

Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Adult Committee Report to PYM Annual Session 2018

SUMMARY

We had hoped for one in-person adult committee meeting in the fall, but were unable to find a suitable date. Instead we met via Western Friend's online meeting space. The full committee began to meet in January, and JYM leadership met at Representative Committee to handily plan JYM activities at Walker Creek. Two resignations left us with 6 adult committee members. Anticipating that next year the committee will meet in person only at Representative Committee led us to reduce our committee budget request.

Reflections

We were blessed with the logistical support and institutional knowledge of the PYM Youth Programs Coordinator (YPC), without whom this Clerk would have been sorely beset. I trust that the Youth Programs Coordinating Committee Report will enumerate all the YPC's assistance to JYM as well as to PYM as a whole, and I want to particularly mention the annual JYM committee workplan which has this year been fleshed out and recorded, offering an invaluable piece of institutional memory for future JYM Committees.

Much of the YPC's assistance was related to information technology (IT), including some catering to the Clerk's IT backwardness. One major contributor to whatever generation gap now exists is communication technology. The proliferation of modes makes it easier for messages to get lost, but snail mail and paper letters are a great backup simply because personal letters have become so unusual. Meanwhile, Western Friend's online meeting space was made available to us, and substantially enhanced the fellowship in our committee meetings.

The Clerk's idea of trying three 8-hour shifts for FRAPs rather than just the two 12-hour shifts was poorly advertised but one Friend commented that a less exigent time frame would be more conducive. Though none of the 2018 FRAPs indicated interest in that option (which would offer only a partial discount) it might attract others if they had time to think about it in advance.

Teens nowadays have many demands on their time, and are I think rather busier than teens were a generation or 2 ago. The Clerk's goal of empowering teens to take on leadership and decision-making was mildly challenged by this contemporary reality. Of course, this phase of life usually includes a dynamic tension between the waning of childhood and followership, and practicing autonomy and leadership. And just as naturally, adult committee members and FRAPs can also practice and grow our own leadership abilities.

We find service on this committee to be intriguing and rewarding, and we encourage Friends to consider joining this inter-generational committee, or applying to be a Friendly Responsible Adult Presence (FRAP). We are looking forward to fun and fellowship in a few weeks.

Submitted by Muriel Strand
JYM Adult Clerk