

Arrangements Committee

Report to Representative Committee 2019

New Committee!

Arrangements is a new committee of Pacific Yearly Meeting responsible for the logistical support for Annual Session. Our charge also covers the tasks of the former Site Committee, which includes exploring appropriate sites for the holding of Annual Session. We appreciate the support of Friends as we discover and understand what it means to work together.

About Annual Session 2019

Please let us know about meeting room requests well in advance of Annual Session. Arrangements makes no assumptions as to groups wanting to meet outside of the scheduled sessions. A group that met last year may not do so again this year. And new groups may be formed. The meeting space charts will be posted outside the dining hall to help groups find their own spaces, but knowing the requests in advance will help everyone enjoy our time together.

Arrangements is taking into discernment comments received regarding the food service at Walker Creek Ranch during Annual Session. We will report the results of our discernment and consequent conversations with Walker Creek through our report to Annual Session.

We will be communicating with attendees and with the PYM community in advance of Annual Session regarding rides to and from Walker Creek Ranch. Please be thinking about how you can help Friends navigate their journey to and from Annual Session – offer to organize a carpool or vanpool; or to pick up someone at a Bay Area airport. And let us know!

Exploration of Alternate Sites for the Holding of Annual Session

Walker Creek Ranch near Petaluma in Sonoma County has been our site for Annual Session since 2014. We have used this site 9 times since 1984.

We understand that Friends, and the Children's and JYM programs in particular, enjoy Walker Creek Ranch as the site for Annual Session. Although this site is situated in a beautiful natural setting, there are rising concerns as to the site itself and access to it.

1. There is no public transportation to/from Walker Creek Ranch, which means Friends without their own mode of transportation necessarily need to rely on others to help them get to/from Walker Creek Ranch. This can be particularly challenging for Friends arriving or departing outside of normal business hours.
2. Several of the buildings at Walker Creek Ranch are not ADA accessible, which limits the opportunities for Friends in wheelchairs to participate in sessions and activities. Have you ever tripped over a slight rise in a doorway entering a building? That slight rise can look like a 10-foot wall to a wheelchair.
3. Walker Creek Ranch is a large site, with meeting and sleeping spaces spread throughout. The terrain is frequently uneven, which poses its own challenges, particularly in the dark. Although we have the support of a golf cart to move Friends around the site, it can take Friends who prefer to walk up to 20 minutes to get from the dining hall to some of the meeting spaces.

In addition to the concerns expressed above, and others that Arrangements is taking into discernment, we acknowledge that Friends from Southern California may find attending Annual Session at Walker Creek Ranch cost and/or time prohibitive. We also acknowledge that selecting a consistent site has both advantages and disadvantages.

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Arrangements Committee is exploring alternate sites throughout the state of California and will share its findings with the Presiding Clerk. Meanwhile, efforts are being made to encourage and facilitate attendance at Annual Session by all Friends in our Yearly Meeting, regardless of where they live.

Arrangements Committee welcomes comments and concerns, which should be communicated to our committee clerk.

The Committee consists of

- Ann Fuller (Santa Monica)
- Don Sands (Sacramento)
- Emily Walden (Central Coast)
- Jan Turner (Humboldt)
- Kate Connell (Santa Barbara)
- Bronwen Hillman (Mexico City), Clerk