

**PYM Peace & Social Order Committee**  
**Report to RepCom 2017**

The Peace and Social Order Committee (PSO) has had monthly conference calls and discussed a wide range of issues, many of which are reflected in the interest groups. Even though there has been a lot of energy and enthusiasm for peace and justice related activities since the election, no minutes of concern have come to the attention of our Committee.

We have had conversations with M and O about procedures for seasoning and presenting minutes of concern to the Yearly Meeting annual session. We are clear that the clerks of PSO, UwN, LACC and the Racial Justice Sub-Committee need to be part of the conversation regarding minutes of concern.

We are also clear that the clerks of PSO, UwN, LACC and the Racial Justice Sub-Committee need to work together to coordinate the schedule for interest groups so that they don't compete with each other, as happened last year. Following are the interest groups PSO wishes to sponsor for Annual Session 2017:

**Fox and Prophetic Witness.** We'll look at key passages in Fox's journal dealing with "civil disobedience," "speaking truth to power," and other aspects of prophetic witness.

**How Can Friends Navigate and Counter Islamophobic Rhetoric?** Due to the increase in Islamophobic rhetoric and proposed policies that equate Islam as a world religion with terrorism, we will explore the production of phobias in our country in order to counter these imperial imaginary constructs. Productions of evil rely on cultivating fear in civil society, therefore, learning how to delink these social imaginaries is key to countering the fears and injustices of our time. Led by Shannon Frediani

**Waging Peace in the Trump Era.** What are some of the Spirit-led and most effective ways to respond to Trump's militarism and jingoism? We will look at George Lakey's "Ten Steps for Stopping Trump." Led by Anthony Manousos and David Hartsough, who will also share his thoughts and experiences traveling to Russia in the past year, his seventh trip there since 1961. David is the author of *Waging Peace: Global Adventures of a Lifelong Activist*

**Quakers needed: Our country needs Friends in public office.** National politics gets the Headlines, but local government decisions affect us the most. There are about 400 locally elected officials for every state and federal elected official: school boards and water boards; city councils and mayors; county supervisors; sheriffs and district attorneys; fire districts, hospital districts, and numerous special districts. This interest group will encourage Quakers to do it themselves and, equally important, to identify, encourage, and support well qualified candidates who share our Quaker values. Led by Janet Gastil. [FCNL and FCL-CA may participate in this interest group.]

**Friends Helping Communities.** David Brietzmann, San Francisco Meeting, and Linnea Hanson, Chico Meeting, plan to continue their work on supporting social work that Friends Meetings and Worship Groups are undertaking in Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM). Our goal is to link those that are working on similar kinds of social work to be able to learn from each other. We also would like the social work that Friends Meetings are doing to be known by others in Pacific Yearly Meeting so that their experiences can be shared with other meetings that may want to start a similar work.

Yours in friendship and peace,  
Anthony Manousos, co-clerk