



The Newsletter of
the Northwest Quarter of
New England Yearly Meeting of the
Religious Society of Friends
(the Quakers)
Fall 2007

North West Quarterly Meeting

Clerk:

Ministry and Counsel Clerk:

Recording Clerk: Spencer Smith, sspencervt@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Martha Ladam, 123 S. Lincoln St., Keene, NH 03431-3830,
stbernardparish@hotmail.com

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Newsletter Editor: Edward Feustel, 385 River Road, Plainfield, NH 03781-5036,
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**NORTH WEST QUARTERLY MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING FOR WORSHIP
WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS
FARM AND WILDERNESS, INDIAN BROOK**

SEPTEMBER 9, 2007

Meeting opened with silence.

1. Acting Clerks for this Meeting

Friends approved Cheryl Mitchell (Middlebury) and Arnold Ricks (Bennington)

2. Correction to minutes of March 2007 Quarter.

Minutes were approved with the following corrections:

Under points five and six: Peace and Social Concerns and Ministry and Counsel "Reports" (instead of "minutes")

Under point eight: the person to contact with suggestions for clerk: changed "Sandy Isaacs" to "Arnold Ricks."

Under Peace and Social Concerns Reports, change:

"John is also actively...Scholarship Program," to "...also actively working on raising funds for the Bolivian Quaker Education Project which is under the care of New York Yearly Meeting."

3. Financial Report, Martha Ladam (Keene), Treasurer

Friends accepted the report. (See below)

The second bowl was approved for the Bolivian Education Project.

Martha announced she is resigning as Treasurer since she has left Keene Meeting and now attends a local Episcopal Church. However, Martha said she will prepare our budget for 2008 (which we will consider at December Quarter).

Friends expressed appreciation and gratitude to Martha for her service to Quarter. We will miss her.

4. Nominating Committee Report

June Goodband of Nominating Committee expressed appreciation for those Friends who have served in acting positions and asks Friends to consider what positions will be needed as we review the future of Quarter.

Cheryl Mitchell agreed to Clerk December Quarter, and Friends approved.

Spencer Smith announced she will resign as Recording Clerk after December Quarter as she will be in Belarus on a Fulbright grant this spring and will miss both March and June Quarters.

5. Ministry and Counsel Reports

(see below)

6. Peace and Social Concerns Reports

(none this Quarter)

7. Visiting Committee Report on the Future of Quarter

Joanna Bombadil and Cheryl Mitchell visited all but three Meetings in our Quarter to get a sense of how Friends feel about Quarter since attendance has been declining, especially at Farm and Wilderness.

(see full report below)

8. Discussion of this Report

- After hearing Joanna's report, Friends expressed their thoughts and/or those of their meeting:
- Keene Business Meeting has recommended three meetings a year with NEYM becoming the fourth "Quarter."
- Several Friends wondered if there were opportunities that would draw more Friends to these. Some wanted a more spiritual focus; others wanted more social activities.
- Several Friends mentioned how many more activities our children – and we -- are involved in than was the case twenty years ago.
- There was a suggestion to cut out one of the winter quarters; another was to cut out the June quarter.
- The idea was expressed that we come together to celebrate a wider community than our monthly meetings. But some said more Friends and their families attend NEYM than in previous years which may be why fewer come to Farm and Wilderness.
- It was suggested that we can't meet the needs of everyone, but Quarter does meet the needs of those who come.
- Do we lack a clarity of purpose of why we meet?
- Should we ask NEYM Ministry and Counsel to meet with us?
- Joanna pointed out that since no one reports on the programs at Quarter, Friends who don't attend don't know about these.
- Question of accessibility (at F&W) was raised since many of our members are getting older.
- Several Friends pointed out that Quarter has the potential to be a spiritual retreat.
- Question raised, do we need a business meeting at each Quarter?
- Nancy Isaacs pointed out that memorial minutes, in fact all minutes that are to be brought to NEYM must come through the Quarter.
- Whether the cost of F&W outweighs the value was raised. Also that when we go to each other's

meetings we connect with more people. Perhaps we should revive Friday night hospitality when we visit local Meetings for Quarter.

- It was agreed that discussion on the future and nature of Quarter will continue.

9. Meeting closed with silence

Spencer Smith, recording clerk



REPORTS

MINISTRY & COUNSEL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 9, 2007

Present at the committee meeting were seven Friends from five different Meetings.

Joanna reflected on traveling to six different Meetings and spoke about the "aliveness of the Quarter. Listening to the sense of loss and anger that things were not the way they used to be." She spoke of "appreciating the ebb and flow, and that the joy of coming to Meeting is not like a big wave, but lots of droplets that come at different times. During this time of change, the Quarter is held loosely, as when loosening a knot so that it can reshape."

On further discussion others offered thoughts on the drop in participation. It was mentioned again that Friends at various Meeting are so involved in local projects that they do not have the energy for Quarter. A question was posed, "What are you doing that you love that you are too busy to come to Quarter?"

One of the joys of coming to Quarter is connecting with others and sharing in one another's good works. When Friends do not attend this opportunity is lost. A suggestion was made that a corner of the newsletter be dedicated to Friends to write about their local ministry projects. It was also suggested that a future Quarter might invite individuals to attend to share in a program to highlight local projects.

Friends from smaller Meetings value Quarter in that it allows for a dimension that only a larger gath-

ering can provide. The Quarter has also been an important source for support, both spiritual and financial. Those who have sought monetary assistance report that it was not so much the money that mattered, but that they were heard and supported. With the mention of money, the question was posed as to whether it is responsible leadership to spend money on Quarterly Meetings at Farm & Wilderness?

Moving on to personal concerns, Hank gave an update on Kate and Ed Kerman of Marlboro who lost their home to a fire. Many Friends have gathered throughout the summer to help build a new home. Hank reports that the roof of the main structure was completed this week and that the Kerman's hope to be in before winter. The Kerman's appreciate the support they have received from the Quarter.

Hank also brought a copy of the Keene Sentinel in which Kate Kerman's work within the local schools on addressing anger and bullying was featured. Kate earned a degree from Leslie College focusing on restorative work within school structures.

A discussion arose concerning leadership and clerking both at individual Meetings and at Quarter. As thus far, no one has stepped forward to be clerk of the Quarter. It was suggested that Friends take advantage of clerking workshops to learn skills to enhance their ability to facilitate and clerk.

While the Quarter is in need of a clerk, we were reminded of the importance of the nominating process and that potential leaders be chosen through a discernment process for the gifts they may offer in service to the Quarter.

A proposal was made to reinstate Ministry & Counsel Meetings on Friday evenings following potluck for the December and March Quarters to allow time for both social and business aspects of the gathering. Ministry and Counsel would like support and suggestions on setting up evening programs.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg Langworthy

PROGRAM REPORT

For the evenings program we gathered in groups of four and were given questions one at a time. We wrote our answers on leaves and shared our answers. This led to some lengthy exchanges. Then we gathered as a large group and shared our answers and hung our colorful leaves on a Quarterly Meeting

Tree, which hung on a window. The following morning the light illuminated the art we created. Below are the questions that were posed with some answers from different individuals.

What do you most look forward to when you're coming to Quarterly Meeting?

- the unexpectedness of the Spirit – I look forward to the fellowship – This beautiful place -
- Good People, Deep Worship – Being able to sleep outside – Meet people who are more
- involved as Quakers – God wants me to be here and follow my calling –
- Being with young people – The Lake – The Friend who are here perceive value and joy in
- being here! – Singing, Dancing, Sauna
- What do you dread?
- Thinking I am responsible

What job do you do most comfortably or easily? (job defined from prayer to sweeping to starting the fire)

- Setting up tables – the camaraderie of scrubbing pots with Friends – banging the gong
- I like the Hobart, its fun

If you had no responsibility, what would you me doing?

Canoeing – Hiking – exploring the farm- I would like to talk with Friends about my calling – I'd go swimming naked in the twilight -

Where is my delight?

- Singing & Dancing & Praying – Watching God move – Playing cello – Books –
- Art in Nature – Moving with Blessing is my delight - Sharing among Friends

Where does God want me? What is He leading me toward?

God has led me to Vermont. He is leading me toward my music. – God expects me to be connected. Not to be effective or an activist. – God wants me to be present, to listen to the truth that others experience and be honest, clear, disciplined and loving – God wants me to embrace ambiguity -

Can I carry this into Quarterly Meeting? What do I need to do that?

My delight is bird watching. I could lead a morning bird walk. I need directions to a path. – I love books – lets have a book discussion group

Following the program Friends enjoyed singing and dancing with Brendan as well as a sauna and swimming!

VISITING COMMITTEE REPORT SEPTEMBER 9, 2007

Cheryl Mitchell and I visited all but three monthly meetings, bringing the queries presented by Monadnock Meeting. All the responses we collected were on papers in the big room at QM, and will be posted on the website. They are worth reading. The queries sorted themselves into: Is QM useful? What about kids? Are our minutes adequately seasoned? What about Farm and Wilderness? Is there another shape of QM we should be looking at?

My personal opinion is that these are the good questions that should be being asked periodically, so they can be answered in new ways, if needed, or we can re-commit to existing forms.

This is what people said, in brief:

Is QM useful? Even when people don't go themselves, they feel the power, energy, and inspiration brought back to their meetings by other attenders. Some meetings only have a strong presence periodically, but that is important at those times. People feel that it's important to gather, to thresh together, to be a bigger community, to inspire each other, to communicate, to work together, to learn new things. Some people love it; some people don't know about it; some people meet their needs through monthly meeting and yearly meeting, and don't feel QM is needed. "Continuity of participation makes it more useful."

What about kids? Most people agree that there are many fewer kids at meetings, with many other outside obligations, especially sports, that keep them from monthly as well as quarterly meetings. The timing of summer quarters is problematic for children, being at the very beginning and end of the school year. People reminded us that when there is a strong program, children and families will make it a priority to come. Childcare has been a burden, though; it should be a calling. Families have often felt strengthened by sharing Quaker time together, but for some, Yearly Meeting works better than Quarterly Meeting. Perhaps we can better support our children's participation at YM retreats, or somehow combine retreats with QM.

Are minutes adequately seasoned at QM? One of our strengths is to gather people from different meetings to discuss, to pray, to hear, to thresh. We have done some good threshing, which helps at

monthly and yearly meetings. Yearly meeting committee members report that NWQ minutes are usually well-seasoned and welcomed.

Farm and Wilderness: Many Friends are older and not comfortable here; many no longer camp and so being here is difficult. Some people prefer not to devote more than one day to Quarterly Meeting. Other people love being here, and treasure the length of time, the opportunities created by doing an overnight, and the deep sense of Spirit in the place and the way of life here. Some people feel unwelcomed; that people are cliquish; that people gather because of the past, but that the present doesn't present the same opportunities for family play or work together. Some people think just being here is important, and that we should play together more; some people think we play too much, and we should do more serious work. Some people would like a more neutral and inexpensive meetingplace.

Other forms: There are strong unanswered questions about whether to leave Farm and Wilderness; whether to shift our calendar so more children might be able to come; whether to split the Quarter in half, because of travel concerns; whether to have three day-long meetings, and one overnight. There seems to be a desire for more jobs to do, to get us here, and more people sharing the jobs. We heard requests for more workshops and for more free time. Some ideas for changes in hosting: One host meeting plan the program, one provide hospitality; M&C meet the night before again; have a committee or person to help with logistics.

And a historical note: Charlie Cogbill was asked to keep track of numbers attending in the late 1980's, and remembers about 20 at winter quarter.

Joanna Bombadil

WORK OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING

This is a little list of what I see is the work of Quarterly Meeting.

Then, what we do supports these tasks.

What our Work is:

- To gather (meet)
- To listen
- To be obedient
- To hold in a stronger light, with a wider light
- To thresh
- To know each other (not isolating)
- To support each other
- To explore what being Friends is, in a different way
- To make a place for children
- To communicate between us (sharing, newsletter)
- To make it happen (logistics)
- To raise concerns from meetings, to send out to meetings (minutes)
- To create opportunities for workshop

Joanna Bombadil

Announcements

Repeated Announcements

NOR'WESTER DUE DATES

January 15, 2008 for the winter issue

April 15, 2008 for the spring issue

July 15, 2008 for the summer issue

October 15, 2008 for the fall issue

Send article submissions to Edward Feustel at efeustel@hughes.net

Send address changes to Alan Taplow at ataplow@vtlink.net

NOR'WESTER DISTRIBUTION POLICY

At the NWQ Meeting on December 3rd, 2005, we resolved to update our mailing list for the Nor'wester and to establish other ways of distribution which assure that all members and regular attenders in the Quarter who want to receive the Nor'wester, do receive it in a timely manner.

We are doing this in 3 ways:

1. The most economical way from a monetary as well as an ecological standpoint is to post the Nor'wester on an internet web page, and then

send e-mail to members and attenders to let them know when the current issue is available for viewing. This has the advantage of saving postage and saving trees. Additionally then, there would be an archive on the web so back issues with all previous minutes, decisions, and features would be easily available to all.

2. A second way will be to make a mailing of multiple copies to meetings, making them available to members and attenders who may not already be receiving The Nor'wester by e-mail or postal service.
3. Finally, we will use the post office to mail paper copies to those who are unable, or find it inconvenient, to get it either electronically or at the meetinghouse.

If you are aware of any NWQ Members or Attenders who are not receiving the Nor'wester in one of these ways, please advise me:

Alan Taplow, Subscription List Coordinator
844 John Fowler Road
Plainfield VT 05667
802-454-4675 ataplow@vtlink.net

New Announcements

WOLMAN HILL CONFERENCE

November 17-18

George Lakey, internationally respected visionary activist will be at Woolman Hill to lead a conference on "Making Your Activism More Sustainable". He is an author, activist, and founder of Training for Change. Well known for his conflict resolution work in high-conflict areas, he has run trainings for coal miners, therapists, homeless people, prisoners, Russian lesbians and gays, Sri Lankan monks, Burmese guerrilla soldiers, striking steel workers, South African activists, and others. Currently serving as a senior associate at Swarthmore College's Lang Center for Civic and Social Responsibility,

George has taught courses titled "Humanitarian Intervention: Nonviolent Options" and "Nonviolent Responses to Terrorism". On the personal side, George is a Quaker, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather in an interracial family. He received the national Giraffe Award for "sticking his neck out for the common good", and the Ashley Mantague Peace Award from the International Conference on Conflict Resolution. (See the Training for Change website: www.trainingforchange.org for more info)

Judith Shea will join him in leading the workshop. She is a long-time health care activist and co-founder of the Movement for a New Society. They will share stories, and draw out stories of the participants. Participants will explore how to deal with the emotional, physical and spiritual demands of activism. What are the challenges of being an activist for the long run? The workshop will be highly experiential and will include participatory activities, small group sharing, mini-lectures, reflection, and fun. We will be journeying together as an intact group- no coming late, leaving early, or time off in the middle. Come prepared to inspire one another and pick up some tools for personal sustainability in the process!

Note: This workshop will begin Saturday morning at 10am and end Sunday at 4pm. Participants are welcome to sojourn at Woolman Hill Friday and/or Sunday night. More information and registration forms at www.woolmanhill.org or call 413-774-3431.

If you haven't visited Woolman Hill in awhile, please come see all the work the staff and volunteers have done on the main conference center, cabins (the yurt is repaired!), North Dartmouth meeting house, and the grounds. Fall is a perfect time to get to know/get reacquainted with 'the hill'.

NOR'WESTER ON THE WEB; BOUNCING E-MAILS

Many thanks to all who are receiving the Nor'wester on the Web. The latest issue may always be found at: <http://omlets.tripod.com/norwester/> I have a long list of e-mail addresses and want to let everyone know when the latest issue is posted on the web, but I'm finding that many people have changed their e-mail, and their notifications are bouncing.

I could use some help in discovering the current e-mail address of those wanting to receive notice of the availability of the Nor'wester on the web. I could use a volunteer at each meeting who would gather & send me current e-mail addresses. Send them to Alan Taplow at ataplow@vmlink.net

NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING

Unfortunately, information about the next quarterly meeting was not received by our deadline. Please access the website -- <http://omlets.tripod.com/norwester/> for further information.

Northwest Quarterly Meeting Budget

June 1, 2007 - September 1, 2007

	Budget 2007	Receipts/Expenses	2007 Balance
RECEIPTS			
Meeting Contributions	7,200.00	4,025.00	3,175.00
Individual Contributions	0.00	50.00	50.00
Bank Interest	0.00	.85	(.85)
Total Receipts	7,200.00	4,075.85	3,124.15
EXPENSES			
Operating Expenses			
Quarterly Meetings Expenses			
Farm and Wilderness - 2 meetings	2,100.00	1,050.00	1,050.00
Two Quarterly Mtgs at Home Mtgs	100.00	0	100.00
Program includes \$450 for band Sept	500.00	0	500.00
Young Friends Programs	200.00	0	200.00
Nor'Wester	1,300.00	477.30	822.70
Clerk	25.00	0	25.00
Office Expenses	10.00	0	10.00
Ministry & Council			
Subtotal	4,235.00	1,527.30	2,707.70
DONATIONS TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS			
Farm and Wilderness-Camperships	1,000.00	1,000.00	0
The Meeting School-Scholarships	1,000.00	1,000.00	0
Vermont Ecumenical	200.00	200.00	0
NH Council of Churches	100.00	100.00	0
Chaplaincy Program	150.00	150.00	0
Special Projects (\$50 to be added each	200.00	100.00	100.00
Quarter to Bowl 2)			
Loan Fund Loans	1,000.00	0	1,000.00
Subtotal	3,650.00	2,550.00	1,100.00
Total Expenses	7,885.00	4,077.30	3,807.70
Mar QM			
Bowl 1			
Bowl 2	\$85 (50 + 35) to Earthcare Witness, c/o Burlington Meeting		
Jun QM			
Bowl 1	\$80	F & W	
Bowl 2	\$150 (\$100 + \$50) to Kate and Ed Kerman for house fire		
Sep QM			
Bowl 1		F & W	
Bowl 2			
Dec QM			
Bowl 1			
Bowl 2			

*The Quarter agreed to a deficit budget until the checking account reaches a minimum of \$2,000 Balance in checking account \$2,501.31 as of 9/1/07

Prepared by Martha Ladam, Treasurer



NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING HOST/SITE ROTATION CALENDAR

December 2007, Burlington

March 2008, Plainfield/Barton-Glover

The hosting rotation:

Putney/Keene

Middlebury/Bennington

Hanover

South Starksboro/Wilderness

Burlington

Plainfield/Barton Glover

Monadnock/Quaker City Unity

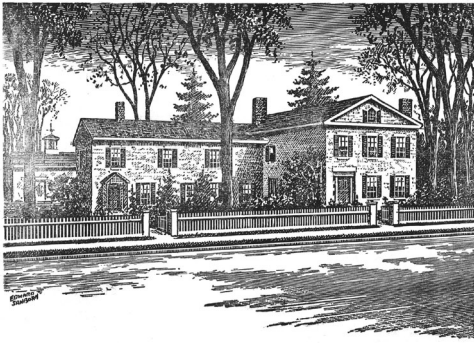
NORTH WEST QUARTERLY MEETING

Religious Society of Friends

844 John Fowler RD

Plainfield VT 05667-9394

Fall 2007 Newsletter



Friends are invited to attend
The North West Quarterly Meeting
Hosted by Burlington Friends Meeting
173 North Prospect Street
Burlington, Vermont
Directions on other side

Friday, November 30

Committee Meetings will be held 7:00 pm-9:00 pm. Overnight hospitality is available.

Young Friends Overnight-Burlington Friends Meeting Youth invite other Middle and High School aged Young Friends to an Overnight (see details below))

Saturday, December 1st

- 9:00 am Warm beverages and light munchies
- 9:30 am Meeting for Worship
- 10:30 am Break
- 10:45 am Meeting for Worship for Business (Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk)
- 12:00 pm Lunch
(Soup and Bread provided - Please bring fruit and cheese to share)
- 1:00 pm Program: Worship Sharing

How do we seek to Deepen our Relationship to Spirit, Each Other and our Quaker Roots?

As attendance falls at our Quarterly Meeting, we hope that Friends from all NWQM Monthly Meetings will be led to attend and to engage with one another as well as with our Quaker process. Friends from Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting in Maine are interested in the opportunity for sharing and support with our Quarter and are considering making the journey to Burlington for our Quarterly Meeting.

2:30 pm Safe Journey Home

For more information or for Friday night hospitality, please contact Beth Truzansky 863-2427
truzansky@burlingtontelecom.net or Jeanne Plo 864-1888 j.plo@verizon.net

Burlington Friends Meeting Youth
invite other middle and high school aged young friends to an overnight.

Friday, November 30th
Arrival at Burlington Friends Meeting 7:00 PM
until 2:30 PM Saturday, December 1st.

What will we do?

There are lots of possibilities. Friday night We may watch a movie, play games, and do other fun activities. Saturday we may help with Small Potatoes (Burlington's Saturday Homeless Hunger program), do more fun activities, participate in some of the adult program and there will definitely be some eating, talking and laughing.

Have other ideas, questions or to RSVP?

Call Maria Mercurio at 862-2267.

Overnight will be held at Burlington's Meeting House
with the presence of Young Adult Friends as support.

From I-89, take exit 14W, US-2 W toward Burlington, continue to follow US-2, Turn right at University Pl., jog left at Colchester Ave. & immediately turn right onto N. Prospect St. Go 4 + blocks to Meeting House on left side of street, at rear of 173 N Prospect St.



Directions to Quarterly Meeting at Burlington Meetinghouse, Dec. 1st

**Report From Nominating Committee
Submitted by June Goodband**

There have been so many changes in the past few months that it has been exciting to be on nominating committee.

- Ed Feustel has stepped forward to edit the Nor'wester.
- Martha Ladam resigned as Treasurer.
- Spencer Smith reported that she will be traveling abroad and will not be able to serve as Recording Clerk during the March and June Quarterly Meetings.
- Marcia Mason has accepted the position of Treasurer, pending approval of this nomination by the December Quarterly Meeting.
- We have nominated a potential Clerk who is currently considering serving. We hope to have this nomination ready by the December Meeting.
- We are seeking a temporary Recording Clerk to serve in March and June.
- Arnold Ricks continues to serve on Nominating Committee, even though his term has expired, because we have not yet found someone from the southern portion of the Quarter to serve on Nominating Committee. A second position on Nominating Committee will be open soon.

Please call June Goodband at 802-626-3453 junegoodband@verizon.net if you are interested serving the Quarter in any of these positions or if you have questions about what the positions entail.

The list of people currently serving the Quarter with their terms is as follows:

Recording Clerk: Spencer Smith 2006-2009

Treasurer: Martha Ladam Resigning effective ASAP

Nor'Wester Editor: Ed Feustel 2007-2010

Mailing list coordinator: Alan Taplow 2006-2009

Ministry and Counsel Clerk: Meg Langworthy 2007-2010

Nominating Committee: Arnold Ricks Term expired (still serving)

Nominating Committee: June Goodband 2005-2008

The following positions are filled by volunteers with the approval of Business Meeting:

VEC Trustee: Christopher McCandles 2005-2008

Interfaith Power and Light: Ruah Swinerfelt 2005-2008

Contra Dance Coordinator: Brendan Taafe 2006-2009