

General Secretary's Report to Interim Meeting
3/23/19

Since our last Interim Meeting Tenth Month 2018. . . . my top priorities have been:

- 1) To respond to the complaint and prepare BYM's defense in the aforementioned lawsuit.
- 2) To support the transition to new leadership at Opequon Quaker Camp.
- 3) To advance planning and development for both the interim and long-term support of the STRIDE program.
- 4) To hire a new Development Director.
- 5) To support raising funds to meet a very challenging 2018 fundraising goal.
- 6) To support the much-needed upgrading of bathroom facilities at Opequon Quaker Camp.
- 7) To manage our expenses to live within our means.

What have we achieved?

- 1) I believe BYM now has a strong case for dismissal from the lawsuit and a strong defense, should the lawsuit go to trial. Many thanks go to Associate General Secretary Wayne Finegar for expert legal guidance and support in this process. He put his law degree to good use on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.
- 2) Camping Program Manager Jane Megginson and I worked together with the Camping Program and Supervisory Committees to accomplish a very challenging, but successful transition in leadership at Opequon. Sean Hickey was named the new director in January, and he has very quickly and ably jumped into his new role.
- 3) The outcome of past months of work with the STRIDE Working Group, the Camping Program, Growing Diverse Leadership, and the Supervisory Committees to develop plans for interim and long-term support of the STRIDE program will be the focus of the next presentations. I am happy that this body of work, the results of months of discernment and struggle, is now in the Yearly Meeting's loving care for prayerful discernment.
- 4) I am pleased to announce that Mary Braun has accepted our offer to become the next BYM Development Director. Mary is a member of Patuxent Friends Meeting. Since 2012, she has served as Executive Director of the Shenandoah Discovery Museum in Winchester, VA, where she has led successful annual fund drives, endowment, and capital campaigns and fundraising events. She is very much looking forward to getting to know you and continuing to advance our development work. She will start work on May 6. Many thanks go to our outgoing Development Director Ann Venable for staying on to support a smooth transition and to continue our fundraising activities. This concludes many months of search with members of the Development Committee. I thank them for their dedication and support.
- 5) As you will hear later, we had a very successful fundraising year. Thanks to all of you who contributed, to the Development Committee, and especially to Ann Venable who orchestrated and led the way to one of our best fundraising years ever – despite facing some difficult headwinds in the final months.
- 6) With the leadership of Camp Property Manager David Hunter and the Camp Property Management Committee, a new portable shower unit is now being constructed in Pittsburgh for installation at Opequon. The old bathhouses are being renovated to make more room for

campers. If or when we leave the current Opequon site, we can take the shower house with us or sell it.

- 7) Tom Hill will report shortly on how well we did living within our budgetary means in 2018.

In the meantime, the staff and I continue to devote attention to the seasonal cycle of annual activities that support BYM's many missions and activities.

- 1) Comptroller Margo Lehman closed out the books on 2018, prepared financial reports, prepared the first draft of the 2020 budget, and prepared the way for our annual audit, which begins next month.
- 2) Camp enrollment opened in January. There is still plenty of room for more campers this summer. Family camp weekends will start soon – to introduce new campers and families to the camps and to help get the camps ready for summer. The Camping Program and Camp Property Management Committees need more members and volunteers. Please think about how you can help out.
- 3) Youth Programs Manager Jossie Dowling has produced a number of successful Young Friends and Junior Young Friends weekend conferences. More Friendly Adult Presences are needed to support these vital and popular BYM programs. Youth Programs Committee is planning a training for August.
- 4) The 2020 budget preparation has been underway since November with the Camping Program and Camp Property Management Committees and more recently with the Youth Programs, GDL/STRIDE, and Supervisory Committees. Margo has compiled the first draft for Stewardship and Finance Committee to begin working on.
- 5) This is the time of year when various committees review BYM's operations from the previous year, assess incidents and risks, and discern how best to manage BYM's risk exposure moving forward. This involves my working with staff, Trustees, Camping Program and Camp Property Committees, camp directors, and our insurance company to better manage our risks. Our insurance renews on June 1.
- 6) This is also the time of year when we need to be sure that our vehicle fleet is serviced, old cabins are replaced, buildings are repaired, and grounds are restored before summer camp. This keeps David Hunter and our two camp caretakers Jesse Miller and Mike Reed quite busy.
- 7) Ann has just launched our "50 campers in 50 days campaign" to raise funds to support camp scholarships. Please see your email for ways you can help. We have already raised enough for three scholarships.
- 8) Throughout this all, Administrative Assistant Laura Butler has been working steadfastly to bring our membership databases up to date, so that all Friends can receive our communications throughout the year.