

Report to the Continuing Committee
Of Illinois Yearly Meeting
October 27, 2012

Since annual sessions in June, the Publications Committee and the Ministry and Advancement Committee have had the opportunity to apply and test the new Conflict of Interest Policy. These committees considered and approved paying Yearly Meeting members to perform services. It went smoothly and we now have a model for how to adhere to the policy going forward.

Based on an assessment and recommendation by our treasurers, Finance Committee has concluded that the Yearly Meeting should not continue to self-manage payroll using QuickBooks software. After six months it is clear that it is too complicated for our treasurers to be asked to manage. We recommend that the Yearly Meeting identify and contract with another outside payroll service, similar to that of Tom McPeak who handled our payroll until last spring. Finance Committee requests that the task of selecting a provider be turned over to the Personnel Committee. Members of Finance Committee and others in the Yearly Meeting have assembled a list that can be shared with the Personnel Committee. Due to the difficulty in managing the payroll in-house, we recommend that a provider be found quickly.

We are continuing to work in coordination with other component groups of the Yearly Meeting. Bruce Kanarek represents Finance Committee on the ad hoc Property Use Committee, and is convener of the ad hoc working group to work with the CAMP report. Ted Kuhn is the data conduit and coordinator for the CAMP working group. Judy Jager represents Finance on the Personnel Committee. Ashlee Miller-Berry and Judy Jager serve with Janice Domanik on the Review Committee. It has been very helpful to have the participation of Roy Treadway who began in June serving as representative from the Stewards to our committee.

In order to smooth out our cash flow and help the Treasurers, we are exploring with the Stewards and with Clerk Creek Meeting how we might consolidate and streamline payment of the campus' utility bills. After this feedback we'll address the best payment arrangement. This primarily concerns the three propane tanks. With electricity, the Yearly Meeting pays for the Meetinghouse and the campground bills; Clear Creek pays the bill for Clear Creek House.

In each proposed annual budget Finance Committee proposes amounts for donations to other organizations. The practice that has evolved over several years is to donate to groups with whom the Yearly Meeting has longstanding ties or to specific groups when individuals make a request. From time to time questions come to us as to whether we have a policy on Yearly Meeting giving to others, how amounts are determined, and what is the procedure for putting forth a request. To begin a discernment process on this issue, Finance Committee will host a workshop during yearly meeting sessions: "What Values Have We Identified to Inform Our Giving to Others." The hope is that Friends from Monthly Meetings, especially Treasurers, will attend and share experiences with addressing this question.

Finance Committee has been asked by the Property Use Committee to research income tax and property tax implications were the Yearly Meeting to rent out its facilities to outside groups. Our preliminary finding is that Federal and State tax laws would permit rentals on a limited basis and with some conditions. Finance Committee expects to have an active role when and if requests come to the Yearly Meeting from outside groups.

Finally, this committee very much needs new members. We want the Yearly Meeting to be mindful that in the last three years we have lost four members with deep experience, who were steeped in the practices of the Yearly Meeting. Soon we will lose Dawn Amos and the many services she has designed and performed. We expect to soon take on tasks until now carried by one or the other of our treasurers. This will be a hardship with the current size of the committee. Though it doesn't appear in the Directory that we have empty slots, in our own view that is the case. We hope Friends will be apprised of these 'empty slots' when they are looking into how to be of service to the Yearly Meeting.

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be by teleconference on January 19, 2013. We will meet in May, probably on May 11, and then again at McNabb during the June sessions.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Jager
Clerk