

## **Baltimore Yearly Meeting Indigenous Affairs Committee**

### **Annual Report for the years 2022-2023 (revised from earlier submission)**

The BYM Indian Affairs Committee was founded in 1795 with a concern for fair dealings with Native peoples. Members have spent too much time this past decade answering questions from non-Natives about why we continue to use the historic (mistaken) term “Indian” in our committee title rather than “Native American.” [We have pointed out that every tribe and Native organization in our region has “Indian” as part of its name and no Native group has asked us to change.] Unfortunately, our name seemed to distract many Friends from paying attention to important government actions. In line with terminology changes being made by some national Native organizations and used in events such as Indigenous People’s Day, our committee decided to adopt the name **BYM Indigenous Affairs Committee**.

### **REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES**

**Speakers.** We invited Elizabeth Rule (Chickasaw) from American University to speak to an Interest Group at the 2022 Annual Session. She spoke about a free app for a walking tour she developed that points out Native historical sites in D.C. Dr. Rule plans to extend this activity to other cities and states and collaborated with Dr. Ashley Minner (Lumbee) who had already created a walking tour of historical sites in Baltimore.

**Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act.** The committee urges Friends to lobby vigorously for S. 1723. A minute of support was adopted at the March 2022 Interim Meeting. Passing such legislation and atoning for harms are part of the committee’s agenda. The planned Commission will investigate the impacts and ongoing effects of residential schools. Friends were involved. Although research is ongoing, the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition states there were 16 Quaker run boarding schools. Researcher Paula Palmer found that Quakers managed over 30 schools [day and boarding] during the nineteenth and early twentieth century. BYM may need to hire someone to comb records for data about individual students, discipline, deaths, tribal identity, etc. Our history, *As They Were Led: Quakerly Steps and Missteps Toward Native Justice 1795 –1940*, has some information.

**Public Statement of Accountability.** Our committee drafted a statement comparable to BYM statements on racism. It contains a broader discussion of past Quaker actions including those leading directly to land loss, followed by an apology. Entitled “Quaker Colonialism: Reflections on the Past and Actions for the Future,” it is posted on the committee page on BYM’s website. We thank Frances Schutz and Kimberly Benson for creating this document and amending it with input from the whole committee.

**Legislative and judicial updates.** We sent a letter to President Biden in support of the Family Violence and Prevention Act that funds services in the domestic violence field. With the guidance of Abbey Compton, we made calls and sent a letter to Representative Van Hollen to support a change to put Indian Health Service funding in line with Veterans funding, a move called Advance Appropriations, to protect recipients during government shutdowns. We were pleased that the Indian Child Welfare Act was kept intact by the Supreme Court after a challenge from a white adoptive family and conservative lawyers who accused the law of being racially discriminatory.

**Relationship-building Visits.** Two members made (separate) visits to the Monacan Indian Nation Museum. Both Frances Schutz who visited with a group of First Day School students and adults and Mac Broussard who visited with his wife commented on the warm reception they received. Museum Director Lou Parrish shared personal stories of her upbringing and Native life in Virginia including prejudice. Sue Marcus met with Anne-Richardson, Chief of the Rappahannock tribe, to re-establish the tie our committee had in the past through member Bob Rugg (deceased).

**Member Activities.** As a member of the Society of American Indian Employees Association, Sue attended a conference in Tulsa. As a member of the American Indian Society of D.C., she placed flowers on Native graves at the Congressional Cemetery and on the graves of Native children at Carlisle Barracks and cleaned up Society property. She also keeps track of Native legislative on the Hill. She will be sorely missed when her term is up next year. Dellie James (Stony Run) made two presentations on Native issues to retirement centers. She continues to coordinate volunteer at the Baltimore American Indian Center in Upper Fells Point and help with its annual powwow but is no longer on the Board. Dan Cole participates in research discussions with Paula Palmer and others. Several members have participated in quarterly on-line *sharing* sessions with representatives of Indigenous committees of other Yearly Meetings around the country.

#### **BUDGET -2024:**

\$2000 - To hire a researcher to update Native statistics

\$2000 - Create slideshow for 1st Day/Adult Ed.

\$400 - Speaker for Annual session

\$400 - Printing of copies of second volume of committee history

\$200 - donation for Association on American Indian Affairs

\$5,000 Total

The first two line items are two year projects for which Native consultants will be hired if possible.

**Historic Fund Contributions.** We sent \$400 from the fund (established in 1795) to the Baltimore American Indian Center, \$200 to the American Indian Society of D.C., and

\$200 to the Patawomeck Indian Tribe in Virginia. The fund is nearly depleted, and the hope is that future contributions can be part of our committee's annual budget.

**Our members** are Dan Cole (Frederick), Co-clerk, Dellie James (Stony Run), Co-clerk, Abbey Compton (Herndon), Kimberly Benson (Annapolis), Mac Broussard (Roanoke), Norm Fox (Alexandria, living in PA), Sue Marcus (Alexandria), Pat Powers (Sandy Spring), Frances Schutz (Charlottesville), and Sharon Stout (Adelphi). As they leave the committee, we express our deepest gratitude to Frances, Norm, and Pat.