



Tim Hesse
Quaker Meeting Center

FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter, Fourth Month, 2005

4272 Scott Ave.
Fort Myers, Florida 33905

Clerk: Larry Butler (239) 337-3743
Recording Clerk: Nancy Fennell (863) 699-1276
Treasurer: Dave French (239) 543-9556
Newsletter Editor: Erica Lynne (239) 514-5060
Website: www.quakers-swfl.org

- Potluck luncheons are once a month, the first First Day of the month.
- Deadline for inclusion in the next newsletter is Fourth Month 13, 2005
- If you want to save postage and get your newsletter by email, please email: ericalynne@earthlink.net

Upcoming Events

What	Date	Time	Where	Topic
Discussion	April 28	7:00 pm	Barbara and Dave French 2030 Embarcadero Way Fort Myers 239-543-9556	FCNL representative Tim Barner talk on FCNL issues and the way this Quaker lobby works.
Potluck	April 30	Noon	Phyl Stanley 10 Beth Stacey Blvd. Apt 114 Lehigh Acres 239-369-1897	ProNica
Potluck	May 14	Noon	Bonnie and George Cummings Cape Coral 239-549-1910	The light of Faith and Practice in Meeting for Business
Potluck	June 18	Noon	Ann de Nevers 9840 Lake Fairways Blvd. Fort Myers 239-731-2645	TBA

Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Minutes, Third Month 13, 2005

The Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business opened with silence, followed by consideration of the Third Query on participation in meetings. Of the nineteen present, several spoke to the query. It was noted that attendance at business meeting is very good, as about two thirds of those at Meeting for Worship stay for business meeting. Friends commented that our meeting is very welcoming. Though some think we show respect for others who hold differing opinions, one Friend stated that she found it offensive that we sometimes call politicians by derogatory names. Another Friend reminded us that we are falling short on our financial contributions to the meeting, thus not doing well in this aspect of meeting participation.

Ministry & Counsel Committee reported that eight or nine members of our meeting are planning to attend yearly meeting, the largest group to go from our meeting in recent years.

Al Webber reported for the Treasurer, Dave French, who was unable to attend today.

In reviewing our correspondence, the Clerk advised us that American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Jubilee Hours in Central America, the Harry Chapin Food Bank, and Environmental and Peace Education Center (EPEC) thank us for our recent contributions.

The Education Committee reported that Ministry and Counsel suggested that we might review our Faith and Practice section on meetings for business as a group. To that end Education Committee recommends that we hold a potluck for discussion of the queries found at the end of the business meeting section. After discussion, Friends approved. Details about the potluck will be provided later. Friends agreed to continue meeting during the summer for Adult Discussion Group. If attendance drops in the summer, such that a meeting is no longer warranted, our studies and discussion would resume in the fall.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee is re-activated. Marilyn Webber has agreed to serve as clerk of that committee.

Property Committee met with Rob Fowler, Jr., the Calusa Nature Center Trustee Board President, regarding the current and future status of the Center, particularly as related to our use of Iona House as our meetinghouse. Meetings about the repairs needed in Iona House will continue. In general, the Committee thinks we are secure, at least in the short run. It was called to our attention that a couple who volunteer for the Nature Center are contributing their volunteer hours to us, which are, then, applied toward our rent. The Clerk will send letter of appreciation to the couple. We are reminded that volunteers are needed from among Friends, as well.

The Women's Retreat Committee reported that a very successful retreat, our fourth annual, was held last weekend. Thirteen people attended and explored the topic "Leadings," under the guidance of Nancy Fennell.

The minutes were reviewed and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Fennell,
Recording Clerk

QUERIES FOR THE FOURTH MONTH

How do Friends Care for one another?

Unity within the Meeting

- Are love and unity maintained among you?
 - Do you manifest a forgiving spirit and a care for the reputation of others?
 - When differences arise, are endeavors made to settle them in a spirit of love? Are you patient and considerate towards those whom you find it hard to like or understand?
 - Do you respect that of God in each one, though it may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or may be difficult to discern?
-

FCNL – Friends Committee on National Legislation

The **Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)** is a public interest lobby founded in 1943 by members of the Religious Society of Friends. FCNL seeks to bring the concerns, experiences and testimonies of Friends (called Quakers) to bear on policy decisions in the nation's capital. People of many religious backgrounds participate in this work. FCNL's staff and volunteers work with a nationwide network of thousands of people to advocate social and economic justice, peace, and good government.

FCNL is a 501(c)4 public interest lobby, not a political action committee (PAC) nor a special interest lobby. FCNL's multi-issue advocacy connects historic Quaker testimonies on peace, equality, simplicity and truth with peace and social justice issues which the United States government is or should be addressing. FCNL seeks to follow the leadings of the Spirit as it speaks for itself and for like-minded people.

Location

Our offices are strategically located on Capitol Hill, across the street from the Hart Senate Office Building and provide ready access to the offices of government. As FCNL works with many groups that share similar concerns, our Wilson conference room is frequently the venue of coalition meetings and meetings of organizations other than FCNL. In all its work, FCNL seeks to promote dialog and cooperation among those with varied viewpoints.

Governance

FCNL is governed by a General Committee of 240 Friends, the majority of whom have been appointed by 26 Yearly Meetings and seven national Friends' organizations. The General Committee meets each November to conduct business. This includes establishing legislative policy and priorities. FCNL's General Committee recently approved legislative priorities for the 109th Congress. An Executive Committee and several other subcommittees oversee the program and administration of FCNL between Annual Meetings.

4/3/05	Meeting for Worship Potluck	10:30 am After rise of Meeting
4/6/05	Naples Midweek Meeting for Worship	7:00 pm
4/10/05	Meeting for Worship Meeting for Business Last Chance Book Club	10:30 am After rise of Meeting After rise of Meeting
4/13/05	Naples Midweek Meeting for Worship	7:00 pm
4/17/05	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
4/20/05	Naples Midweek Meeting for Worship	7:00 pm
4/24/05	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
4/27/05	Naples Midweek Meeting for Worship	7:00 pm
4/28/05	FCNL Discussion	7:00 pm (French's)
4/30/05	Potluck – ProNica	Noon (Phyl Stanley's)

Friends Meeting of Fort Myers
Religious Society of Friends
c/o Erica Lynne, Editor
676 110th Ave. N
Naples, FL 34108