



FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter, Eighth Month 2006

52 Fenny Bosk Trail
Venus, Florida 33960

Clerk: Nancy Fennell (863) 699-1276
Recording Clerk: Nancy Howell (239) 652-9901
Treasurer: Dave French (239) 543-9556
Newsletter Editor: Jeannette Botha (239) 368-7229
Website: www.quakers-swfl.org

- Potluck luncheons are held once a month, the first First Day of the month. There is always plenty of food, and all are welcome.
- Our Friend Ann deNevers has departed for Rhode Island. Her new address will be P.O. Box 336, Slattersville, R.I. 02876.

**“Silent waiting worship permits a fresh and direct facing of facts
Under conditions in which the conscience becomes sensitized.
There is no screen of words and abstract concepts between the soul and reality.....
The worshiper finds a certain condition in the outside world presented to his mind
At the very time at which he is seeking God’s guidance for his actions.”**

Howard Brinton

QUERIES FOR THE EIGHTH MONTH

How do Friends meet their Responsibilities outside the Meeting?

Civic Responsibility

What are you doing as individuals or as a meeting to carry your share of responsibility in the government of your community, state and nation?

- **Are you conscientious in fulfilling all obligations of state and society which are not contrary to the leading of God?**
- **Do you do all in your power to assure freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and equal educational opportunities for all?**
- **Are you free from the use of judicial oaths, thus emphasizing by simple affirmation that your statement is only a part of your usual integrity of speech?**
- **What are you doing as individuals or as a meeting to understand and remove the causes of war, and develop the conditions and institutions of peace?**

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Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Held Eighth Month 13, 2006

Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

The meeting opened from silent worship with 13 F/friends in attendance. The clerk read the Query on Friends' civic responsibilities. F/friends discussed the query. A member reported on being trained to be a poll worker, another spoke of trying to remove loyalty oaths from the local political party clubs, another spoke of her experience of refusing to take an oath in a deposition, where it was not treated as a problem. A Friend is on the board of his condo association, a form of civic duty. Most of our members and attenders vote.

Reports of Committees:

Ministry and Counsel: Barb French reported that there is no report this month. The clerk noted that a letter was received from Haddonfield Monthly Meeting in New Jersey to ask for the transfer of Keith Wallace to our meeting. The meeting was delighted to receive the letter and forwarded it to Ministry and Counsel.

Treasurer's Report: The Finance Committee did not meet last month. The treasurer reported that the annual contribution to 'Interfaith Action of the Immokolee Workers' has been paid and an acknowledgment received. There was a discussion of the movement of investment funds, and the separation of restricted funds into different accounts.

06MM15 Following the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Meeting authorizes the Treasurer to close our account in the Domini Fund and move the money into the Friends' Fiduciary Fund and the Friends' Meetinghouse Fund.

The Education Committee did not meet this month.

The Hospitality Committee. There was no report. Volunteers are still sought to take inventory, go shopping for supplies and maintain the list of those opening up and closing the meeting house on First Day. Mary Anne Ruppert volunteered to join the committee and several others are considering joining.

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee. In the absence of Marilyn Webber, the minutes of their meeting were summarized by Nancy Howell, along with a report of our recent visit to the office of Connie Mack, our representative to Congress.

A minute from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting on the events in Israel and Lebanon was circulated and was passed to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

The clerk raised the issue of the ministry of Nancy Howell on counter-recruiting in the high school. The clerk asked for a Care Committee to support this ministry. There will be a weekend workshop at Pendle Hill on Sept. 8-10 this year to which Howell could be invited. The treasurer reported that the funds are available.

06MM16 Fort Myers Monthly Meeting supports Nancy Howell in her work for peace and justice. The meeting authorizes payment of tuition and airfare to the Pendle Hill Workshop on 'Faithful and Effective work on Peace and Justice'.

The Property Committee did not meet and had no report.

Other Business: Our website now has most of the back and current newsletters on it. There was no other business. The minutes were read and approved. The meeting closed with silent worship.

Submitted by Recording Clerk Nancy Howell, Eighth Month 13, 2006.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee, activated and clerked by Marilyn Webber, wishes to share with the meeting a review of its work during the past year. Projects included:

A Counter-Recruitment workshop was held at the Calusa Meeting House for members of Fort Myers Monthly meeting as well as community leaders of peace groups. The workshop leader was Oskar Castro, who came to us through Mary Ellen McNish, General Secretary of AFSC.

Members of the committee have worked on Counter-Recruitment efforts with peace organizations outside of our meeting, both in Collier and Lee County. At present, Wage Peace is working toward access to Lee County schools. The focus will be on presenting information to students about alternatives to military service. Information will also be made available to students and parents about the OPT OUT program and the ASVAC test.

A minute was written and certificate of recognition given to acknowledge the successful work of Interfaith Action of SW Florida and the Coalition of Immokalee workers on the "Boot the Bell" campaign to raise the wages of field workers.

The committee organized an introductory AVP course (Alternatives to Violence) under the guidance of Drs. Susan and Darrell Hefte from Tampa meeting. Members of our meeting and one community member attended.

At the request of FCNL, Peace and Social Concerns reviewed the priorities listed by FCNL for 2005 and generally felt they held importance for 2006 as well. Our suggested changes or additions were sent on to FCNL.

Most recently, several members of the committee meet with a representative for Connie Mack in his Ft. Myers office to discuss topics of concern. The representative promised to look into the school board's handling of our request for access to the schools and to get us an appointment with the Representative when he is in the district.

N. Murvine, recording clerk of P&SC

Notes from the Editor:

- Favorite passages, articles, items of interest to Friends/friends, etc., will be happily accepted. Please send important dates, news of Friends/friends, as it is not possible for me to attend all Meetings.

- Those wishing to receive the newsletter by email, please contact me.
- Suggestions? My email address is: jeannettebotha@earthlink.net

8/27/06	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Peace & Social Concerns	9:15 am
9/3/06	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Adult Discussion Group	9:15 am
	First Day School	9:15 am
	Pot Luck—All are Welcome	After rise of Meeting
9/10/06	Education Committee	9:15
	Meeting for Worship	10:30
	Meeting for Worship for Business	At rise of Meeting
	Last Chance Book Club	At rise of Meeting
9/17/06	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Adult Discussion Group	9:15 am
	First Day School	9:15 am
9/24/06	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Peace & Social Concerns	9:15

Committees wanting their meetings to be listed should provide their schedules to the editor

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Address Correction Requested

Eighth Month 2006

