

Attachment D: WQO Representatives' Reports

- American Friends Service Committee
- AFSC-Southeast Regional Office
- Friends Committee for Outworld Relations
- Friends Committee on National Legislation
- Friends General Conference
- Friends World Committee for Consultation
- William Penn House

American Friends Service Committee

Corporation Meeting November 2008

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Corporation met November 7-8, 2008 in Philadelphia. The Corporation consists of between 120 and 180 Friends, who technically "own" the organization under the laws of Pennsylvania. Corporation members may be at large who are appointed by the Corporation, or Yearly Meeting appointees. There are approximately equal numbers of each, currently. The Corporation serves the following roles: (1) two way channel of communication between the Religious Society of Friends and the AFSC; (2) spiritual and practical counsel to the AFSC; (3) appointment of the AFSC Board of Directors; (4) legal basis for the AFSC's operations. The Board of Directors (and not the Corporation) provides policy guidance to the AFSC and appoints its management.

The Board of Directors is made up of 45 people, of whom 4 are Yearly Meeting Appointees and 9 are the Clerks of the US Regional Office's Executive Committees including one from the Southeastern Regional Office, based in Atlanta. The Board of Directors meets 4 times a year and has an Executive Committee made up of 11 members of the Board of Directors who are the officers of the Board and meets twice a year. The Executive Committee brings back to the Board recommendations which the Board then considers for approval.

Attendance

Based on the 41 individuals who sent regrets, it appears that some 110 Corporation members were present this year. Most yearly meetings had at least one representative (even Alaska). In addition, the AFSC's management team and a number of Philadelphia staff attended as did the Southeastern Regional Office's Regional Director Betti Knott.

Worship and worship sharing

Each morning, there were worship sharing groups before breakfast. Queries focused on personal and corporate peacemaking. Unprogrammed worship was part of the first day's meeting; Colin Saxton, General Superintendent of Northwest Yearly Meeting led programmed meeting the second day, and delivered a thoughtful sermon based on the prophetic deeds of Jeremiah at the time immediately before the Babylonian Captivity.

Business

The Corporation approved nominees for the Board of Directors and for Corporation members at large. In making recommendations to the Board, the Nominating Committee considers Affirmative action goals and geographical distribution, in addition to specific eligibility criteria. The Board consists of 30 appointed and 15 ex officio members, 18 women (goal: 40%), 6 openly gay/lesbian persons, 10 "third world" (=persons of color; goal:20%), and 7 persons with disabilities. That they are self reported categories is the reason they do not have goals. Board membership includes all regions, with an East-Midwest tilt.

The Corporation received a request from Intermountain Yearly Meeting that the AFSC regions be better aligned with the Yearly Meeting's borders. It also received a brief report from the AFSC-Friends Relations Committee, clerked by Tom Head. That committee is responsible for supporting the Corporation's "two way channel" role.

Clinton Pettus, newly appointed Deputy General Secretary for Programs introduced three extended program reports on (1) the Quaker United Nations Office; (2) the Roadmap for Peace (see www.roadmapforpeace.org); and (3) the Military

Listening Project. There was considerable discussion throughout the remainder of the meeting about (2), because many Friends thought that the opportunity to influence U.S. foreign policy in a more positive way might be at hand. Friends were urged to bring this five point document that calls for increases in civilian peace and development work and diplomacy to their meetings for consideration of endorsement and communication with elected officials.

General Secretary Mary Ellen McNish reported on a number of major AFSC projects, including work on economic justice (including the bailout program), immigration issues, and work to stop "supermax" prisons. She described international aid work in Myanmar and Somalia (both difficult situations), peace conversations including Iraqi delegations and meetings with Iranian leaders, and the AFSC's ongoing reorganization and fiscal situation, which she said was stable.

James Fletcher, AFSC Treasurer and Lee O'Neill, Clerk of the Finance Committee, summarized the organization's financial situation. Although both believe the AFSC's finances are sound, the economic downturn has affected revenues dramatically. Both the investment portfolio and contributions have declined, while program expenses increased. The AFSC is still about a \$40 million/year company, but it took a write down of \$16M in non-operating adjustments related to investment losses last year vs. \$10M income in that category the previous year. Endowment funds fell by almost \$3M, even though the Spirited Engagement campaign raised more endowment funds than was planned. Finance staff and the volunteer leadership believe that the AFSC's investments are adequately diversified and that the structure of AFSC's programs will allow quick adjustments should they be required. AFSC continues to be top-ranked by Charity Navigator in keeping the percentage of expenditures used for administration and fund raising. AFSC exceeds the Better Business Bureau criterion of spending at least 65% of its expenditures on program (AFSC=88%). While not a cause for alarm, the financial situation will clearly bear watching.

Other Events

At the Annual Public Gathering after the close of the business meeting, National Public Broadcasting newsman Ray Suarez spoke about the prospects for the new Administration in Washington. He warned Friends that it will be difficult to meet everyone's expectations because of the "economic wreckage and two wars" left by the Bush Administration. Following this, there were hour long seminars on understanding China and building peace.

Submitted by: Free Polazzo and Charles Schade, SAYMA Appointees to the AFSC Corporation
13 November, 2008

Staff Briefing – January 2009

Dear Friends,

A week after the historic inauguration of President Barack Obama, I am still riding on a wave of optimism. Staff gathered to watch the events together in the Philadelphia office and we shared the surprising surge of emotion that was felt by many across the country. Despite the tremendous difficulty and pain around us – the suffering in Gaza, the layoffs shattering lives and dreams, our ongoing involvement in two senseless wars – for that moment, we were able to pause and appreciate that *change is possible*. But it's important to note that the change we saw in Washington last Tuesday was not the accomplishment of one man, or even of a political party. That change came on the shoulders of generations of brave, mostly unheralded men and women, who risked violence and even death to march and agitate and peacefully resist injustice.

I believe that real change comes about when ordinary people are moved – by spiritual insight, by growing understanding of their own conditions, and by great leaders – to feel their power and to take their place in history. Our work at AFSC has always been to stand with and in the service of nonviolent movements for the common good. Now that we have an administration that has a vision closer to our own, our task is to move our goals for peaceful world relations, economic justice, immigrant and refugee rights, and a new form of healing justice onto the national agenda. There is reason for hope, and there is much work to be done. Let us judge ourselves and our new president by the progress we make.

Meeting with Obama transition team

Even before the inauguration, we began to make contact with the new administration. On January 8, together with partner organizations including the Friends Committee on National Legislation and the Institute for Policy Studies, AFSC presented the *Roadmap for U.S. Engagement in the World* to the Obama Transition Team on Foreign Assistance and National Security. The delegation had an open and candid conversation with the Obama representatives about redefining the meaning of “security” and creating public support for alternatives to militarism, as we work to lay a foundation for lasting peace in the world. The Roadmap was well received and the group was invited to continue the dialogue at a future point (see attached summary for more details).

I’d like to acknowledge the work of Aura Kanegis, Director of the Washington Policy Office (now on family leave with new baby, Kai Byrd), who had the vision and led the process of developing the Roadmap, as well as policy associates Laura Weis, who had primary responsibility for drafting the document, and Alissa Wilson who coordinated the meeting with the transition team.

Top ten priorities

Jim Guest, a friend and colleague from my Planned Parenthood days, is now the president of Consumer’s Union. In his recent column in Consumer Reports magazine, Jim laid out ten points he would like to communicate if he had ten minutes with President Obama – a wish list of high priority issues to tackle. (You can see his list [here](#).) I’d like to create a comparable AFSC list for a talk I am giving later this spring and I’d appreciate your help in developing it. What would you ask President Obama to do, if you had ten minutes of his time? Please email me at staffbriefing@afsc.org with your ideas for a top ten list. I’ll compile and share these suggestions, as well as my final list, with you.

Peace conference

Earlier this month, I had the privilege of joining several hundred people of faith at *Heeding God’s Call – A Gathering on Peace* at the Quaker Meeting House at 4th and Arch in Philadelphia. The purpose of this national gathering, called by members of the historic peace churches (Friends, Mennonites, and Brethren) was “to strengthen our witness and work for peace in the world by inspiring hope, raising voices, taking action.” The unity of purpose at the event, built on our faith and our heritage of peace-seeking and nonviolent action, was both inspiring and motivating. It truly fed my soul. There were a number of remarkable addresses, all of which can be heard online at www.peacegathering2009.org/audio. I particularly recommend former AFSC staffer Ched Myers’ talk on the “Nonviolent Witness of Jesus” and the Friday night talk by Vincent Harding (who wrote Dr. Martin Luther King’s speech at Riverside Church). Several current AFSC staff also participated in the conference. Christina Repoley’s comments on the deep connection between Quaker faith and prophetic action on the “Christian Faith and Peace” panel are well worth seeking out.

The conference also included a daily witness to convince the owner of a local gun shop to sign a “code of conduct” designed to reduce illegal trafficking in guns. The nonviolent protest included acts of civil disobedience (blocking the entrance to the gun shop), which resulted in the arrests of eleven people. The witness culminated in a mass protest on Saturday afternoon in the bitter cold. It takes a real stirring to get me out in 13 degree weather, but this gathering was not to be missed. Hundreds of us rallied at the gun shop, singing and calling for an end to the bloodshed on Philadelphia’s streets.

Executive committee

At their meeting this month, the Board Executive Committee heartily approved the statement on immigrant detention proposed by the NYMRO. Many thanks to the NYMRO staff for their excellent analysis and synthesis of the context surrounding this important issue (see the attached document). The Executive Committee also enthusiastically approved several members of the new Board Program Committee. Brian Corr of New England Yearly Meeting will clerk the group. Appointment of additional members is currently under consideration.

Gaza situation

Finally, we were pleased that a ceasefire was called in Gaza, and are saddened that incidents of violence have continued. All the AFSC staff members are safe and are beginning to assess damage and work on reconstruction. Our appreciation goes out to them for their courage and their determination amid danger and destruction. Their reports, filed regularly over

the last few weeks, are on the front page of the AFSC website, as is the AFSC statement on the situation: www.afsc.org (Our thanks to the web team for facilitating this communication.)

As always, I welcome your feedback on this briefing. Please send your comments or questions to: staffbriefing@afsc.org. Sincerely,

Mary Ellen McNish

American Friends Service Committee Corporation
Interim Report
May 26, 2009

Since the Corporation meeting last November (see Attachment 1), the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has encountered very challenging financial conditions. Early in the year, the AFSC maintained an attitude of optimism, expressing hope for progress in international peace and domestic priorities. AFSC General Secretary Mary Ellen McNish expressed these thoughts in a January briefing (Attachment 2).

Unfortunately, the budgetary concerns reflected in the Treasurer's report in November became more extensive through the early part of this year. By March, the concern was a possible \$7 million shortfall in fiscal year 2010, out of an originally-planned budget of \$52 million. In early May, a Board Task Force reported that income from bequests and contributions had fallen sharply. Coupled with substantially reduced investment income, the Task Force projected a need to pare the organization's expenditures to \$25 million in fiscal year 2010, and proposed options for dealing with the situation that would result in a much smaller Service Committee.

At this point, the financial situation is known, but the full impact on programs is not yet determined. This is not surprising, given the suddenness with which this information fell onto program staff and Board leadership. Financial options focus on the impacts of different reductions on the overall capacity of the organization, without considering the impact on staff and program effectiveness. Projected scenarios include elimination of international programs and elimination of regional programs in the U.S. These are extreme possibilities, but represent the kinds of changes that the financial situation will require, if the projections come to reality.

AFSC's management has asked all units to reduce expenditures twice, and additional reductions are expected. A consultative process is ongoing. The current timeline indicates that the Board will be setting financial parameters and issuing guidance for programs at the June 14 meeting. Final decisions regarding the budget, program scope, and geographic reach are expected in September.

We ask Friends to hold the Service Committee in the Light. We encourage Friends to reflect on the how Quaker testimonies can best be expressed in action through the Service Committee.

Charles Schade, Free Polazzo

AFSC-SERO (American Friends Service Committee- Southeast Regional Office)

Efforts towards bringing peace and social justice into a consumer-driven, power oriented world remain a worthy goal, but a task that requires promoting both behavior change and paradigm shift. Nothing can move swiftly; the work itself participates in creating the conditions for Love to manifest. One of our non-Quaker EC (Executive Committee) members wrote after the 2nd Month meeting:

“i feel compelled to add that i left our meeting on Saturday, feeling profoundly moved. i was reflecting on the breadth and depth of the suffering that we discussed in the span of one day. it struck me that in the midst of our business we were absorbing the reality of the extraordinary suffering of countless people. i was thinking about the individual fractured families connected to the immigration crack down in Cobb and Gwinette that Adelina spoke of. i was thinking about the sense of hopelessness and neglect in haiti that alice was overwhelmed by. i was thinking about people i'd never known or considered before, the madagasgariis, and their suffering that Peter brought to us. i was thinking about the homeless black man sitting on the windowsill of our new building as we

walked in and the countless others that he represents. then i came home and watched damekia's film about the intellectual gutting of young black men in new orleans. when i was home and still, the singular importance of our program work shone brightly as the centering theme and the motivation to endure the tedium of the business of it.”

Our current challenge is that AFSC fund shortages will necessitate some significant cuts in the budget for 2010 though their extent is still under discussion.. Both our EC and unionized staff particularly are trying to get answers about why our current reserves have disproportionately suffered during the current downturn. The only bright side is that the mandatory two week unpaid furloughs will give Betti Knott our Executive Secretary a needed break. It is her turn to clerk the Exec Sec Committee, so she is the one who has had to spend 30% of her time working in Philadelphia and over the phone to represent regional office concerns to the board and central office. This is in addition to her regular work with decreasing administrative staff. Azi Abrahimi, our long-time administrative assistant, will be leaving to likely spend a year in Iran, her native place. This position will not be filled.

The North Carolina program work on peace, social justice, and immigration is exemplary. The many interns are doing meaningful work, making important networking connections, and developing their leadership skills. Ann and Lori, a Quaker, are making the connections between the issues as they go out and raise community support. Lori is working with meetings on both understanding the problems of immigration and the development of immigrant support committees. She will travel to meetings in North and South Carolina as a resource person. It may be timely for our YM to have a theme on this difficult issue.

The Miami work is important in that both the Haitian and the Latino communities are being developed. The Haitian work is focused both on immigration issues and the difficult conflict resolution areas within this community. The work is being supported by a link with humanitarian assistance and international economic issue education in our region. Peggy Baxter who heads the humanitarian assistance program is ill now and will be retiring this summer. The position will not be filled

The peace work in Atlanta is highly visible, engages youth and newcomers and is able to generate income to provide leadership training and networking experiences for these youth. We are working to consolidate the three separate peace programs into one. The New Orleans program is focusing on the School-to-Prison pipeline and using this work as a tool for community organizing. It has been beset by problems of staffing but Alice Lovelace, a skilled community organizer, who organized the US Social Forum is providing needed leadership and supervision.

There is a need for new EC committee members, particularly from Tennessee or Alabama, possible NC, ideally people to increase our inclusiveness or who are connected in some way with the issues we address.

Geeta McGahey

Friends Committee on Outworld Relations

As had been reported previously, FCOR has entered into a dormant period due to lack of committed young personnel.

It is predicted that a change in this situation, including a manifestation of ET visitors that cannot be ignored will be needed to impel Friends to consider seriously the implications of contact with civilizations from elsewhere in the universe.

Until that time, the present personnel for FCOR are stand aside, but will join with other Friends when these come forward.

J. Philip Neal, retiring coordinator

Friends Committee on National Legislation

This is a time of terrific opportunity coupled with tremendous limitations on FCNL's capacity to take full advantage of them.

The new administration and new Congress in Washington are open to discussion and movement on a wide variety of issues that have long been of great interest to Friends. However, FCNL receives a substantial portion of its revenue from endowments, and the financial crisis of the last year has had a tremendous impact on the organization. Forty percent of their staff positions are now vacant. FCNL remains a vital and valuable

force for good in Washington DC, but it is much smaller than it was at this time last year. What can SAYMA and SAYMA's monthly meetings and individual members do in response?

1. Become a sustaining member of FCNL, and ask your monthly meeting to increase its annual donation to FCNL. Donations to either Friends Committee for National Legislation or the FCNL Education Fund (tax-exempt) are equally welcome.
2. Ask your monthly meeting to send its mailing list to FCNL, to be used for both advocacy and development. This will assist FCNL in widening its potential donor base.
3. We, the grass roots, need to shoulder a greater role in carrying out FCNL's lobbying work. The most effective lobbyist is an informed constituent, and FCNL can provide information on both the issues and effective lobbying techniques. So, make a commitment for yourself and your monthly meeting to write those letters, make those phone calls, visit your Member of Congress and develop the long-term relationships that make change happen. The best places to begin are:
 - a. **fcn.org**. FCNL's website is a fantastic resource on the issues, elected officials and their positions, lobbying techniques, literature and other materials.
 - b. Every monthly meeting should have an active FCNL Contact. Most in SAYMA do, and the rest should.
 - c. Your SAYMA Representative to FCNL serves on FCNL's General Committee and often does additional committee work and has met and worked with many of the FCNL staff and can assist monthly meetings in developing an active and effective lobbying program.

Every two years, the FCNL's General Committee approves a legislative priorities document which guides the work of the organization for the upcoming session of Congress. This happens in the fall of even-numbered years. In preparation for this, each monthly meeting of every affiliated yearly meeting is asked to determine its own legislative priorities. These surveys are used by FCNL's Policy Committee as a guide in drafting the priorities document, which is what is presented to the General Committee for discussion and final approval. I am asking two things of SAYMA's monthly meetings:

1. Please be sure to participate in the priorities setting process in winter/spring of 2010.
2. When you send your priorities to FCNL, also send them to your SAYMA Rep(s) to FCNL. This will allow us to be able to speak with greater understanding of the concerns of Friends throughout SAYMA, and not just within our own monthly meetings.

A few days after September 11, 2001, FCNL developed a slogan to express our message to our elected leaders: War Is Not The Answer, and hung an enormous banner with that message across the front of their building – the side facing the offices of United States Senators. The message was the right one then, and it is still very much true today. War is still not the answer. FCNL's "War is not the answer" campaign is a movement to make that message visible across the nation, and hopefully every meeting house in SAYMA has (or will) put one in front of their meetinghouse (and then take a picture of it and send it to FCNL to post on their website). They look great in front of your home, too, and anywhere else signage is welcome. Due to FCNL's current financial position, no more "WINA" signs will be printed for a very long time – so get yours now while supplies last. Local distributors for signs can be found at fcn.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Wilton
SAYMA Representative to FCNL

Attachments:

1. Priorities for the 111th Congress
2. Epistle To Friends Everywhere, March 2009
3. 2008 Program Report

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Priorities for the 111th Congress

Approved by FCNL's General Committee, November 15, 2008

For 65 years, the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) has brought the spiritual experience of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) to bear on federal legislative processes and public policy decisions. Every two years we consult with Quaker meetings, churches, and organizations around the country to help discern priorities for our lobbying and public education work during the next Congress.

More clearly than ever before, Friends recognize that the critical and interconnected issues of energy and environment relate not only to climate change, but also to war, military spending, the nation's budget, and the capacity of the United States to meet domestic human needs and invest in the well-being of vulnerable populations abroad. We are called to redefine the human and national security of the United States to include freedom from deadly conflict, freedom from abuse of power, assurance of basic human needs, and protection of the Earth's commons - the air, land, and water on which all life depends.

At this historic and hopeful moment, FCNL selects the following priorities for our legislative work and public education during the 111th Congress.

I. We seek a world free of war and the threat of war:

Build U.S. government capacity for peaceful prevention and resolution of deadly conflict. Actively support the United Nations and multilateral problem solving, including respect for international law and treaties.

Promote arms control, disarmament, and nuclear nonproliferation. Seek U.S. ratification of and compliance with bans on nuclear testing, cluster munitions, and landmines.

Work for demilitarization of U.S. foreign policy and aid programs. Urge reductions in the overall military budget and in worldwide U.S. military operations. Emphasize joint aid, civilian peacebuilding, and regional diplomacy, especially in relation to Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Promote fulfillment of U.S. moral and legal obligations for reconstruction.

Press for the removal of U.S. bases and combat forces from Iraq.

II. We seek a society with equity and justice for all:

Support the restoration of full civil liberties and habeas corpus protections for all persons. Oppose torture and secret prisons. Promote human rights around the world especially through international institutions and law.

Support immigration reform that respects the rights and dignity of all immigrants; demonstrates compassion for families; protects children, asylum seekers, and other vulnerable persons; realistically addresses the need for foreign workers both temporary and permanent; and provides practical pathways to legal residency and citizenship. Urge Congress to demilitarize U.S. borders.

Promote and preserve tribal sovereignty of indigenous peoples within the United States. Support legislation that respects their rights, promotes their well-being, honors treaty commitments, and fosters understanding.

III. We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled:

Support the government's constitutional role "to promote the general welfare" by urging Congress to provide adequate resources for human security and the public good. Support programs to alleviate poverty and address pressing human and community needs, such as food, housing, education, and opportunities for meaningful employment. In particular, we call for equitable access to health care.

IV. We seek an Earth restored:

Support bold and immediate measures to counter global climate change and assist threatened human populations at home and abroad. Promote deep, quick, and fair reductions in U.S. greenhouse gas emissions through regulation and incentives for energy conservation and efficiency, accelerated development and use of renewable energy resources, sustainable agriculture, public transportation, and other effective means.

Support establishment of and compliance with multilateral environmental agreements that promote equity and sustainability.

* * * * *

As way opens, FCNL will continue Friends' long-standing witness for rights of conscience, an end to institutional racism, criminal justice reform that includes principles of restorative justice and abolition of the death penalty, and a just and lasting peace in the Middle East through equitable treatment of Israelis, Palestinians, and their neighbors.

FCNL's work will be based on legislative opportunity, specific expertise and leadings, and available resources. FCNL's Policy Statement gives it the flexibility to respond to crises and important legislative opportunities.

In establishing these priorities for the 111th Congress, we are encouraged by the past successes of FCNL's efforts to influence federal policy and by the strong community of Friends and other like-minded people engaged in this work.

As we work to find solutions to these complex problems, Friends continue to seek Divine guidance, renewed strength, and hope.

These priorities are drawn from FCNL's Policy Statement:

<http://www.fcnl.org/priorities/policy.htm>

Epistle To Friends Everywhere
From the Friends Committee on National Legislation
March 2009

Behold, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
Isaiah 43:19

Dear Friends,

In 2008 the Friends Committee on National Legislation celebrated 65 years of faith, hope, action, influence, and change. From its beginnings with just two staff members and a one-room office, FCNL grew to become a leader in lobbying for peace and justice in Washington, DC. A few early Friends reached deep into their pockets to support FCNL when its future was uncertain and money was short. Over the decades, financial, practical, and prayerful support from Quaker monthly meetings, yearly meetings, and tens of thousands of people of many faiths has sustained our work.

In the FCNL community we see signs of hope for changes that many have labored on for decades. In our national political life we see a new openness to listening and learning in a country that has often done neither well. We see new opportunities to bring forward the message that War Is Not the Answer and that peace is possible through peaceful means.

Yet even as these new things spring up, we hear calls to narrow the range of what can be accomplished. The economic crisis that challenges us as individuals and as a nation may well limit the possibility to realize the changes in our nation and world that so many long for.

In 1943, as today, a war was raging, the economy was in turmoil, and future peace seemed uncertain. That didn't discourage Friends who started FCNL. They saw themselves as living in a historic moment. Decisions the U.S. government made would and did affect millions of people around the world. They saw a role for principled, nonpartisan lobbying on federal legislation

Today, as in 1943, the centuries-long Quaker commitment to peace, social justice, and an earth restored provides a strong foundation for FCNL's work on behalf of Friends in the nation's capital. We look forward, with the continued support of Friends, to continue witnessing and working in Washington.

With appreciation for your faithful partnership,

Joe Volk, Executive Secretary

To Friends Everywhere
From the Friends Committee on National Legislation
2008 Program Report

“Politics” cannot be relegated to some outer place, but must be recognized as one side of life, which is as much the concern of religious people and of a religious body as any other part of life.

Lucy Morland, in Quaker Faith and Practice, Britain Yearly Meeting

Just over sixty-five years ago Quakers set up the first registered religious lobby for peace in Washington. They saw a role for principled, nonpartisan lobbying on federal legislation. Then, as now, a war was raging, the economy was in turmoil, and future peace seemed uncertain. That didn't discourage Friends who started FCNL. They saw themselves as living in a historic moment. Decisions the U.S. government made would and did affect millions of people around the world.

We want to celebrate these 65 years of faith, hope, action, influence, and change. From its beginnings with just two staff members and a one-room office, FCNL grew to become a leader in lobbying for peace and justice in Washington, DC. A few early Friends reached deep into their pockets to support FCNL when its future was uncertain and money was short. Over the decades, financial and practical support from tens of thousands of people of many faiths has sustained our work.

In 2008 our team of lobbyists, communications experts, and organizers worked with Friends and others around the country to identify and advocate key, practical steps that Congress could take toward bigger policy changes. Much remains to be done, but FCNL made remarkable progress in the midst of a highly partisan Congress. In Congress, legislating and governing often took a back seat to positioning for the November 2008 elections. These highlights are just a small sample of what your nonpartisan Quaker lobby in the public interest accomplished in 2008. Please visit our website <www.fcnl.org> to learn more.

Legislative Issues

No New Nuclear Weapons: FCNL led the coalition lobbying strategy that resulted in Congress eliminating all funding for the Bush administration's proposed new nuclear bomb, the "Reliable Replacement Warhead" program (RRW).

Congress Reaffirms Ban on Permanent U.S. Military Bases in Iraq: For the second year in a row, Congress approved the FCNL-initiated proposal to ban the U.S. government from establishing permanent U.S. military bases in Iraq. The approval came just as President Bush revealed his plan to negotiate a long-term military basing agreement.

Congress Bans Cluster Bomb Exports: Congress enacted a one-year ban on the export of cluster bombs, providing a first clear victory for FCNL's campaign to ban cluster bombs.

Iran Blockade Legislation Fizzles: In June, House leaders reportedly pledged to "fast track" legislation that urged the president to initiate an international blockade on Iran, prevent Iranian diplomats from traveling, and which was tantamount to an act of war. FCNL spent the next 4 months intensely lobbying against the bill, H. Con. Res. 362, and helped convince 5 representatives to remove their names from the legislation, a rare step. Despite gaining cosponsorship from more than half the House, the leadership decided not to bring the bill to a House vote.

Congress Invests in Peace: Legislation passed to create a civilian response corps, to strengthen the ability of the United States to help peacefully resolve and prevent deadly conflicts around the world. A concept promoted by

FCNL's Peace Prevention of Deadly Conflict program, the corps could be sent to crisis-torn areas to help countries restore basic services to their citizens and support political and economic reconstruction.

Congress Takes Steps to Reduce Energy Consumption: Congress raised vehicle fuel economy standards to 35 miles-per-gallon by 2020 – the first such increase since 1975. The legislation also sets new energy efficiency standards for lighting and for many appliances and encourages green building construction for many government and commercial buildings. FCNL Legislative Action Messages generated over 12,000 letters to Congress on energy legislation in 2008.

Victory for Native American Health Care in the Senate: The Senate voted to dramatically improve health care for nearly 2 million Native Americans by passing the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (S. 1200). Congress has not reauthorized the act in 13 years, leaving healthcare services for Native Americans grossly outdated and inadequate. The House failed to act, but prospects for passage of this legislation in 2009 are strong.

The National Congress of American Indians, which represents nearly half of the Indian tribes in the country, gave its annual legislative award to FCNL for our role in persuading the Senate, for the first time in more than a decade, to pass this legislation. FCNL urges government to "Honor the Promises."

Making Peace an Election Year Issue Much of the debate in the presidential election centered on military strategies to resolve conflicts: continued fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, bombing Iran, and expanding the "war on terrorism." To widen the debate we published and distributed over 100,000 *Questions for Candidates* brochures, designed to challenge candidates to answer specific questions about how they will work to eliminate deadly weapons, conserve energy, provide health care to children in our communities, and promote diplomacy to prevent wars. FCNL worked with volunteers in several states to set up candidate forums, and we encouraged meetings, churches, and other local organizations to contribute to the discussion on peace in the elections by sponsoring or attending public events and debates.

War is Not the Answer movement expands: FCNL now has more than 480 "War Is Not the Answer" yard sign distributors and has sent out nearly 1 million "War Is Not the Answer" signs and bumper stickers in the past six years. We distributed more signs and bumper stickers in 2008 than ever before.

FCNL's work in Washington makes a difference. FCNL lobbyists continue to prepare the best available information on our priority issues and to identify the next practical steps that Congress can take. We hope you'll remain engaged, writing emails, making phone calls, and meeting with your elected officials. Your political, financial, and spiritual support makes FCNL work.

Today, as in 1943, the centuries-long Quaker commitment to peace, social justice, and an earth restored provides a strong foundation to carry the message that War Is Not the Answer. Peace is possible through peaceful means. Thanks to you, FCNL can continue witnessing and working in Washington.

Joe Volk, Executive Secretary

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Friends General Conference

What Friends General Conference (FGC) is doing

Like most non-profit organizations in this time of economic downturn, Friends General Conference (FGC) has spent a great deal of time and energy this past year considering its core priorities and how to best leverage limited resources in the economic downturn. FGC began considering how to best steward its resources—and established mechanisms for discerning priorities—well before the crisis hit, and thus it has been in a better position to respond to the situation than many organizations.

Last year at the Annual Gathering, FGC launched its 'Stoking the Spiritual Fire of Quakerism' \$7.25 million capital campaign. Although progress has slowed in the current climate, over \$3.3 million in pledges and gifts has already been received. The goals and priorities of the campaign include supporting and building newer programs such as Youth Ministries; Ministry on Racism, and Advancement and Outreach, while also sustaining on-going programs. More specific aims as well as information about how to give is at the campaign website: <http://www.fgcquaker.org/spiritualfire>

One of the exciting new programs of FGC is Quaker Quest, which provides an opportunity for meetings to reach out and welcome newcomers and engage them in learning about Quaker belief and practice more systematically. Jane Berger, clerk of the Advancement and Outreach committee, is SAYMA's featured representative from wider Quaker organizations this year, and she will be able to provide the most current information on this program.

An exciting new publication and associated resources has been published by the Committee for Ministry on Racism, entitled *Fit for Freedom, not for Friendship: Quakers, African-Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice*. More information on ordering this text, along with resources for using it can be found at: <http://www.fgcquaker.org/fit-for-freedom>. FGC has trained a number of workshop leaders who are available to lead meetings in examining the issues raised in the book.

FGC continues to seek ways to make the Annual Gathering more affordable; in 2010 they are shifting to a 7 day-6 night format. This year the Gathering is in Blacksburg, VA, next year it will be in Bowling Green, OH, and in 2011 it will be at Grinnell College in Iowa.

What your SAYMA representatives are doing

Kristi and Maia both attended Central Committee sessions in October. Maia began a three-year term as co-clerk of the Youth Ministries Committee after serving a three-year term as assistant clerk. Kristi serves on the Travelling Ministries Committee.

In November, Maia co-led a workshop on 'Building Intergenerational Community' at a conference on Emergent Friends sponsored by Guilford College. Maia also served on the organizing committee for an FGC small conference entitled "Weaving Sacred Wholeness-Exploring our Diversity as Friends," held in March at historic Penn Center in South Carolina. Almost half of the total 63 participants were younger Friends and one quarter were Friends of color. Friends came from 37 monthly meetings and 16 yearly meetings. Together we explored our own diversity in all its many components (race, age, disability, theology, class, gender, sexual orientation and more). Kristi helped organize a retreat for those traveling in ministry for the Traveling Ministries Program, and also traveled to do a workshop on Quaker Process, at FGC's request.

Submitted by Maia Hallward & Kristi Estes

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

The Annual Meeting of FWCC-SOA was held in Canby, Oregon, March 19-22, 2009.

Tim Lamm and Sallie Prugh attended as SAYMA representatives.

The theme of the meeting was taking from Habakkuk 2:2-3.

*Then the Lord answered me and said;
Write the vision: make it plain on tablets
so that a runner may read it
For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end and does not lie.
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come, it will not delay.*

This passage was selected because the SOA is in the process of restructuring because its governance is not helping to fulfill the mission of the organization and because it is financially imperative to reduce the staff. A committee had been appointed at the last annual meeting to make recommendations regarding re-organization.

It was recommended that the number of standing committees be reduced, that some standing committees become planning groups that are assigned a specific task (such as the annual meeting planning group), that some committees become resource groups that support all the organizations (such as the Bilingual group that arranges interpretation), and that some become working groups (such as the visitation group that needs to find new ways to promote inter-visitation among Quakers). These recommendations were approved after threshing sessions and much discussion and clarification.

There was also much discussion about the budget. More staff members were cut because of the loss of investment income and reduced donations.

The World Gathering of Friends August 14-21, 2012 in Kenya is being planned by the World Office. Yearly meetings were encouraged to be thinking about selecting representatives and addressing funding for their representatives and for representatives from less affluent countries. About 1000 Friends are expected to attend---about three times the number at past Triennials. Priority will be given to younger people, to nurture future leadership.

The local arrangements for the SOA Annual Meeting were made by two yearly meetings: Northwest Yearly Meeting, which is an Evangelical Friends yearly meeting, and Pacific Yearly Meeting, which is an unaffiliated yearly meeting with a tradition of silent worship. Jan Wood from George Fox University gave the keynote address elaborating on the passage from Habakkuk. The local Friends program included local musicians and a panel of members of the two yearly meetings that emphasized how the two yearly meetings have cooperated even though there are major differences in theology and worship.

The regional groups met. Tim Lamm is the clerk of the Southeast Region. SAYMA was requested to host the next regional gathering in the fall of 2010. Jamaica Yearly Meeting is part of the SE Region, and representatives from the SE Region decided to set up a travel fund to assist delegates from Jamaica to attend regional gatherings and other FWCC events. North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) has agreed to be the custodian of this fund.

There were three small group worship-sharing sessions with queries asking what is the vision that God has entrusted to the Religious Society of Friends and how can this vision be conveyed in our time.

The FWCC Central Executive Committee was with us, so we had attenders from Africa, Cuba, India and Europe. They presented information about the activities in the different Sections and added to the richness of the meeting.

The setting was beautiful, with towering trees, bird songs, the beginning of spring flowers and variable weather.

---submitted by Sallie Prugh and Tim Lamm

May 2009

Dear Friends,

The Quaker United Nations Office in New York sends warm greetings to Friends everywhere.

2008 marked the 60th anniversary of Quaker accreditation at the United Nations. Over six decades, the Quaker UN offices in New York and Geneva have steadily worked to represent Friends' principles and values, as the world of the UN has changed significantly around us.

Our aims are as they always have been: to provide a space away from the microphones for quieter and more reflective discussions on the challenges that face the international community, a place for Rufus Jones' "quiet processes and small circles" in which he hoped that "vital and transforming events" would have an opportunity to flower; to represent voices that are insufficiently heard in the corridors of power; and to work quietly to foster approaches to international problems that are informed by Quaker insights.

As befits an anniversary year, 2008 saw a re-affirmation of purpose. The office is fully staffed for the first time in several years, and we have undertaken a strategic planning process which has taken us back to re-examining the roots of our work in Friends' spiritual practices and social action. Together with our engaged and knowledgeable committee, and the support and advice of AFSC, FWCC, QUNO Geneva and other stakeholders, we have confirmed our focus on the UN's role in peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict, and are in the process of aligning our program work accordingly. In addition we continue to act in support of Quaker agencies in their work at the UN, and to reach out to Friends everywhere.

Our peacebuilding work includes engagement with the UN Peacebuilding Commission, in particular in its work in Burundi, where our links with the local Friends church and the AFSC country office enable us to forge linkages between in-country activity on reconciliation, trauma healing and the consolidation of peace and the intergovernmental work of the Commission in New York.. This area of work also leads us to engage more broadly with the discussion at the UN on how best to foster sustainable peace in societies in and emerging from violent conflict.

Our other programs include work on the Responsibility to Protect, which is to be debated in the General Assembly later this year. Our position is to emphasize prevention and non-violent response, with recent events including a presentation and discussion on the important contribution of civil society in containing the outbreak of violence in Kenya at the end of 2007. We are also initiating a program on the UN's use of political engagement and preventive diplomacy, with the objective of supporting such processes as mediation before resorting to coercive or violent methods.

We thank Friends for their faithful support of our work, and ask you to pray for us in the year to come.
In Friendship,



Andrew Tomlinson, Director and Representative, Quaker United Nations Office

William Penn House

During the past week, we hosted the 4th grade class from Plymouth Meeting Friends School whose teacher, Will Starr, has brought his classes annually for 21 years. The day that they left, the House hosted two groups of women, many retired, who were lobbying Congress to control nuclear technology. The day that these ladies checked out, they were replaced by 8th graders from Thornton Friends School who were engaged with Washington Quaker Workcamps on issues of hunger and homelessness. Sharing the House with the Thornton youth were a group of developmentally challenged young people and their sponsors from England who were completing a 6 weeks tour of the US.

On the day that these last two groups checked in, I walked to Union Station to catch the Metro. As I walked up East Capitol, I passed the Folger Shakespeare Theatre that was preparing for a banquet, at the Library of Congress; I crossed over East Capitol toward the Supreme Court with the US Capitol on my left. In front of the Supreme Court, the networks were setting up to broadcast the retirement of Justice Souter. As I continued, I overheard the conversations of two young men who were aides to US Senators, sharing their take on the Souter retirement and then continued behind three young women who also worked on the Hill who were discussing careers as we walked past the Senate Office Buildings. Fifteen minutes after I left the William Penn House, I was at the Metro Station at Union Station.

Through our doors pass the most extraordinary cross sections of the world population; young people on school trips, young people through Washington Quaker Workcamps seeking the transformative experience of service, people of all ages who are engaging their elective representatives in their efforts to transform society, families and individuals who are tourists here to experience the culture and history of this wonderful city. And when I reflect on why I am here and the mission of William Penn House, I am struck with gratitude and joy in having this tremendous opportunity to serve.

Washington Quaker Workcamps offers service opportunities in New Orleans, the hamlets of West Virginia, the inner city of Washington, DC. We work with the Capitol Hill Village who serves the elderly to help them to be secure as they "age in place"; we feed the homeless; we transform parks and we work with other agencies to reduce storm runoffs by building rain gardens. We study and seek to reuse, recycle and to improve our ecology.

Through our programs, we address issues related to peace, social justice, global warming and the environment. We seek to improve dialogue surrounding issues of gender and HIV/AIDS. We prepare seminars on human rights, lobbying and greening existing buildings. Through our Potluck and Dialogues series we are engaged in the lives of our fellow Quakers and other activist who share their leadings monthly with area Friends.

And we host young and old, activists and tourists, US and international travelers, groups and individuals, who seek a safe, comfortable, affordable and convenient place to stay while being engaged in the plethora of reasons that draw people to the District of Columbia.

The staff of William Penn House reflects the concept of service and dedication that makes this place so special. On our current staff is Greg Woods, a recent graduate of Earlham College whose life was transformed through his high school service with an AFSC Workcamp. Faith Kelley, raised as an Evangelical Friend who has worked with Friends to develop dialogue and opportunities among Quaker youth; Wambani Lusinaka a Kenyan Quaker completing her master's degree so that she can return to Kenya to help improve the lives of Kenyan women; Ben Self, also a recent Earlham graduate who was raised overseas and is engaged in all of our programs as he prepares to continue his education and Kelli Mansure, a future psychologist, who savors each moment of life. Helping to provide opportunities for growth and exploration is Brad Ogilvie who has taken his life challenging illness to serve him as catalyst to help seek unity and dialogue among all people of faith on issues that are too controversial for most. Patricia Newkirk, an anchor and staff member extraordinaire at the end of the year moved to Seattle to enjoy her first grandchild.

This chart puts numbers to our service:

Detail of activities in 2008

2008	groups hosted	Workcamps held	programs held	potlucks & dialogue	Monthly occupancy	beds occupied
January	0	0	0	1	45%	419
February	5	1	2	1	70%	588
March	10	2	2	1	89%	828
April	7	3	1	1	87%	783
May	6	3	1	1	81%	753
June	5	5	2	1	86%	774
July	3	2	2	0	67%	623
August	5	3	1	1	82%	763
September	6	3	5	1	84%	756
October	8	3	1	1	61%	567
November	4	0	0	1	52%	406
December	4	0	1	1	39%	293
Total	63	25	18	11	70%	7552

As we have engaged others in service, training and programs, we have addressed many of the same issues within the House. Last year through generous donations, we replaced our furnace with a highly efficient one that helps to reduce our carbon footprint. We have switched to fluorescent light, replaced most of our plumbing fixtures to ones that use less water, installed ceiling fans throughout the House. We have landscaped the front with native plants and with the help of young people we transformed our ratty backyard into a rain garden of beauty and simplicity. We are currently seeking bids and funding to install a vegetated roof on our Carriage House to help to further reduce runoff into the troubled Anacostia River.

And by following the Quaker testimonies of Simplicity and Integrity we seek to provide all of these services with a balanced budget:

Income and Expenses		2008
Ordinary Income/Expense		
	Income	
	Program Revenues	\$ 295,099
	Contributions	\$ 71,388
	Investment Income	\$ (3,311)
	Other Income	\$ 2,905
	Total Income	\$ 366,082
	Expense	
	Personnel	\$ 260,345
	Building Exp	\$ (5,614)
	Program Exp	\$ 84,451
	Insurance Exp	\$ 2,476
	Equipment loss	\$ 254
	Fundraising Exp	\$ 6,801
	Other Admin Exp	\$ 18,564
	Total Expense	\$ 367,276
Net Ordinary Income		\$ (1,194)

Byron Sandford
Executive Director