

## SESSIONS COMMITTEE

### 2018 NYYM Summer Sessions at Silver Bay YMCA, NY

**Sunday, July 22, 2018**

PRESENT: Jeffrey Aaron, Cheshire Frager, Linda Houser, Sunfire Kazmayer, Melanie-Claire Mallison, Steve Mohlke, Ellie Rosenberg, Doug Way, Deb Wood

REGRETS: Kirsten McGiver, Miriam McGiver (and the JYM Coordinators are setting up!)

201807-1. The meeting opened with silent worship. Clerk Melanie-Claire Mallison welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

201807-2. The main focus of the meeting was to consider the 2019 Silver Bay Contract, and Melanie-Claire distributed copies. This will need to be signed by August 10, 2018. She noted that the room rate information listed on the second page was not accurate, but the rest of the material is correct. In addition to finding out the 2019 room rates, she will ask Silver Bay conference staff which rooms would be available to us in Boyd Center, and the cost to use them. Melanie-Claire will get an accurate copy of the Contract as soon as possible. Steve noted that from now on the NYYM Trustees have requested that any contract with an outside organization with implications for the NYYM Budget be reviewed by them. Sessions approved entering into a contract with Silver Bay YMCA for Summer Sessions 2019, and that the contract be forwarded to Trustees for review.

201807-3. The committee considered its presentation this week to the body on the Pay as Led (PaL) proposal. If the proposal is approved, those who request reduced rates will need to register and pay between January 1 and May 15, 2019. Then the PaL Subcommittee will need to spend significant time with Silver Bay staff between May 15 and June 15 to hash out the room chart, the cost of the rooms reserved, and the amount that needs to be paid for the rooms reserved. NYYM will be 100% responsible for paying that difference, by July 1<sup>st</sup>! Melanie-Claire recommends visiting the Silver Bay campus for a weekend during that time. This would have implications for increasing the travel line of the Sessions Committee budget.

We discussed the implications that after May 15<sup>th</sup>, the option to use Pay as Led ends and a hefty late fee is assigned. Those who register after May 15<sup>th</sup>, pay the late fee (\$200 was floated) AND the full cost of any available room. Obviously, this means that Sessions Committee and the PaL Subcommittee have to be VERY vocal and VERY clear about the Pay as Led process and the deadlines that will make it work. We discussed weekly emails to the NYYM global list, and emails specifically to the folks who have attended Summer Sessions for the past 2-3 years. We also talked about the reality that life happens, so we will have to include language to the effect that we know things happen and therefore, people should talk to us. We can all think of a hundred – but what about this circumstance? – and those folks need to call the Pay as Led Subcommittee or email and explain their circumstance. We are Quakers after all. We are open hearted and understanding AND we have a huge financial obligation to the NYYM to do our best to market and then meet the deadlines for success for PaL.

These deadlines also greatly affect JYM, since they often do not settle their volunteer assignments until JYM Planning Weekend (and sometimes beyond), which occurs in June. We need to encourage the JYM Coordinators to think in terms of having all assignments filled by the end of April so that

the volunteers have time to register and pay (if they are going to pay anything), by the May 15<sup>th</sup> registration deadline. Pay as Led requires new thinking from all of us, including JYM.

Along with JYM support for their volunteers, we talked about Monthly Meeting support of their members, and the whole Equalization Fund concept – some Monthly Meetings make donations directly to the EQ. Some support members. Some YM committees support their members in attending Summer Sessions. The use of the Equalization Fund makes this all very simple. But the treasurers, Pay as Led Subcommittee, members of the YM Trustees and the clerk of General Services really need to meet this week to settle how the finances for Pay as Led as going to work. We need a solid financial foundation before we can take off!

A question was raised about the policy for those who have registered and paid, and then need to cancel. It was agreed that PaL Subcommittee would need to look at the consequences of cancellations on the program and make some decisions.

We will present our report to the Yearly Meeting as an opportunity to take a step toward becoming a more beloved community, while embracing the challenges that it will entail.

201807-4. The meeting closed with silent reflection, followed by a group hug.

### **MONDAY, July 23, 2018**

PRESENT: Jeffrey Aaron, Martha Gurvich, Sunfire Kazmayer, Melanie-Claire Mallison, Dawn Pozzi, Roseann Press, Ellie Rosenberg, Susan Stillman, Doug Way, Deb Wood

201807-5. The meeting opened with a period of worship over lunch.

201807-6. Melanie-Claire read the minutes from our meeting on Sunday. The minutes were approved. Dawn Pozzi read the minutes of the JYM Subcommittee from June 16, 2018. The minutes were received.

201807-7. The committee considered some of the implications of instituting Pay as Led (PaL) with the JYM volunteers. The present policy allows JYM volunteers to ask for a work grant to cover up to 80% of the cost of a room in Hepbron for the week and 40% is available for covering one other family member. Under PaL, the policies for assisting JYM volunteers with costs for Summer Sessions are expected to remain the same. The JYM budget has already been placed within the Sessions Committee budget and Melanie-Claire asked Matt Scanlon to “let it ride” for 2019.

To best serve the Pay as Led process, JYM Coordinators would need to report to PaL, by November 1, 2018, the number of JYM volunteers needed for Summer Sessions 2019, and the best guess as to the number of family members who might need coverage as well. These costs are already part of the JYM budget request for 2019.

All volunteers, and the cost of their requested work grants, would need to be determined by April 15, 2019. Then, in a perfect world, all JYM volunteers will submit their registrations by the overall deadline of May 15, 2019. Again, life will happen. The Pay as Led Subcommittee will listen.

201807-8. Some discussion was held about the clerk of Sessions signing contracts for NYYM. The policy and procedures will need further clarification with Trustees. ROSEANN; ONLY AN OFFICER

OF THE CORPORATION (NYYM TRUSTEES) – PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, TREASURER, OR SECRETARY OR THEIR DESIGNEE – HAS THE AUTHORITY TO SIGN CONTRACTS WITH OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS.

201807-9. The committee meeting disintegrated as the clerk disintegrated over this news.

### **WEDNESDAY, July 25, 2018**

PRESENT: Jeffrey Aaron, Cheshire Frager, Martha Gurvich, Sunfire Kazmayer, Melanie-Claire Mallison, Ellie Rosenberg, Doug Way, Deb Wood

201807-10. MC read the minutes for Monday. The minutes were approved.

201807-11. Deb read the following proposal for Rest & Renewal for inclusion in the Summer Sessions Handbook:

#### **Sessions Committee's Policy for Scheduling during Rest & Renewal**

Sessions Committee schedules a period of Rest and Renewal (R&R) each day while we are at Summer Sessions, so that f/Friends can decompress, take a break from committee commitments, enjoy their surroundings and enjoy family, friends and the blessed faith community around them.

To protect the concept of rest and renewal, Sessions Committee will NOT schedule during R&R any event that implies mandatory attendance (such as committee meetings) or requires childcare. Casual events CAN be scheduled and even assigned a space via the Summer Sessions Liaison or the NYYM Office at Silver Bay but will not be listed in the Program. These events are made known through word-of-mouth, announcements either at Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business and or in the daily Quaker Update, and signs around campus. Some examples of acceptable events during R&R are: opening the Healing Center, intergenerational games or discussions, Young Adult Friends events (such as soccer games with the EMPs), Afternoon Worship Sharing, etc. Any questions as to the appropriateness of activities to be scheduled should be addressed to the Clerk of Sessions, the Summer Sessions Liaison and/or the NYYM Associate Secretary.

On occasion, a Called Meeting of the YM has been required. Called Meetings will be scheduled at whatever time the Clerk of NYYM so chooses.

We hope that f/Friends will take this Rest & Renewal time to heart, listen to their bodies and their minds, and take care not to over-schedule themselves. The Blessed Community is best created when we put down our work and look up into the eyes of those around us.

Friends approved the statement of policy.

201807-12. Sessions Committee considered whether to continue having the registration fees for Spring and Fall Sessions be a “suggested” registration fee.

*Helen Garay Toppins had written: The reason I am concerned about cost is that I am assuming that the Fall Sessions Registration will be pay as led, and we know from Spring Sessions that*

*can decrease registration income. We also know from Spring Sessions that costs can turn out to be unexpectedly high.*

At our October 2017 Sessions Committee meeting, we approved the following; “Friends approved having Spring and Fall Sessions registration fees be designated as a contribution to cover expenses. The Spring Fall Coordinator will bring a proposal to the meeting at Fall Sessions.” That proposal was not brought, and Sessions Committee felt some pressure to go forward with a suggested registration fee for Spring Sessions 2018.

The clerk assumed that any negative difference in the money raised by registration fees would be covered by the Equalization Fund, but no such policy had been approved. The loss was therefore paid out of Sessions Committee’s Spring and Fall budget expense line.

Previously, registrants paid their registration fee. For their MEALS, they could request Equalization Funds. (Also, decided on a case by case basis, some requested travel and or housing assistance from the EQ.)

Sessions Committee needs to establish a policy as to what is covered by the Equalization Fund and or Sessions Committee budget for Spring and Fall Sessions. **Is it just registration fees to cover costs, or just meals, or registration and meals?** We also need to establish a policy as to where any shortfall of registration fees would be covered. We recognize that even with the income from the registration fee and meal charges, the Spring or Fall Sessions may not break even. Currently, any unpaid balance would come out of the Sessions Committee budget for Spring and Fall Sessions.

No decision was made; it will require further discussion.

201807-13. Folks headed out the Fun(d) Fair!

### **FRIDAY, July 27, 2018**

PRESENT: Jeffrey Aaron, Cheshire Frager, Martha Gurvich, Sunfire Kazmayer, Melanie-Claire Mallison, Roseann Press, Susan Stillman, Doug Way, Deb Wood

201807-14. The meeting opened with silent worship.

201807-15. Friends approved donating ten “Friend” hats to Silver Bay staff as a thank you gift. The cost is \$200. (MCM notes, the cost was subsequently waived by the Development Committee. THANK YOU!!)

201807-16. The following appointments were received and or approved:

Representative from Witness Coordinating Committee: Sunfire Kazmayer

Representative from Ministry Coordinating Committee: Pierre Douyon

Representative from Worship at YM Sessions: TBA

Representative to General Services Coordinating Committee: Cheshire Frager

201807-17. JYM Subcommittee reported that Dawn Pozzi and Sylke Jackson will be the JYM Coordinators for 2019.

201807-18. Melanie-Claire reported that we had met the Silver Bay minimum contract fee for this Summer Sessions. She added that Silver Bay had recorded 436 registrations, including 95 children.

201807-19. The fall meeting of Sessions Committee will be either October 19-20 at Easton Mountain Retreat Center, or October 12-13 at Powell House. Sunfire will let us know whether the Easton Mountain Retreat Center is available; if not, we will meet at Powell House for a cost of \$190 per person.

201807-20. Ro Press reported that those who attended the 12 Step meetings here this week were grateful for the opportunity. Next summer, Ro again agrees to be the contact person for the evening meetings. She has found a volunteer to coordinate the morning meetings in 2019.

201807-21. Melanie-Claire corrected two items from the Sunday discussion of the next Silver Bay YMCA contract. First, our deposit of \$40,000 to secure our contract with Silver Bay for the next three years is due by January 2, 2019. Second, only the guarantee of \$200,000 is due on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. The remaining amount due (if any) must be paid by the end of Summer Sessions 2019.

Martha said that the tents that we had requested for additional meeting spaces were not used this year. She recommended that we not reserve tents for 2019. Silver Bay already has several tents on campus all summer for use by other conferences. If enrollment increases and we need to use the tents, we can always request them and pay for them. Friends approved.

Melanie-Claire said that Angel Ramos, our golf cart coordinator, had requested that next summer we reserve a third golf cart that can hold six passengers. Friends approved. Angel also said that he would give first time attenders a tour of the Silver Bay campus by golf cart next year. He has agreed to coordinate golf carts in 2019.

201807-22. Melanie-Claire said that a few people had attended the two hour Pay as Led Interest Group. Their questions were only about how to handle exceptional cases. She and Doug had emphasized that the PaL Sub-committee would be extremely flexible in dealing with those cases as they came up.

201807-23. The Clerk said that she felt it had been a smooth week and thanked the committee for their work. She looked forward to seeing us at the October meeting. The agenda will focus on Pay as Led, the flyer and messages about Summer Sessions 2019, and the Sessions 2019 budget request.

201807-24. The meeting closed with silent reflection, followed by a circle of hands all around.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Wood, Recording Clerk  
Melanie-Claire Mallison, Clerk

*PS, see the committee's October minutes for approval of these minutes.*