

Pacific Northwest Quarterly Meeting (PNQM)

Fall Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

September 24, 2022

Blended Meeting via Zoom and at Lazy F

Leni Skarin, Presiding Co-Clerk, Agate Pass; and Sara Lavenhar, Recording Clerk, Salmon Bay.

Opening Worship

Reading by Clerk

Approval of Minutes of Spring 2022 Quarterly Meeting: The Spring Quarterly Minutes were approved already via email, using the new process described below. The minutes are available to read on pnqm.org/docs; this does require logging into the website. They are also available at pnqm/virtual.

Reminder of New Minutes Approval Process: During the PNQM Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business the Recording Clerk, Co-Clerks, or person present can ask for the draft language for an item in the minutes to be read out and approved during the meeting. Minutes will be drafted and circulated by e-mail and attendees will have ten days for submitting corrections and comments, after which the minutes will be considered accepted with the exception of any substantive changes proposed which will be held over until the next meeting for approval. Minutes will be sent to all registered attendees at Quarterly but only those who attended the Business Meeting can propose corrections or changes.

Treasurer's Report

Current Key Bank Balance (on September 8, 2022)	\$11,261.64
PayPal (to collect)	\$4,231.06
	Total: \$15,492.70
Obligations (to pay)	
Lazy F (for SP 23)	\$3,217.35
MRI (background checks)	\$5.57
	Total: \$3223.11

Bill Ames presented. We seem to be in very good shape. Our retreats have been just about breaking even, and our reserves have been growing slowly because of donations and assessments from member meetings. We should have around \$11,000 remaining in the bank account after Fall Quarterly.

Children's Program Report

Stipends were increased for Children's Program teachers at Continuing Committee. Starting this Fall 2022, in addition to registration fee waivers, teachers will be compensated \$70 for 1 session, \$140 for 2 sessions, \$210 for 3 sessions.

A Friend raised the concern that it is important that the Meeting take note of how the Children's Program has been impacted by the low attendance of kids. Zoom was such a poor fit for needs of kids to create community. The Children's Program has been precious to many generations of kids in the past, and this fall there were very few children. The Friend suggested that the planning committee could think about some very specific invitations, perhaps even printed invitations, to families with children. Even the Junior Friends are suffering from not having seen this model of Quaker practice, despite the encouraging size of the group. Rather than just hoping that the kids show up, it is important to be very child-centered in terms of everything we do for the Spring.

Junior Friends

Junior Friends do not currently have co-clerks at the Quarterly level; the two co-clerks for Yearly Meeting are Miles Silverman and Xavier Burton-Garcia. Ruth (SSFM) and Amber (UFM) from Junior Friends presented.

Junior Friends now has a planning committee, and they will be doing a service project. They are feeling more organized. Neither of the current Junior Friends clerks were able to attend this Quarterly. The clerk celebrated the strength of the Junior Friends program and encouraged Meetings that have Junior Friends to have discussions with them about the compensation issue. They are hopeful of having a winter gathering. The clerk welcomed the visitors from Willamette Quarter.

The Junior Friends decided that they would like their Advisors and Friendly Responsible Adult Presences (FRAPS) to be paid for their work at Quarterly. This will be brought to the Continuing Committee in the Winter, and there will be a Junior Friends presence at CC (Isabel Arslanian).

Paying JF Advisors and FRAPS is a new policy change. CC is therefore asked to take on this responsibility moving forward, including consulting the treasurer and taking into consideration the challenges of low attendance. CC will engage with others outside of CC sessions to provide useful input on costs and logistics. This change will be on the agenda at Spring Business Meeting.

Concerns and discussions included: With our concern for our youth and the struggles that both Children's Program and Junior Friends have had, there is urgency to make this decision quickly. There is also concern about the burdens resting on too few people (such as the advisors), and the aging population of those in attendance at Quarterly. If our hope is to have younger people engaged at Quarterly, we must consider their financial situation; attending Quarterly may present a financial burden to younger individuals. Delaying the decision until Fall 2023 is a year, a long period of time for youth. There is enormous urgency, therefore, to make a decision. There is unity that paying JFAs and FRAPs is important.

We don't generally want to skip over our process without being thoughtful, but are comfortable with making a quicker decision than we otherwise might. At the time when we originally had JFAs as volunteers, this was rooted in respect for JFs to be self-directed. Adults were not expected to be teachers, so treating them like teachers was taking autonomy away from them. JFs

are saying they feel the need for more support, and have people they can lean on who are being paid for their time as they relearn this process of Quaker process. JFAs isn't a job you can have as a parent with kids, typically. It needs to be done by people who don't have kids yet or have grown kids. For those who are younger, it's often a financial strain for them to come. It's important to get seasoned advice from older Quakers as well as people closer to their own stage in life for JFs. For JFs doing their own Business Meeting, they had no clerk this time, but they did this in a thoughtful, spirit-led way. We can treat the JFs seasoning as the first seasoning, so we can treat this business meeting as the second seasoning. The CC just needs to work out the details.

CC is able to welcome concerns raised, and consider and season on those concerns. The CC welcomes input on this process.

Minute 2022-09-01: The Continuing Committee is empowered to act on the Junior Friends' request to pay Advisors and Friendly Responsible Adult Presences at the Winter session, so that they can be paid at Spring Quarterly.

Fall 2022 Quarterly Meeting: Report from Planning Committee Eastside and South Seattle

No report.

2023 Silent Retreat

Bill Ames presented. The Silent Retreat will be held in Gold Bar, Jan 21-23 2023. The clerk reminded Friends to update Meeting contact people; there is a form on the website to do this. listkeeper@pnqm.org will reach the person who keeps the list.

Spring 2023 Quarterly Meeting report

Bill Ames presented. The host meeting is University Friends Meeting. Spring Quarterly will be held April 21-23 2023. The Planning Committee is still deciding on a theme to be announced.

Site Liaison Report

Necia Quast presented. Lazy F has come out of the pandemic doing fairly well. They are making some changes that are positive; Lazy F has gotten a grant through a state program to renovate the Lodge to create classroom spaces. This will include soundproofing between the floors and other improvements.

New Barn Policy from Lazy F: "Due to equipment being broken, we are now asking groups to have adult supervision of youth in the Rec Barn at all times of use. Charges will be applied to final invoices for damage or equipment replacement."

Necia contacted Lazy F and they are not concerned about the Junior Friends in the barn without adult based on their past behavior of respecting the space. Junior Friends are exempt from the new barn policy currently.

Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 Contracts: Have been signed and returned to Lazy F.

Site Liaison Activity: Necia took part in in the Site Advisory Committee meeting for Lazy F with a strategic planning consultant. She continues to serve on the Blended Meeting ad hoc committee. She will again handle the pre-registration COVID testing at Quarterly.

Potential Impact of Low Quarterly In-Person Attendance: Our Spring attendance was good but a little lower than normal, but Fall attendance is considerably lower than before. Based on our contract our minimum number of guests would be 79, which we did not meet for this Fall Quarterly. For this Fall, Dave said they were willing to have NO lodging minimum. For meals, the final number is due one week before the event. They will bill us for the actual headcount at the event, but if it greater than we reported they could run short of food.

For Spring and Fall 2023: We should try to get a sense of how many people wish to attend, to determine if we want the camp exclusively for Quarterly's use. Minimum lodging is based on 65% occupancy of each building reserved. People in tents, RVs, and the Barn count as people on site, but no minimum # is needed to use any of these areas. We can drop buildings from the contract up to six weeks before the events. If we expect our number of attendees to drop below 80, then we would probably want to reserve fewer buildings.

For exclusive use of the Camp, we would need to pay for the minimum lodging for all buildings or 106 times lodging cost for two nights minus \$25 for food, or \$94 for each unfilled slot up to 106.

They are happy to talk over options with us as we look at next year.

Emergency Procedures at Lazy F: PLEASE NOTIFY THE ON-SITE DIRECTOR (DAVE BURFEIND) IMMEDIATELY IN CASE OF ANY EMERGENCY! Try the camp office, the main kitchen, or the Director's house.

IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, THE CAMP BELL WILL BE RUNG CONTINUALLY AND ALL GUESTS SHOULD REPORT TO THE PLAYFIELD BY THE CAMP OFFICE.

1. All persons report to the playfield by the main entrance to Camp.
2. Group leaders conduct roll call, accounting for each person.
 - a. The registrars will have a list of all attendees in the Trading Post, where it can be retrieved in case of emergency.
3. The Director will coordinate movement of emergency vehicles, if any, to safe place.
4. Persons will remain at the field until otherwise directed by camp staff or emergency responders.
5. The Director or designee will coordinate evacuation to the Ellensburg First United Methodist Church if needed.

These emergency procedures were made available at registration.

Emergency Decisions Committee:

The purpose of the Emergency Decisions Committee is to discern whether a session of PNQM should be cancelled because of some extraordinary situation such as wildfires in the area. It consists of the QM Co-Clerks, M&C Co-Clerks, Children's program Coordinator, Children's Teacher Recruiter, Co-Registrars, and the Site Liaison. It can be convened in the form of a conference call by any of its members and should be convened upon concern about conditions expressed by those planning to attend a QM session. The decision will be made by those on the call. Separately, Lazy F might determine that conditions warrant closing the camp and would notify us.

Covid Protocols for Fall

We maintained the same protocols from Spring Quarterly for Fall Quarterly.

Registrar's Report

John Gotts presented. 68 attenders were on site at Lazy F, 14 online. 2 Infant Toddler/Preschool, 5 Elementary/Central Friends. 14 Junior Friends attended. There were 8 first timers, 1 Sierra Cascades attender, and 5 attenders from Willamette Quarterly. 14 PNQM Meetings/Worship Groups represented.

Webkeeper's Report

We used online medical release and sponsorship forms; it worked fairly well. When someone registered as a sponsor, they filled out a form and submitted it, when it was sent to a parent for completion and submission. There was one case where the sponsor did not include the sponsored youth, and the parent registered them separately, but it was managed. Please send feedback on this process to webkeeper@pnqm.org.

John is looking for a backup web programmer (PHP, MYSQL) to take on the position in a year or two. He manages both the website and registration. If there is anyone who might be interested, please email webkeeper@pnqm.org.

Listkeeper Report

Please regularly update contact information for your meeting by emailing Kathy Mallalieu.

Ministry and Counsel Report

Kristina Bartleson from University Friends was approved as the new co-clerk. There was a meeting held last week that went well.

Nominating

The clerk reminded Friends of 3 positions approved at the Summer CC Meeting on July 7th:

Co-clerk: Leni Skarin.

Treasurer: Bill Ames.

Co-registrar: Jill McFarland.

All three nominations were approved for the 2022-2024 term, starting after the Summer CC Meeting on July 7th.

Quaker Voice

Susan Cozzens reported that Quaker Voice is active, seeking input widely from Friends in Washington. There is a survey on the Quaker Voice website that individuals can fill out to help guide their process. There will be a meeting on December 3rd at Eastside to continue the conversation. They are working to present a short list of bills where our voices are most needed, such as for Quaker Lobby Day.

Ad-Hoc Committee for Blended/hybrid Meetings Report

John Gotts presented. We have purchased a new webcam, purchased by Quarterly. It is much easier to use and has a handheld remote, which includes preset options. A new TV was gifted by John Gotts & Johanna Macnee to Lazy F for occasional use and safe keeping. It works much better in the well-lit room than a projector (which overheated) and screen. The webcam will also be stored, along with a tripod, in the Quarterly closet in Trading Post.

One remaining issue is that where the webcam is positioned, it is situated with the group facing the clerk. If those speaking could sometimes speak to the webcam to be more inclusive as online attenders, this would be much appreciated.

We need an equipment setup person for Spring Quarterly. The setup is relatively straightforward at the Lodge; John has a simple diagram for how to do the setup. This person would need to get to Lazy F reasonably early. John will not be arriving until later in the day, likely early evening. This person would ideally be part of an ongoing committee or team to do this work. It is very challenging to only have 1-2 people. Blended meetings are going to be an essential part of our future, and Quarterly needs a strong team to maintain this important component of our gatherings.

Friends are strongly encouraged to speak with their home meetings about how they may be running any blended/hybrid options, and are encouraged to talk to Continuing Committee about possible future purchases of technology and processes that would improve blended sessions.

Heidi Neff encouraged CC to consider expanding this role from a technology coordinator to an equipment committee. Elisa Beiber, our medical person this fall, had difficulty finding the first aid kits. Children's Program has in the past been responsible for updating these, but perhaps they shouldn't be responsible for the kits. The radios are also old and could use replacing. The nametag making station didn't happen at this fall, which could be either equipment or the host committee. An equipment committee would ideally come to Lazy F as early as they can.

As we have fewer attenders, there are also fewer people to share the work among. This has meant people wearing multiple hats, but Quarterly needs as many Friends as possible to contribute to this ongoing work and to lighten the burden on any one individual. A committee allows someone to have an emergency and know there will be someone else to take their place.

Exit Survey

Attendees at PNQM are asked to complete an exit survey to tell us what went well and what could be improved. It is available at the bottom of the page at pnqm.org/virtual, and at pnqm.org/survey.

Call for New Business

No new business.

Announcements

Sue Burress with Eastside Meeting reported on talks with Paula Palmer about the Quaker Indigenous Boarding Schools presentations on facing our past. There is a workshop that Friends Peace Team is offering that Sue recommends.

FGC will be held in Oregon in 2023, during the week that includes July 4.

Submitted

Sara Lavenhar

Recording Clerk