

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
INDIAN COMMITTEE REPORT
FY July 2006-June 2007

During FY06-07 the Indian Committee had 19 active members and attenders (all volunteer). An average of 100 volunteer hours per month are contributed to the work of the committee.

FUNDING SUPPORT TO NATIVE AMERICANS

Spirit Wing Dance Group

Honorarium for performance for families at PYM Residential Yearly Meeting, July 2006, by this contemporary Native American musical group.

Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Indians of Bridgeton, New Jersey

Grant for expenses related to travel in their pursuit of helping to promote the creation of a Lenape Confederacy. Their intent is to incorporate geographically dispersed Lenape tribes into this Confederacy.

First Peoples Human Rights Coalition

Funding for the purpose of launching a website that will make information on their human rights accessible to Native Peoples.

Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Indians of New Jersey

Honorarium via the PYM Interpretive Quakerism Program for a workshop and performance at Arch St. Meetinghouse during William Penn's Welcome Week, October 2006.

Gerald One Feather Life History Project

Audio and possibly video recording of interviews by of this remarkable Lakota elder. The recordings will be made available to Oglala College, AFSC, the Indian Committee and other sites where they can be accessed for use.

Four Directions Development Corporation Giving Winds Campaign

Contribution toward capital funds to be used for loans to encourage development of small Native businesses and to meet housing needs in Maine.

Bolivian Quaker Education Fund , a 501.c.3 under the care of Buffalo MM, NYYM

Support for two \$600 scholarships for any collage attended by Quaker Aymara Indians, and will be matched by another donor.

Sammy Still, (Cherokee) and Nan Bowles (North Carolina Yearly Meeting)

Funding to cover travel, lodging and expenses to do presentations at Scattergood School and Earlham College, with the intention of assisting Friends in getting a better understanding of Native American issues and cultures.

Maria Barrera, (Tewa/Apache) of the Within Without the Circle Group

To cover travel expenses to attend a PYM Indian Committee meeting in order to share with us her experiences in meeting spiritual needs of imprisoned Native Americans and to conduct a smudging ceremony. Among our guests and active participants in discussion were members of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Indian Affairs Committees, and PYM members Brian and Michele Windwalker.

Ikce Wicasa Ta Omnikye Tribal Council (via Gerald One Feather) (returned)

Funds to send a delegation from the Lakota Nation to the Continental Indigenous Summit in Guatemala .[This funding was returned since the group was unable to arrange the trip]

Octaviana Trujillo, Director, Dept. of Applied Indigenous Studies, N. Arizona Univ.
Support of travel expenses for four Native American students from this program to attend the Sixth Session of the U.N. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Octaviana Trujillo later attended an Indian Committee meeting to report share with us the students' experiences during this very successful trip. She also gave us a better appreciation for the Indigenous Studies program at N. Arizona U.

Oo-oonah Art Center , Taos Pueblo, Taos, NM
Funds for computer and electronic equipment for Taos Pueblo students and staff

Native American Inmate Council, Eastern MD Correctional Institution
For books and other library resources for Native American prisoners.

Indigenous Storytelling Project of the Woodbridge Workers Committee
For the purchase of a video recorder and editing equipment to document a forthcoming visit to Chiapas by the WWC and to record the various stories of indigenous immigrants from Mexico living in Virginia, to be shared with Native tribes of Virginia.

FGC Workshop on Friends and Native Peoples
Funds to defray costs for presenters and to facilitate the participation of Indigenous people in a weeklong workshop at the July 2007 Friends General Conference Gathering. Participants will develop curriculum to teach others about Native people of Wisconsin especially where the workshop is held, as well as the long history of Quaker-Indian relations.

NON-FUNDING WORK OF THE INDIAN COMMITTEE

Support and Learning

One committee member attended a meeting of the United American Indians of the Delaware Valley as an observer. The leadership of that organization is going through substantial conflict and we are looking for an opportunity to facilitate conversation and reconciliation.

The committee was updated on several issues of concern by a guest (Oglala Sioux), following a meeting of the National Congress of American Indians in Washington, D.C. - Concerns include the portrayal of Native peoples in government building art and architecture and the proper reburial of unidentified Native American remains.

In response to a concern raised by a Friend from Birmingham Monthly Meeting, the committee invited Ed Dreby, of PYM's Earthcare Working Group to talk to us about wind energy, so that we would better understand Native Energy, an organization that uses wind energy to produce electricity and benefits Native Americans. The Committee drafted a minute in support of the work of the Earthcare Working Group.

The Committee sent a letter to Haverford College to encourage them to consider a suggestion that Leonard Peltier be considered for an honorary degree at that college.

At our invitation, Deb Wood, a member of the board of the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund, met with us to give us a broader perspective on the work of this group which we have supported for several different grants.

Indian Committee Members were invited by Honor Indian Treaties (a group of the Seneca Nation) to participate in a commemoration of the Buffalo Creek Treaty Compromise of 1842 held in May 2007.

This invitation is extended in recognition of the work Philadelphia Quakers had done to help the Seneca regain land unfairly taken from them in the Buffalo Creek treaty of 1838. Unfortunately no Indian Committee Members were able to attend.

Two members attended the 19th Annual Meeting of the Delaware Valley Grantmakers, and learned about the concept of "Social Entrepreneurship".

Work with Friends on a National Level

This work is key in understanding the work of other Quaker organizations who support Native Americans so that we do not duplicate efforts. This ongoing communication is also important so that we can lend both financial support and input based on our knowledge and experience in working with Native Americans.

One committee member is in close contact with the Indian Affairs Committee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting and keeps the PYM Indian Committee informed of their work. Several members of BYM were able to meet with us and share news of their work at our April 2007 meeting.

The Committee invited Joyce Miller, Assistant General Secretary for Justice and Human Rights for AFSC and a member of the AFSC Native American Task Force to discuss AFSC commitment to Native programs. A member of the Indian Committee was invited to participate in the meetings of the Native American Task Force and has been active in this role.

Work within PYM

This work is key not only in reporting our work to PYM, but also in making our work better known to all members of PYM (to support individuals, meetings, and other committees in their concerns related to Native Americans).

Four committee members gave a well received presentation at Abington Friends Meeting in February 2007 about the history and the work of the committee and current Native American issues.

The Indian Committee prepared a workshop for Residential Yearly Meeting in July, 2006 to help workshop attendees understand the work of the Committee and current concerns of Native peoples related to spiritual and cultural survival. The Committee set up an information table at the Faith Into Action Fair and sponsored a concert by Spirit Wing, a Native American folk music group geared towards families featuring songs on various contemporary issues.

The committee approved purchase of two copies of a document detailing the FCNL Native American Media Symposium, with the intention of donating one copy to the PYM Library.

The clerk and other committee members have attended Peace and Concerns Standing Committee meetings to report on the Indian Committee's work when invited.

At the request of the Chace Fund Granting Committee, a member of the Indian Committee has been an active participant on the Committee for the past five or more years to assist in funding decisions related to Native Americans.

Five committee members attended a Granting Group luncheon, in order to discuss the possible reorganization of the Granting Groups. The clerk also participated in a panel discussion. Members of the Indian Committee have attended meetings concerning proposed changes in the PYM budget process and we have expressed our concerns in our minutes and in letters about the impact this will have on our ability to do the work intended by those who set aside bequests for support of Native American concerns.