

**Interim Meeting, 6/9/18
General Secretary's Report**

This is the time of year when many across BYM are getting ready for camps.

There is still room for more campers and a need for more volunteers at camp this summer – especially in the last session July 29 – August 12. Please contact Camping Program Manager Jane Megginson for more information.

Getting camps ready to open. David Hunter has been overseeing the construction of new cabins at Shiloh and Opequon this spring. Heavy rains this spring caused flooding at Shiloh, wiping out the railings on the bridge. The replacement of the leaking roof on the dining hall at Shiloh also had to be moved up on the maintenance and repair schedule. Please see Ann Venable to discuss ways you can help BYM financially to maintain safe and sound facilities for our campers, volunteers, and staff.

This period in 2018 has also been a time for a number of staff changes.

Our new Administrative Assistant started work 5/15/18. Laura Butler is a lifelong BYM Friend (daughter of Barb Platt) and is a 2013 graduate from Beacon College. She has gone straight to work addressing a backlog of updates to our BYM member database. Her work will help make our communications more effective at reaching more people.

Assistant Bookkeeper Emily Morgan resigned effective 5/17/18. The commute from her new home in Hagerstown to Sandy Spring for this 10-hour-per-week position was too costly. We will miss her gentle, Friendly spirit and excellent bookkeeping skills. We will begin seeking a replacement in August.

BYM is seeking applicants for the Shiloh Quaker Camp caretaker position. The current caretaker Jake Butler is retiring. This is a half-time, year-round position, which requires living on site in the caretaker residence. Please help spread the word to potential applicants. See the BYM web site for more information. We need to fill this position as quickly as possible.

Dyresha Harris served her last day as Outreach and Inclusion Coordinator (OIC) on 5/31/18. She will be continuing to serve as co-director for Catocin Quaker Camp this summer. We will miss the many gifts and talents she brought to the STRIDE program and to other BYM initiatives to advance equity, diversity and inclusion. We will be seeking a temporary replacement to serve until the end of 2018 when the Shoemaker grant (which funds the position) ends.

The OIC work goes on for the summer. The coordination of logistics for getting STRIDE campers to and from camp in good order will be carried out by local STRIDE core groups with support from BYM administrative staff, and the provision of equity, diversity, and inclusion training for camp staff is being arranged by BYM camping program staff.

Planning is underway for BYM’s equity, diversity, and inclusion work for 2019 and beyond.

The three-year Shoemaker Foundation grant will be completed at the end of 2018. As such, BYM will no longer have dedicated funding for the OIC position. Under the original terms, this grant was to be a one-time-only, start-up grant to advance BYM’s outreach and inclusion for young adults and people of color. To continue the work at this level of effort, BYM will need to develop its own resources. Currently, there is no funding to continue the OIC position in the draft 2019 budget. However, I have organized a planning group (comprised of members of the Growing Diverse Leadership Committee (GDL), the Working Group on Racism, the Camping Program Committee, local STRIDE groups, and staff) to evaluate our activities and progress to date and to develop a proposal to continue this important work. This proposal will be brought to the Yearly Meeting for consideration as soon as possible this year.

A significant part of this evaluation and planning process has included meeting with the young adult core group members of each local STRIDE group in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, DC, and Charlottesville. About 25 young adults are involved in the STRIDE core groups. All are camp alumni and many still work at camp in the summer. This year, they have recruited and conducted fundraising to support 20-25 campers – young people who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to experience a Quaker camp. The core groups were united in their praise of Dyresha Harris’s leadership and gifts as OIC and in their support for continuing the OIC position at the current level of effort. Cloning Dyresha was suggested. All reported the need for more members to help carry on the work year-round. A number of core group members are now involved in helping to plan the future of the program.

Recent visits and networking throughout the Yearly Meeting include:

- 3/18/18 - Baltimore Stony Run, Baltimore, MD
- 4/4/18 - Rally to End Racism, National Council of Churches, Washington, DC
- 4/28/18 – Apportionment Meeting, Eastland Preparative Meeting, Little Britain, PA
- 5/12/18 – Peace and Social Concerns Committee Networking Day, Friends Meeting School, Ijamsville, MD
- 5/13/18 – Gunpowder Monthly Meeting, Sparks, MD
- 5/20/18 – Warrington Quarterly Meeting at Menallen Monthly Meeting, Biglerville, PA
- 6/3/18 – a gathering with members from Bethesda Monthly Meeting, Bethesda, MD