent show.
- Dorothy Day is here as a yearly meeting visitor with the Friends General Conference yearly meeting visitors committee.

34 - 22 Reports from Wider Quaker Organizations

AFSC Deborah Johnson introduced Mary Ellen McNish, the general secretary of AFSC.

Mary Ellen spoke to us about the current work of AFSC and some growing pains there. As a result of many retreats and consultations, in the next five years AFSC will be focusing on two main areas: on peace and on migration and human mobility. The report of the SAYMA representative to AFSC is attached in **Appendix C**.

Friends Peace Teams Bob Welsh presented the following report:

Friends Peace Teams is celebrating its tenth anniversary by growing and changing. This year we incorporated as a non-profit corporation and separated from Baltimore Yearly Meeting, which had been our fiscal sponsor. We have also filed for 501c3 tax exempt status. We have begun a process of revising our structure and development goals in consultation with Steve Baumgartner, an experienced Quaker consultant, fund-raiser and organizational specialist, and the Executive Director of Pendle Hill.

In FPT's work in the U.S., which focuses on providing resources on peacemaking to Monthly Meetings, Rosa Packard of New York Yearly Meeting has provided strong leadership. The basic theme of this work is to elevate the role of conscience among Friends. Are we giving support in our Meetings to Friends whose conscience leads them to take courageous steps into the challenging field of peacemaking? Friends Peace Teams hopes to provide Meetings with encouragement and with resources to says YES to this Query.

The work of the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) continues to be the most exciting aspect of Friends Peace Team work. I am attaching to this report the recent letter of David Zarembka which describes the workshops which AGLI and Rwanda Yearly Meeting are sponsoring, some of them offering desperately needed AVP training and others in the area of trauma healing and reconciliation. (Letter is attached in **Appendix C**.)

Work camps have been an outgrowth of the friendships with Friends in the East African

region. In summer of 2003 there were successful work camps in Uganda and Burundi. Schoolrooms and homes for returning refugees of conflict were built, and international and local participants made friends and practiced peace-building skills. Several African work camps are planned for 2003.

FPT's experience in Colombia has involved a great deal of listening and friendship. An exploratory team of Friends went to Colombia in 2002, and FPT returned there in 2003 to train 19 Colombians as Alternatives to Violence facilitators. Reports show that FPT visits there have strengthened friendship and spiritual support with friends of peace in Colombia's difficult environment.

In 2003 a Re-Entry Manual was written for use of North American FPT participants and their Clearness and Support committees in the home Meetings. This manual gives recognition and tools to meet the spiritual challenges when Friends span communities in peacemaking efforts. The re-entry part of the peace team experience, often a time for learning and healing, is now more fully addressed.

Right Sharing of World Resources Geeta McGahey introduced Roland Kreager, the general secretary.

Right Sharing has been in existence for 35 years and has been independent for 5 years. He made three main points. Capacity building has been a focus for right sharing as it develops as an independent group. Another focus has been the intentional outreach to Friends in the developing world, particularly among Quakers in Kenya. A third focus is on bringing Right Sharing home and talking to U.S. Quakers about the difference Right Sharing can make to us. It is possible for a group or individuals to contribute to a specific project and know that their funds will go to that project.

June 12, 2004 - Sixth Day (Saturday), 9:30 a.m.

34 - 23 Opening

After a period of worship, Clerk Sharon Annis made some announcements: the job descriptions for yearly meeting employees have been posted at the front table and comments are invited.

34 - 24 Visitors and Alternatives to Violence

Visitors

Clemence Mershon, FWCC visitor from Lake Erie Yearly meeting

Ruby Bray, Wilmington North Carolina Friends Meeting

Alternatives to Violence Project

Ruby Bray, spoke to us about AVP. She has personally worked in a variety of prisons and jails. At about the same time she started that work, a group of men in a jail in New York asked Quakers for help in dealing with violence. A couple of years ago she heard the leading to return to prison work. She learned about AVP and is going through the training to become an AVP facilitator and trainer. Areas of concern include prevention in the community, change in the regulation of prisons, and work with law enforcement and the judicial system with the goal of incarceration being the last resource. Finally, work with people returning to the community from incarceration is vital in preventing recidivism. AVP is one way to address these needs. She will offer an introductory AVP training on Halloween weekend in Wilmington.

34 - 25 State of the Meeting Reports

Nick Kurtz and Nicole Rennie read the state of the meeting reports from Greenville Monthly Meeting, Royal Worship Group, Sevier County Worship Group, and Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting.

34 - 26 Census and Roll Call

Mary Calhoun read the roll call of meetings and worship groups. The following groups were represented at the beginning of this session: Anneewakee Creek WG, Asheville, Atlanta, Berea, Birmingham, Brevard, Celso, Chattanooga, Clemson WG, Columbia, Cookeville PM, Foxfire, Greenville, Huntsville, Memphis, Nashville, New Moon WG, Swannanoa Valley, West Knoxville.

Census Mary reported on the June 2004 census. The census is attached in **Appendix C**. All but two monthly meetings and five worship groups made reports. 1271 members and attenders were reported. There were 7 births and adoptions, 8 deaths, 12 transfers of membership in and eight transfers out. 22 attenders became members and 42 people became regular attenders with 32 previous attenders no longer attending.

34 - 27 Faith and Practice Revision Committee

Minute -- *Friends approve the proposed revisions for Part 1 with the clarification that FWCC is the registered Friends representative to The Quaker UN office. Part Two was approved through Positions of Responsibility with the change of the word "deal" to "work" at the bottom of page four and with the exception of the paragraphs now labeled SAYMA representative and Other SAYMA Service and other positions. These paragraphs are sent back to the Faith and Practice Revision committee to consider the role of the monthly meeting in the formation of the SAYF steering committee and to clarify this section. The section on monthly meeting committees in part two was approved with the following change in the Finance Committee description: "The Finance committee with the collaboration of the treasurer prepares the budget, reviews and audits the financial records and considers unbudgeted requests." In the last paragraph on page 10 the last sentence will read; "All other persons serving in yearly meeting positions of responsibility participate in representative meeting." The yearly meeting section starting on page 9 of the appendix and through the first paragraph on Functions of Representative Meeting is approved with the change of the first two sentences in this section to "composed of its constituent monthly meetings, preparative meetings, and worship groups. All members and attenders of these bodies have both the privilege and responsibility to participate in keeping the affairs of the yearly meeting in good order."* The last paragraph in Function of Representative Meeting is sent back to the committee for further consideration.

The corrected approved sections are attached in **Appendix C**.

34 - 28 Finance Committee

Finance Committee clerk Chris Berg presented the following report:

The Finance Committee recommends that the SAYMA fiscal year be revised. It is proposed that the current year be extended through the ninth month, thirtieth day, and that subsequent years begin on the first day of tenth month and run for twelve months to September 30 of the succeeding year. The reasons for the change are: 1) to permit the presentation of a final budget for the coming year to a September representatives meeting in a context of greater fiscal certainty. 2.) To permit transfers of the treasurer office to be handled at a time which conflicts less with closure of books for a year.

To this end, the Finance Committee is offering for your consideration a guide budget for fiscal year 2005, beginning the first of tenth month, 2004. It is planned to resubmit this budget with any necessary modifications to the September representative meeting. If this change is approved, the treasurer proposes to extend the current (fiscal 2004) budget from the end of sixth month to the end of ninth month. Ongoing line items would be adjusted to add a 25% proportion, with the exception of Personnel, which is to be adjusted at the beginning of seventh month, as follows:

As recommended by the Personnel Committee, the Finance Committee is proposing to adjust the personnel line item to pay the SAYMA Administrative Assistant on a one-third time basis

beginning the first of seventh month. The Finance Committee also proposes to adjust compensation for the cost of living by 2.5% on that date for both administrative assistants.

The budget being presented reflects expected receipts based on our \$55 assessment. As shown on the spreadsheet, this would yield a roughly \$4000 anticipated deficit. We do not recommend a precise assessment for fiscal 2005 at this time, but will bring that recommendation to the September representative meeting.

Minute -- *Friends accept the report and approve the recommendation to change SAYMA's fiscal year as outlined in the report.*

June 13, 2004, First Day, 9:30 a.m.

34 - 29 SAYF, JYM, and YAF Epistles

Southern Appalachian Young Friends Epistle The SAYF epistle was read by Liza Kurtz, James Bartow, and Elaine Ruscetta:

Southern Appalachian Young Friends is a group of teens ages 12 - 18 who gather periodically for weekend retreats in various locations around the Southeast. We Rock ... and that's about all you need to know. So what do we do on these retreats? We'll tell you.

August: We went back to Wren's beautiful house in Black Mountain, NC for a joint steering, oversight and nurturing committee retreat to start off the year. One of our numerous accomplishments was to establish a clerk discernment process.

September: In September, Friends gathered at Chapel Hill for a retreat on diversity. Activities included trust and diversity games, a thought-provoking question series and a dance.

October: We went to South Carolina on October for our annual Penn Center Work Camp. Aside from doing our usual service projects we went to the beach and had a potluck with the wider community.

November: In November we gathered in West Knoxville for a retreat on the theme of mindfulness. Activities included a fun workshop, a silent lunch, and a healing circle. Friends also decorated the meetinghouse with favorite quotations.

January: Asheville hosted the January retreat with a theme of fellowship. Many group games were played and led by members of the Asheville meeting.

February: The steering, oversight, and nurturing committees met at Kathleen Mavournin's house for our mid-year meetings. We formulated an official method (or madness) for recording minutes and making them available at retreats.

March: Friends gathered in Chapel Hill in March to discuss health, both physical and spiritual. Activities included a workshop and two silent walks through the woods. We also had a blast roller skating on Saturday night.

April: The final retreat before SAYMA took place in West Knoxville, focusing on the theme of creativity. Relating to the theme were a service project for hospice, a workshop on pottery making, and a worship-sharing on creativity. We also had kabobs for dinner on Saturday. Yum!

SAYMA: Finally, we gathered this weekend at Warren Wilson College to enjoy an extra-long retreat with the wider community a.k.a. you fabulous folks! We spent part of the weekend holding in the light a Young Friend who lost a family member. We participated in workshops, went swimming, and had an uplifting and saddening graduation ceremony.

Thanks to everyone who made this possible! We love the SAYF community and hope you'll continue to help us support it!

Junior Yearly Meeting Epistle The Junior Yearly Meeting epistle was presented by the entire group.

The things we liked that we did this weekend were: we played kick the can, made candles, made two candles and one that was really fat, made a monkey bridge, listened to stories especially

Jack and the devil, went and crossed the bridge, went swimming, made a wax kabob by scrapping wax, we are going to play soccer (finally), making the bridge, liked the talent show and being in it. Young Adult Friends Epistle YAF Nicole Rennie presented the epistle and the entire group sang the last section of their epistle.

34 - 30 Site Selection Committee

Larry Ingle reported that they contacted Shorter College and got additional information. Single rooms are available, arrangements can be made for cooking for the simple living group, children under 6 will cost \$5 per day for a room, there are camping facilities nearby but not on the college grounds. Room and board fees are less than here at Warren Wilson. They have assured us that all Friends will be welcome there, there is space for the children's program, and the campus is flatter and more compact. The committee recommends that our YM sessions be held there on June 9-12, 2005 and the following year.

Minute -- *Friends accept the recommendation of the committee to go to Shorter College for the next year and potentially the next year.*

34 - 31 Finance Committee

The committee noted that it appears that no addition in the assessment will be needed for the next fiscal year.

Minute -- *Friends approve a \$200 contribution to Williams Penn House. With that addition, Friends also approve the proposed budget for the new twelve-month fiscal year starting in October 2004. The assessment will not change before next yearly meeting.*

34 - 32 Nominating Committee

Penelope Wright presented these additional nominations:

- Personnel Committee -- member, Anne Welsh
- SAYF Oversight Committee -- member, Margaret Farmer
- SAYF Steering Committee -- co-clerk, Kathleen Mavournin 2004 - 2006;
members -- Joy Gosset, Adrienne Labotka
- YM Planning Committee--
 - Local arrangements -- Bob Welsh is released from local arrangements
 - Bookstore -- Deanna Nip, extended to 2006
 - YAF rep -- Christina VanRegenmorter
- FCNL -- Carol Nickle
- Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Queer Concerns -- Gary Briggs, co-rep
- Still pending --
 - Assistant clerk SAYF Steering committee, additional members
 - F&P member Ministry and Nurture clerk
 - FCNL Co-registrar
 - FWCC

Minute -- *Friends approved each of these nominations as they were presented.*

A question was raised about whether we should decide the question of representation to William Penn House now rather than defer it to the nominating committee, and whether we no longer trust the spirit to make decisions in the meeting for business rather than referring all decisions to committees. It was noted that we have not received a request for a representative to William Penn House.

Minute -- *It is the sense of the meeting that we ask that the Nominating Committee consider the question of a representative to William Penn House and bring a recommendation to representative meeting. We appreciate the willingness of Errol Hess to serve as that representative. The Meeting will*

continue to try to respond to concerns as they are raised in a spirit-led fashion and determine if they need to be referred to committee or whether they will be considered by the meeting as a whole.

The entire roster of those in yearly meeting positions of responsibility is attached as **Appendix E**.

34 - 33 Additional Business

Reports submitted to yearly meeting but not presented in session

Minute -- *Reports that have not yet been shared will be attached as Appendix D.*

Bob McGahey announced that Ministry and Nurture will be having a retreat on October 2-3, and invited those so led to attend the retreat.

34 - 34 SAYMA Epistle

Steve Livingston read the proposed epistle:

To Friends Everywhere:

Mountain roads slowed us down and helped us come Spirit-led to the annual Gathering of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA). We gathered in the Swannanoa River valley at Warren Wilson College, June 10-13, 2004, to consider the theme "Feeding the Flames of Faith: Integrating Spirit and Action". The Western North Carolina mountains greeted us with lovely weather: huge clouds, wide blue sky, and warm temperatures.

Attendance at the Gathering numbered around 240, about the same as in other recent years.

This reflects the population of our yearly meeting, which has remained quite stable, showing an increase of about three percent this year over last year's census. Our yearly meeting is blessed with 33 monthly meetings and worship groups spread over a wide geographical area, including Charleston WV, Berea KY, Boone NC, Columbia SC, Atlanta GA, Oxford MS, and Memphis TN.

As we came together from our far-flung homes, we renewed old acquaintances and made new ones over excellent meals, much of the food organically grown right here on the Warren Wilson campus. The agenda allowed for quiet fellowship during the breaks between scheduled activities.

In the evening plenary sessions, we heard from two SAYMA Friends on Thursday and three on Friday, describing how their spiritual journeys have led them to action. Our worship sharing centered on queries about how we integrate our spiritual lives and activism. The more intimate setting enabled each of us to speak and listen on a deeper level about our personal journeys of faith and action.

On Saturday night we enjoyed a different kind of sharing, with an intergenerational "talent show". Friends sang, played piano and guitar, told stories and jokes, laughed, clapped, cheered, and congratulated one another. A highlight was the "monkey bridge", a rope and wood rigging that required the cooperation of a whole team of volunteers.

Most of the seventeen workshops were led by SAYMA Friends, with four being led by invited guests, from American Friends Service Committee, Friends General Conference Traveling Ministry Program, Quaker House, and Right Sharing of World Resources. Some of the workshops were more presentational in nature, but among the best attended were two very participatory workshops: "Headless Experiments for Worship and Action" and "Make a Joyful Noise: Singing out of the Quaker Hymnal."

Yearly Meeting provided many opportunities for gathered worship after the manner of Friends, with early morning worship in an open pavilion, and a regular hour of worship each day. Another highlight of this year's Gathering was the Meeting for Remembrance of Friends whose lives have touched ours in profound ways. Our worship helped us prepare for the work that was set before us in our daily meeting for business sessions.

Rather than hearing all of the State of the Society Reports at once, we heard two to four

reports at each of the first three business sessions, some of which were read by SAYMA teens and young adults. We were inspired by reports from some of the wider Quaker organizations in which SAYMA Friends are active, including American Friends Service Committee, Right Sharing, Alternatives to Violence Program, Friends Journal, and Friends Peace Teams. Our meetings for business were not without difficulty and we did occasionally engage in "word smithing," but for the most part we accomplished our work in good Quaker order, finding the sense of the meeting in many cases and referring back to committee those matters we were not able to settle.

The workshops, worship, and presentations of the Yearly Meeting gave us all additional resources and renewed energy to continue our Spirit-led work in our Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups, communities, and personal lives.

Minute -- *Friends accepted the epistle as read with thanks.*

Our epistle will be translated into Spanish and will be distributed widely.

34 - 35 Nominating Committee

Penelope Wright presented the following name:

Co-registrar -- Ceal Wutka

Minute -- *This nomination was approved.*

Peace and Social Concerns Committee:

Minute -- *Friends ask that the Nominating Committee name up to seven members to the Peace and Social Concerns committee including the clerk and co-clerk of that committee. Missy Ivie asked to be recorded as standing aside from this decision.*

34 - 36 Registrar's Report

Beth Myers:

This year total attendance was 249.

Junior Yearly Meeting -- 21 in attendance

Southern Appalachian Young Friends -- 30

Young Adult Friends --15

People attended from 23 monthly meetings and worship groups.

34 - 37 Approval of Minutes

Friends approved these minutes throughout the course of the Yearly Meeting, subject to final editing by the clerk and the recording clerk.

Kristi Estes, Clerk
(archive copy signed)

Lee Ann Swarm, Recording Clerk
(archive copy signed)