Electronic Communications Subcommittee
and
Web Coordinator

Report to M&O 2012

Work has continued on increasing PYM-relevant content on our website. We have created an on-line registration process for both RepCom in March and this current Annual Session at Walker Creek and ask for Friends feedback so we learn where we can improve this process in the future. Our Youth Program Coordinator has been able to manage the Youth Program's content directly on the site, and we encourage other committees to learn more about utilizing this outreach for your own committee's work.

A Leading:
Maintaining Community Connections in the Digital Age.

After years of working with various data points from Quarterly and Yearly positions, and sitting in on recent AS Evaluation meetings, it's become abundantly clear to me that something fundamental needs to change in the collection, management and distribution of all the "meta data" that makes up our Pacific Yearly Meeting. By meta data, I'm referring to the sum total of our Yearly, Quarter, Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups data, including Members and Attenders, Nominating rosters from each level (YM, QM, MM), full contact details of committees, representatives, meeting houses and individuals, PYM Organizations and Schools, and the full calendar of events for each level.

Currently each level of our structure collates their own pile of data to do their committee work, and frequently has to resort to word of mouth, emails or phone calls to find out what's happening at other levels (if they know other levels exist or whom to contact). This means that each level is duplicating the work of the other two levels, or

working with limited knowledge of the community as a whole. This is wasteful of our limited resources and time, and takes away from the core focus of our officers, representatives and committees.

Also, most of the data we use is locked in from the date of printing of the Quarterly Directories each July/Sept, assuming you have a copy, so changes that might happen after printing are difficult to be known throughout our community.

My proposal:
Create an on-line database that is a searchable "virtual" duplication of our Yearly Meeting organizational structure, and let each branch of the organizational tree manage their own data.

It is my belief that open-source solutions are inherently more robust long-term as you are not placing your resources into a propriety program that has unknown support or maintenance costs going forward. I suggest we tap into the experiences of groups currently using such programs, such as Brylie Oxley of Woolman Semester.

There are open-source products that provide Customer Relationship Management (CRM) solutions that can be adapted to fill our needs in a single on-line database with a web-friendly interface to manage data, return basic query results (e.g. "Who are our MM Reps? And how do I contact them?", or "How do I contact all the MM/P&SO/M&O Clerks?", and support for all levels of our Yearly Meeting, from Nominating to Registrations, Members and seekers alike.

A searchable library/archive of recent minutes, reports, newsletters, etc could also be integrated into the project.

Once the database is launched, for example; each MM can appoint someone to update their own MM data as changes happen at the local level year round, thereby updating the

whole community in real time and the data is no longer locked in from last printing of the directory.

We would follow best-practices for securing the data, require account registration and password controls to access the data at all times. We would assign various roles from "read only, basic searches" to "MM edits" "NomCom edits" etc. to control the security of the data and restrict access as needed.

To start out the project, we would import both current quarterly directories, the nominating rosters and other relevant details, so we ask for a minute of support for the Electronic Communications subcommittee to oversee this project and report back on our progress at RepCom 2013.

The Electronic Communications Subcommittee consists of Don Bean (Clerk and PYM Web Coordinator, Conejo Valley WG), Tom Yamaguchi (Strawberry Creek MM), Jan Tappan (Orange Grove MM) and Eric Moon (Berkeley FM). We wish to add Brylie Oxley (Currently at Woolman Semester) and Kerwin Flowers (La Jolla FM) for the 2012-2013 Term to provide logistical and technical support for the subcommittee to establish this project.