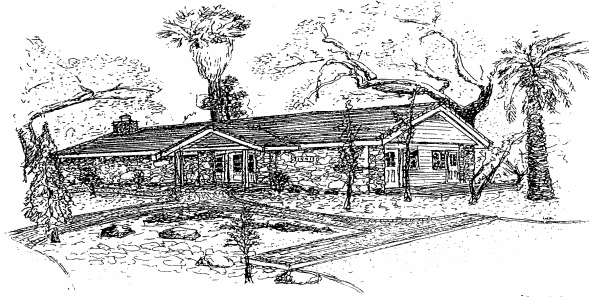


Visalia Friends Meeting

17208 Ave 296
Visalia, CA 93291

Newsletter December, 2006



Visalia Friends Meetinghouse

The Meeting Community

Meetings for Worship and Business are the center of our spiritual community. There, as we come to know each other in the Spirit, we build the “beloved community.”

Mutual respect and care in the Meeting form the foundation from which we can test, support, and exercise leadings of the Spirit. At its best, the Meeting community provides a framework for us to learn and practice mutual care, which strengthens us as we act in the world.

All members of the Meeting community should share in the care of one another. While respecting privacy, we must be aware of and sensitive to each other’s needs. We must also be willing to ask for assistance when we are in need.

- Do I strive to be inclusive in my relationships within the Meeting?
- Do I care for the reputation of others, refraining from gossip or disparaging remarks?
- Am I committed to the difficult work of forgiveness, and affirming God’s love for the whole community?
- *How are love and unity maintained among us?*
- *Do we practice the art of listening, even beyond words?*
- *How have we been sensitive to the personal needs and difficulties of members and attenders, young and old?*
- *Do we visit one another in our homes and keep in touch with distant members?*

Meeting for Business

Present: David & Klara East Olga McCallister, John and Shirley Dackawich, Patti Howard, Greg Seastrom, David & Joanne Dudley, Ginger Curtis, Mark & Linda Koenig, Graciela Martinez, Bill Lovett

Meeting began in silent worship.

Mail & News: Quarterly Meeting date has been changed to January 20th in San Francisco. Klara may be able to give a ride to those interested in attending. Klara East will be the official representative for the Meeting. The Meeting received a postcard from Erin Vincent thanking us for the “tip” received from the Meeting.

- **Immigrants Rights Day** – December 18th in Sacramento. Oaxceno Group from Farmersville will be attending. See Graciela Martinez for more information.
- **Democratic Club Meeting -**
- **SCE Organizational Meeting – December 20th 7:00pm**
- **AYP** – Mark announced that there was a commitment from AYP to do workshops at Chowchilla’s prison on the 4th week of each month. There is great interest in the program and the it’s growing significantly. See Mark for more info.

Mailing List: Ginger has a mailing list that will be available for Friends. Copies will be mailed with the Monthly Newsletter. Electronic formats will be available upon request.

Nominating Committee: Patti Howard reported on the nominations and asked for approval. Klara asked that the nominations be re-done due to the lack of procedural follow through. There was a lack of process followed from Faith and Practice. Greg said that this issue might be addressed for next year. There was much discussion and thoughtful dialogue that ensued. Klara, John, Greg, Linda, Olga spoke to the issue. Greg said that the issue was discussed at M&O. Greg asked the group to come to agreement. Klara was willing to stand aside on the issue but would like to be recorded as having issue with the process. Mark stated that the Visalia Meeting’s process is informal. This process is beneficial yet has some drawbacks. He suggested some methods and practices that might improve nominations. Olga said that the committee did much of the proper process in nominating. The following minutes are recorded.

Greg asked for acceptance of the nominations for 2006-2007 and that M&O enter into a discussion about the nomination process, and that we accept and appreciate the work of nominating committee. Klara asked that she withhold her agreement.

Linda has asked that we formalize the process and minute that a ad-hoc naming committee in June to select a nominating committee for the coming year process and that the nominating committee work to hold each potential nominee in the light and consider their gifts in their service to the Meeting. There was unity in these minutes.

Other:

- Klara asked that we might consider lighting the fireplace on good air quality days. Patti mentioned that she suffered from sensitivity and suggested a gas insert. This issue will be brought to Buildings and Grounds.
- Fresno Friends Meeting has asked that we consider having Visalia Friends go to the Fresno Meeting by closing the local Meeting on the 5th Sunday. Not many Visalia Friends make it to the Fresno Meeting. Linda expressed concern over this. This item will be referred to M&O.
- Communication from FCCL- Friends Committee on California Legislation has asked for financial assistance. Greg has asked that we personally consider support for the organization. John suggested that the Budget Committee look at increasing the Meeting’s contribution.

Respectfully submitted,

David East

Recording Clerk