

Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting

FRIENDLY LINE

June 2023



Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), July 26-30 Knowing Ourselves: Knowing Our Neighbors

The 146th annual session of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative will be held July 26-30, 2023, at Scattergood Friends School near West Branch. The session will be held as a hybrid meeting, with meeting for worship for business and evening collections held in person and online with Zoom.

The theme will be “Knowing Ourselves: Knowing Our Neighbors.” Speakers will include DMVF member Billie Wade, who will be the pre-meeting speaker on Sunday before meeting for worship on the topic, “Unrelenting: The Trauma of Racism on Black People in America.”

Get more information or register at <https://www.iymc.org/2023-annual-sessions/>

History of Juneteenth

Contributed by Billie Wade

Juneteenth, June 19, is a joyous day for African American Descendants of Slaves, for it ended slavery in the United States. On this day in 1865—over two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation—General Gordon Granger read to enslaved people in Galveston, Texas “General Order No. 3.” The words of the order declared: “*The people of*

Texas are informed that in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free.” This simple statement freed 250,000 slaves. The Declaration of Independence dated July 4, 1776, and signed Aug. 2, 1776, did not declare freedom for what would multiply to almost 700,000 slaves in 1790.

Newly freed slaves immediately celebrated. On June 19, 1866, freedmen in Texas organized the first formal celebration, then called “Jubilee Day.” Juneteenth celebrations include music, barbecues, prayer services, and parades. Juneteenth spread to other regions of the country as Black people moved from Texas.

Juneteenth, thought to be the oldest African American holiday, is the melding of “June” and “nineteenth.” In 1979, Texas became the first state to decree Juneteenth an official holiday. Today, 47 states recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday, while efforts to make it a national holiday have so far stalled in Congress.

The Emancipation Proclamation signed Jan. 1, 1863, which provided in part, “shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free,” freed only those slaves in Confederate States. When Northern forces marched into the South, numerous slaves fled to safety behind Union lines.

A Quaker Minute SCRUPLING (Part 1)

When early Friends rejected the hierarchy of the Christian church, they developed unique processes for making decisions within their religious society. While they appreciated democracy, they understood that majorities can be wrong. A strength of the Quaker way is that even “timid voices and awkward phrasing are given as much attention as confident eloquence.”

Scrupling is an old Quaker practice. When faced with complex, controversial issues, Quakers sat with their neighbors to listen, share, and search for ways to respond, each within their own sense of responsibility. The session was not a debate or argument to win or lose, but rather a serious, heartfelt search for ways to move forward.

One in a series on Quaker history and practice, contributed by Pam Blackburn

Despite the order, some slaveowners suppressed the news until harvesting was done. On Dec 6, 1865, with ratification of the 13th Amendment, the institution of slavery in the United States was officially abolished.

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DMVF Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, May 14, 2023

Present: Catherine Dietz-Kilen, Jim Dietz-Kilen, Brock Wommack, Billie Wade, Andrea Holveck, Jack Holveck, Virginia Smith, Carol Spaulding-Kruse, Dick Douglass, Dorothy Lifka, DJ Newlin, Ann Robinson, Claire Cumbie-Drake and Derek Parker

The Meeting began with a moment of silence.

Announcements

1. Death of Jim Kenney, Penn Valley Meeting, April 5th, 2023. Condolences to Ginger Kenney may be sent to 13850 W 91st Terrace, Lenexa, KS 66215.
2. Friends are asked to complete the survey for the Annual Sessions of Iowa Yearly meeting (Conservative) to be held at Scattergood Friends School in West Branch on July 26-30. Program and registration details are available here: www.iymc.org. A link to the survey is included with the agenda for today's Meeting for Business emailed to Friends
3. Meeting hosts are asked to check at the top of the hour to make sure the mic for Zoom participants is on.
4. Clean-up day hosted by Building & Grounds is 9 AM on Saturday, May 27th

Minutes from April 2023 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Minute: The Meeting approved the minutes from the April Meeting for Business.

Ministry & Council Committee Report (Jim Dietz-Kilen)

Dorothy Lifka, Andrea Holveck, Gordon Bivens, Deborah Fisch and Jim Dietz-Kilen gathered at our appointed time, beginning with a period of silence.

Reproductive rights discussions

We created two small groups of six people each. One group is women-only and the other mixed gender. Andrea is convening one group and Jim the other. These will occur via Zoom, using a structure suggested by Essential Partners. Men in the mixed gender group are being asked to listen to women's responses to each prompt before weighing in themselves.

Follow-up on White Privilege

Discussion We did not have a suggestion for an immediate follow-up and decided to revisit this topic -- and also follow-up regarding Indigenous History/Rights -- after Billie's presentation at IYM in July.

Job Descriptions for Clerk &

Assistant Clerk The Nominating Committee asked us to review these job descriptions and make suggestions for revisions.

Following discussion about the responsibilities currently listed and whether additional duties could be shifted to the Assistant Clerk, we decided to recommend that they be listed as responsibilities to be shared by these two positions and to allow the individuals serving at a given time to divide them as makes most sense to them.

State of the Meeting Report We reviewed a rough draft of this report, which will be revised and then forwarded with our June Committee Report for

consideration/revision/approval at the June Business Meeting.

Relationship With Friends House

Following discussion, we decided to invite our three Friends House representatives to meet with M & C in a discussion of this topic.

Minute: The report was received with appreciation for the work of the committee. There were no action items in the current report.

Finance Committee & Budget Report - Catherine Dietz-Kilen

In attendance: Catherine Dietz-Kilen, Dorothy Lifka, Cindy Winchell, Dick Douglass and Kelsea Gillespie

1. Discussion Item: Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 2023/2024. The Finance Committee discussed the need to adjust our budget because of the requirement to hire a bookkeeper. A new line item under Finance Committee for bookkeeper was created. The Committee is aware that the donations to the Meeting come primarily from six donor families. These six donor families provide more than 75% of our budget. There are a total of 23 donors for the Meeting. The Committee also looked at the amount of donations that have been received for the last few years and have determined that the Meeting is not in a position to simply absorb the cost of a bookkeeper, and therefore needed to make some reductions to other line items in the budget. The Committee finalized its proposed budget and will

prepare a brief narrative. The proposed budget and the narrative were provided to the clerk for distribution to members of Meeting for their review prior to the upcoming Business Meeting.

2. Information Item:

Bookkeeper, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer. The Committee discussed which tasks could be shifted over to the bookkeeper and which tasks should and/or could be retained by a member of Meeting. The Committee hopes that there will be members of Meeting who would be willing to serve in the new Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer roles, recognizing that there are many people in the Meeting that are already sharing much of their time and talent with the Meeting. The Committee prepared a list of the duties for each position and provided same to the Nominating Committee in hopes that the Nominating Committee will find someone who would be willing and able to fulfill the new role of Treasurer. Dorothy Lifka has volunteered to be our Assistant Treasurer. *Clerk's note: see below from Catherine Dietz-Kilen for a description of job duties for Treasurer, Asst. Treasurer and Bookkeeper*

3. Our next meeting will be May 30, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

Narrative for Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 2023-2024

The Finance Committee has prepared a proposed budget for the fiscal year 2023/2024 which includes a new line item for "bookkeeper." We recognize that there are many people providing their time and talent for the business of the Meeting. One of the tasks that can be "outsourced" is the task of bookkeeping. By removing the bookkeeping responsibilities from the position of Treasurer, we are hopeful that the Nominating Committee will be able to identify a member or active attender of Meeting who is willing and able to fulfill the role of Treasurer.

In adding the cost of a bookkeeper, the Finance Committee determined it was necessary to make cuts in other line items of our budget because without making cuts, the amount of regular receipts necessary to meet our budget would exceed any amount that we have raised through donations in recent years and we are cognizant of the fact that six donor families make more than 75% of the donations that Des Moines Valley Friends receives.

a. We decided not to increase the budget for housekeeping to be able to accommodate weekly cleaning. We are hopeful that in the event that there is a need for additional cleaning (i.e.

quarterly) at the Meeting House that members will be able to step forward and help with that task.

b. We reduced the amount of the budget for children's programs/religious education by \$300. It is our understanding that the \$300 of the amount requested by the Committee was for one-time purchases. The children can

apply to the Meeting for funds from the Jean Sandstrom memorial, should they choose to do so.

c. We decided against increasing the amount budgeted for Peace and Social Concerns, despite the request of the Committee that we do so.

d. We reduced our allocation to the Iowa Yearly Meeting by \$2,500.00. In doing so, we have taken into consideration the fact that our allocation has been 20% of the total of the Iowa Yearly Meeting budget and that 60% of the Iowa Yearly Meeting budget has been a donation to Scattergood Friends School. We are hopeful that the Scattergood Friends School will be able to access state funds through the private voucher program to replace the amount that may be reduced from the Iowa Yearly Meeting budget as a result of reduction of our allocation.

e. We eliminated any funds for the Property Management Fund. We did so recognizing that there is money available in the Property Management Fund should there be a need to make any repairs at the Meeting House, but also that there is not enough in the Property Management Fund to cover the expected costs of a replacement of our geothermal heating and cooling system, should we need to do so. In the past we have had to have separate fundraising efforts for major projects such as the kitchen remodel and the current geothermal system.

Respectfully Submitted,
Finance Committee Discussion followed regarding concerns about reducing the allocation to Iowa Yearly Meeting.

Alternatives to reducing that portion of the budget were discussed. The Finance Committee will present the proposed budget next Meeting for Business for full consideration of these items.

Minute: The report was received, with deep gratitude for the hard work of the committee, especially for Catherine's work as convener of the committee.

Outreach Committee Report

(Ann Robinson)

Des Moines Friends Outreach and Communications Committee Met, April 11, 2023

Present: Katie Jacoby, Billie Wade, Ann Robinson

1) Approval of Committee

Description: We need to get approval of our new committee description (see below). It was proposed earlier this year, but we think we need to get approval at an upcoming meeting for worship for business, and then ask that it be included on the DMVF "official" committee list.

2) Book discussion: We still want to have a book discussion, but want to switch books, as "In the Upper Country" contained too much graphic violence for our tastes. Instead, we will plan to read "Graceland at Last: Notes on Hope and Heartache from the American South" by Margaret Renkl. Katie will send out information to those who have expressed interest and arrange a time to schedule a set of meetings.

3) Signage for Hosts/Childcare providers: As per Dorothy's

request, we will plan to put on a white board the name of the host and person in charge of childcare at Meetings. We will purchase a small, table-top white board or blackboard to use that can be put on the entry counter. We propose to ask the host(s) to sign in -- and the person who has arranged to provide childcare if needed can sign in when they arrive.

- 4) Friendly Line backup: Ann needs a FL backup for summer – or else we will have to skip the month of July due to Ann's vacation. Billie is willing to be the backup, and she will plan to write an article about Juneteenth for the issue. Ann and Billie need to plan a time to go over the FL process.
- 5) The Outreach Committee encourages meeting attenders on site to wear name tags. If you don't have one, ask one of us or the Hospitality Committee, and we will get one made for you.

Proposed Committee

Description:

The Outreach and Communications Committee strives to provide information and welcome to members and potential members, attenders and the public in order to promote understanding of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and of the Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting and to offer community to like-minded seekers.

When we share our spiritual home with others, we seek to embody Quaker values and bear witness to our belief that there is that of God in everyone. Such

testimony is also made through written materials, social media and other activities which express who we are as a beloved community. Some examples of this include our newsletter (Friendly Line), the "Quaker cards" that are in our entryway for newcomers, our Facebook page, our website, and our participation in and/or sponsorship of Quaker-related events and social justice actions/gatherings.

The committee also helps lead efforts to welcome members and guests by following up with newcomers who provide their contact information and responding to inquiries received through our website. The committee may also plan second hours on topics related to outreach.

Minute: The Meeting approved the proposed Outreach Committee Description. Thank you to the committee for their work.

Nominating Committee (Claire Cumbie-Drake)

The Committee will present its report at the June Business Meeting. In the meantime, the following needs have arisen:

- The nominating committee is still working on identifying a Meeting Treasurer. The bookkeeper role will be carved out and outsourced, as described in the Finance Committee report. Dorothy Lifka has volunteered to serve as Assistant Treasurer.
- Patty Wengert has stepped down as convener of Peace & Social Concerns committee due to family obligations and no one currently serving on

the committee is able to take on the role of convener. If no convener is identified, nominating committee will attempt to identify a committee member to call the first meeting so that the committee can discuss its work and how best to moving forward.

- The nominating committee will continue working to identify an assistant clerk.

Hospitality Committee Report

(Andrea Holveck)

NO REPORT – Andrea

announced that the Meeting will have a potluck picnic on June 28.

Religious Ed Committee

Report (Dorothy Lifka)

NO REPORT

Library Committee (Virginia

Smith)

NO REPORT

Peace & Social Concerns (No current convener)

NO REPORT (See comments above under Nominating Committee)

Building & Grounds (Dick

Douglass)

NO REPORT

Ad Hoc Committee (Dorothy

Lifka)

NO REPORT

With no new business, the Meeting closed with a Moment of Silence.

DMVF Job duties for Meeting Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Bookkeeper

Bookkeeper:

- Write checks, for bills and donation requests.

- Record payments, using current QuickBooks account.
- Set up and manage auto payments.
- Reconcile bank statements.
- Prepare monthly financial statements.
- Perform financial analysis, as needed.
- Record money donations and in-kind donations.
- Prepare documents and participate in Friendly Audits.
- Manage balances of bank accounts.
- Prepare end of calendar year tax donor letters.
- Attend Finance Committee meetings, as needed.
- Alert Treasurer and/or Convenor of any issues for Finance Committee to discuss.
- Alert Treasurer, Convenor, Clerk or Assistant Treasurer of more urgent issues.

Treasurer (revised list of duties):

- Receive all bills and requests for donations (Peace and Social Concerns/Sharing Fund) and forwards same to the bookkeeper for payment.
- Make sure that we stay in budget. (Don't forward a bill to be paid if it will take us over budget. Instead take to finance committee.)
- Review financial statements from bookkeeper for presentation at Finance Committee and Business meeting.
- Attend Finance Committee and Business meetings. (Business meeting responsibility can be shared with the Convenor.)

- Review bank accounts/statements for abnormalities (Bookkeeper also does so through reconciliation).
- Has authority to write checks, if needed.
- Work with members of Meeting to resolve any difficulties or concerns.
- Work with Friends House to address any difficulties or concerns.
- Prepare proposed budgets, with the input of the Finance Committee.
- Work with Assistant Treasurer on issues that may arise, i.e. missing checks, or checks undelivered or returned to Meeting House.
- Alert Convenor of any issues for Finance Committee to discuss.
- Alert Convenor, Clerk or Assistant Treasurer of more urgent issues.
- Knowledge of QuickBooks program not required (but not difficult to learn).

Assistant Treasurer:

- Pick up donations from Meeting House.
- Record donations and email information regarding donations to Treasurer and Bookkeeper.
- Deposit donations.
- Manage Meeting's debit card.
- Work with Treasurer on issues that arise (see above).
- Attend Finance Committee meetings.

Juneteenth History

(cont. from page 1)

President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation with some trepidation. He believed Black men should have the right to improve their lives and enjoy the rewards of their endeavors which equaled them to white men. However, in a Sept. 18, 1858, debate with U. S. Senate opponent Stephen Douglas, he admitted that he was not nor ever had been in favor of social and political equality for Black people.

Lincoln went on to say he was against Black people having the right to vote, to sit on juries, to hold public office and to marry White people. His biggest hurdle, though, was the endorsement of slavery by the U. S. Constitution which included clauses governing fugitive slaves and the clause defining slaves as three-fifths human. At one time, Lincoln considered removing Black people from the country and colonizing them in various locations in Africa which angered Black leaders and advocates. He said because of the racial differences and the hostilities of white people toward Black people, it would be better if the races were separated. Little has changed in the past 158 years.

Although limited, the Emancipation Proclamation indicated a critical change in Lincoln's mindset regarding slavery and the Civil War. Approximately 200,000 Black men served the Union Army and



Crew at Clean-up Day at DMVF in late May. Photo by Ann Robinson.

Navy landing a deadly strike against slavery and opening the door for abolition declared by the 13th Amendment.

Important dates in Iowa:

On April 11, 2002, then-Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack, currently serving as the United States Secretary of Agriculture, signed into law the official observance of Juneteenth on the third Saturday in June.

On February 23, 2015, the Iowa Juneteenth Observance transferred to the Iowa State Historical Society (Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs) articles to be included in permanent museum collection records.

On February 26, 2015, the Iowa House of Representatives adopted House Resolution 11(HR11) which stated, in part, "Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, that the House of Representatives acknowledges the 25th Anniversary of the Iowa Juneteenth Observance and recognizes the significant role of the Iowa Juneteenth Observance in serving as cultural and historical asset to Iowa's citizens."

Enjoy.

NEWS OF & FOR FRIENDS

Deslonde Lamb, beloved former DMVF Meeting member who now lives in Arizona, recently visited Des Moines and our Meeting. She was in town with members of her family to attend awarding of an honorary degree to **Justus K. Ndoto** of Nairobi, Kenya, at Drake this past May. She says: "Justus had lived with my family for several months in the early 1960's before he attended Drake and ultimately achieved a degree in political science. He returned to Kenya and became a lifelong civil servant for his country. My extended family decided we would like to be a part of the activities to honor Justus. All in all, there were 17 members of Justus's entourage including several of his family members who travelled from Kenya. I decided to get to DSM several days before everyone else, so I could visit with beloved friends in Des Moines. Worshipping with DM Valley Friends was one of the highlights of my heartwarming, emotional and inspiring trip."

Thanks to **David Drake** for his thoughtful letter-to-the editor in The Des Moines Register on Sunday, May 28, "Is Reynolds a Threat to Our Public Health."

Are you following AFSC?

Are you following AFSC on social media? Get the latest updates on our work for social change and how you can take action by following us on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook. Find more at [AFSC's website](#).

Opportunities for Action

Contributed by Logan Jimenez

Afghan Sponsorship

I have been working on connecting Afghans who are in ICE detention centers with Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota (LSSMN). LSSMN cannot itself sponsor people. However, if anyone is interested in sponsoring an Afghan who is in detention, LSSMN will provide them housing, legal advice and connect them with agencies to help get them on their feet. You would be a sponsor in name only. You must be a US Citizen or have legal residency. You may be asked to provide proof of citizenship, income and proof that you have housing (i.e., a utility bill). This program ends on September 30th. If you are interested and able to help, please contact me at giantbubbleshow@gmail.com

FCNL Iowa Quaker Lobbying Network Forming

Friends Committee on National Legislation focuses on national level issues. There has been chatter from FCNL's Western Iowa Team and the Ames Meeting about creating an Iowa version of FCNL to help fight against harmful bills that are being proposed at our state capital. There is currently an exploratory meeting being planned. If anyone is interested in being a part of this creation process please let me know.



Cleaners and gardeners – DMVF Clean-up day in May. Photo by Dick Douglass.

Thee Quaker Podcast

Thee Quaker Podcast is a brand new resource for spiritual seekers, lifelong Quakers and everyone in between, meant to “bring stories of spiritual courage to your ears.”

Get a taste of what it’s all about by listening to the trailer. Then, listen in to explore big questions about modern life and spirituality.

Created by Jon Watts, founder of the QuakerSpeak Project, and Georgia Sparling, a multi-media journalist from the deep South. They plan new episodes every Wednesday. (Be sure and read about their logo!)

Find the podcast online at: <https://quakerpodcast.com/> or on your favorite podcast app.

Upcoming Hosting List

June 11- Jim & Catherine
June 18 - Deborah & Katie
June 25 – Dorothy
July 2 – Claire & David
July 9 – Jim & Catherine
July 16 – Charlie
July 23 – Ann
July 30 – Deborah & Katie

Des Moines Valley Friends

Meeting for Worship: Sundays at 10 a.m., at the Meeting House and by Zoom via email invitation from clerk, Carol Spaulding-Kruse, at

carol.spaulding@drake.edu

Meeting for Worship/Business:

Regularly held on the second First Day each month at 1 p.m.

Upcoming Second Hours & Events:

June ? : Abortion/reproductive rights discussions

June 25: Picnic on the patio at DMVF – Details TBA

Query Discussions: First Sundays, 11:30 a.m. - Online & in person. Billie Wade, facilitator. July Query #1: Meeting for Worship.

Child Care: If you have a child who would like to be included in Zoom childcare or first day school for older youth, contact Dorothy at dmlifka@yahoo.com.

Building & Grounds: Questions about the building or grounds of the Meetinghouse to Building & Grounds Committee Convenor, Dick Douglass, 515-864-1119.

Hospitality Committee: Questions about housekeeping at the Meeting House to Hospitality Committee convenor Charlie Brown, 515-689-6470.

Friendly Line: Info for next FL due to Billie Wade by June 30, at billiewadewriter@gmail.com.

Find us online at:

www.desmoinesvalleyfriends.org

Check out our Facebook group for members/attenders. To be added, email Jan Falb, at jfalb0326@yahoo.com.