

**Sessions Committee Meeting
NYYM Spring Sessions
Friday, April 1st, 2016**

Present: Jeffrey Aaron, Lucinda Antrum, Cheshire Frager, Linda Houser, Melanie-Claire Mallison, Barbara Menzel, Dawn Pozzi, Emily Provance, Ellie Rosenberg, Christopher Sammond, Claire Simon, Deb Wood, Isabella

An optimist is the human personification of spring. Susan J. Bisonette.

13 Friends met at Plainfield Meetinghouse. Martha Gurvich and Rebecca Wolf joined in by phone.

201604-1. Consent agenda **approved** (attached).

1. Recording Clerk for the Day, Dawn Pozzi
2. Sessions Committee Interest Group (for all potential HTG volunteers)
3. State of Society Report: Committee Request
4. Invitation for Sessions to Facilitate a Workshop at Quaker Party
5. Sessions Committee Annual Report
6. Whisper Buddies Proposal from Jillian Smith
7. Summer Sessions text for Spark
8. Welcome Letter to Summer Sessions Participants
9. Internal Nominating Subcommittee Report

201604-2. Report from host task group coordinator, Barbara Menzel. Barbara reported that 149 people registered as 3/31, including 3 young children, 13 youth, and 7 teens. 33 requested hospitality Friday, 29 for Saturday. A number of people arranged hospitality privately. It was challenging to arrange hospitality when there are last minute requests. Saturday Sessions will be held at First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens. Food will be catered by church. There will be a funeral at the church on Saturday, so parking and other logistics may be affected.

201604-3. Christopher Sammond presented the latest 'Pay as Led' proposal. He reminded us that this is based on faith and Friends' integrity.

Comments:

- Pay as Led will require registration by a set deadline, so that the YM office can work with the numbers and take care of the 25% deposit that SBA requires.
- Only those with letters from their MM that they are active in the MM are eligible for PAL.
- Perhaps the 1st and 2nd floor Inn is set aside for those with accessibility needs.
- Beware creating a 'poor folks ghetto.'
- Our arrangement with Silver Bay creates special challenges that are not at issue when all rooms are alike and the same price, as is the case at a college.

The Sessions Committee is led to recommend an experiment with a PAL process for summer sessions when the time seems right. This will be forwarded to GSCC for their consideration.

Approved.

The Sessions Committee asks the PAL ad hoc committee to prepare an advance report for Summer Sessions 2016. **Approved.**

201604-4. Registration fees for Summer Sessions will be increased by \$20 at each level, including the family rate. **Approved.**

201604-5. Fundraising Policy at Sessions (attached with modifications as suggested by Friends). **Approved.**

201604-6. Policy on use of alcohol at NYYM functions. NYYM will continue to maintain an alcohol free community during our Summer Sessions. A small group, Dawn, Linda and Cheshire, will work on Friendly wording for *Spark* in light of the SBA change in policy. **Approved.**

201604-7. For the May *Spark*, Friends will be informed that there is an abuse investigation team (General Secretary, AC of NYYM and two Friends with expertise identified by JYM Committee) under the care of GSCC. Jeffrey will speak with the clerk of GSCC about a better definition of this. (MCM notes, I didn't hear this suggestion from Jeffrey. I've attached the full description of the AIC in case that helps.)

201604-8. An Interest Group process will be defined by Martha in time for the May *Spark*.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Pozzi, Recording Clerk
Melanie-Claire Mallison, Clerk

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. APPROVED; Dawn Pozzi, acting Recording Clerk.

2. APPROVED; Interest group at Silver Bay for all potential host task group volunteers: CLAIRE AND MELANIE-CLAIRE WILL CREATE the INTEREST GROUP AND SUBMIT PER THE INTEREST GROUP PROCESS.

It's one thing to read the SFS Handbook, and it's another thing to remember all that is contained. I know it is a reference tool, but you also have to think of looking things up in it. I know you think everyone should be able to do this, but since I am about to deal with it myself as a task group coordinator, I feel the problem from this side of it. Do you think we can do an interest group at Silver Bay for all potential host task group volunteers? Who would actually come?

3. APPROVED; State of Society Report: Committee Request

Sessions Committee, 2016 State of the Committee Report

"What is the spiritual condition of your committee?" and/or "What is the spiritual condition of the Yearly Meeting from the perspective of your committee?"

Sessions Committee is considered a "nuts and bolts" committee, planning the logistics of the NYYM gatherings. Our work is often fairly dry and straight-forward – reserving sessions venues, planning the detailed schedules, gathering meeting statistics, and generally acting as a liaison between the Yearly Meeting and the administration of the venue where we are gathering – yet our work is grounded in our love of and dedication to our Yearly Meeting and its members. We are Friends first and organizers second! Our planning begins with sensing the spiritual path of the Yearly Meeting and then laying the foundation for that path to move forward. While some of our planning is years in advance – arranging for the host regions of our Spring and Fall Sessions for instance – much of our work is deeply grounded in what our faith community is being called to now and responding with schedules and policies to support us all as we grow into a Blessed Community. Making space for Community Worship every morning at Summer Sessions is one such example. Normally adding a daily half-hour event to an already very full schedule would be impossible, but as we looked at the week-at-a-glance – what we fondly call the "WAAG" – pieces and parts shifted easily to accommodate the opportunity for us to gather together in worship. This is how we know we are spirit-led in our work, when God's mysterious ways flow faithfully into the reality of only 24 hours in a day! We plan to continue as Friends first and conduits of our faith second.

**4. APPROVED; Invitation for Sessions to Facilitate a Workshop at Quaker Party
MELANIE-CLAIRE WILL CREATE A WORKSHOP AND SUBMIT PER THE QUAKER PARTY
PROCESS. (NOTE, MC will likely NOT run the workshop, but will create it and work
with/find an appropriate person or persons to present it.)**

From: Emily Provance <eprovince@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: Invitation for Sessions Committee to Facilitate a Workshop

Melanie-Claire,

I love the idea of talking about summer sessions as "the beloved faith community for everyone." Remembering that there will be Friends present from at least four different yearly meetings, each of which approach their summer sessions somewhat differently, I wonder if the Sessions Committee might host an idea exchange in which participants can talk about what their yearly meetings do (and/or could do) to make sessions accessible and exciting for all members of the beloved community? Or something along those lines?

Let's keep talking!

Emily

5. APPROVED; Sessions Committee Annual Report

MELANIE-CLAIRE WILL WRITE the ANNUAL REPORT and SUBMIT TO the COMMITTEE FOR EDIT/APPROVAL and then SUBMIT PER the ANNUAL REPORT PROCESS. (NOTE, the ANNUAL MEETING REPORT MAY DOUBLE AS THE STATE OF SOCIETY REPORT, or SERVE AS THE BONES....)

6. APPROVED; Whisper Buddies Proposal

SESSIONS ASKS JILLIAN TO WORK WITH NURTURE AND MINISTRY CCs , NYYM CLERK and or ASSISTANT CLERK, MARTHA and YM STAFF to MAKE IT SO!

From: Jilliankianasmith <jilliankianasmith@gmail.com>
Subject: Whisper Buddies proposal

-current thumb nail version-

JYM & Yacc: I am proposing a mentorship program where those who want to learn about Quaker process can choose a mentor. Young Friends and some first-timers, have expressed the desperate desire to participate and be included in Quaker process. They are frustrated that they have no idea how or where to begin.

The program would look like an initial gathered introduction of those who want to learn and those who feel they have experience. Learners will choose their Friend with experience. Then both parties will need to sign a commitment (minors under age 18 may need a permission slip form) deciding which sessions they will attend.

The best part of this program is that it is live action. It's happening in real time during meetings for worship with a concern for business via passing notes and whispering. Writing down lots of questions is also encouraged for meal time discussions. This will enhance our youth, our YAF and our whole community.

7. APPROVED; Summer Sessions Text (still in process...).

8. APPROVED; Welcome Letter & Follow Up Logistical Emails

Jeffrey, Lucinda and MC have already begun working on a Welcome Letter to be sent to all Summer Sessions registrants as soon as they register and a follow up logistical email (process for emailing to be worked out with YM staff).

9. APPROVED; Nominating Subcommittee, Internal

**INTERNAL NOMINATING SUBCOMMITTEE
Report to Spring Sessions April 2, 2016**

NOMINATIONS FOR PRESENT THRU THE END OF JULY 2017

Committee Officers and Representatives

Clerk.....Melanie-Claire Mallison
Assistant Clerk.....Dawn Pozzi
Recording Clerk.....Deb Wood
Conference Services Liaison.....Martha Gurvich
Spring Fall Sessions Liaison.....Claire Simon

Representative to General Services Coordinating Committee: Linda Houser
Representative to Junior Yearly Meeting Committee: Melanie-Claire Mallison
Representative to Young Adult Concerns Committee (*Glenn Josey will act as liaison between Sessions and YACC, but cannot attend most Sessions Committee meetings*)

Summer Program Subcommittee: clerk, Dawn Pozzi
Cheshire Frager, Ellie Rosenberg, Rebecca Wolf, Martha Gurvich
(plus the YM clerk and assistant clerk, ex officio)

Arrangements Subcommittee: clerk, Martha Gurvich

1. Displays Coordinator
2. Evaluation Coordinator
3. Food Coordinator
4. Golf Cart Coordinator
5. Letters to Absent Friends Coordinator
6. Microphone Runner Coordinator
7. Newcomer/Welcome Table Coordinator
8. Office Assistant
9. Spiritual Study / Interest Group Coordinator
10. 12 Step Program

Finance Subcommittee: Helen Garay Toppins, Linda Houser

Handbook Subcommittee: Claire Simon, Deb Wood

Fundraising Policy for NYYM Sessions

Approved by Sessions Committee, April 2016

First, please note the following information from NYYM Financial Services Committee:

“All committees, groups or persons undertaking fundraising or spending within the Yearly Meeting, to the extent consistent with the directions and limits of any gifts or trust instruments, will coordinate their fundraising and spending activities with the Financial Services Committee so as to jointly further the implementation of the Leadings and Priorities.”

As we gather in faith to conduct the business of New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM), it is with care and consideration that any fundraising is undertaken during our sessions, Spring, Summer and Fall. Anyone connected to a Quaker-related cause (e.g. AFSC, AVP, BQEF, ARCH, FCNL, Friends Peace Teams, NYYM Annual Appeals, and Quaker schools, meetinghouses and conference centers) is welcome to request display space to inform participants of their work and needs. Display space requests are sometimes received for non-Quaker-related causes and those will be decided on a case-by-case basis by the Sessions Committee Clerk and the session’s Displays Coordinator.

All displays at YM sessions may include passive appeals such as envelopes that contain invitations to send or pledge money. Seeking cash donations at display spaces is actively discouraged, especially if the display space is not under constant supervision by a human presence. When supervised, display spaces may include active fundraising. Be sure to include in your displays request any need for internet access in order to facilitate your active fundraising. Note that “fundraising” is not to be confused with actively selling items. See below for selling items.

The Development Committee and Sessions Committee will work together to balance the need of Development Committee to do fundraising, the need for yearly meeting sessions to remain spiritually grounded, and the need to implement the Leadings and Priorities.

There is a Display Space Request Form online, but each YM session may have its own, different process for requesting space. Please find this information in the announcements for each YM session.

Regarding Summer Sessions:

There are three events that raise money exclusively for Powell House and the Sharing Fund. These are the Fun(d) Fair, the Tagless Tag Sale, and Café Night. The Fun(d) Fair is organized and sponsored by Junior Yearly Meeting, and includes games and refreshments available with the purchase of Fun(d) Fair Tickets. During that time, we also hold a Tagless Tag Sale. If you have sale items (new or used items in good shape) to donate, please bring them to Summer Sessions with you and there will be more information in the first Daily Minute on where to place your donations. (Tax-deduction receipts for in-kind charitable contributions will be available upon request.) Folks are encouraged to showcase their talents during Café Night, also organized and sponsored by Junior Yearly Meeting. Bring your instruments and hula hoops and join the fun!

Often during Summer Sessions, a committee or group that is Quaker or Quaker-related asks to hold an ice cream social either to raise funds or to inform conference participants of the committee's work. Ice cream socials must be approved by Sessions Committee, on a case-by-case, via a request sent to the clerk of the committee. Of course, all costs for the social must be paid for by the requesting committee or group and for as long as we meet at Silver Bay Association, ice cream and other food items must be provided by SBA. The clerk of Sessions, along with the Conference Services Liaison, will work with the requesting committee or group on the details if an Ice Cream Social is requested.

Finally, since Sessions Committee does not allow 'active' selling at display spaces — that is, having someone sitting at the display space actually selling items of any kind — the committee will arrange a two-hour “Quaker Crafts” event at some point over the Summer Sessions week. At that event, anyone connected to a Quaker-related cause may work with the Conference Services Liaison to request a table and then actively sell items. While 100% of any proceeds made during the “Quaker Crafts” event may be kept by the seller, it is a kindness to consider making a donation to any NYYM fund (Annual Appeal, Equalization Fund, Oakwood Friends School, Powell House, Sharing Fund, etc.).