

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting
Happy Hollow Camp, Nashville, IN
Tenth Month 22, 2022

1. Opening worship. Friends gathered at the appointed time in waiting worship.
2. Approval of agenda. Acting Clerk Diann Herzog reviewed the agenda, which Friends approved. It was noted that it was likely that one or more constituent monthly meetings would be bringing forward consideration of endorsement of the Urgent Call to the Religious Society of Friends (also known as the Quaker Call to Action) at the Winter 2023 session of Whitewater Quarterly Meeting.
3. Roll Call of Monthly Meeting Representatives. The following Friends identified themselves as representatives of their monthly meetings:
Bloomington Friends Meeting: Rex Sprouse (Acting Representative)
Clear Creek Friends Meeting: Jane Stowe (Acting Representative)
Fall Creek Friends Meeting: Ana Margarite Greene
Fort Wayne Friends Meeting: no representative
Lafayette Friends Meeting: no representative
North Meadow Circle of Friends: Dinah Duvall
White Rose Friends Meeting: no representative
4. Treasurer's Report. David Duvall presented the report. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting's current balance was \$618.54. Since the beginning of 2022, the Quarterly Meeting had received \$150 in contributions, and no expenses had been paid out. David reminded Friends that contributions should be designated as contributions to North Meadow Circle of Friends with an annotation that they are contributions to Whitewater Quarterly Meeting. Friends were reminded that the usual expected annual contribution per meeting is \$50.00. Friends accepted the report.
5. Report on Levi Coffin Days event. Jane Stowe reported that together with Susan Lee Barton and Alan Patterson, she had attended the Levi Coffin Days event in Fountain City, IN, in Ninth Month. These Friends found only one vendor offering Confederate States of American battle flags for sale, and this vendor immediately pulled the flag from his display as soon as the inappropriateness of the flag at this event was explained to him. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends minute their appreciation to Jane, Susan Lee, and Alan for undertaking this work on our behalf. A full written report is appended to these minutes.
6. Travel Minute for Diann Herzog. As Clerk of Fall Creek Friends Meeting, Anna Margarite Greene read aloud the following travel minute for Diann Herzog and asked Friends to consider endorsing the minute as well:

9th Month 2022

Dear Friends,

Please welcome our beloved Friend, Diann Herzog, who is answering a leading to travel among Friends within Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, to join them in worship, prayer, and fellowship. She has laid this concern before Fall Creek Monthly Meeting, and during our Meeting for Worship with attention to Business

on Eighth Month 14th, 2022, Fall Creek Monthly Meeting united with Diann's concern.

Diann writes:

I am compelled by the love of God through Christ to profess my love and faith in the Eternal Spirit, whose beginning and end are pure Love. My hope is that our love and unity in the Spirit will be stirred up, and grow and deepen, that Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends rise up to become a wave of Light that washes over the current darkness of our times.

“Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and not laying accusations one against the other; but praying for one another, and helping one another up with a tender hand.”

Isaac Pennington 1667

In the Light,
Ana Margaret Greene
Clerk of Fall Creek Monthly Meeting

Friends approved endorsement of this minute by Whitewater Quarterly Meeting.

7. Announcements. Before the close of the meeting for business, Friends heard a few time-sensitive announcements.
8. Closing worship. The meeting closed with a period of waiting worship.

The next session of Whitewater Quarterly Meeting is scheduled to be held on First Month 15, 2023 at North Meadow Circle of Friends.

Acting Clerk: Diann Herzog
Acting Recording Clerk: Rex Sprouse

Friends in attendance: Marci Ankrom, Paul Buckley, Madison Cissell, David Duvall, Dinah Duvall, Melissa Everett, Ana Margarite Greene, Gwen Halsted, Diann Herzog, Terry Reynolds, Peggy Spohr, Rex Sprouse, Jane Stowe, Carol Wicker

APPENDED DOCUMENTS

Report on Levi Coffin Days celebration September, 2022

(submitted by Jane

Alan Patterson, Jane Telfair Stowe, and Susan Lee Barton all went to Fountain City Saturday morning to see whether any confederate flags would show up. Alan moved back to Richmond after several years in parts of Asia. He is fluent in Mandarin Chinese and was happy to hear a couple speaking Chinese at a booth when we arrived. He stopped to chat with them while Jane and I surveyed their wares. They had a variety of hats including several pro-Trump in '24 hats and “Trump Won 2020” flags. We saw more of those as we wandered around, but did not see any confederate flags. The couple Alan spoke with drove down from Michigan for the weekend to make some money.

We went down past the official vendor area to individual displays. The Lions Club organizers had told us that they have no control over what is in that area, and that the local Marathon gas station sometimes allows people to set up displays. We did not see any confederate flags in that area either. We saw some other questionable signs and banners that were not in what we think of as the spirit of the Coffins' work, but were not overtly racist.

We watched the local parade, and Jane noted that amidst many campaign signs, neither the Republican Party float nor the Republican Party information booth had any Trump signs.

As we retraced our steps to leave, we came upon the Chinese couple's booth from a different angle and noticed that the back was lined with a variety of flags for sale. Among them was an anti-Biden flag with the f--- word, a mock-up of the USA flag with the "stripes" all varieties of automatic weapons, and a confederate flag. (Photos attached.) Alan asked the vendor if he knew that the confederate flags were not allowed. The vendor said he had not known, thanked us for telling him, and immediately took down the flag. Our assumption was that he did not know the meaning of the flag and had simply brought items he was told would sell in this area.

We reported the flag to the information booth (including the fact that the vendor had put it away), but someone from a different organization was filling in for the Lions Club people at that moment. He said he would pass along our message, but did not give us the impression that he really cared.

Susan Lee and Richard Mitchell drove through Fountain City the next day on an OVYM visit, and stopped to make sure the flag had not returned. It had not.

Recommendations:

1. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting could write to the Lions Club to let them know that contrary to their written policy, for the second year in a row a vendor was displaying and offering a confederate flag for sale. We would like to be of service to the Lions Club in helping to ensure that this does not happen again next year. We would like the Lions Club to require vendors to state in writing that they will not display or sell confederate flags for the Levi Coffin Days. Now that we have more advance time, we could offer to help contact potential vendors to obtain their promise, and ask how else we could help the Lions Club with this.
2. Since we saw at least two booths owned by people who knew little or no English and spoke Chinese, we suggest having the rules for vendors translated into Mandarin Chinese, to make sure that the rules are understood by all vendors. (Perhaps we could suggest some possible translators?)
3. We could ask the Lions Club to make sure that everyone staffing their event information booth be made aware of this concern and immediately report any infractions when they learn of them.
4. We would like to run all action ideas past the Richmond NAACP for advice and input.
5. We advise Friends to heed the previous advice of some Richmond NAACP leaders in not drawing unnecessary attention to the confederate flag if we can avoid its display in other ways. We don't need to make this a media event and battle if we can eliminate the threat in other ways. Since we believe the motivation for displaying the flag was to make money rather than to make a political statement or threat, we believe that working to make the vendor rules more clear could prevent such a mistake in the future.