



FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter, Eighth Month, 2005

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Fort Myers, Florida 33905

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- Potluck luncheons are once a month, the first First Day of the month. All are welcome.
- Deadline for inclusion in the next newsletter is Eighth Month 17, 2005
- If you want to save postage and get your newsletter by email, please email: ericalynne@earthlink.net

Fort Myers Friends Present:

Pre-Draft Counseling Workshop

Oskar Castro

Director of Youth and Militarism, American Friends Service Committee

September 10, 2005 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

September 11, 2005 12:30 pm to 6:00 pm

Iona House

There is no charge for attendance, but please let us know you are coming. We can accommodate up to 30 people for this important workshop. Lunch and snacks will be provided. Contributions for meals gratefully accepted. Topics covered will be the practical and spiritual aspects of military recruitment and conscientious objection. Please reserve your place by calling Nancy Howell, 239-652-9901.

QUERIES FOR THE EIGHTH MONTH

How do Friends meet their responsibilities outside the Meeting?

Civic Responsibilities

- **What are you doing as individuals or as a meeting to carry your share of responsibility in the governments 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?**

Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Minutes, Sixth Month 12, 2005

The Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business opened from the silence and with consideration of the Sixth Query on Oversight of the Members. Ministry and Counsel has set up a nurturing/care list. Each member of Ministry and Counsel has certain people to nurture in each person's way. A Friend saw our potlucks as delightful occasions. They are social occasions and help with the growth of the meeting. Another Friend commented on the warmth of our circle. The meeting cares for members who have financial needs and needs in other areas, such as car pooling. Another Friend commented on numerous members showing concern.

Phyllis Stanly gave the report for Ministry and Counsel.

11MM05. It was the recommendation of Ministry and Counsel that the advertising of our website in the Yellow Pages be eliminated to save money. Friends approved.

Dave French gave the treasurer's report. Friends approved the report.

There was no meeting of the Finance Committee this past month.

There was no meeting of the Education Committee this past month.

Nancy Howell reported for Peace and Social Concerns. The Committee has been considering "pre-draft counseling." The Committee offered the following minute, which Friends approved:

12MM05. The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, following our traditional peace testimony, is concerned with the heavy costs of military involvement by the United States in Iraq and around the world. And we are concerned about the even heavier costs to the lives, well-being and conscience of the troops that are sent by the U. S. government. In response to these concerns, we wish to offer effective support to local young people, men and women, Quakers and others, who have a conscientious objection to participation in war and killing. In the context of the current volunteer military force, we seek to make young people aware of their choices concerning registration and enlistment.

In preparation for a possible draft in the future, we want to be engaged in developing and documenting conscientious objection among those who are called to that path.

To reach these goals, we commit up to \$500 of our 2005 budget, and we commit our earnest efforts to take part in a training program to prepare ourselves to provide counseling, documentation of conscientious objection, and support to young people facing military service, starting in the fall of 2005.

Warren Bender reported for the Property Committee. There are no issues at this time.

Friends approved the minutes, eleven Friends having been present.

Recording Clerk, pro tem

Larry S. Butler

Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Minutes, Seventh Month 10, 2005

The Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business opened from the silence. Friends considered the Seventh Query which asks the question: How do Friends meet their responsibilities outside the Meeting? After reflection, Friends discussed their views about freely giving of one's possessions. It was mentioned that, for some, this may be the most difficult aspect of this query. As a meeting, and as individuals, it was thought that other aspects of the query, dealing with prejudice, injustice, discrimination, misuse of the environment, are being worked on consistently by Friends.

The Clerk asked Ministry and Counsel to contact a family that is physically distant from the Meeting regarding their membership status.

The Treasurer's report was given and approved.

The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet Seventh Month 18. The main item of business will be to consider 501c3 status for the Meeting.

13MM05. Friends approved a recommendation from Peace and Social Concerns Committee that, for this year, the budget should reflect the Meeting's intentions to fund the American Friends Service Committee and Friends Committee for National Legislation in the amount of \$1200, each; Interfaith Action, \$900, and a membership fee of \$25 to Harry Chapin Food Bank.

All other expenditures of the committee have been previously considered and approved. It was noted that Friends will need to contribute more money than we expect to receive to meet these recommendations.

The minutes were reviewed and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Fennell, Recording Clerk

From the AFSC Website, Youth and Militarism:

What is Counter Recruitment?

Counter-recruitment is what community members and activists call their efforts to dispel myths about the realities of military service and refute false information provided by military recruiters or advertising. Sometimes counter-recruiters are able to work in schools - alongside military recruiters - but most work in community groups or in public spaces due to lack of access to schools.

How to get involved

1. **The Infrastructure of Getting a Voice at Your Public School** (see website for more info)
2. **Find People Countering Military Recruitment in Your State** (see website for more info)
3. **Trainings and Workshops** (This is what Fort Myers Friends are doing this September)

We aim in our training workshops to build the capacity of young people and those who work with young people to address military enlistment issues within their own communities. The workshops are tailored to the individual needs of the group and details (length, scope) can be worked out between the organizers and AFSC staff beforehand. A training video, *A Short Introduction to Military Service*, is available for use in helping to guide the workshop discussions.

The workshops are facilitated by National Youth & Militarism Program staff and the cost of housing and travel is incurred by the group receiving the training. A modest honorarium would be welcome to offset the cost of handouts and other materials but is not mandatory.

Read more at: www.afsc.org/youthmil/default.htm

8/7/05	Meeting for Worship Potluck – All Are Welcome!	10:30 am After rise of Meeting
8/14/05	Meeting for Worship Meeting for Business Last Chance Book Club	10:30 am After rise of Meeting After rise of Meeting
8/21/05	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
8/28/05	Peace and Social Concerns Meeting for Worship	9:15 am 10:30 am

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

**Friends Meeting of Fort Myers
Religious Society of Friends
c/o Erica Lynne, Editor
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Address Correction Requested
2005

Seventh Month