

**Present:** Silja Pfeiffer, Wanda Dahme, Laurina Pfeiffer, Renke Meuwese, Esther Köhring, Yenni Millar, Rose Oliver, Rose Almond, Annie Womack, Kirsten Stuhr, Ella Otomewo, Lisette Nijboer, Paul Sladen, Liam Brighton, Jan Caspers, Lisa Specht, Hugh O'Farrell-Walsh, Maria Martinez Garcia-Armero, Andrew Lane, George Thurley, Emmie Touwen, Mieke van Opheusden, Eirlys Evans and Annette Wijbran

**Greetings:** Annie Jansen, Sebastian Lönnlöv

**AM 2017/1 Opening minute:**

Silence and laughter, meeting new friends and old, sharing chocolate treats and the Living Archive are all part of our coming together here in Brussels for our Annual Meeting 2017. With over 20 of us, we're quite a large and vibrant group and are expectant and hopeful for this weekend together. We have received greetings from Annie and Sebastian, who have already dived into the Living Archives and hope to keep spreading their enthusiasm.

**AM 2017/2 EMES report:**

Our EMEYF representative to EMES Saskia gave us an overview of the structures of EMES, about being welcomed and finding her place in her role. She felt supported by the presence of other EMEYFers at the AM of EMES in Bonn. She told us about the filling of the open position of the Assistant Secretary of EMES. The Small Grants Fund continues to be open to applications. At the moment, the main topic which EMES asks us for our input on, is the idea of FWCC to support connections between young friends internationally. There is funding available for the vision of bringing international young friends together, the question is which form exactly this will take and how to move forwards.

Saskia appreciated that we had a video conference with the EMES Executive Secretary Marisa Johnson during our meeting, and encourages us to keep channels of communication between EMES and EMEYF open.

**AM 2017/ 3 Skype with Marisa Johnson, EMES Executive Secretary:**

Marisa told us about various topics which EMES is working on at the moment.

Many good applications for the open position of the Assistant Secretary have come in to EMES, hopefully the position will be filled soon to help secure the future of EMES. <sup>1</sup>

The Annual Meeting of EMES will take place in Bergen, Norway 21st to 24th of June 2018 and coincide with the 80th anniversary of EMES, which will be a larger and more open AM than usual.

The Quaker Youth Pilgrimage is in transition. The old QYP was very much northern hemisphere oriented and the pilgrimage in South America proved to be a challenge, also as it was a programme with minors. These problems/ difficulties have been recognized and ideas have arisen to make programmes that will fit our needs and wishes.

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<sup>1</sup> Since the Annual meeting, the Assistant secretary role has been filled by Michael Eccles, former EMEYFer and Young Adults at Woodbrooke tutor.

There is a lot of funding for this, and FWCC and EMES are inviting us to bring forward proposals, but are mindful that this will take significant investment of time. Funding will be available for activities aimed at friends age 16 to 18 within the EMES section and for international gatherings of friends aged 18 or over within or between the sections.

Friends have voiced their appreciation and hope that the programmes will flourish, as well as ideas to connect this with inviting friends from other sections to our meeting (this would involve adding additional learning opportunities for the visitor(s)).

#### **AM 2017/4 Gathering Elders:**

We appoint Mieke, Jan and Lisa as elders for the duration of AM 2017.

#### **AM 2017/5 Nominations Committee:**

We appoint Rose O., Ella, Lisette and Paul as nominations committee for the duration of AM 2017, with Laurina to join them as elder.

We ask them to bring forward nominations for two elders, a fundraising treasurer, a clerk. Based on discernment to follow still we may also ask them to bring forward nominations for two members of a SG planning committee for 2019.

We ask the rest of the participants of the Annual Meeting to support the nominations committee in their work and to bring them names of people that might be able to fill these roles.

#### **AM 2017/6 Spring gathering 2019:**

We hear a report from our gatherings coordinator on the investigation as to whether Spring gathering 2019 could be held in Russia. Communications committee has contacted Russians from our network of whom some have attended EMEYF gatherings before. So far this has not resulted in a concrete initiative. We have not been able to find someone based in Russia who is willing and able to act as a link between EMEYF and Russia.

We feel a strong desire to strengthen the connection with the Russian Friends from EMEYF. Russian young Friends have attended EMEYF gatherings various times despite significant visa- and language related problems and our relation is important to us. Maybe we just need the courage to take a step into the unknown. We call upon our faith to trust that we will find a way to make this gathering happen. We ask nominations committee to bring forward names for a planning committee for a spring gathering in Russia. We ask planning committee Russia to report on their progress to SG 2018, and we ask SG 2018 to then discern whether we will go to Russia in 2019 or in 2020.

#### **AM 2017/7 report QCEA rep:**

We hear a report from our QCEA representative, Wanda, on the latest developments in QCEA. QCEA currently has two programmes: one on peace and the other on human rights. QCEA works with other NGOs and the European Commission and Parliament to try to affect changes that promote peace and human rights. Two major concerns right now are the use of 40% of the EU development budget on military spending and the rise of the far right.

Wanda highlighted two projects for us. One human rights project is the Child Immigration Detention project and another one is the promotion of safe and legal ways for refugees to find safety. For more information on QCEA's work, Around Europe is

QCEA's newsletter and is available both in paper form and digitally through QCEA's website.

As EMEYF representative Wanda is a member of the General Assembly, which determines the general direction of QCEA's work. EMEYF plays a special role in connecting QCEA more to areas like Central and Eastern Europe, from where there is no direct representation on the General Assembly.

QCEA also frequently organises a European Study tour to Brussels and Strasbourg. It is a good way to get to know how Europe works. In the past bursaries from various sources have enabled Young Friends to take part in the Study Tour. Wanda encourages us to talk about QCEA in our local meetings and yearly meetings and to find out more about QCEA (by for instance subscribing to Around Europe).

### **AM 2017/8 Secretariat<sup>2</sup>:**

The changes which QCEA is undergoing also directly affect EMEYF in the role of our secretary, which is part of the job of a Programme Assistant. In the past this role was more central to EMEYF because a postal address was needed and digital communication didn't exist yet. The arrangement was beneficial and has influenced the development on both sides. Currently the position of the PA is less likely to be a young friend and the professional job requirements are much higher. Our secretaries are therefore less likely to be an active member of EMEYF or a part of CC.

At SG 2017 we were unsure of how the new arrangement could be continued, but felt strongly that we wanted to continue our relationship with QCEA. At this Annual Meeting we have seen and felt that the desire to keep the strong relationship is shared by QCEA, which filled us with joy and relief. The logistical work we need, like keeping track of the finances, answering emails, writing visa letters and having the physical address, can continue to be done by QCEA. This means there is no need to make structural changes right now. However, as this is a fluid situation, it is important that QCEA and EMEYF's CC and the appointed support group (see SG 2017/04) remain in contact over the coming months to ensure the needs of both sides continue to be met and that the personal relationship is strengthened at the same time.

### **AM 2017/9 World Committee of Young Friends report:**

Kirsten Stuhr and Taz Cooper spoke to us about their efforts to maintain contact with the other members of the World Committee of Young Friends (WCoYF) which was formed at the World Plenary Gathering in Pisac, Peru. We heard about the challenges of communication within the committee (see the first email report of the committee below). Taz and Kirsten will reach out to other Young Friends groups within the section to strengthen our ties with them, as well as reporting back to WCoYF. We recognise that the other sections have a different set up because of their scale, and we encourage the committee to continue to reach out to one another. We thank Kirsten and Taz for their work so far and we wish to support them both as part of the committee, as it develops its direction and as they continue to hold this space. We look forward to hearing what is happening in other sections and within our own.

### **AM 2017/10 financial report 2016:**

We heard a financial report on the year 2016 from one of the EMEYF trustees, Esther (for more details see below). 2016 was a very special year.

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<sup>2</sup> Andrew Lane (Director of QCEA) was not present for this item.

Usually EMEYF has about 6.000-8.000 Euros expenditure. Participation fees and donations usually cover a large part of this, but there was a deficit of frequently up to 3.000 Euros Reserves therefore were going down significantly.

In 2016 EMEYF organised a large event, the All-Age Gathering, in celebration of our 30ish birthday. This event had around six times as many participants as most EMEYF events, and was also in a different kind of location as most events would be. The whole year's expenses were therefore about 58.000 Euro, and about 70.000 Euro came in. Because of the amounts coming in and going out, the accounts have been looked at by an independent examiner. Meetings and individuals have given a lot more donations than they have in other years, thanks to the All-Age Gathering and the work of our fundraising treasurer. Friends of EMEYF in particular has led to donations of 6.100 Euro.

Our reserves have therefore grown over 2016 by 12.000 Euro. However, because of the nature of the All-Age Gathering, this is a really unusual situation and we don't expect it to repeat anytime soon. More sustainable funding for the future is therefore still necessary, albeit less urgently than before 2016.

The accounts have been delivered to the England and Wales charity commission. Organizing and presenting the accounts for 2016 has been a large task that the trustees have carried out in our name, and we are thankful for all their hard work.

#### **AM 2017/11 budget for 2018:**

Our treasurer, Rose Almond, presented the budget for 2018 (see detailed table attached to these minutes). We budget 15.535 Euros of expense. This includes 500 Euros to enable role holders to participate in training.

We project an income of 11.715 Euros This includes participant fees, donations from meetings and individuals, and the funding from the EMES Small Grants Fund.

This would mean a projected deficit of 3820 Euros. Fundraising and donations will probably reduce this deficit.

#### **AM/2017/12 SG2018 – Successor Scheme for Trees for Africa:**

Until now, in an attempt to offset our carbon footprint from travelling to gatherings, EMEYF members and EMEYF's main fund have donated to a fund called Trees for Africa. The Dutch Quaker Aid *Quaker Hulpfonds* did the admin for this fund. Quaker Hulpfonds received very limited information on the impact of Trees for Africa, and has therefore decided to close the fund. As a result, EMEYF can no longer give to this project.

EMEYF is discerning a way forward which would encourage both participating in events and travelling sustainably. By having the chance to donate to an environmental project, we are reminded of our values. Friends are encouraged to look at the whole of their lives, and the impact they are having.

Our efforts to offset our carbon footprint also need to be viewed collectively. We are jointly responsible as a group or gathering. Our travel has a large environmental impact and we need to be mindful of this.

We could for instance use a scheme to compensate financially, like an EMEYF fund, to support people so that they can choose train or other sustainable means of travel over flying. The time factor and sometimes lack of options are not reflected in this. By showing Friends travel options, encouraging them to plan their travel further ahead or ways they can split their journey, these aspects can somewhat be factored in. There are other worthwhile projects, which aim at sustainability and reducing our carbon impact,

which we could otherwise support.

Realistically our monetary contribution will only make a small impact, but keeping the carbon footprint of travel in our consciousness and trying to live sustainably is linked to this and of large importance. At this point in time we feel unable to decide on supporting a new project, but are convinced that a new sustainability effort related to our travel is necessary. There is currently the sum of money that was collected at the SG 2017 in the EMEYF accounts, which was intended for Trees for Africa and will be made available as bursary money for friends in need of monetary support in order to travel more sustainably.

We don't have a simple and elegant answer to this complex issue and living sustainability is a continuous and widespread effort. At the moment we will do our best to help friends to travel as sustainably as they can to our gatherings and will continue to pursue the topic while thinking about the various ways in which we can make our gatherings as sustainable as possible.

### **AM 2017/13 Nominations returns:**

We appoint George Thurley as (Co-)Clerk for the duration of three years until Annual Meeting 2020.

We appoint Lisa Specht as Elder for the duration of three years until Annual Meeting 2020.

We appoint Rose Oliver as Elder for the duration of two years until Annual Meeting 2019.

We appoint Lisette Nijboer as Fundraising Treasurer for the duration of three years until Annual Meeting 2020.

We heard about the possibility of appointing an interim Clerk for a duration of a maximum of 12 month, while Kirsten Stuhr takes her maternity leave. The exact timing, circumstances and needs of Kirsten and the rest of CC cannot be predicted at this point. The role of the interim Clerk will therefore be filled, when it is needed. We ask CC to consider the possibility of holding an open CC-Meeting, especially considering their current needs, at the beginning of next year and appoint Mieke van Opheusden as interim Clerk (subject to consent).

*[Added to the minutes by CC, 28/01 to replace the missing minute. CC minute 2018/01]*

Eduard Shiukashvili, Aleksandr Lipatov and Yulia Dvoretzkaya are appointed to serve on Planning Committee for SG Russia. We also appoint Esther Köhring to support the committee until a stable planning group has been formed, together with the Gatherings Coordinator. We hope that other Friends will join PC as part of this process.

The terms of several roleholders come to an end at the close of this Annual meeting. We warmly thank our Friends Renke Meuwese, Evan Welkin, Laurina Pfeiffer and Emmie Touwen for their dedicated service on Communications Committee.

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## World Committee of Young Friends email report

In January of 2016, a number of Young Adult Friends from around the globe gathered for two spontaneous meetings during the FWCC World Plenary in Pisac, Peru. We deeply felt the need for connections and support among one another as well as from the larger Quaker world. As a result, we formed an international committee on the affairs of Young Adult Friends, stating this in our very first Minute:

*“We need stronger connections with other young Friends within our regions so we can find our voices. We need stronger connections with other young Friends across the world, so we can lift each other’s voices up. We need space and time to love these connections into being....”*

*We charged this working group to begin its process with these six specific tasks:*

- 1) Fill out the working group so it reflects the diversity of young Friends globally and not only those who could come to Pisac;*
- 2) Support young Friends in building connections, taking on Quaker leadership roles, and voicing the needs of young Friends within their regions;*
- 3) Serve as a hub for young Friends’ communication across sections;*
- 4) Keep listening for a call to gather global young Friends together;*
- 5) Discern what else God is calling the working group to do; and*
- 6) Share with young Friends globally within a year, how the group has been led.”*

Over the past 19 months, we who are on the committee have striven to be faithful to this charge. In truth, this charge has been more difficult than we expected and we have had a hard time balancing the work in our personal lives with the work of this committee and finding consistent modes of communication as a group. It would seem, however, that this struggle is not a barrier to our work. Rather, it *is* our work. There are reasons that we as Young Adult Quakers often feel isolated or unsupported. The point of our committee is to discover what those reasons are and create solutions that build stronger communication and support for us. This task is necessary and worthwhile, but it is not easy. That is, in part, why it has taken extra time for us to return a report to the wider body of international YAFs.

In terms of membership, our committee has shifted some. I, Elizabeth Parrish-Rolfe, became the clerk. Laura Herman resigned and has not been replaced. Renke Meuwese also resigned and was

replaced by Tas Cooper and Kirsten Ackermann.

After the Plenary in Pisac, the International YAF Committee held a conference call in February to begin our work. Only a few of us were able to attend, and after that it became clear that global conference calls may not be the best solution for communication. We explored a few different modes of online communication, including google groups and slack.com, both of which were partially successful but in the end did not meet all of our needs. After the conference call in February we determined that communication would be easier if we operate by Section. To be more specific, it would be best if each of the members of the committee acted as YAF communication coordinators for their own FWCC Sections, planning conference calls as needed, reaching out to young Quakers, evaluating the needs of YAFs in their Section, and keeping up lines of communication within their own Section. These coordinators can then send updates and information to the rest of the members of the committee about what is happening in each Section. This proposal was accepted, and the Section of the Americas members have been very active in this charge. I have heard about some things happening with YAFs in the other Sections, and I do believe that each committee member is highly involved in their own Section, however, I have received very few reports at this point from the rest of the world. As such, I can fully report what is happening in the Americas but only partially report what is happening in other Sections. We are still waiting for updates.

After the initial conference call, the committee members from the Section of the Americas consistently gathered for a monthly conference call for the remainder of 2016. Attendance varied; sometimes only two people were able to attend and other times up to four or five people attended. Regardless of how many people were able to make the call, we always felt enriched and encouraged by the communication and together we sought a unified sense of what our purpose is in this committee. We in the Americas began to feel that we are definitely not called to plan an international young adult friends gathering. We do, however, feel that we need stronger lines of communication among one another, concrete ways to support each other in the work we are each already doing, and we would like to see a movement of intervisitation among Young Adult Friends both locally and internationally.

This shared sense of purpose was confirmed a couple months ago at the FWCC Section of the Americas Gathering in March of 2017. A handful of Young Adult Friends attended the conference, and one evening we sat down around a table together with Robin Mohr (Executive Secretary of the SoA) and Benigno Sanchez-Eppler (Clerk of the SoA Executive Committee) to discuss the purpose of this committee and the place of young adults in FWCC. Together we discerned that we as young people do not want to create a separate program or gathering. Rather, we want to be fully integrated with the rest of the FWCC body. For many of us, however, there are barriers to becoming fully-functioning members of the wider Quaker body. Some of these barriers are clear, such as the fact that many young people do not have as much financial resources as older people do. Other barriers are present but less clear, such as differences in the way young people carry out business and leisure and the cultural disparities between age cohorts. We, as a group, would like to further explore these

barriers and learn to successfully navigate them. Robin and Benigno also expressed the desire to have young adults fully integrated into the rest of the FWCC body and offered all the support they were able to give. They encouraged us to get involved in the FWCC work that is already happening and welcomed us to use whatever FWCC resources are available. They used a metaphor relating FWCC to a system of water pipes. FWCC has a very strong and extensive network of pipes around the world. They cannot create the content that we want to pump through the pipes, nor are they able to fund us or push us through. But the pipes are there for us to use as we please. For example, rather than trying to independently put together a YAF world gathering, we could instead be more intentional about rallying young adults to come to the FWCC Section Meetings and World Plenaries, and work to identify and break down the barriers that prevent young people from coming to these already-established gatherings. We can also use space for our own voices and announcements in the FWCC newsletters that are already being sent out.

Another exciting thing that is happening in the Section of Americas is the new Traveling Ministers Corps. Each year, a core group of traveling ministers will be established, nurtured, and funded by FWCC to carry out intervisitation among Friends. The first group of ministers has already been established for an upcoming term of two years, and in 2018 a second group will be established for another overlapping term of two years, and so on. FWCC has announced that in 2018, the Traveling Ministers Corps would like the group of ministers to mostly consist of young adults, if we feel the leading to carry out this work. We who are in the Americas have high hopes for this upcoming cohort of ministers, as it falls in line with the desire we already have to travel among one another. It is important to note that these ministers will have many opportunities to rally young adults around them in powerful and exciting ways.

As we look to the second half of 2018, I am eager to see the ways in which we rally together to support one another and our work as individuals and as Quakers. This committee is meant to serve as a hub of communication for support, so if you have questions, concerns, or something to report about YAF activities in your area, please contact me or your closest committee member! As a reminder, I have attached the updated list of members. We are still trying to fill out this group. If you or someone you know is interested in joining us, please feel free to contact me for more information.

I hold you all close to my heart, and I am excited to see what we will build together. Keep in touch, Friends!

In Light and Love,

Elizabeth Parrish-Rolfe

En enero de 2016, varios Amigos Jóvenes Adultos de todo el mundo se reunieron para dos reuniones espontáneas durante el Plenario Mundial de CMCA en Pisac, Perú. Hemos sentido profundamente la necesidad de conexiones y apoyo entre nosotros, así como del mundo cuáquero más grande. Como resultado, formamos un comité internacional sobre los asuntos de los Amigos Jóvenes Adultos, afirmando esto en nuestro primer Minuto:

*"Necesitamos conexiones más fuertes con otros jóvenes Amigos dentro de nuestras regiones para poder encontrar nuestras voces. Necesitamos conexiones más fuertes con otros jóvenes Amigos de todo el mundo, para que podamos elevar las voces de los demás. Necesitamos espacio y tiempo para amar estas conexiones en el ser..."*

*Hemos encargado a este grupo de trabajo que comience su proceso con estas seis tareas específicas:*

- 1) Llenar el grupo de trabajo para que refleje la diversidad de los jóvenes Amigos en todo el mundo y no sólo los que podrían venir a Pisac;*
- 2) Apoyar a los jóvenes amigos en la construcción de conexiones, asumiendo roles de liderazgo cuáquero y expresando las necesidades de los jóvenes Amigos dentro de sus regiones;*
- 3) Servir de centro para la comunicación de los jóvenes amigos a través de las secciones;*
- 4) Sigue escuchando una llamada para reunir juntos a los jóvenes globales;*
- 5) Discernir qué otra cosa Dios está llamando al grupo de trabajo a hacer; y*
- 6) Compartir con los jóvenes Amigos a nivel mundial en un año, cómo el grupo ha sido liderado."*

Durante los últimos 19 meses, nosotros que estamos en el comité nos hemos esforzado por ser fieles a este cargo. En verdad, esta acusación ha sido más difícil de lo que esperábamos y hemos tenido dificultades para equilibrar el trabajo en nuestra vida personal con el trabajo de este comité y encontrar modos consistentes de comunicación como grupo. Parece, sin embargo, que esta lucha no es una barrera para nuestro trabajo. Más bien, es nuestro trabajo. Hay razones que nosotros, como jóvenes adultos cuáqueros a menudo se sienten aislados o sin apoyo. El punto de nuestro comité es descubrir cuáles son esas razones y crear soluciones que fortalezcan la comunicación y el apoyo para nosotros. Esta tarea es necesaria y vale la pena, pero no es fácil. Esa es, en parte, por qué nos ha tomado más tiempo devolver un informe al conjunto más amplio de los AJA internacionales.

En cuanto a la composición, nuestro comité ha cambiado algunas. Yo, Elizabeth Parrish-Rolfé, fui la secretaria. Laura Herman renunció y no ha sido reemplazada. Renke Meuwese también renunció y fue substituido por Tas Cooper y Kirsten Ackermann.

Después del Plenario en Pisac, el Comité Internacional de AJA celebró una conferencia telefónica en febrero para comenzar nuestro trabajo. Sólo unos pocos pudimos asistir, y después de eso quedó claro que las conferencias telefónicas globales pueden no ser la mejor solución para la comunicación. Exploramos algunos modos diferentes de comunicación en línea, incluyendo grupos google y slack.com, los cuales fueron parcialmente exitosos pero al final no cumplieron con todas nuestras necesidades. Después de la conferencia telefónica en febrero determinamos que la comunicación sería más fácil si operamos por Sección. Para ser más específico, sería mejor que cada uno de los miembros del comité actuara como coordinadores de comunicación de AJA para sus propias secciones del CMCA, planificando conferencias telefónicas según fuera necesario, llegando a los jóvenes cuáqueros, evaluando las necesidades de los Amigos Jóvenes Adultos en su sección y

manteniendo las líneas de comunicación dentro de su propia sección. Estos coordinadores pueden enviar actualizaciones e información al resto de los miembros del comité sobre lo que está sucediendo en cada Sección. Esta propuesta fue aceptada, y los miembros de la Sección de las Américas han sido muy activos en este cargo. He oído hablar de algunas cosas que suceden con los AJA en las otras Secciones, y creo que cada miembro del comité está muy involucrado en su propia Sección, sin embargo, he recibido muy pocos reportes de este momento del resto del mundo. Como tal, puedo informar completamente lo que está sucediendo en las Américas, pero sólo parcialmente informar lo que está sucediendo en otras secciones. Aún estamos esperando actualizaciones.

Después de la conferencia inicial, los miembros del comité de la Sección de las Américas se reunieron constantemente para una conferencia telefónica mensual para el resto de 2016. La asistencia varió; A veces sólo dos personas podían asistir y otras veces hasta cuatro o cinco personas asistieron. Independientemente de cuántas personas fueron capaces de hacer la llamada, siempre nos sentimos enriquecidos y alentados por la comunicación y juntos buscamos un sentido unificado de cuál es nuestro propósito en este comité. Nosotros en las Américas comenzamos a sentir que definitivamente no estamos llamados a planear una reunión internacional de Amigos Jóvenes Adultos. Sin embargo, sentimos que necesitamos líneas de comunicación más fuertes entre sí, maneras concretas de apoyarnos mutuamente en el trabajo que cada uno ya está haciendo, y nos gustaría ver un movimiento de intervisitación entre los jóvenes Amigos tanto a nivel local como internacional.

Este sentido compartido de propósito fue confirmado hace un par de meses en la Sección de las Américas del CMCA que se Reunió en marzo de 2017. Un puñado de Amigos Jóvenes Adultos asistieron a la conferencia, y una noche nos sentamos alrededor de una mesa junto con Robin Mohr (Secretario Ejecutivo de la Sección de las Américas) y Benigno Sánchez-Eppler (Secretario del Comité Ejecutivo de la Sección de las Américas) para discutir el propósito de este comité y el lugar de los Amigos Jóvenes Adultos en el FWCC. Juntos discernimos que nosotros como Amigos Jóvenes Adultos no queremos crear un programa o reunión separada. Más bien, queremos estar completamente integrados con el resto del cuerpo del CMCA. Para muchos de nosotros, sin embargo, hay barreras para convertirse en miembros plenamente funcionales del cuerpo cuáquero más amplio. Algunas de estas barreras son claras, como el hecho de que muchos jóvenes no tienen tanto recursos financieros como los ancianos. Otras barreras están presentes, pero menos claras, como las diferencias en la manera en que los jóvenes realizan negocios y ocio y las disparidades culturales entre las cohortes de edad. Como grupo, nos gustaría explorar más a fondo estas barreras y aprender a navegar con éxito. Robin y Benigno también expresaron el deseo de que los adultos jóvenes se integraran plenamente en el resto del cuerpo del CMCA y ofrecieran todo el apoyo que pudieran dar. Nos animaron a involucrarnos en el trabajo del CMCA que ya está sucediendo y nos dio la bienvenida para usar los recursos del FWCC disponibles. Utilizaron una metáfora que relacionaba el CMCA con un sistema de tuberías de agua. FWCC tiene una red muy fuerte y extensa de tuberías alrededor del mundo. Ellos no pueden crear el contenido que queremos bombear a través de las tuberías, ni son capaces de financiarnos o empujar a través de nosotros. Pero las tuberías están ahí para que las usemos como queramos. Por ejemplo, en lugar de tratar de reunir de

manera independiente una reunión mundial de AJA, podríamos ser más intencionales acerca de reunir a Amigos Jóvenes Adultos para asistir a las Reuniones de Sección y Plenarias Mundiales del CMCA y trabajar para identificar y romper las barreras que impiden a los jóvenes Llegando a estas reuniones ya establecidas. También podemos usar espacio para nuestras propias voces y anuncios en los boletines de noticias de la CMCA que ya están siendo enviados.

Otra cosa emocionante que está sucediendo en la Sección de las Américas es el nuevo Cuerpo de Ministros de Viajes. Cada año, un grupo básico de ministros itinerantes será establecido, nutrido y financiado por el CMCA para llevar a cabo la intervisitación entre Amigos. El primer grupo de ministros ya ha sido establecido para un próximo período de dos años, y en 2018 se establecerá un segundo grupo para otro mandato de dos años que se superponga, y así sucesivamente. El CMCA ha anunciado que en 2018, el Cuerpo de Ministros itinerantes desearía que el grupo de ministros en su mayoría se compongan de AJA, si nos sentimos los principales para llevar a cabo este trabajo. Nosotros, quienes estamos en las Américas, tenemos grandes esperanzas para esta próxima cohorte de ministros, ya que está en línea con el deseo que ya tenemos de viajar entre nosotros. Es importante señalar que estos ministros tendrán muchas oportunidades para reunir a los adultos jóvenes alrededor de ellos de manera poderosa y emocionante.

Al mirar hacia la segunda mitad de 2018, estoy ansioso por ver las maneras en que nos reunimos para apoyarnos unos a otros y nuestro trabajo como individuos y como cuáqueros. Este comité tiene la intención de servir como un centro de comunicación para el apoyo, por lo que si tiene preguntas, inquietudes o algo que informar sobre las actividades de AJA en su área, por favor póngase en contacto conmigo o con su miembro más cercano del comité! Como recordatorio, he adjuntado la lista actualizada de miembros. Todavía estamos tratando de llenar este grupo. Si usted o alguien que usted conoce está interesado en unirse a nosotros, no dude en ponerse en contacto conmigo para obtener más información.

Los tengo todos cerca de mi corazón, y estoy emocionado de ver lo que vamos a construir juntos. Manténgase en contacto, amigos!

En la Luz y Amor,

Elizabeth Parrish-Rolfe

Overview

**EMEYF Consolidated Accounts**

**2016**

Covers Period 01/01/2016 – 31/12/2016

*Note: The first two columns display the actual amount in each currency in a category, so transactions in a category total £c and €d. The 'Consolidated as' columns display the total value of a transactions in a category, converted entirely into the specified currency. Both £ and € are displayed since we keep bank accounts in both currencies, and it makes amounts more easily to picture for all those who may use this (as EMEYF's committee and trustees are in theory based across europe and the middle east, currently the UK and across the EU).*

**Overview**

Exchange Rate on 31/12/16:

1.1719687914 € per £

See:<http://www.xe.com/currencytables/?from=GBP&date=2016-12-31>

<b>Income</b>	Category	£	€	Consolidated as £	Consolidated as €
	All Age Gathering 2016	£8,924.00	28,106.39 €	<b>£32,906.20</b>	38,565.04 €
	Annual Meeting	£0.00	145.00 €	<b>£123.72</b>	145.00 €
	Donations – Meetings	£4,977.10	6,020.39 €	<b>£10,114.09</b>	11,853.40 €
	Donations – Friends of EMEYF	£1,264.20	4,682.18 €	<b>£5,259.34</b>	6,163.78 €
	Trees for Africa Contributions	£0.00	122.20 €	<b>£104.27</b>	122.20 €
	Herzberg Funds	£1,307.91	0.00 €	<b>£1,307.91</b>	1,532.83 € (note 12)
	Other	£400.95	6,453.88 €	<b>£5,907.82</b>	6,923.78 € (note 4)
	LAP Funds	£0.00	5,633.33 €	<b>£4,806.72</b>	5,633.33 € (note 5)
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>£16,874.16</b>	<b>51,163.37 €</b>	<b>£60,530.08</b>	<b>70,939.36 €</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	Category	£	€	Consolidated as £	Consolidated as €
	Annual Meeting	£0.00	49.76 €	<b>£42.46</b>	49.76 € (note 6)
	CC Meeting	£128.91	50.95 €	<b>£172.38</b>	202.03 € (note 7)
	Secretariat	£0.00	1,117.00 €	<b>£953.10</b>	1,117.00 €
	Spring Gathering 2017	£0.00	30.00 €	<b>£25.60</b>	30.00 €
	2015 Liabilities	£440.67	0.00 €	<b>£440.67</b>	516.45 € (note 8)
	AAG Planning	£0.00	214.00 €	<b>£182.60</b>	214.00 €
	All Age Gathering 2016	£1,940.20	36,710.50 €	<b>£33,263.99</b>	38,984.35 €
	Representatives	£0.00	0.00 €	<b>£0.00</b>	0.00 € (note 9)
	Trees for Africa Contributions	£0.00	381.00 €	<b>£325.09</b>	381.00 €
	Bank Charges	£0.00	42.95 €	<b>£36.65</b>	42.95 €

Overview

Bursaries	£506.00	5,557.63 €	<b>£5,248.13</b>	6,150.65 €
LAP Research/Community Builc	£0.00	2,261.10 €	<b>£1,929.32</b>	2,261.10 € (note 10)
LAP Oversight/Development	£255.98	1,100.00 €	<b>£1,194.57</b>	1,400.00 € (note 11)
Stationary and Sundries	£0.00	7.97 €	<b>£6.80</b>	7.97 €
YALP	£0.00	185.00 €	<b>£157.85</b>	185.00 € (note 13)
Other	£439.95	6,453.88 €	<b>£5,946.82</b>	6,969.49 € (note 4)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£3,711.71</b>	<b>54,161.74 €</b>	<b>£49,926.03</b>	<b>58,511.75 €</b>
<b>Income – Expenditure</b>	<b>£13,162.45</b>	<b>-2,998.37 €</b>	<b>£10,604.05</b>	<b>12,427.61 €</b>
Cash held at start of this year	£5,556.97	15,903.42 € (see note 1)	<b>£19,126.80</b>	22,416.02 € (note 3)
Cash held at end of year	£18,719.42	12,905.05 €	<b>£29,730.85</b>	34,843.63 €
<b>Assets and Liabilities</b>				
Cash Funds	£18,719.42	12,905.05 €	<b>£29,730.85</b>	34,843.63 € <i>All of these funds are unrestricted.</i>
Liabilities	£606.51	0.00 €	<b>£606.51</b>	710.81 € (note 2)
Net (Cash held – liabilities)	£18,112.91	12,905.05 €	<b>£29,124.34</b>	34,132.82 €

Notes:

(1) This figure is €365 larger than that mentioned in the previously published 2015 accounts – this discrepancy with the 2015 accounts which was not caught at the time, and the figure shown here matches the actual numbers at the start of 2016.

(2) £366 (£242.21 and €145) listed as liabilities in the 2015 accounts were written off through the person concerned informing EMEYF that we may keep the amount as a donation. These were therefore removed from the list of liabilities. The amount shown here is a total of expenses incurred and claimed in 2016 where the payment was made in 2017.

(3) The cash held is split between the main and [unused] SG accounts for £, and the petty cash as well as bank account for €.

(4) A number of mistaken payments occurred in 2016 – unauthorized direct debits taken from the UK account and payments intended to be to or from QCEA accounts (which share a signing authority) from the Brussels accounts. Most of these were reimbursed during 2016, but one direct debit was not, meaning that £39 under this category (out) is outstanding.

## Overview

- (5) Funds from the EMES Small Grants Fund for activities and administration/oversight for the Living Archive Project (i.e. LAP)*
- (6) Includes cost of committee, inc trustees, attending annual meeting. N.B. Travel cost of UK cc member attending was reimbursed in 2017. Some costs of AM were covered by the LAP Oversight budget.*
- (7) Includes cost of committee, inc trustees, attending communications committee meeting. Some costs of the CC meeting were covered by the LAP Oversight budget.*
- (8) Liabilities from 2015 paid during 2016*
- (9) Our representatives did not claim any expenses during 2016, and have informed us they do not intend to for these costs, although we do expect some expenditure in 2017*
- (10) Bursaries for EMEYFers to engage with the project at AAG and for archive scopers to research in Brussels*
- (11) Portion of core costs (secretariat and cc expenses) for the oversight of the LAP and development of Friends of EMEYF*
- (12) Herzberg Funds were for engaging Young Adult Friends in EMES and were previously held by EMES. They were passed to us as unrestricted funds to support our work, part of which is engaging Young Adult Friends in EMES.*
- (13) Support for EMEYFers attending the Woodbrooke Young Adult Leadership Programme*

## Proposed Budget for EMEYF 2018

All amounts are in Euros, rounded

### 1. Expenditure

Item/Activity	From Main Funds, €	From Small Grants Fund , €	Notes
SG Cost (Venue and Food)	3300		(1)
SG Planning Cost	1000		
AM Cost (Venue and Food)	165		(1)
CC Annual Meeting	660	400	(3)
CC Meeting	660	400	(3)
Training costs for role holders	500		
Bursaries (SG, AM)	550	750	(2)
Representative to EMES	450		
Representative to QCEA	450		
LAP Research		3000	
LAP Oversight		1000	
LAP Community building outside SG/AM		1000	
Communication and Outreach		400	
YALP	250		
EMEYF Commitment to sustainability	500		(4)
Administration, bank fees, other	100		
<b>Total Expenditure: €15,535</b>	<b>8585</b>	<b>6950</b>	<b>(5)</b>

### 2. Income

Item/Activity	To Main Funds, €, (6)	To SGF project
SG Participation Fees (estimate)	3300	
AM Participation Fees (estimate)	165	
Donations from Yearly/Area/Local Meetings	650	
Donations from YFGM, UK	500	
Donations from Individuals - through Friends of EMEYF	1000	

Donations from participants towards sustainability (estimated)	300	
Small Grants Fund, third instalment 2018		5800
<b>Total Income:</b> €11,765	5915	5800

### 3. Income - Expenditure

Income - Expenditure: Planned deficit of max. €3,820.

### 4. Notes and Abbreviations

Notes:

(1) Gatherings (SG and AM) are expected to cover the cost of venue and food through incoming fees. This does not include planning cost and bursaries.

(2) Bursaries for participants: partially covered from main funds if not through fundraised donations; partially through the SGF in ensuring a diverse community gathered for the LAP to be worked on at the gathering.

(3) Cost of administration and oversight of EMEYF partially covered through the SGF to make sure we are able to run the LAP.

(4) Includes transfer of donations from participants towards our sustainability commitment (Trees for Africa), additional transfers to TFA were not met by donations from participants and possible other costs.

(5) SGF Expenditure higher than income as we are intending to use of a surplus from previous years due to the nature of the project taking longer than expected to take off. The main difference in expenditure to previous years is the removal of the payment to QCEA for the secretariat, inclusion of specific funding for role holder training, travel costs are estimated as 10% higher than previous year budget and rounded.

(6) These figures only include donations we can expect based on commitments and minutes. To reduce the deficit, we will fundraise both from YM, AM and LM and from individuals through Friends of EMEYF, with a target of about 1500 Euros.

#### Abbreviations:

AM: Annual Meeting

CC: Communications Committee – clerks, elders, gatherings coordinator, treasurers expenses

LAP: EMEYF Living Archives Projects

SG: Spring Gathering

SGF: Small Grants Fund (Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust; run by EMES) – EMEYF receives a grant from the SGF to run the LAP in 2016-2018.

TfA: Trees for Africa, EMEYF commitment to sustainability in regards to the ecological cost of travelling to EMEYF gatherings

YALP: Woodbrooke's Young Adult Leadership Programme, EMEYF financially supports one participant

## **Report: EMEYF LAP@AM2017**

### **EMEYF LAP Coordinator, December 2017**

*At AM 2017, the EMEYF Community gathered around the folders of the EMEYF Archive, encountering the stories, leadings, concerns and jokes of past generations of EMEYFers and adding their own to the Living Archive, and by this, bringing it to life. Our group consisted of Young Friends from various countries, some who have been active in EMEYF the past years, and some who attended an EMEYF event for the first time. Some of us only recently started their spiritual journey with Quakers, others learned through the archives about the involvement of their parents and other family members in EMEYF. Jan Caspers joined our group for these workshops. Jan had experienced the first 15 years of EMEYF first hand, and brought the idea of connecting the generations of EMEYFers through the archive to life. For three long evenings, we sat around the folders with hot drinks and Belgian Chocolates and travelled through time.*



### **Background, objectives and overview**

Since the setup of the EMEYF Living Archives Project, we have looked for opportunities to engage as large as possible a number of EMEYFers in the project, and to use the project for community building. At EMEYF Annual Meeting 2017, we provided a series of workshops based on the Archive as an essential part of the Annual Meeting. Annual Meeting had previously been seen as too focused on business, and lacking in social activities as well as spiritual depth and opportunities to share our stories and concerns. In addition, especially new people seemed less willing to travel to Brussels or Bad Pyrmont for just a weekend of business sessions, rendering AM a "CC plus", with basically only role holders attending. To remedy this, the inclusion of the LAP into the AM was developed by the LAP coordinator, tested at Spring Gathering 2017 and implemented by the LAP Coordinator together with the Gatherings Coordinator. There was a record number of participants this year (more than 20), and a nice mixture of new and experienced EMEYFers. The gathering started on Thursday afternoon and

ended on Sunday after meeting for worship. There were three sessions, each lasting a whole evening, entirely devoted to the LAP.

### **First evening: Connecting with our past**

On the first evening, we heard about the history of the archive and the objectives of the LAP. The LAP coordinator presented six documents to show the diversity of materials and stories in the archive, but also that the paper itself is not the core of the project, but the stories and the people.

These documents included for example a letter from Ben Pink Dandelion to other committee members in 1986, sharing about the joys of EMEYF (frogs, apparently); letters exchanged between East German EMEYFers and the secretary in 1989 and 1990, highlighting the effects of the political changes on the organisation of travel (and on the postal delivery, much quicker since the secret police stopped working...); some articles from Willy and Penn, showing the struggles of East German and Russian Young Friends in redefining their community and identity in years that followed; some notes from past Spring Gatherings in Ireland; and more.

We then split into small groups and explored the folders, aided by some guiding questions and an "exploration sheet". Questions included "Which of your findings speak to you, and how? What can you connect to? What surprised you? What would you like to ask the EMEYFers you read about, and what would you like to tell them about yourself?" These sheets and the answers are now part of the archives, and can be used for future presentations.

The last part of the evening was spent sharing what we found and our reactions to it. There was a strong sense of connection when it came to social and spiritual experiences, like the silent day described by a participant of a summer gathering in Norway, and the wish to include such a day in future EMEYF events. On the other hand, there was amazement about how communication went before the internet – for the first time, many of us could see clearly how the change that affects our generation so much, digitization, started. What would happen, someone asked, if EMEYF committees would go back to sending each other letters instead of emails?

### **Second evening: Concerns and projects, then and now**

On the second evening, we chose a more thematic angle and heard from Jan Caspers about EMEYFs language project, which was the result of a concern of him that was taken on by the wider community, as it spoke to a need shared by many. The language project looked at multilingualism as a core feature in Europe and in EMEYF, and thought about ways to welcome and facilitate multilingualism in groups and communities instead of using English, which effectively privileges some people in EMEYF and silences others. Despite the large number of materials available in the archives, it was important to hear from Jan about the project to bring it to life and relate it to our present situation. There was a lot to relate to, and accordingly we ended up talking about multilingualism (and the lack of it) in Quakerism and EMEYF for a much longer time than planned, while still browsing the folders of the archive. We had just discerned to hold a Spring Gathering in Russia again, so this question was close to our hearts.

And then something very special happened: Suddenly the input of the past two evenings started to ignite ideas and EMEYFers brought forward ideas, concerns and their

enthusiasm to make them happen. For example, there will be a Russian Language study group, in which we will use modern technology to support each other in learning at least a little bit of Russian before we go to Russia for SG 2019 or 2020. (Update end of 2017: the group has 15 active members). There will be a digital edition of Willy and Penn, the former magazine of EMEYF. We learned from the archive how Willy and Penn helped the community to share and grow, and how the magazine was reinvented again and again before it felt obsolete with the raise of digital communication. We felt a strong need to re-establish a digital Willy and Penn, as there are a lot of platforms on the internet, but not a dedicated and edited space for EMEYFers to share their stories and visions. (Update end of 2017: the digital Willy and Penn has been prepared and will start working in early 2018, <https://willyandpenn.wordpress.com>)

### **Third evening: Weaving the threads and moving on**

As a result of this enthusiasm, the programme for the third evening was changed by the LAP Coordinator. We started with another round of archive scoping, this time following individual questions. For example, the idea of a digital Willy and Penn was moved forward, EMEYFers looked for experiences from Spring Gatherings in Ireland and Russia to learn from, or read through the correspondence of former secretary Anna Barlow.

However, the focal point of this session was a request to all the EMEYFers present to consider what they want to learn from the archives and how they see themselves taking part in the project. The project is at a crossroad, where the involvement of individuals between gatherings is crucial – and several EMEYFers stepped forward and committed themselves. Amongst others, there were two friends who extended their stay in Brussels to continue their research; another friend will collect stories about the EMEYF crashpad list and the idea to start an intervisitation programme between current and former EMEYFers will be moved forward by the LAP coordinator.

### **Summary and evaluation**

Integrating the LAP into AM was very helpful in making AM a more spiritually grounded experience, and, as one participant phrased it, “to provide context and horizons for the discernment in the business sessions”. We were glad to see that the programme attracted so many EMEYFers, and that the LAP is indeed a dooropener for conversation and self-reflection, not only for experienced EMEYFers, but also for first-timers. The invitation to former EMEYFers to attend in person worked really well and helped us to focus on people and stories instead of archival tasks and papers. A number of EMEYFers committed to LAP-related tasks and small projects for the next year.

The most surprising development was that our collective interest moved from finding similarities between ourselves and former EMEYFers to the things that are strange to us today, looking at them with an open heart and a willingness to learn from the past, while having the knowledge of the present.

With the digital Willy and Penn, we are starting to see where this project might lead us. It is not about simply conserving and showcasing the past, but about using it as “fuel” for our own concerns, helping us to grow individually and as a community, and supporting us in finding our voices and contemporary ways to make them heard.