

Jacksonville Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship for Business
September 11, 2016

Minutes

Attendees: Elaine Martin, Willie Hager, Caroline Sheely, Sue Watson, Mike Shell

“You know the redwood trees? You’d think their roots go really deep, but their roots go out really wide. They spread out to each other and entangle with each other, and give each other support and that’s how they stand and grow so tall, and that’s how they weather the storms. That’s what community is all about! We do want our own spiritual roots to go deep, but as they grow deep, they can also be growing out and intertwining with others, supporting each other against the wind and the rain and the storms in the Spirit. And, as the tree grows up, the roots are still growing out. It’s not one or the other. They grow in both directions at the same time. “

—Deborah Fisch, quoted in *Practicing Peace: A Devotional Walk through the Quaker Tradition*,
by Catherine Whitmire (Sorin Books, 2007)

Query: How do we see ourselves growing as a Meeting Community?

Minutes of June 12, 2016 – Approved

- Note: There was no meeting for business during July and August.

Treasurer's Report – Sue Watson

- Income is ahead of expenditures to date
- Quaker House donation thank you message ([Attachment 1](#))
- Monthly Meeting Newsletter
 - Paid Geigers \$143 for 3 months of printing (80 copies) and mailing (40 copies)
 - Wendy is open to an email newsletter but doesn't want to create it herself
 - She and Michael can collaborate using an email template
 - She can contribute her inspirational content
 - We will confirm "fair use" or permission before including quotations, etc.
 - Meeting needs to determine who is on postal vs. email mailing lists
- *Friends Journal* annual subscription bill
 - \$48 regular rate vs. \$198 "true cost" rate
 - Meeting listing is \$70/year
 - Minuted – Meeting agreed to *Friends Journal* \$150 as budgeted for FY 2016-17

Website – Michael Shell

- Minuted – Meeting approved adding an archive of past Meeting Minutes to the website (see <http://www.jacksonvillefriends.org/index.php/meeting-minutes>).

Second hour activity

- Bonnie Hall was absent, so Michael will visit her to discuss the Rex Ambler/SEYM Faith & Practice study plan
- Friends proposed revisiting Quakerism 101 as a prelude, since new attenders need that introduction (for example: http://www.inwardlight.org/quakerism_101.html)

End-of-summer Potluck in St. Augustine – October 9, 10am-2pm, at Heritage Landing Amenity Center

International Day of Peace- Visions of Peace – Wednesday, September 21, 7pm, at Florida Christian Center

Scott Brown, Creating a Culture of Peace – October 19, 7:00pm at Florida Christian Center

- Mike will help Elaine with promotion

Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) – Basic Workshop October 21-23 at 5 Star Veterans Center

- Friday, October 21, 5-9pm
- Saturday, October 22, 9am-6pm
- Sunday, October 23, 1pm-6pm

Announcements

- ICARE House Meeting – Sunday, September 25, 1pm, at Florida Christian Center
- Fall Interim Business Meeting – Saturday October 1, at Palm Beach Monthly Meeting
- Sr. Helen Prejean, *Death Penalty Tour "The Power of God's Mercy"* – Friday, October 14' 11am at Cody Enrichment Center at St. Joseph's Parish

Next Meeting for Business: October 16, 2016

Mike Shell
Recording Clerk
9/24/2016

Quaker House

Front-Line Peace Witness Since 1969

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Dear Jacksonville Friends Meeting,

We thank you for your recent donation of \$100.00 on May 9, 2016 (Check Number 292). This year, 2016, marks our 47th year of working for peace and justice in a military city. In all but two of those years, the US has had troops deployed in conflicts worldwide. This past year the Army deployed 3,000+ troops to 35 of the 54 independent states in Africa. We'll keep speaking out against such folly.

While the U.S. and NATO seem to have backed out of a front line military role in Afghanistan, troops are still dying there with regularity, along with numerous civilian casualties. Iraq is once again a dilemma, one that might involve the IS and Syria. Military and Veteran suicide rates continue to confound us. Last fall we spoke on moral injury at the Richmond, VA, Veterans hospital as well as many other venues and Quaker Meetings. It continues to be a new topic for most even though we've been providing education about it for three years now. Quaker House's GI Rights Hotline counselors have been getting more than 300 (of the GI Rights network total of more than 1,000) monthly calls for help. We'll continue to strive to help all those who contact us.

Torture continues to be a controversial issue even though Generals, Secretaries of Defense, Attorneys General, and even the Senate Intelligence Committee boldly claimed that we have not benefited from it. We will continue to speak out against torture, renditions, and illegal imprisonments. Impunity for perpetrators and no compensation for victims is still the rule. We will continue to speak for accountability and adherence to the Geneva Conventions.

The F-35 Stryker jet continues to be the greatest Congressional boondoggle in our history. It has basically been grounded since last September. Drones have become a mainstay of defense contracting. A score of nations are building them. Hundreds of foreign nationals have been summarily executed without trial or ability to make a legal defense. We must ask ourselves how many were innocent? Hundreds more are becoming "collateral" casualties while those who order these attacks act with impunity. American honor and dignity should be on the collateral casualty list. Some in Congress and the Pentagon are finally realizing the harm this sort of warfare does to our credibility. We will continue to oppose this use of immoral and illegal weaponry.

Domestic violence continues to be a problem in the military. This is due in part to poorly treated PTSD and/or Traumatic Brain Injuries of returning service members. Thanks to a grant from the San Diego Friends Meeting and several individuals, our part-time therapist continues to be funded to work to help the victims. Our therapy has expanded to include victims of sexual assault and moral injury. In 2015 we helped a many families heal their lives. Your donations help us to expand this outreach into 2016.

These are some of our efforts and witness. As always, they are contingent on your generous support. Please continue supporting us. Thank you again.

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Quaker House of Fayetteville

In Peace,



Stephen and Lynn Newsom
Directors

Quaker House is a 501(c) 3 Not for Profit Corporation. No benefits or compensations were given for these contributions.

Thank you so much, dear friends!