

**Called Concord Quarterly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**Held at Concord Monthly Meeting**  
**June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Meeting began with a period of silent worship. Clerk Rich Ailes welcomed everyone. There were 21 Friends in attendance. Friends from Birmingham, Concord, Goshen, Middletown, West Chester, Westtown, Willistown and Wilmington were present. The agenda was reviewed and approved.

**Status of Coordinator position discussion** was led by Rich Ailes. The minutes from the prior Quarterly Meeting with regard to the coordinator position were read. Western Quarter met on May eighth. Their quarter has concerns after losing their youth coordinator and the slow pace that Concord Quarter is moving to hire a new coordinator. Western Quarter has notified our quarter that they have begun advertising for a part-time coordinator position but they are open to a full-time position should Concord Quarter be ready to support the shared coordinator position. Western Quarter is putting more emphasis on the youth coordinator and only requires 15 hours a week for administrative and newsletter activities out of the quarter coordinator.

Rich received a letter from Pam Costanzi that Willistown Monthly Meeting has approved funds for the coordinator position and is recommending that the Quarter hire a contractor on its own for 20 hours per week without benefits.

**Report on the Brandywine Region Coordinator** was given by Sallie Jones. Beginning about 1996, there was a leading for a youth and outreach coordinator. Western Quarter joined the Brandywine region as a "large monthly meeting." Participants described the venture as complicated and time consuming. Though it was a good experiment, the participants didn't have enough energy and time to do this work. From 1997 to 2002, Helen Fields was the coordinator for the nineteen meetings in the region. Each meeting was invited to send two representatives, but at no time did the region ever have full representation. The representatives met five or six times a year, went through several clerks, and was challenged to determine what Helen should do. There was a newsletter, youth events, and briefly singles events. In addition to the difficulty of sustaining energy, different personalities presented their own challenges. Sallie did not think this proposed shared coordinator position is exactly comparable to the Brandywine Region coordinator, but she sees similar problems. Another Friend who participated in the Brandywine region program had a sense of each group staying entrenched in their own regions that were difficult to overcome.

Another Friend said they never understood the concept of the "Brandywine Region" and sensed that the Quarter really came into its own after the Brandywine region program ended. Another Friend remembered it as an unwieldy situation and there were many Friends that came onto the committee and would go off in frustration.

A Friend noted that she interacted and made connections with other Friends in the Brandywine Region that she believes she never would have had otherwise

In response to a question on the importance of visiting, Beth related that it was very important in our Quarter to visit the meetings because it is part of our Quarter's mission and goals to connect the meetings to each other and the Quarter. Being present on Sunday mornings is vital to this goal. She also said that Western Quarter would not expect this as they have different expectations and a different model and expect their clerks to do the Meeting visitation.

Friends entered into a period of Worship Sharing. The Clerk asked Friends to consider whether the Quarter should or should not pursue a shared position with Western Quarter.

Some Friends present had a sense that there are different goals from each Quarter and foresee difficulty in asking one coordinator to fulfill both Quarter's needs. Our Quarter is seeking the assistance of someone for service and community. Though financially helpful, there is no shared vision between the two Quarters on what service the coordinator would provide.

A Friend expressed her discomfort with staying within ourselves and ask that Friends consider other ways in which we could work together. Besides the coordinator position, there are still opportunities to bring the quarters together, perhaps with the youth.

A Friend shared her experience with the Iraqi Refugee Resettlement Program. It was a program that was not run at a

monthly, quarterly, or yearly meeting level. Members participated as they were led and Beth was asked to help when the program was starting.

**The Clerk sensed the Quarter is not prepared at this time to share a coordinator with Western Quarter, but the Quarter is prepared to take this opportunity to search for other avenues to work with Western Quarter such as youth experiences in particular. Friends approved.**

Friends reaffirmed the part-time position as presented in the April Quarterly Meeting.

**Friends approved adding Valerie Peery to the hiring sub-committee composed of Rich Ailes, Ray Hamilton, Beth Lawn, Peter Lane, and Tom Woodward.**

A Friend asked that the Planning Committee determine the competitiveness of the salary amount in the proposal. The response was that this amount is comparable with the money paid to the yearly meeting staff.

The Quarter will be requesting a part-time contract position, and the treasurer will have to provide the compensation amount to the IRS.

Beth noted that her employment position is terminated as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. Her severance is in the form of unemployment compensation and that compensation requires any employment work she performs to be less than 50 percent of her prior pay. **Friends approved using Beth as a part time contractor following her termination as an employee of the Yearly Meeting until a new coordinator can be found.**

#### **Announcements**

The Quarter's Tubing on the Brandywine will be on Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup>. Please see the flyer for more information.

Every Wednesday evening, Westtown holds a covered dish picnic and all Friends are welcome.

Meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Lavin  
Recording Clerk

Richard Ailes  
Clerk