

Peace and Social Order Committee Report to Representative Committee 2018

Peace and Social Order has had monthly conference call since September 2017 and met for our first “in person” gathering on February 10th from 9:30am to 4:30pm at the Visalia Friends Meetinghouse. Our day together provided an opportunity to bond and to assess several things: Visioning, Networking, Interest Group Proposals, and current concerns based on state of the meeting reports.

Friends, attending to the needs of Pacific Yearly Meeting’s Monthly Meetings and our members and attenders during a time of great need in our nation, as well as during a time of aging and dwindling numbers in our own community, creates new questions. What is our role as Peace and Social Order committee at this time? How do we forge bonds of support for monthly meetings regarding peace and social justice concerns while our members are aging and experiencing diminishing physical capacities? How then do we move forward? In addition, what do we have to celebrate at this time regarding peace and social concerns?

Visioning and reassessing guidelines:

- A priority was to review to the Peace and Social Order committee guidelines from both Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) and Intermountain Yearly Meeting (IMYM).

IMYM Peace and Service committee’s purpose and the detailed list of responsibilities was compared to that of the Pacific Yearly Meeting. Our consensus was to merge the two documents for our PYM PSO committee. The process was begun, but not completed. We look forward to completing the necessary revisions and submitting it at a later date.

- We decided to have our next “in person” gathering in September 2018 to welcome new members, build community within our PSO committee members, delegate responsibilities to network and do outreach with contacts from monthly meetings, and set the intentions for our working together until PYM of 2019.

- Monthly conference calls will provide follow up.

- In addition, we have decided to meet as a committee at PYM.

Networking:

Two of our members, Linnea Hanson and David Breitzmann, have been contacting monthly meetings (since 2016) throughout PYM regarding their peace and social

concerns. We as a committee want to acknowledge and name the many service projects that Friends have initiated and fostered. They are as follows:

24 monthly meetings involved in Alternatives to Violence Project

18 working with the unsheltered

4 working with ecumenical groups

3 working with international ministries

2 that have set up non profits for their outreach

In addition, many members of monthly meetings are involved in multiple peace and social justice activities such as Prison Packages, and fundraising for non profits locally.

Friends show great adaptability to stay as involved as they can in various circumstances.

- PSO is committed to building relationships through networking with Monthly Meetings as a way to support and strengthen peace and social concerns by sharing resources, skills, and lessons learned.

Interest Group Proposals:

- We as a committee advocate for Quaker organizations like AFSC, FCNL and FCLCA to be guaranteed interest groups (IG) separate from the allotted amount of 3 IG for PSO.
- For PYM 2018 the PSO committee endorses the IG proposals from AFSC (Replacing Militarized Police) and FCNL (In for the Long Haul - staying faithful during troubled times), but they are not part of the 3 IG groups PSO chose.
- PSO prioritized economic injustice, the CA state water issue, and networking monthly meeting peace and social concerns for our three interest group proposals for PYM 2018.

In conclusion, we are in awe of all of the various peace and justice work being done, and also attentive to the need to support monthly meetings that are dwindling.

Submitted by Shannon Frediani, clerk.