



Tony Hale  
Calusa Nature Center

# FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter, Twelfth Month, 2016

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**Worship:** In the Iona House at the Calusa Nature Center  
**Mailing Address:** 902 Big Pine Way, Fort Myers, FL 33907

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**Clerk:** Nancy Fennell (239-989-2503)  
**Recording Clerks:** Kathy Hale / Richard Frechette  
**Treasurer:** John Battin

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month: Pot Luck Lunch
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Month: Meeting for Worship  
With Attention to Business
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## **QUERIES & ADVICES** from *Faith & Practice of Southeastern Yearly Meeting*

### 12. Peace Testimony and Nonviolence

#### Queries:

- Do we work for peace in the world? Do we nurture peace within ourselves?
- Do we “live in the virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion of all wars”?
- Do we seek consistently to carry out this testimony for peace in all our relationships, including family, community, and work life?
- Do we as individuals and as members of a meeting seek to take part in the ministry of reconciliation between individuals, groups, and nations?
- Do we faithfully maintain our peace testimony?
- Do we reject military training, preparation for war, and participation in war as inconsistent with the spirit of Christ’s teachings?
- Do we as a meeting take a stand and do all we can to remove the causes of war and violence?

#### Advices:

- War is contrary to the life and teaching of Jesus. Seek through God’s power and grace to overcome in our hearts the emotions that lie at the root of conflict.
- Strive for nonviolent approaches to conflicts in all aspects of our lives.
- Every human being is a beloved child of God and has that divine spark which claims our reverence. War is a denial of this truth.
- Friends’ peace testimony is the positive exercise of good will calling us to lend our influence to all that strengthens the growth of international friendships and understanding.
- Cultivate an active spirit of love and peace.
- *The first step to peace is to stand still in the Light...* .George Fox, 1653

## MINUTES OF THE FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

**12th Month 11, 2016**

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Iona House on twelfth month 11, with 15 Friends present. The meeting opened with silent worship. Out of the silence, Clerk Nancy Fennell read advices and queries on the subject of the peace testimony and non-violence. We considered what our Meeting does in support of the Peace Testimony.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** Harry Chapin Food Bank has sent us a letter thanking us for our food contributions. In their letter they informed us "We recently completed fiscal year 2016 having distributed 20.4 million pounds of food – the equivalent of 17.0 million meals."

SEYM's Committee for Ministry on Racism has requested us to participate in the move to remove the exception clause from the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment on slavery. This clause seems to imply that there will be no slavery except in prisons. Friends are asked to consider this, which can be discussed further at a later date.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Treasurer John Battin presented the report for the period ending November 30, 2016. He noted that we are somewhat behind last year regarding contributions. But we will likely come close to budget as far as bottom line at year end.

<b>November, 2016 Treasurer's Summary</b>		
YEAR TO DATE SUMMARY		
	<u>Novem- ber</u> 2015	<u>Novem- ber</u> 2016
Contributions	\$17,836	\$15,880
Outlays	\$(11,688)	\$(11,649)
Difference	\$6,148	\$4,231
General Fund Cash on Hand Nov 1, 2016		\$3,133
General Fund Contributions Nov. 2016		\$1,250
Budgeted Outlays Nov. 2016		\$(152)
Cash on Hand Nov 30, 2016		\$4,231
General Funds Savings Nov, 2016 ***		\$7,572
General Funds-Friends Fiduciary Nov 30 , 2016		\$18,438
Total General Funds Nov 30, 2016		\$30,241
Meetinghouse Savings Nov 30, 2016		\$47,254
Meetinghouse Certificates Nov 30, 2016		\$18,500

Meetinghouse-Friends Fiduciary Nov 30, 2016	\$8,580
Total Meetinghouse Funds Nov 30, 2016	\$74,334
<b>*** Allocation:</b>	
Peace & Social Concerns	\$1,893
Meetinghouse	\$1,893
Properties	\$1,893
Contingency	\$1,893
Total General Funds Savings	\$7,572

**FINANCE:** On behalf of the Finance Committee, John Battin presented a final draft of the 2017 budget for review. He reported that we have a new line item for the Outreach Committee, and the committee made adjustments internally in order to maintain the same bottom line as last year. Pat Iyer explained the various intended disbursements including internet hosting and security, funds for renting tables at special events and other initiatives.

Joan Culver, Clerk of Finance Committee, informed Friends that the Committee met to discern if there were any unaddressed issues from this year and to consider what might come up in 2017.

Currently of the monies the Meeting has, 55% is in Bank Savings; 27% in Market Funds; the remaining 18% in FGC Certificates. After discussion, the Committee decided to leave the money in this distribution for the present time.

The Committee also spoke about its commitment to explain how the finance committee works to act on the will of the meeting at large, as expressed in the meeting for worship with an attention to business. The Committee plans to address this process in our committee meetings and will return with some ideas.

❖ **MINUTE 16MM14:** We approve the following budget for Calendar Year 2017

<b>SEYM</b>	<b>4,500</b>
<b>Ministry and Counsel</b>	
Friends General Conference	1,200
Spiritual / Scholarships	1,000
Care: Members/Attendees	500
Friends Journal Listing	70
Invited Speakers (including Retreat)	200
General/Miscellaneous	150
<b>Total Ministry &amp; Counsel</b>	<b>3,120</b>
<b>Religious Education</b>	
Books/Friends Journal/Misc.	400
1st Day School	150
Retreats	500

<b>Total Religious Education</b>	<b>1,050</b>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>280</b>
<b>Finance Committee</b>	
Banking & Corporate Fees	100
Gifts/Contingency	820
<b>Total Finance Committee</b>	<b>920</b>
<b>Hospitality Committee</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>Nominating Committee</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Outreach Committee</b>	
Internet Services	360
Other Outreach Expenses	540
<b>Total Outreach Committee</b>	<b>900</b>
<b>Property Committee</b>	
CNCP Utilities	1,200
CNCP Contribution	250
Project and Materials Expense	500
<b>Total Property Committee</b>	<b>1,950</b>
<b>Meeting House Reserve</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Peace &amp; Social Concerns</b>	
FCNL	500
AFSC	500
Quaker Voluntary Services	200
ProNica	200
Harry Chapin Foodbank	300
Environment & Peace Education Center	200
Lee Interfaith for Empowerment	500
Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization (ECHO)	200
Quality Life Center	300
Grace Methodist Church / Franklin Park Event	500
Other Local Initiatives / Committee Expenses	600
<b>Total Peace &amp; Social Concerns</b>	<b>4,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,220</b>

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Nancy Howell, Clerk, presented the Committee's proposed roster of clerks, committee members and other assignees, including the formal Corporation Report. She noted that there remain some slots yet unfilled, and asked Friends to consider these roles. Also, she indicated that the first person listed on each committee is asked to serve as convener

of the first meeting of that committee. We discussed the organizational structure involving Adult religious education, First Day School and Meeting Retreat. We also discussed the various ways for committees to “meet,” including teleconferencing.

❖ **MINUTE 16MM15: CORPORATION REPORT:** We approve the following annual Corporation Report:

- Current Principal Place of Business: Iona House, Calusa Nature Center, Ortiz Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33905.
- Current Mailing Address: c/o N. Fennell, 902 Big Pine Way, Fort Myers, FL 33907-5928
- FEI Number: 65-0607361
- Certificate of Status Desired: No
- Name and Address of Current Registered Agent: Thomas D. Fennell, 902 Big Pine Way, Fort Myers, FL 33907
- The Officers/Directors of this Corporation are:
  - Director Nancy Fennell, 902 Big Pine Way, FM, FL 33907
  - Director Richard Frechette, 138 Pinebrook Drive, FM, FL 33907
  - Treasurer John Battin, 13162 Feather Sound Drive, Apt 61, FM, FL 33919
  - Director Nancy Howell, 105 Pinebrook Drive, FM, FL 33907
  - Director Jeannette Botha, 2619 Forum Blvd, Unit 150, FM FL 34905

❖ **MINUTE 16MM16:** We approve the following assignments for 2017: We note that there are several blanks in this list, and we urge Friends to consider offering to fill an empty slot by contacting the Nominating Committee.

- Officers and Specific Jobs:
  - Clerk: Nancy Fennell
  - Recording Clerk: Richard Frechette, Kathy Hale
  - Membership Clerk: Nancy Fennell
  - Treasurer: John Battin
  - Newsletter Editor: Richard Frechette
  - Assistant Newsletter Editor Circulation: Mary Smiley
  - Librarian: Connie Summerlin
  - Lead singing before meeting: Carolyn Stanley, Cheryl Keen
  - First Day School Teachers during worship: Suzanne Frechette, Richard Frechette, Nancy Murvine, Nancy Howell
  - Infant and Toddler Care Providers during worship: (\_\_\_\_\_)
  - Name Tag Producer (\_\_\_\_\_)
  - Manager of Temporary Signs at CNCP: Nancy Howell
  - Volunteer Liaisons between FMFM and other Quaker organizations: American Friends Service Committee: Joan Culver; Friends Committee on National Legislation: Marilyn Webber; Friends General Conference: (\_\_\_\_\_); Earthcare Witness: Stan Andrews; Quaker Voluntary Service: Cheryl Keen; Quaker United Nations Office: Jim Keen; SEYM: Richard Frechette, Nancy Fennell, Tom Dudley Fennell.

- Liaisons between FMMM and other Organizations: Harry Chapin Food Bank: Connie Summerlin and Ann Suich; Lee Interfaith For Empowerment (L.I.F.E.): John Battin; Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium: Joan Culver and Carolyn Stanley; ECHO Farm: Peter Curra; Historic Peace Churches of SW Florida: (\_\_\_\_\_)
- Volunteers to serve on 2017 regular committees to carry out the Meetings' business:
  - Finance Committee: Joan Culver, Tom Dudley Fennell, John Battin, Kathy Hale
  - Hospitality Committee: Suzanne Frechette, Nancy Howell, Connie Summerlin, Pat Iyer, Omar Zeidan.
  - Ministry and Counsel Committee: (year that appointment expires): Kathy Hale (2017), Helen Snodgrass (2017), Tom Dudley Fennell (2018), Phyllis Stanley (2018), Richard Frechette (2019), Jeannette Botha (2019)
  - Nominating Committee (for 2018): Suzanne Frechette, Nancy Howell, Vicki Scott, Connie Summerlin
  - Outreach Committee: Pat Iyer, Chris Ruhnke, Nancy Howell, Wayne and Marianne Lee, Carolyn Stanley
  - Peace and Social Concerns Committee: John Battin, Helen Fox, Vicki Scott, Helen Snodgrass, Phyllis Stanley, Ann Suich, Stan Andrews
  - Properties Committee: Mary Smiley, Joan Culver, Suzanne Frechette, Richard Frechette
  - Religious Education Committee (Adult Education): Nancy Fennell, Pat Iyer, Connie Summerlin.
    - Children's Education Sub-Committee: Richard Frechette, Nancy Murvine,
    - Meeting Retreat Sub-Committee: Suzanne Frechette, Pat Iyer

**OUTREACH:** Pat Iyre, Clerk, distributed a sample of a revised Meeting business card. We made suggestions for further improvements to the card for the Committee to consider.

The Committee would like to submit an article to the Harry Chapin Food Bank blog, including a Quaker take on hunger and related responsibilities. Joan Culver and Pat will collaborate on the article.

The Committee wants to be ready to set up a "Quakers of Fort Myers" table for various community events, asks Friends to pass on information about any such events, and seeks volunteers to staff them.

**CALUSA NATURE CENTER AND PLANETARIUM:** Joan Culver reported that Friends are encouraged to become individual and family members of CNCP. A winter camp will occur during the holiday vacation period. Donations are welcome to help support impoverished children to attend the Winter Camp.

- ❖ **MINUTE 16MM17:** We approve a contribution of up to \$350 to the Calusa Nature Center to support a needy child to attend a Winter Camp over the holiday vacation.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Joan Culver reported that, since last month, she and a few other Friends researched what is happening about supporting refugee families from Syria. From these conversations, she is sure that a communal effort beyond a single Meeting is needed to sustain such an effort. But we could possibly join with other local organizations in a larger effort. She suggests Peace & Social Concerns Committee consider possibilities. We discussed this matter further without a clear sense of forward action.

The minutes of the meeting were read and approved. We ended the meeting in centered silence.

Richard Frechette  
Co-Recording Clerk

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**On 1<sup>st</sup> days, Bring Yourself AND Food for contribution to the Harry Chapin Food Bank**

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### **POT LUCK PICNIC AND PADDLE ON CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON**

Join Friends and the Meeting Family at 13661 Peace Road (lot next to The Hut restaurant off Buckingham Road) for a casual and unconventional Christmas afternoon of food and fun on the Orange River. Bring **folding chairs and picnic food and beverages to share**. There's a hammock and a picnic table. Although there's no lawn, you might want to bring yard games. Musical instruments would be most welcome!

We'll leave from Iona House directly after Meeting for Worship and drive the 10 miles to a lovely spot under the live oaks. We'll have at least 2 kayaks, bring `em if you have `em and some of us will paddle the narrow shallow section of the river, as water levels allow.

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### **ATTEND A WOMEN'S RALLY FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IN NAPLES:**

-- in solidarity with women marching in the Women's March on Washington. **Saturday, January 21** 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Cambier Park (755 8th Ave S, Naples)

- \* Men are welcome
- \* Hear some great Speakers
- \* Watch the Women's March on a big screen TV.

Email Lois Cohen for more information: [loiscohen10@gmail.com](mailto:loiscohen10@gmail.com)

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### **LEARN MORE ABOUT FCNL:**

The Religious Education Committee would like Friends to reserve **Sunday January 29** at rise of worship for a visit from Nancy Corindia of Sarasota Meeting. She is SEYM's visiting representative for the Friends Committee on National Legislation and will be speaking and answering questions about FCNL for about an hour after our cookies and juice.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE FUTURE EVENTS:

- On **Sunday, Feb. 19th** at rise of Meeting for Worship, come to a workshop entitled **“Unwritten Rules for Meeting for Worship”** (rescheduled from a previous date). Nancy Fennell will guide us through a fun look at ourselves, as well as a thoughtful review of individual needs in worship. Soup and bread will be offered prior to the workshop.
  - On **Saturday, March 18th**, Eduardo Diaz, will lead us in our **Annual Spiritual Retreat**. Eduardo is a birthright Quaker, born in Cuba, and long-time member of Miami Friends Meeting. A brief biography of Eduardo is being prepared and will be distributed after the first of the year. The title of his focus is **“Deepening our Spirituality.”** Eduardo will be accompanied by his wife, Clara, pictures of his three daughters, and his much-loved grandbabies. Details of the event will follow.
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## MESSAGE FROM FCNL ON THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The post-election dust has settled, and we’re getting a clearer view of the work before us. We’ll be facing some major legislative threats over the coming months, but there is an urgent one before us right now. We need your help. We need your voice. We need you to take action.

President-elect Trump and congressional leaders have said their first priority is to repeal the Affordable Care Act, causing 22 million people to lose their health insurance.

Contact your senators and representative today and tell them to oppose repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

Health coverage for millions of families is at serious risk. Congress can use a special budget procedure that would allow repeal with just 51 votes in the Senate—no filibuster, limited amendments, no slowing this down. And we’ve heard Congress will start this process the first week in January.

We cannot wait to take action. This is moving too fast.

Will you take two minutes to email your senators and representative? Urge them not to repeal the Affordable Care Act without first ensuring there is a responsible and comprehensive replacement simultaneously enacted in the same legislation.



Sincerely,  
Amelia Kegan  
Legislative Director  
Domestic Policy

P.S. Want to learn more about the health care threats before us? Sign up for a special webinar hosted by the Coalition on Human Needs on Friday, December 16 at noon EST.



## USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FRIENDS

<a href="http://seymquakers.org">http://seymquakers.org</a>	Southeastern Yearly Meeting
<a href="http://www.fcnl.org">www.fcnl.org</a>	Friends Committee for National Legislation
<a href="http://www.fgcquaker.org">www.fgcquaker.org</a>	Friends General Conference
<a href="http://www.afsc.org">www.afsc.org</a>	American Friends Service Committee
<a href="http://fwcc.world">http://fwcc.world</a>	Friends World Committee on Consultation
<a href="http://www.quakerspeak.com">www.quakerspeak.com</a>	QuakerSpeak: a Quaker YouTube channel.
<a href="http://www.quakerhouse.org">www.quakerhouse.org</a>	Quaker House, Fayetteville

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## REMEMBER

### Note from the Editor:

- Please send articles, favorite passages, book reports and items of interest to Friends.
- Please send important dates, news of Friends/friends, etc.
- Those wishing to receive the newsletter by email, please contact the editor.  
(Editor's email address: [Rich.Frechette@gmail.com](mailto:Rich.Frechette@gmail.com))

## CALENDAR – December & January

12-18	Pre-Worship Singing	9:50 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Worship-Sharing about the Spiritual State of our Meeting	At rise of meeting
12-25	Pre-Worship Singing	9:50 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Christmas Gathering at 13661 Peace Rd. Fort Myers	At rise of meeting
1-1-2017	Pre-Worship Singing	9:50 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Pot Luck lunch – all are welcome!	At rise of Meeting
1-8	Pre-Worship Singing	9:50 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	At rise of meeting
	Last Chance Book Club	At rise of meeting
1-15	Pre-Worship Singing	9:50 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
1-22	Pre-Worship Singing	9:50 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
1-29	Pre-Worship Singing	9:50 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Nancy Corindia will speak about FCNL	At rise of meeting



This House  
is the Friends Meeting

**Friends Meeting of Fort Myers  
Religious Society of Friends  
c/o Richard Frechette, Editor  
138 Pinebrook Dr.  
Fort Myers, FL 33907-5988**

Address Correction Requested