

**NPYM Representatives and Funding for Affiliated Organizations
Queries for Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups
January 2012**

Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups are asked to thresh the issues put forth in this document and to season your feedback into a corporate response. Input from individuals is also welcome. ***Please submit responses by February 28, 2012*** to jonathanwbrown@yahoo.com.

Background

The members of the NPYM ad hoc committee on Representatives to Affiliated Organizations are Jonathan Brown, clerk (South Seattle), Norm Pasche (University/isolated), Carl Abbott (Multnomah), and Eddy Crouch (Multnomah).

The ad hoc committee's charge is:

- To review current and historical monetary expectations and outlay.
- To make a recommendation on the amount of monetary gift from NPYM to affiliated organizations.
- To examine the number of needed representatives to each organization and make a recommendation.
- To explore and make a recommendation on an equitable way and amount to adequately fund the travel of our representatives to organizations.
- To provide explicit expectations on what representatives to organizations do back here within our NPYM geographic region.

The committee was established in July 2011, and hopes to fulfill its mandate by bringing a report and proposal to the NPYM Annual Session in July 2012.

Key to organizations and acronyms

AFSC – American Friends Service Committee is a Quaker organization that sponsors service, development, and peace programs both nationally and internationally.

FCNL – Friends Committee on National Legislation is a Quaker lobby in the public interest located in Washington, DC.

FWCC – Friends World Committee for Consultation is an international organization that encourages fellowship among all branches of the Religious Society of Friends.

WF – Western Friend publishes a magazine and undertakes other activities to build community among the three western unprogrammed yearly meetings (NPYM, PYM, IYM).

FPT – Friends Peace Teams works around the world to develop long-term relationships with communities in conflict to create programs for peacebuilding, healing and reconciliation.

QEW – Quaker Earthcare Witness is a network of Friends in North America who are taking spirit-led action to address the ecological and social crises of the world.

Note regarding organizations currently undergoing the affiliation process

Separate committees have been appointed by NPYM to assist with seasoning issues related to affiliation with Friends General Conference (FGC) and Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC). These committees are expected to report at Annual Session 2012, which could lead to unity to affiliate with both, one, or neither of these organizations. The ad hoc committee assumes that any structures approved for appointing and funding representatives to existing organizations would also apply to future affiliations. However, this proposal does not explicitly address the additional funding required by affiliation with FGC or FLGBTQC. Nevertheless, Friends may want to bear the potential additional costs in mind as they consider the implications of the various approaches described herein.

1) Number of Representatives to Organizations

NPYM has been affiliated with three Quaker organizations since its inception—AFSC, FCNL, and FWCC—and has also been one of three yearly meetings which appoint the board for WF. More recently the decision was made to affiliate with FPT, and, at the 2011 Annual Session, Friends agreed to affiliate with QEW. The number of representatives for each organization is based on criteria established by the affiliated organization. The current number of representatives to these organizations is:

AFSC – 4
FCNL – 6
FWCC – 4

WF – 3
FPT – 2
QEW – 1 full/1 alternate

Options discussed so far by the ad hoc committee range from maintaining the current number of representatives to reducing the number to three for AFSC, FCNL, and FWCC, and to one for FPT and QEW. Under the latter scenario, since typically not all representatives are able to attend all meetings every year, there might also be one “alternate” appointed for each organization to fill in when a “full” representative is unable to attend.

Queries:

How many representatives do you believe is an adequate number to represent NPYM to/from the affiliated organizations? What effect does the number of representatives have on our relationship to the national organizations? On our stewardship of the earth's resources? On the effectiveness of the organizations?

What do you think about nominating “alternate” representatives to attend affiliated organization meetings when a “full” representative is not able to attend?

How do you feel about appointing more representatives than NPYM is able to adequately fund given that some representatives are willing to cover some or all of their own expenses?

2) Funding Costs for Representatives to Organizations

Currently, the NPYM FY2012 budget allocates the following amounts for representatives to travel to the meetings of their respective organizations:

AFSC - \$2400 (one meeting/year in Philadelphia, PA)
FCNL - \$2400 (one meeting/year in Washington, DC)
FWCC - \$2400 (one meeting/year in North America)
WF - \$2400 (three meetings/year in western US)
FPT - \$900 (one meeting/year in US)
QEW - \$450 (two meetings/year in US)
TOTAL = \$11,850 (includes \$900 for FLGBTQC)

The Ad Hoc Committee interviewed affiliated organizations and their NPYM representatives and found a range of expenses for annual attendance at all meetings:

AFSC - \$900 - \$1200
FCNL - \$900 - \$1500
FWCC - \$950
WF - \$500 - \$750
FPT - \$550
QEW - \$1000 - \$1500 (estimated since no rep yet appointed)

Current NPYM policy states, "Our intent is to fund the work of NPYM's representatives to other organizations at a level which allows people we name to these positions to serve without regard to their ability to fund the sometimes expensive travel involved in this work." In practice, the representatives to a given organization are expected by NPYM to decide as a group how to allocate the funds budgeted for the organization they represent. In order to receive reimbursement for expenses, representatives complete a reimbursement form (available online) and submit it to the NPYM Treasurer. This form includes the amount of in-kind contribution donated to NPYM, if any.

The ad hoc committee has considered several possibilities about how the funds for representative's attendance at meetings might be budgeted, including the following:

- Continue to budget separate amounts for each affiliated organization
- Budget a single pool of money to cover expenses for all representatives to all organizations
- If requests for reimbursement from representatives exceed the amount budgeted, NPYM would still cover the expenses.
- Budget a fixed, maximum amount for each representative

If separate amounts were budgeted for each affiliated organization to cover the *full* cost of the current number of representatives to attend every meeting, the budget might look like this:

AFSC - \$3,600	FPT - \$1,100
FWCC - \$3,800	QEW - \$1,450
FCNL - \$7,800	WF - \$2,250
TOTAL = \$20,000	

Thus conceivably a single pool of funds for all representatives might be budgeted anywhere from \$11,850 (the FY12 amount) to \$20,000.

If each representative had the same maximum amount budgeted per year for expenditures, say \$900, total budgeted funding would be \$18,000 for the current number of representatives.

Queries:

What are your thoughts about budgeting a single pool of funds for representatives to attend meetings of affiliated organizations?

Would you prefer to set a maximum amount that each representative could submit annually for expense reimbursement, or to have NPYM cover all reasonable expenses of representatives attending meetings of affiliated organizations, regardless of the cost?

How much money do you think would be adequate for NPYM to budget annually for representatives to affiliated organizations? Providing additional funding for representatives may require an increase in the annual assessment paid by Monthly Meetings to NPYM. How does this affect your response?

3) Amount of monetary gift from NPYM to affiliated organizations

The FY2012 budget allots \$150 in contributions to each of the affiliated organizations (AFSC, FCNL, FWCC, FPT and QEW); WF is budgeted to receive a \$7,000 subsidy from NPYM.

The ad hoc committee has brainstormed a number of ideas regarding how to determine the amount to contribute to NPYM affiliated organizations, such as:

- Make a monetary contribution from NPYM to organizations on a per representative basis
- Recommend that the NPYM Finance Committee consider a small increase each year
- Ask the Coordinating Committee to send additional contributions from unspent money in its Unanticipated Opportunities fund at the end of each fiscal year

Members of the ad hoc committee have suggested amounts for the monetary contribution from NPYM to affiliated organizations ranging from maintaining the status quo to increasing to \$250 per representative to the organization.

Queries:

What would be an adequate amount of money for NPYM to budget annually for charitable contributions to the organizations with which we affiliate?

What is the best way to go about making decisions about how much NPYM will contribute to affiliated organizations each year?

4) Expectations about what representatives do within the NPYM region

Job descriptions for each organizational representative have been prepared by NPYM in cooperation with the relevant organization. In addition to the duties and expectations requested by the affiliated organization, NPYM expects its representatives to report back to the Coordinating Committee on their experience with the work of the organization, and to attend NPYM Annual Session. The representatives also work with their organization to bring a report or other program as part of a plenary at Annual Session once every six years on a rotating basis. Representatives may also bring any business associated with their organization to the attention of the NPYM presiding clerk for consideration by the Yearly Meeting. Each year at Annual Session, the Associate Clerk of Coordinating Committee convenes a meeting of all NPYM's representatives. The representatives of FWCC meet annually with the NPYM presiding clerk to select Friends-in-Residence for future Annual Sessions.

The ad hoc committee has discussed the following additional ideas about representative responsibilities to NPYM:

- Continue the current Quaker Fair where affiliated organizations provide material and tabling to disburse information
- Provide an opportunity for all affiliated organizations to make a brief (e.g., five-minute) report during a plenary at each Annual Session.
- One representative from each affiliated organization could serve as a “convener” with the responsibility to coordinate representatives' attendance at meetings, help allocate duties among representatives, report to Coordinating Committee, and coordinate with the alternate representative.

Queries:

What are your thoughts about the six-year rotation featuring one of the affiliated organizations to present at a plenary session each year?

How do you feel about having an additional five-minute report at a plenary by each of the other affiliated organizations (those that are not scheduled for a full presentation that year)?

What do you think about holding a Quaker Fair for affiliated organizations as we did at the 2011 Annual Session?

What are your thoughts about NPYM designating a “convener” to coordinate responsibilities of representatives from each affiliated organization?

What other changes to expectations for organizational representatives would you like to see?

Thank you very much for your participation and input!