

**South Central Yearly Meeting of Friends  
Representative Meeting 2020 Session I  
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business  
Held 21 Eleventh Month 2020  
Online Meeting Via Zoom**

**Session I: Saturday, 21 Eleventh Month, 10:00AM - 11:30**

Friends gathered at 11:00 am.

**Clerks' Table**

Serving at the clerks' table were Karen Takemoto, acting Clerk; Liz Yeats, acting Associate Clerk; Jessica Arjet, Recording Clerk. She reported that Gerald Jimmy Jr is still in the ICU and asked us to hold him in the Light as we moved into a period of worship. Out of the silence John Coffin spoke of the passing of Marianne Lockard and how she is much on the mind of F/friends. The Clerk spoke of how much Marianne meant to her and the meeting as a whole and was hopeful that we can all meet in person and share thoughts and stories of her when that is possible.

Clerk asked us to acknowledge indigenous peoples on whose land we each live. Bette Drexler shared that Peggy Nose of Live Oak Meeting is being taken off life support today. She asked that we hold Peggy, her family and care takers in the Light.

Clerk reminded us that the sessions are being recorded for minute taking purposes only. She also asked that we all say on mute until it was time to speak. Clerk reviewed the agenda for the morning's session. She reminded us of the Raise Hands feature to be recognized by clerk, to keep muted unless speaking, then re-mute and use thumbs up under Reactions tab for approval when needed.

**Quarterly Program Planning Meeting Report**

Rex Friend reported the Quarter has identified a keynote speaker; however this is not confirmed so we will wait on the announcement. There was the thought that it might be difficult to do all the meetings over the Easter weekend. Friends are hoping we can make it possible for all to attend any workshop they wish without conflict with another workshop or event.

The Quarter is proposing that following last year's theme, *Loving in the Light; Quaker Engagement in the Times of Crisis*, that we move from last year's emphasis on preparing ourselves spiritually to emphasizing being in the Spirit from which action emanates. Jan Michaels let us know that we are considering inviting Eileen Flanagan. However, that is not yet confirmed at this point. She will be asked to focus on what we as Quakers can do in the world.

Lizzy Leshner added that the committee felt that this was an opportunity to find someone who we might not be able to afford to bring in under normal circumstances. John Coffin added that he felt this theme was a continuation of the last year's theme as there was so much in this theme, it was easy to spread this over two years and build on the theme from last year.

Rex Friend spoke about one of Eileen's books, *The Wisdom to Know the Difference* (2009, ASIN: B002NT3AZS). He feels that she addresses this with growth and wisdom and insight.

Liz Yeats added that she had heard Eileen speak several times and she felt Eileen would be a wonderful speaker for SCYM. Pam Arnold added that Eileen had stayed with her during work in Baton Rouge and felt she was an exciting person to come and join as speaker this year. Rex Friend asked if this was a good time to see if she was available for a Fireside Chat as well as the keynote speaker.

Denise Wilkins let us know that the planning committee would work around the suggestions of what was decided here and that the two groups would work together to make the theme come together. She asked do we want a Fireside Chat as well as a keynote, if that is possible. Clerk asked that the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee work to make this happen.

Val Liveoak hoped that if possible, we'd like Eileen to also meet with the middle and high school children. Lizzy Leshar agreed and wonders if we could open the Fireside Chat to younger people, especially in the event that Eileen doesn't have time to do three different programs. She feels that this could be very successful. Bill Sweet pointed out that high schoolers could easily join all the possible programs.

Liz Yeats suggested that maybe we could have two keynote speakers and that Kallan Benson of Annapolis Monthly Meeting, who is a high school Quaker doing environmental organizing on a national and international level, might be a good option for someone to speak with younger SCYMers. Anne Collins let us know that Eileen has led young people's programs as well.

Gail Fletcher suggested that to interest our young Friends in coming to SCYM sessions, perhaps we could get some videos of actions that Eileen and others have taken and show them to the younger friends now.

Denise Wilkins felt that the Young Friends and the Junior Young Friends optimally would be able to meet with Eileen on their own. She feels like young people need their own space to feel free to speak. Traditionally in most years the keynote speakers do meet with the Young friends and sometimes the Junior Young Friends as well. Also, we might need to check in with them to discuss what is best for them this year. These meetings can be a highlight for young friends.

It was confirmed that keynote speakers are given a stipend of between \$500-\$1000 out of which transportation had to be paid. Housing and food costs at the camp have traditionally been covered out of other funds.

Lizzy Leshar asked that we clarify how much time we are looking for on Zoom before we have a conversation on Monday with Eileen. Anne Collins said that she feels happy asking for what we normally ask for - Fireside Chat, Keynote and a meeting with the young people. Jan Michaels agreed and said this might amount to half a day of time over maybe a longer period of time.

Val Liveoak feels that we should make it clear that she is invited to attend any of our other activities that she would like to attend. Liz Yeats reminded us that Minga, our speaker from last year, also engaged with the meeting before she gave her keynote. It helped her know how to join and engage with the meeting. This is common for asking people to engage.

### **Yearly Meeting Planning Committee Report**

Tom Ivash, clerk, shared a summary from our evaluations of 2020 SCYM Sessions. We agreed that generally Friends and attenders found the experience positive and most people liked the breakout rooms. Some people didn't know how to use breakout rooms. People liked the panel

discussion quite a bit. Some people let us know that it was very compact and full and wondered if we could spread out the meeting a bit more. People found the orientation was helpful. Many people wanted to figure out a way to pay online, reflecting that sending a check was a hassle.

People found out about SCYM Sessions from: email, meeting letter, word of mouth and the website. Some people felt that we should have had more time to season the Peace and Justice Committee minutes, for the Peace and Justice Committee to meet, and for Worship Sharing. Some people were in favor of a hybrid meeting in the future. Some wanted workshops that are not during the workday or in conflict with other events.

Friends shared recommendations for the 2021 Annual Sessions, knowing it would be an online event:

- more fellowship on Thursday night
- business sessions for the week before so there is more social time
- perhaps Peace and Justice Forum could meet a few weeks before the meeting so they can talk about actions and then they have time to season minutes before the yearly meeting sessions.
- do workshops a weekend or two before the main body weekend.
- take workshops only on the themes of the yearly meeting.
- youth program needs a lot more work to be done, especially how to get the young people involved.
- the Epistle committee needs more structure and time and might start before the meeting and know how to do it first.

Friends suggested we look at other yearly meetings to see how they ran their meetings, to see how it went for them and see if we can learn from them. Edwin Campbell suggested that the Epistle Committee maybe have people who act as mentors for guidance.

John Coffin appreciated the report. He would like to be reminded of reaching out to the young people. This is one of the most valuable links we have and we need to make sure we work on this connection with the young people.

Denise Wilkins said the planning committee intends to work with the program planning committee, the youth programs support committee and the peace and justice committee to plan and present a schedule that they will then present at the second Representatives Meeting in January 2021. They just need more time to work on this plan this year. They absolutely want to find ways for more young friends to engage.

Will King reports that this was his first time to try to write an epistle and that he was able to do this with help of seasoned friends. He would wish that there would be a team in place to help the epistle writers. Tom Ivash says that he did a couple of epistles as well and he feels that mentors would also be helpful for him when he did it years ago. He also said that with the compressed time the committee has not had time to season these recommendations yet.

Anne Collins pointed out that other epistles are sometimes very dense, and that it would be good to have seasoned and new friends write the epistles. Perhaps 3-4 friends writing would be best and they could read other epistles before yearly meetings sessions.

Liz Yeats suggested nominating could take on creating an ongoing committee who would be able to take this on. Howard Hawhee likes Liz's suggestion but asks if it is in the procedures and if so, does that require a change to the procedure. Also, he would like to keep open the idea of bringing in new people as well. Tom Ivash pointed out that the planning committee cannot take this on. John Coffin agreed with Howard's suggestion.

Friends discussed whether the Epistle Committee should be a standing committee appointed by Representative Meeting, but some Friends felt new attenders at annual sessions were helpful on the committee. We decided a decision on this needed more seasoning and clerks will season it and bring a proposal to Representative Meeting #2 in January.

**Minute RM 1.2020 - The Meeting approves of the Planning Committee moving forward with online SCYM sessions.**

Friends continued to clarify how we might use weeknights before and after the dates of 2021 sessions to have more committee time. They expressed a hope that there will be opportunities for breakout rooms over lunch.

Meeting ended at 11:41am.

**Session II: Saturday, 21 Eleventh Month, 1:00PM - 2:30PM:**

Friends gathered at 1:00

Clerk welcomed Friends back from the break. Clerk reminded Friends that the fee for Representatives Meeting was to be up to \$25. Please send Lori Laub this fee if you are able.

**Youth Program Support Committee**

Anne Collins, clerk shared that a new clerk is needed for the committee. Currently there is no coordinator or assistant coordinator for the current year or for the next year. Cheryl Husbands of Norman Friends meeting joined this year. Members are Jessica Arjet, Kirsten Dean, Erika Mittag, Anne Collins and Cheryl Husbands.

Anne reported that they are not ready to bring us a proposed child safety policy. Currently it is not critical because we are not in person.

Generally the High School program doesn't use the coordinator. However Harvey Mimura has had a stroke and will not be able to continue. Libby Brunke-Turner has stepped in for the last few years, but we are unsure if she will continue.

We'd like to have a strong children's program this spring, as well as intergenerational activities. The nominating committee recommends a Youth Programs Coordinator. Perhaps nominating or someone else can be in contact with clerks of meetings for ideas of people who can fill those roles.

Galia Harrington said that nominating is open to suggestions of people from any meeting. We do need 2 people, one associate so that the associate can move up. They also need a senior young friends coordinator. Anne Collins said she thought Libby Brunke-Turner is interested in continuing as the Senior Young Friends coordinator. Galia feels like she might not be at this point because she is not in contact. Friends accepted the report.

Denise Wilkinson asked if we are not able to get a coordinator could the committee get together and do programming. Anne Collins says that is very unlikely. The committee just doesn't have the energy to make this happen.

Liz Yeats volunteered to reach out to the Dallas Meeting to find information on Harley Mimura and how to support him after his stroke. The Dallas Meeting has their address on the website and cards can be sent to Harley Mimura through there.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Lori Laub, treasurer, reported that much of the report has already been done. Today all we need to do is look at the list of income and expenditures year to date. Tina Coffin commended Lori Laub for the clarity of the report. So far no money from the tech grant has been spent though we might have \$50 outstanding for the webinar.

Denise Wilkins brought forward that many people would like a way to pay online if possible. Bill Sweet says that credit cards are very expensive with the set up etc. San Antonio uses Zelle, which is free on both ends. Several people contribute by Zelle in San Antonio. This information was sent to the finance committee for more consideration.

Pat Sweet brought up that we advised a fee of \$50 for the SCYM sessions. However, it is likely that we will not meet in person, so perhaps that fee should be revised.

The meeting accepted the Treasurer's report, [attached](#).

### **Authorization for Treasure to release Greene Family Camp for 2021**

**RM Minute 2.2020 - The Meeting approves moving the SCYM Spring sessions to an online format. The schedule will be discussed at the Representative Meeting on January 23.**

Friends asked if they were in agreement with charging a \$25 fee for the virtual SCYM spring sessions. Lori felt it was beneficial to have an amount to ask friends to pay if they are led. She feels that this amount was sufficient. But it is hard to know our needs at this point. Bill Sweet pointed out that it is very likely that we will not be able to meet face to face physically. Another Friend pointed out that it would be unlikely for children to attend.

Tina Coffin pointed out that there will be no travel expenses for this upcoming year. Liz Yeats was wondering if we needed to have more money to cover the speaker for this year. Lori Laub says that at the moment we have the amount of cash to cover the expenses.

Lizzy Leshner wanted to know if we are currently covering our expenses, and would we be more likely to receive the money we need. Liz Yeats feels like this should go to the finance committee to discuss the issue.

Pat pointed out that given the last year's income, that what we've already paid is plenty. We did ask Minga to submit expenses for us. However, she has not at this point.

### **Reports from Quarterly Meetings**

#### **Bayou Quarterly Meeting**

Pam Arnold from Baton Rouge Meeting submitted the report. (Attached when available)

### **Cielo Grande Quarterly Meeting**

Howard Hawhee shared that Cielo Grande has had challenges getting together over the last few years. Last year in the fall CG put together a committee of people who planned out a meeting and were going to meet in San Antonio on March 5th, but everything got locked down. So there was some discussion, and during the weekly education forum they invited other folks from CG to come in. They talked about ways to revitalize the quarterly. On zoom it will be easier to have intervisitation. They are aware that there will be a need for CG to meet to discuss the yearly meeting theme. in the future they can probably meet on zoom.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Galia Harrington, clerk, shared the reports, [attached](#).

**RM Minute 3.2020 - Friends Approved the following names for the following positions beginning at the rise of SCYM sessions 2020:**

- **Val Liveoak – Ministry and Care – 2 years**
- **Dale Borderlon – Nominating (Recommended from Dallas Friends Meeting) – 3 years**
- **Mac Lemann – Faith and Practice – 3 years**
- **Will King – Peace and Justice – 2 years**
- **Jim Kuhn – Peace and Justice – 2 years**
- **Davis Carraway – Yearly Meeting Planning – 2 years**
- **Kirsten Brink – AFSC – 3 years**
- **Larry Kelly-Mahaffey – Friends Committee on National Legislation – 3 year**
- **Warren Wilson-Reiner – SCYM Registrar – 2 years**

**RM Minute 4.2020 - SCYM would like to minute their appreciate for the following individuals for their service:**

- **Dale Borderlon - Ministry and Care**
- **Sisca Friend – American Friends Service Committee**
- **Val Liveoak – SCYM Registrar**

Galia Harrington read out the names of the positions that are still vacant. Clerk asked that friends consider these opportunities for themselves and those they know.

### **Report from Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)**

Liz Yeats reported that Quaker Public Policy Institute and FCNL Annual Meeting met last weekend under the theme of Fierce Love. They approved the [Priorities for 117th Congress](#). These include many of the issues that Friends approved last spring in sessions in their meetings. FCNL is a spirit led organization that reaches out beyond Friends alone. 800 Friends and others

attended the annual meeting. They carried out 223 lobby visit online with representatives and senators from 44 states asking legislators to support the [Justice in Policing Act](#) (H.R.7120/S.3912) which would prohibit choke holds and no-knock entry. The minutes that SCYM approved at yearly meeting relating to this issue was useful in this effort with legislators from our states.

Cruz and Cornyn's staff talked with the FCNL lobbyists and said they'd be able to do more bi-partisan work in the future. Liz met with Lloyd Doggett's head staff and he said that in the new atmosphere they will be much more likely to be able to work with the Republican senators.

It was a good feeling to be able to lobby and to work with the many young people.

John Fletcher reminds us that we had a memorial fund for Mimosa Thomas for FCNL, they raised \$5576 for FCNL.

Gail Fletcher says that she and John were the lone lobbyists from Oklahoma until Dave Branscome has now lobbied with them. Dave worked for their congressman after finishing college. He participated in the yearly meeting and they think he will continue to represent Oklahoma to FCNL.

Lizzy Leshner let us know there was a focus on learning how to be an anti-racist during the meeting which led to very healthy discussions.

Pam Arnold asked that we minute our appreciation for Gail and John Fletcher for raising a young adult endowment fund to memorialize Mimosa Thomas.

**RM Minute 4.2020 - The meeting appreciates Gail and John Fletcher for their work in raising \$5756 for FCNL's young adult endowment fund to memorialize Mimosa Thomas of Coastal Bend Meeting.**

### **Stillwater Meeting Report**

Lizzy Leshner reported that the meeting had been in limbo without an active clerk for some time and she has been nominated as Clerk. Because of COVID, they will be meeting online with other meetings during this time.

Tina Coffin reported that there will be more than one memorial meeting for Marianne Lockard to be sympathetic to family and other needs. But as soon as there is a SCYM Memorial Meeting scheduled they will let us know.

Meeting closed with a short period of worship at 2:54pm.