

The Friendly Line

Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting

First Month 2019 Vol. VII



“Sing and rejoice, ye children of the day and of the light; for the Lord is at work in this thick night of darkness that may be felt.” George Fox

Minutes for Twelfth Month Meeting for Business 12/09/2018

Present: Pam Blackburn; Virginia Smith; Peter Clay; Jack Holveck; Andrea Holveck; Claire Cumbie-Drake; Dorothy Lifka; Dick Douglass; Bob Henderson; Cindy Winchell; Ann Robinson, co-clerk; Jean Sandstrom, recording clerk pro-tem.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business began with a period of Silence followed by the reading of a quote from Marianne Williamson.

Treasurer’s Report

Pam Blackburn, treasurer, reported that donations are behind. We are 42% of the way through our fiscal year, with expenses at 34% of annual budget and income at only 27% of budget, leaving us without sufficient funds to pay our

monthly apportionment for the Yearly Meeting. She is hoping that year-end donations will make- up the difference.

Fund activity – The **General Fund** made its monthly contribution to the *Sharing Fund* and transferred \$200 specifically designated to the *Property Management Fund*. Thanksgiving donations raised \$158 for the

Quaker Education and Enrichment Fund. Peace & Social Concerns (P&SC) donated \$150 to the Center for Development in Central America.

A question was raised about our safe deposit box – whose names are on it for access, and who has the two keys? The treasurer has one key, but it was unknown who had the other one. There was at one time a clerk’s key ring, but no one knew its whereabouts. It could be costly to replace because the lock must be drilled out. It was estimated that it could cost \$125. Pam indicated the box currently contains title papers from when meetinghouse was built, and Marjorie Parris’s & Sherry Hutchison’s wills. Claire Cumbie-Drake said there is no need for Meeting to keep those documents in the safety deposit box. The Ad Hoc Records Committee should discuss what documents we might want in there.

Book Sale!!!



Afternoon of 01/27/2019
Book donations are being accepted now.

Library Committee Report

Virginia Smith, co-convenor, reported that the library has a new acquisition, *Seeds That Change the World* by Debbie Humphries, who will be the speaker at Midyear Meeting this spring.

There will be a book sale on 01/27 so save books to donate! There will be a box put out for donations starting 01/06.

Ministry & Counsel Report

Dorothy Lifka, M&C convener, shared the following report.

Articles of Incorporation – New Articles of Incorporation have been written for the meeting by Claire Cumbie-Drake (a licensed attorney), and reviewed and approved by M&C. There were two issues with the original Articles of Incorporation, 1) They were written to be valid only for 50 years. 2) They were administratively dissolved many years ago, since we hadn't filed the required biennial reports since 1997.

The new Articles will have perpetual duration. They could be in safe deposit box; but once filed, they're also available on the Secretary of State's website. Going forward, a notice of the required biennial report will come to 4211 Grand and will be in the Treasurer's software as a reminder. The Treasurer will file these reports. Claire will also keep tabs on that. The \$50 filing fee comes out of Clerk's and Treasurer's Expenses. While the Articles have been discussed at previous business meetings, there was uncertainty as to whether they had actually been officially "approved."

Therefore, Meeting now minutes approval of the new Articles of Incorporation.

Central Region AVP Sub-Committee Report – The committee reported that there is a need for more facilitators. AVP seems to be universally effective! We learned that Julie Brown from Christian Peacemaker Teams spoke recently at the Iowa Peace Network holiday event about her work using AVP in Iraqi Kurdistan. For more info the on Julie's work in Iraqi Kurdistan go to www.cptik.org.

Meeting expressed appreciation for all the people working with Central Region AVP

Day of Remembrance – The Annual Day of Remembrance, where F/friends take time to remember those they love who have passed away, will be held on 01/20. This year the time for remembrance will be incorporated into the regular meeting for worship, beginning at about 10:30. The time for remembrance will be started with a few words of introduction from the clerk. The time of remembrance may extend somewhat beyond 11:00, if needed.

*Day of
Remembrance*

01/20/2019

This annual time of remembrance will begin at approximately 10:30 AM, after regular weekly worship has begun. The clerk will both open and close this tender time of remembrance as led.

Committee Structure – With the meeting having several committee slots currently unfilled, M&C recommends we consider some streamlining, and suggests eliminating the Naming Committee. This committee had been added back in the early 2000's at the suggestion of Wilmer Tjossem to ensure that Nominating Committee members are appointed who are experienced and knowledgeable about the needs of the meeting. With our challenges to populate all our committees, it was felt we shouldn't be slavish to structures if they no longer work for us. Meeting approved this change.

Support Committee – At the treasurer's request, M&C is setting up a support committee for the treasurer. Cindy Winchell, Claire Cumbie-Drake, and Catherine Dietz-Kilen were appointed to serve on the committee. Claire will convene.

One issue brought up at this time was that the treasurer, Pam Blackburn, is the only person currently permitted to access our accounts at Financial Plus Credit Union. Members agreed that back-up access is needed.

Meeting approved adding the clerk or co-clerk (currently Ann Robinson or Jean Sandstrom) and the assistant treasurer (currently Cindy Winchell) signatures to get the required signature cards and other paperwork.

Ad-hoc Outreach Committee – At the next business meeting, Meeting will hear a report by the newly appointed Ad Hoc Outreach Committee. The ad hoc committee will be made up of those currently working on outreach (such as through our Facebook page and/or new web page) will be invited to participate on this new ad-hoc committee. They will consider the possible need for more

intentional outreach and then report to the next business meeting

Religious Education Report

No report.

Building & Grounds Report

Dick Douglass, co-convenor reported on behalf of the committee. *Thanks, was expressed to Bob Henderson for his initiative in installing a new kitchen faucet.* Meeting is very happy with this improvement! It was noted that expenses such as this (less than \$500) can come out of the Committee Budget Line item and don't need Meeting approval to spend.

Building & Grounds Committee (B&G Committee) is now working on the west hallway windows. They have been ordered and will be here by end of Twelfth Month and then installed in First Month. It should be a two- to three-day project.

Next up will be getting bids to paint the outside windows. This will be a Spring project.

Another expense, to be shared with Friends House, is a new sewer backflow valve, which is now required by City Code. The cost will be \$800 total. We will pay 1/3 of the cost. This expense comes out of B&G Committee's "Repairs & Maintenance" line item.

Property Management Committee

No report.

Trivia Question – What Quaker in the Valiant Sixty was sent to prison for riding a horse into Bristol with people walking with calling out -Halleluiah and laying coats etc. out before him?

Peace & Social Concerns Report

Patty McKee has agreed to temporarily co-convene the committee with Patty Wengert.

Hospitality Committee

No report.

Old Business

There was no Old Business this month.

New business

Fundraising for Quaker Organizations

A question was raised about fundraising requests for Quaker organizations. After a discussion it was agreed that it is ok to mention these requests in Circle at the rise of meeting for worship, but official requests should be considered in meeting for worship with attention to business.

The treasurer indicated it is not advisable to make our membership email list available to outside organizations for solicitation. It was reported it is a gray area for Quaker organizations, but Meeting hasn't generally done this.

There was some discussion about the group Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) as an example. It was noted that QEW is not currently on our regular list of affiliated contributions. Peter Clay has been involved with this group and felt it was timely for the Meeting to consider regular support for it. He will ask P&SC to consider the question and bring a recommendation to next month's business meeting.

Meeting Concludes

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business closed with a period of Silence.

Meeting Has New Website Up and Running

Work on the new website is ongoing, but the DMVF website is up and running! Included with the domain are email addresses that will enable the clerks and others to have dedicated emails and not have to use their private emails for meeting business, inquiries etc.

The new addresses are as follows:

DMVF co-clerks –
clerk@desmoinesvalleyfriends.org;

General inquiries –
contact@desmoinesvalleyfriends.org;

Friendly Line submissions –
FriendlyLine@desmoinevalleyfriends.org;

Website issues –
webminder@desmoinevalleyfriends.org.

Discussion is ongoing as to the benefit of putting additional content on the website that would be for "members only" via password protection. For example, some meetings have found it helpful to include a membership directory (sometimes including photos) in the password protected area of their website. Some put their minutes and full treasurer's reports on the protected portion. The password protected area could also be a place to put content that didn't need to be strictly confidential, but also wouldn't necessarily be something that would be appropriate or of interest for all site

visitors. Members of the meeting would have access to the password through the clerks.

The *Friendly Line* could be posted to the website – either as “members only,” or as an outreach tool on the main site. It would give everyone the opportunity to see the photos that are included in the newsletter in color instead of only black and white. It’s cost prohibitive to provide the printed *FL* with color photos.

In the future the website could be used, for example, as a tool for outreach to young families. The website could include an article about special programs being planned for or by the youth. It could also feature activities that might be of particular interest to high school aged, young adults, and/or people with children. Links to the Iowa Peace Network and our Facebook page will provide information about events that are of interest to our members and other seekers.

So, check out the new Des Moines Valley Friends website, and be sure to bookmark the address so you get there easily.

Return often to see how the site is growing and to get information concerning DMVF Meeting. Keep up with all that is going on with just one click of your mouse!
<https://www.desmoinesvalleyfriends.org/>

Of Interest to F/Friends

Climate Revival Conference to be held at Plymouth UCC

There will be a climate revival conference on Second Month 9 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Plymouth Congregational Church (UCC) in the Waveland Hall at 4126 Ingersoll Avenue.

The conference is co-sponsored by Interfaith Green Coalition, Iowa Interfaith

Power and Light, and Plymouth Creation Care & Justice Coalition.

Jim Antal, author of the book, *Climate Church, Climate World – How People of Faith Must Work for Change* will be the resource person for the day. Jim Antal is a denominational leader, climate activist, author, and public theologian. He serves as Special Advisor on Climate Change to the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. In Seventh Month 2017 Antal authored a resolution declaring a new moral era in opposition to Trumps withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord. To register go to www.iowaip.org . See the bulletin board outside the meeting room for a copy of the conference resource packet.

FGC Gathering to Be in Grinnell This Summer

This year Friends General Conference (FGC) will be making a return visit to Iowa when they hold the 2019 FGC Gathering at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa. The Gathering of around 900 to 1,400 Friends will be held 06/30 to 07/06/19.

The Gathering is an annual conference that moves around the country. It is a family-oriented conference that offers workshops and programming for children through adults.

The first time the Summer Gathering was held in Iowa was in 2011 and that was also at Grinnell College. FGC rarely holds a Gathering in a state where there are no yearly meetings affiliated with the organization, so it speaks highly of the college, area and regional F/friends that they have decided to make a return visit.

This year’s theme will be *Peace in Our Hearts, Justice in the World*. Early Registration is 04/01-4/24/19. All full-time

registrations completed within this period will have equal access to workshops and housing options. Standard registration starts 04/22.

Workshops and financial assistance will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Friends are reminded that Meeting approved raising money to go toward costs of attending the Gathering and it is believed that Yearly Meeting also has some limited funds available. To be considered for a scholarship from the meeting it will be necessary for a person to write a letter of request.

Rotation Schedule for Hosts

Each group serves for two weeks. They greet people as they enter the building for worship; prepare and serve coffee and snacks and clean-up after snack time.

- **First Month 13 & 20** – K. Jacoby & D. Fisch
- **First Month 27 & Second Month 3** – C. Winchell & P. Wingert
- **Second Month 10 & 17** – K. Bragg & D.J. Newlin
- **Second Month 24 to Third Month 3** – J. & C. Dietz-Kilen
- **Third Month 10 & 17** – C. Cumbie-Drake & A. Holveck
- **Third Month 24 & 31** – D. Fisch & K. Jacoby
- **Fourth Month 7 & 14** – B. Henderson & P. Reynolds
- **Fourth Month 21 & 28** – M. Johnson, E. Monroe & J. Falb
- **Fifth Month 5 & 12** – D. Lifka & P. McKee
- **Fifth Month 19 & 26** – D. Shivers & J. Sandstrom

- **Sixth Month 2 & 9** – C. Spaulding-Kruse & A. Robinson
- **Sixth Month 16 & 23** – F. & S. Nelson
- **Sixth Month 30 & Seventh Month 7** – V. Smith & P. Blackburn

Child Care Volunteers Needed

We are currently in need of at least three F/friends to join the volunteers who provide childcare during meeting for worship and Second Hour. Please contact Cindy Winchell. The following F/friends have volunteered for Child Care. It was suggested that F/friends be responsible for following their own rotation cycle. If a scheduled care giver has a conflict, s/he is responsible for contacting someone else on the volunteer list to substitute for them. The current volunteer list is:

1. Jim & Catherine Dietz-Kilen
2. Dorothy Lifka & Cindy Winchell
3. Fred Nelson & Virginia Smith
4. Jean Sandstrom & need volunteer
5. Bob Henderson & Patti Reynolds

It is suggested that Jim & Catherine Dietz-Kilen start out the rotation sequence.

Update on the Marias

The Marias are doing well. ISM has made a six-month commitment to them to provide for food and housing. We have budgeted that to be a minimum of \$1380. By now I hope most are aware that donations to that end can be made to the Unitarian Church - First Unitarian Church, c/o Charles Lewis, 1800 Bell Avenue, DSM, 50315. Memo line: ISM Asylum Support.

For other ways you can give practical support please contact me.

Thanks!

Lynne Howard

Advice # 7

We seek an atmosphere within our homes and within our families which nurtures the many physical, social, spiritual and emotional needs of each of us. This is true whether we live alone or with others.

A family, whatever its composition, is a unique and sometimes fragile bonding of people. At its best, it is concerned with the welfare of the whole and each of us constituents.

Children bring gifts to the families that nurture them. Our children's earliest encounters with the principles of Friends usually occur within our homes. Examples we set are often more effective than verbal guidance. The loving support of the meeting is needed as children learn to understand and practice Quaker principles in their lives.

While we try to make our homes centers of love, we sometimes feel anger and hostility. Part of the challenge of being human is to learn to constructively channel the energy of anger, relying on the Divine Spirit for love and guidance. Worship in the home can enable us to hold ourselves and one another in the Light. Respect of truth, as each discerns it, is essential to the happiness and growth of all persons within the home. Clear communications, patience and a sense of humor are vital to family relationships.

We value setting aside time for rest, recreation and creative activities. Offering hospitality can foster mutual bonds of friendship and love and enrich our own lives and the lives of others.

Queries

How can we make our homes places of love and hospitality?

What different expectations do we hold for women and men, boys and girls? How can we bring more equality into our relationships?

How do we develop and maintain lines of communication?

In what ways do we share our deepest experiences, struggles, concerns and beliefs with our children and others, yet encourage them to develop their potential as the Spirit leads them?

What place do we make in our daily lives for meditation, spiritual renewal and reading of inspiring literature, such as the Bible?

How does our meeting support families of all kinds?

Answer to Trivia Question: James Nayler

Meeting for Worship First Day, 10 a.m.

Meeting for Query First First Day of each month,
11:30 a.m.

Meeting for Worship/Business Second First Day of
each month, 11:30 a.m.

Meeting for Music Third First day of each month, 9:15
a.m.

Hospitality Committee

If we are running low on kitchen or bathroom supplies
or you see a housekeeping problem that needs
attention, please contact the Hospitality Committee
member on duty or Charlie Brown at 689-6470.

Building & Grounds Concerns

Any questions about the building or grounds of the
Meeting House can be direct to committee convener
Dick Douglass at 864-1119

Submissions for Friendly Line: Please send submissions
to FriendlyLine@desmoinesvalleyfriends.org or give to
Deborah or Katie.

The Friendly Line
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