

Minutes,
 Blue River Quarterly Meeting of Friends
 Meeting for Business, Saturday, April 17, 1982
 St. Louis Friends Meeting House, 2539 Rockford Avenue
 Rock Hill, Missouri 63144

Following a period of silent worship, Meeting for Business was convened by Clerk Eldora Spiegelberg. Introductions were made, with identification of meeting represented. The agenda was read and members were invited to submit additional concerns for the agenda.

X Meetings of the previous meeting were read. It was questioned if the sum of \$1800.00 reported for the Haworth Fund at that time, should not have been \$8000.00. This was to be determined later. There were no other corrections.

Committee reports were requested on Blue River Quarterly Meeting duties at the 1982 Yearly Meeting. In the absence of Coordinator Rosalie Megli and several of the committee chairmen, these reports were not extensive.

A query posed by Urbana-Champaign at Blue River Quarterly Meeting last fall was again taken up: "Are there other alternatives to the current meeting places and times of quarterly?"

After discussion, the sense of the meeting was that the privilege (task?) of hosting Blue River Quarterly meetings should not be confined to St. Louis and Urbana-Champaign but should be allowed to any meeting within Blue River Quarterly. Agnita Wright of Decatur Meeting made a tentative offer of her meeting as host for this fall, subject to approval by Decatur Meeting, and the willingness of other meetings to give some help. Again tentatively, Bloomington-Normal offered to do child-care, and Southern Illinois to help with the program. The date was to be settled later- some objections were made to an October date which included Halloween.

It was approved that if the Urbana-Champaign meeting wishes to host Blue River Quarterly this fall, the meeting will be held there.

There was general interest in holding an occasional meeting at a camp or in similar rural setting. (McNabb, for instance.)

It was felt that Blue River Quarterly Meeting had definite value and worth for the strengthening of the religious life of our Quaker groups.

The current officers having served their two-year appointments, new officers were approved as follows:

Clerk- Helen Soderberg P.O. Box 321 Cave-in-Rock, Illinois 62919
 Telephone 1-618-289-3863

Recording

Secretary- Peg Morton 107 S. Maple Avenue Carbondale, Illinois 62901
 telephone 1-618-259-6542

State of Meeting reports were heard from the following meetings:
 Peoria-Galesburg (read by Eldora Spiegelberg for Donna Smith, absent);
 Clear Creek, by Grayce Haworth; Southern Illinois (oral), by Peg Morton;
 Bloomington-Normal-Mary Elliott; St. Louis, Gertrude Wood; Decatur, Agnita Wright.

Several expressed the pleasure felt at this sharing of meeting activities.

The meeting then heard a letter from Roy C. Treadway requesting formal monthly meeting status for Bloomington-Normal Friends Worship Group. This was enthusiastically approved, with directions that a letter be sent to this effect to Roy Treadway, with our congratulations and best wishes. A letter to Frank Young informing him of our action was also to be sent.

X Peggy Morton of Southern Illinois Friends Meeting called for a consideration of what Blue River Quarterly Meeting might do to help Friends who were war tax resisters, she having just become one, and wondering what would happen to her. She suggested a directory of the members who were tax resisters, so that they might contact one another with advice, exchange of experiences, and moral aid and comfort. This was not acted upon, but Peter Theodore, St. Louis meeting and a tax resister, described a group to which he belongs, the "War Tax Resisters Covenant Group". Members submit a statement of why they cannot pay taxes for war preparation, and are committed to help one another. Two funds are maintained, an eskrow account for legal aid or other financial help, and an Alternatives account for other qualifying uses. Peter's group recently received a donation of \$50.00 from St. Louis Friends Meeting. (Peter asked for it.)

X Further information was contributed by Bruce Christman, from Carbondale, a guest speaker and tax resister who was indicted by a federal grand jury and tried before a federal judge and jury in Springfield, Illinois. Happily he was sentenced to do Mennonite Voluntary Service work rather than serve a term in prison. Bruce advised Friends who are tax resisters to obtain a Minute of Support from their meeting- this is one very important step which all meetings can take. Bruce pointed out that he was one of a tiny minority of persons ever prosecuted for tax resistance- a fear-arousing example was to be made of him, and he was chosen because he was poor, not regularly attending any religious group at that time, and seemed not to have important family, friends or other contacts who could help him.

It was agreed that Blue River Quarterly Meeting could not mandate that all of us must become tax resisters. However, it approved the following query, formulated by Herbert Spiegelberg:

" Query on Conscientious Objection to War Taxes

Have you considered conscientiously how far your tax payments will support preparations for war and particularly for nuclear war? How far does this prospect commit you and other Friends to conscientious refusal to pay taxes voluntarily? "

It was asked that all meetings submit this query to their membership.

A short booklist to help tax resisters was to be included in the minutes. The list follows:

- Handbook on Nonpayment of War Taxes. The Peacemaker, Box 627
Carberville, California 95440 Price \$2.50 ea.
- A Guide to War Tax Resistance. War Resisters League,
339 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y. 10012 Price \$6.00 plus \$1 postage.
- Affirm Life: Pay For Peace . Bob Hull, Box 347, Newton, Kansas 67114. \$3.50.
- People Pay for Peace. Center on Law and Pacifism, P.O. Box 1584,
Colorado Springs, Colo. 80901. Price ?

Meeting closed with silent prayer.

Lillian Hubbell
Lillian L. Hubbell
Retiring Secretary
Blue River Quarterly Meeting Of Friends