

Attachment 9

Report to: Representative Committee of Pacific Yearly Meeting, March 5, 2005
From: Carl Anderson, Clerk, East - West Relations Committee

Friends House Moscow

FHM continues its work in Russia: trauma healing, training in conflict resolution, and humanitarian work. Regarding the catastrophe in Chechnya, it isn't currently possible to work in Chechnya itself, but there is an attempt to meet needs of those who have fled into other parts of Russia.

Galina Orlova, a Russian who has been on staff since FHM's doors opened, had to retire recently, due to health problems. Her contribution has been profound. We have new, young staff.

Donations continue to be greatly appreciated. For us in PYM, the best way to donate is to make checks (tax-deductible) to "Friends House Moscow Support Association" and mail them c/o Julie Harlow, 1163 Auburn Drive, Davis, CA 95616. (This will continue to work even while Julie is traveling.) You can also obtain newsletters from Julie or me; the latest issue is #17; and websites are maintained in English and Russian. Support from the PYM budget is received with deep gratitude. Applications for staff and intern positions will be considered. Russian language is required. Contact Carl or Julie for more information.

Committee Activity and Membership

Since PYM 2004, EWRC has transmitted \$ 10,900 from our bank account to Friends House Moscow Support Association, for support of Friends House Moscow. These funds were raised mostly from the crafts that Julie brings home from Russia. EWRC held committee meetings on 8/3/2004 and 2/19/2005. We expect to meet again in August 2005 during PYM at Mt. Madonna (exact date and time to be determined). Our committee is a little low on membership. If interested, please ask.

Tour: Probably 2006

Many of you remember the wonderful tours of 1987-1991. There were attempts to set up a tour to visit Quakers in Russia, Ukraine, and Latvia in 2004 and 2005. Response did not justify a tour in those years, but there is growing interest, and we think a tour will happen in 2006.

Julie's Travel; Plans for PYM Sessions

Julie left recently for a trip of about 4-1/2 months, traveling in the ministry across the United States to spread the word about Friends House Moscow. We don't expect her back by the time of PYM. Usually, EWRC sponsors an interest group at PYM. Due to Julie's travel, we will probably skip the interest group at the 2005 session. However, in 2006, we will almost certainly wish to sponsor or co-sponsor at least one interest group, maybe two. At PYM 2005, we will continue to appreciate display space, committee meeting space, etc.

Julie's Email Changed

Julie recently had to change her email address from fhmus@aol.com to fhmus@sbcglobal.net

Cost of Liaisons/Representatives/Delegate Travel

In August 2004, Finance Committee raised the topic of delegate travel as a general issue in PYM's budget. EWRC has comments; see memorandum of March 2, 2005.

To: PYM Presiding Clerk; PYM Assistant to the Clerk;
PYM Finance Committee members
cc: East-West Relations Committee members
(emails and names at end of this memo)

From: Carl Anderson, Clerk, East-West Relations Committee

Date: March 2, 2005

Subject: **Liaison Proposal - comments from EWRC**

Dear Friends,

At PYM in August 2004, Finance Committee presented a detailed report, which included a section, "PYM Reimbursement Policy for 'Conference Travel/PYM Delegates': PYM Delegates & Representatives". We thank Finance Committee for your work.

The following comments are based on discussion at the East-West Relations Committee (EWRC) meeting of Feb. 19, 2005. We provide them in written form (emailed in advance, as listed above) in the hope of an efficient decision-making process at RepCom.

I. BACKGROUND

PYM's delegates to Friends House Moscow (FHM) are under the care of EWRC, and our experience may be useful to the rest of PYM when considering the funding of delegate travel. We very much appreciate the support PYM has provided in this way, and in other ways also.

FHM is a unique opportunity. Friends worked in Russia until 1931 when large-scale events made the work impossible. For the past decade, it's been possible to operate, but history might move against us again. We have a key opening to work for peace, and we want to take it while we can.

PYM was key to getting FHM established. Friends in Western and Central Europe are also heavily involved. Friends elsewhere in the U.S. are somewhat involved, and this is greatly aided by our own Julie Harlow's work. Julie has just left for another trip, spending many months traveling around the U.S., spreading the word.

FHM has an annual meeting in Moscow, Russia, which involves substantial travel expense. For the fall 2004 trip, the cost was \$1852, for 1 delegate. FHM does not pay any international travel of delegates. For many years through 2002, the typical year had 2 delegates from PYM. In 2003 and

2004, we only had 1 traveler (Julie). In the future, it may again be suitable to send 2 travelers; but this is not likely for the next year or so, at least.

The annual meeting in Moscow is essential to the proper functioning of FHM. A lot of intermediate work is done by email and telephone, but physical travel is also a necessity. Moscow is not an easy destination. It is a real working trip. The board meeting itself only lasts a few days, but a delegate should plan a trip of at least 2 weeks (preferably more), for other work related to FHM.

PYM has helped a great deal with the travel expenses. For Fiscal Year 2005, PYM's coverage is \$1200, which is just about 2/3 (65%). The balance is covered by EWRC's fundraising. EWRC is unusual in being a PYM committee with our own bank account. Therefore, EWRC has a Treasurer on our committee, who reports regularly to PYM's Treasurer. (The account is also used for other FHM fundraising, and greatly facilitates the raising of many thousands of dollars each year. Since PYM 2004, the amount is \$10,900.)

II. ALTERNATIVES FOR FUNDING OF DELEGATE TRAVEL

EWRC supports a more consistent policy, and that doesn't have to mean 100%. The following alternatives seem to us to be worth serious consideration:

1. Large increase in PYM funding for travel, to **cover full costs**.

Of course, we recognize that PYM may not find unity on this, due to the cost increase to our monthly meetings.

2. Continuing **basically as is**.

We have a system that works for FHM/EWRC, although we acknowledge the difficulties caused by the inconsistencies of the current system, which are well described by the Finance Committee's report of August 2004.

3. **A more consistent approach**, in which the PYM budget would continue to provide a share of the travel expenses, **not 100%**, perhaps based on PYM covering a % of total, or a maximum per day, or a mileage rate, or some other formula; under which EWRC would continue to raise the balance of the costs. Other committees of PYM might operate similarly. This approach **requires** that EWRC continue to have our own bank account, which is beneficial for other reasons. (A few years ago, there was a suggestion that EWRC should not maintain a bank account.)

One might brainstorm the following ideas for the balance of travel funding (the portion not covered by the PYM budget), but we think they are **unsuitable**:

4. We do not recommend that PYM should relegate this responsibility onto monthly meetings, at least in our case. The traveler is representing PYM.

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5. We do not believe it would be proper to expect the traveler to pay the balance of the cost out of personal funds, at least in the case of FHM/EWRC.
6. We do not believe a suitable general answer would be for PYM to expect the hosting organizations to pay the balance of the cost.
7. It would be highly undesirable to eliminate PYM's representation on the FHM board.

Thanks to all for the care given to this topic.

DISTRIBUTION

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