

Communications Committee

2021 Annual Report

The Communications Committee has been busy keeping Friends informed of Newtown Meeting events as well as events of interest to this Quaker community. The venues employed to accomplish this are the monthly newsletter, regular website updates, Facebook posts, weekly announcements, and articles published in the Patch.

The Communications Committee started as a task force early in 2016 and by the end of the year had been approved to become an official committee. Over the past **five years**, we have developed a more streamlined approach to sharing information; have encouraged every committee to create their own content describing the scope and responsibilities of their committee; and promoted the use of the website as the source of where and when events are happening.

Now that the Committee is out of its infancy, we plan to re-examine what is working and what can be improved. The website has come alive with information on committees, programs, links, and events. Now, we encourage all committees to revisit their web pages with fresh eyes and consider adding new content, photos, or an inspiring quote. Recently, we have added more photos to the homepage slideshow and throughout the website.

The newsletter continues under the leadership of Rich Richardson. Last year we requested and received approval to remove the Meeting for Business minutes from the body of the newsletter, thus creating more room for content. This provides us a greater opportunity to enrich our meeting by including more stories, poems, book reviews, and photos. We encourage everyone to send in your contributions! (The minutes continue to be partnered with the newsletter in that both links are included in the monthly email.) Events and announcements continue to be posted to the Facebook group, but we note there has been less activity this year. We will continue to tinker with our process and monitor the effectiveness of this venue. This year, two new tasks added to our responsibilities include 1) serving as PYM's Bridge Contact and 2) scheduling our Sunday morning zoom hosts on a monthly basis.

The Communications Committee is made up of many folks. This clerk wishes to thank the announcers: Scott Hoskins, Gene Borish, and Stuart Myles (who replaced the outgoing and very entertaining, Mike Daley); our vastly talented webmaster and WordPress trainer, Tim Mammel (who received substantial support from Mark Ratliff); Rich Richardson, who just about single handedly puts together the newsletter each and every month; Andy Rowan, our recorder, who has substantial behind the scenes tasks that he effectively manages from updating everyone's addresses, maintaining the Mailchimp list and emailing the newsletter to all of us each month. Much appreciation to Betsy Crofts and Ann D'Silva who work together to coordinate the newsletter mailing. Every month they head to Staples to pick up the newsletter, fold, stuff and apply address labels and stamps to envelopes, dropping several off at Pennswood to save on postage before heading over to the post office. Your hard work is appreciated. Finally, my thanks to the always dependable Norval Reece, our press agent, who regularly writes articles for the Patch promoting our upcoming First Day programs as well as articles on the results of the children's fundraising activities. A highlight last year, was when the kids landed the cover of the Newtown Gazette for their successful Simple Supper.

This year the Committee added four new members with the purpose of sharing and rotating the multiple tasks of updating each communication venue among a larger group of people. We look forward to their contributions. Together, we will look for ways we can improve our practice over each communication venue. The committee remains at its center a messenger of information, stories, and events. We believe shared information serves to connect us and strengthen us as a community. We welcome your comments and feedback and encourage everyone to send us your contributions, updates, and announcements to communications@newtownfriendsmeeting.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Hulihan, Clerk