

## **Peace & Service Annual Report 5-6-18**

Current members include: Kathy Harr (co-opted Clerk); Steve Bacher; Marguerite Chandler; Diane LeBas (co-opted); Nancy Martin; Jasmine Spence; Caroline Wilson; Betsy Crofts (co-opted). We meet the first Tuesday of each month (except for July and August) at 7:30 at the meetinghouse. We have recently been exploring this meeting time in order to accommodate some new members to the committee. Claire Staffieri and Bill Strong have recently expressed interest in joining the committee.

In September, our meeting once again volunteered to oversee the Bake Sale and Café at the Peace Fair at Buckingham Meeting. Mary Beth Snyder again took the lead in organizing donations and managing sales. Volunteers to help with sales the day of the event are always welcome.

In October, Sarah Haber, an FCNL Intern and NY Advocacy Corps Organizer, presented a program at Adult First Day School. She effectively prepared 17 NMM members for a subsequent visit to Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick to enlist his support to co-sponsor a specific bipartisan bill aimed at reducing three extreme climate pollutants.

In November, Betsy was one of about 400 attendees at FCNL's 2-day Advocacy Team training and lobbying event in Washington DC. Betsy found that the training from Sarah Haber at our meeting well prepared her for the advocacy training and lobbying experience in Washington DC. There are currently over 1,3000 members of advocacy teams. Betsy will find out whether there is a choice of topics, so we can determine if there would be enough interest to organize an Advocacy Team in our area.

In the fall, Jenny Hollingshead brought her concern about possible military action on North Korea to P&S. She drafted a minute which P&S revised and which was approved at the November business meeting and then sent to Senators Casey and Toomey as well as to Rep. Fitzpatrick. It was also sent on to Bucks Quarterly Meeting for consideration. While there was not consensus at BQM to send the minute on to PYM, we were in agreement that the process has stimulated a great deal of valuable awareness and discussion and that moving the Minute to PYM was less important than individual meetings spreading the message with desired edits and as each see fit.

Nancy has taken on the duty of being our meeting contact person with FCNL. She will be bringing to the attention of the meeting how easy it is to sign up with FCNL for regular Action Alerts on topics which can be individually designated. This continues to be the most efficient way of sending emails to our legislators on topics of concern. We also encourage the phoning of local congressional leaders on topics of concern. In March and April, Nancy led the process of reviewing and revising the 2019-2020 legislative priorities for the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress that P&S submitted to FCNL on behalf of our meeting. The additions were in the areas of gun control, immigration, and economic inequality (health care and job training/education).

Members of our committee continue to share concerns with the wider meeting regarding earthcare witness and environmental stewardship. Steve Bacher and Richmond Shreve

spoke at the Delaware River Basin Commission meeting in favor of a permanent ban on fracking in the river basin. Steve was invited to speak at a Town Hall meeting on environmental issues with Brian Fitzpatrick. Kathy Harr attended the Annual Fall Gathering of QEW in October at Pendle Hill. A trifold on QEW was created to inform the meeting of the work being done by this organization and the guidance they provide on environmental stewardship. We had hoped to bring in a speaker from QEW for Adult First Day School but were unable to secure a date; perhaps that can happen next year. Jasmine Spence, Kathy Harr, and Steve Bacher attended a November presentation and book signing at the Free Library in Phila. for Bill McKibben's latest book, *Radio Free Vermont: A Fable of Resistance*. Betsy & Dan Crofts and Kathy & Hugh Harr participated in EQAT's Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> Day of Action at Warminster Train Station to send PECO the message that gas is not the way to go and that solar power can create local green jobs. We hosted a meeting of the Bucks Environmental Action group in Dec. and expect to do so again in May and June. 350 Bucks County is planning to show the film *Happening, a Clean Energy Revolution*, in June. Steve Bacher is campaigning for the Democratic nomination to serve as U.S. Congressman from PA's 8<sup>th</sup> District. He is a progressive candidate who promotes peace and environmental concerns, including renewable energy.

The Quaker Missions Stamp Project, which has supported the Right Sharing of World Resources among other Quaker organizations, has been restarted at Indianapolis Friends Meeting. Betsy Crofts has agreed to once again manage this project for our meeting.

We were disappointed that we were not able to use money in our budget to give a monetary honorarium to Bonnie Kearney, our Newtown neighbor who has cared for our Peace Garden for the last few years. Unfortunately, the requirement that she provide proof of insurance to continue in this role has resulted in her stepping aside. She would like to be notified of planned work days, so she can continue to help in this capacity as she is able. We are fortunate to have several members and attenders from our meeting come forward to lead in caring for the Peace Garden moving forward: Dwight Good, Nancy Martin, Claire Staffieri, and Katherine Borish. They welcome help from others who have interest in volunteering some time to care for the garden.

P&S appreciates the donations of \$350. each recommended by FO and subsequently approved by the meeting to: QEW, Bucks Food for Friends, and the Syrian family. These are causes/organizations for which our committee has strong concerns.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Harr, Co-opted Clerk of Peace & Service  
May 6, 2017