

The Western Quarterly Meeting Support Committee met June 9, 2024 on Zoom. Present were Clerk Margaret Walton (London Grove), Treasurer Karen Conlan (London Grove), Co-ordinator Deb Wood, Dick Logan (Hockessin), Judy Hinds (Kendal), Karen Halstead (New Garden), Bob Frye (London Grove), Shelley Hastings (Newark), Stan Glowiak (Centre), and Mary Sproat (West Grove).

The meeting opened with a period of worship to settle our thoughts, seeking God's direction.

Budget: The first item of business was consideration of the draft budget for FY2024-2025. Treasurer Karen Conlan reviewed the proposal that she drafted with the help of Bob Frye and Deb, showing reduced Western Quarter covenant but expecting higher bank interest by moving the savings and money market accounts to high yield accounts. Deb's hours would be reduced from 21 per week to 19.5 per week, along with office expenses. The amount of \$500 is in the budget for the elevator at the Friends Home per approval of the Quarter last year. The deficit is therefore reduced to \$170. Deb will email the proposal to Support Committee members. Karen voiced the hope that Meetings will look at our rising costs and increase their covenants. Newark has already decided to increase theirs because they do not want to see Deb's hours cut. Office expenses were cut this year when Deb received a large donation of copy paper. Bob asked if giving up the office at Kennett Meetinghouse would be possible and have Deb work from home. She explained, however, that the office is also where many Quarter records are stored, and that by being there each week she has good contact with Kennett Meeting. Another suggestion would be to simply use the space for storage so as to possibly lower the rent. At the July Quarterly Meeting, along with a discussion as to what Meetings want from Quarter, a message will be given to Meetings, asking them to raise their covenants. Hopefully this will engender discussions in Monthly Meetings about this subject. Members of this committee need to take this to their Monthly Meetings. It must not be lost on us that we need also to understand Yearly Meeting's issues. After July Quarter, perhaps the Clerk and Treasurer can craft a letter to Monthly Meetings summarizing the issue and asking for help. We need advertising! Deb will include what the Quarter does for Meetings in the mailing. Stan offered to help with these activities.

Joint Quarter: The joint meeting with Concord Quarter will be held July 21 at West Chester Meeting, with Kennett as co-host. Schedule:

8:30 coffee, snacks

9 - 10:15 Business Meeting

10:30 - 11:15 - Intergenerational Meeting for Worship

11:30 Program - a teacher working with the children on climate change

12:00 Lunch - grill for lunch; Kennett will help with sides, Concord will help with desserts.

Deb will send out flyers soon.

Updates from Meetings: Historic Properties - Deb is trying to contact Steve Balderston at Colora and has had communications with PYM about disposing of the property. Friends Fiduciary was suggested for information about transferring the property.

London Britain - Newark is moving forward with the assessment of the water damage. Shelley announced the August 18 Ruth Thompson and Diana Wise Memorial Art Show. Newark Friends meet there for worship each week at 10:30.

Newark wants Judy Hinds to speak on Warner Mifflin in September as an “undercover fundraiser”.

Judy pointed out that she will be speaking about him at Montclair Meeting on June 16. At a meeting with PA Rep. Christina Sappey, Judy learned that Rep. Sappey is interested in expanding tourism in our area.

Hockessin held their First Day School picnic today. They are slowly refurbishing the house on the property. They have had a few additions in membership.

West Grove - Stay tuned for another history talk in the Fall.

Centre - Quakerism 101 is finished and they are deciding on doing 102 in the Fall. They have put a new roof on the caretaker's house and the Property Committee approved adding solar panels on the roof.

New Garden - Members are looking to the Meeting's future, with discussions with Deb. They plan to have the property surveyed so as to determine the property lines.

London Grove - The age of the white oak that fell last September was confirmed to predate the arrival of William Penn, and that it was the Champion White Oak in Pennsylvania. Meeting for Worship next week will be outdoors with members of Allen AME Church of Oxford, including a Juneteenth and Father's Day program, followed by lunch. Bob invited members of the Quarter.

Kendal - Two Friends from Guatemala on their way to FGC will speak on June 30. Kendal will host Quarter in October, when they have invited Jordan Landes, Curator of the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College, to talk about celebrations for George Fox's 400th Birthday.

Karen Halstead noted that the Quarter needs to emphasize people who brought light and laughter to the world.

The Meeting closed with a period of Worship.

Margaret I. Walton, Clerk
Mary M. Sproat, Recording Clerk