

# The Provident FRIEND

June 2014

## Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

### First Day School Report

The First Day School has completed a year of studying conflict resolution. Thanks to all the teachers who have helped. Summer will be less formal but there will be classes every Sunday. We are committed to two teachers each Sunday and welcome new teachers and helpers. Look for the list of available dates on an upcoming listserve message or contact Sarah Baily directly at 433-2474. (cont p 7)



### Please Help Find "Lost" Members of Our Meeting

Anne DiMase keeps our official member list, and seeks help gathering information about these people. The list is organized by name + (date of birth) + historical & last known (recent) addresses. Please contact Anne with any information at 401-739-5786 regarding any of the following:

Michelle Cooper (1941): Member of Conanicut Meeting. Lived in Newport. Recent: Portsmouth RI.

Marilyn Garland (1951): Previously member of North Easton Monthly Meeting. Recent: Mansfield MA. (list continued p 2)

### Film "A Place at the Table" – *thoughts from Marjorie Smith*

On July 16, we watched "A Place at the Table", a 2012 documentary film about hunger in America. The video showed families -- in a tiny rural community in Colorado and in several cities -- struggling to feed their children in the face of USDA-stressed farm income and lack of jobs. There were interviews with several children, intelligent and appealing, describing what it's like to be hungry while, for instance, trying to concentrate in school.

The children mostly had the puffy faces and listless energy of people not getting sufficient protein; the video reports that half of all Americans (did I hear that right?) have or will get Type 2 Diabetes, caused by the huge amount of sugars and starches in foods that are the only things available in both rural and city "food deserts." (cont p 3)

(Published August 3)

Calendar (also see p4 Events)

**Aug 2 – 7 (Sat-Thurs):** (p1)  
NEYM Annual Sessions,  
Castleton, VT.

**Aug 8 Fri:** 4pm (p5) Vigil,  
Providence, Burnside Park

**Aug 8 Fri:** 7:30pm (p5) Vigil re  
Hiroshima and Nagasaki,  
Providence, near Steeple  
Street Bridge

**Aug 15 Fri:** 7-9pm (p4) Poetry  
reading, E. Greenwich

**Aug 16 Sat:** 10am-12pm  
Saylesville Bookswap

**Aug 24 Sun:** 3-6pm Sacred  
Harp Sing at Providence  
Meeting House

**Sept 14 Sun:** 12:00 Meeting  
For Business, Saylesville  
Meeting House.

**Sept 20 Sat:** 10am-12pm  
Saylesville Bookswap

**Sept 28 Sun:** 3-6pm Sacred  
Harp Sing at Providence  
Meeting House

## Providence Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business Minutes – 8 Sixth Month, 2014

1. We gathered at 12:00 at the Saylesville meetinghouse with nine Friends present. In the opening worship, the clerk read the following Advice from NEYM *Faith & Practice* (preliminary approval 2012):

In searching together for the will of God in matters before the meeting, Friends are seeking the truth, so that all may join in its affirmation. We are not engaging in debate, or trying to win an argument. Know that working together as a community of spiritual seeking is often more important than simply getting things done.

2. Announcements of events in the life of the meeting: None

3. Correspondence received:

The Friends General Conference Gathering will take place from the 29<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> mo. to the 5<sup>th</sup> of 7<sup>th</sup> mo., at California University of Pennsylvania, on the theme “Let Love Be the First Motion.”

NEYM annual sessions will take place at Castleton State College, Castleton, VT, the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> of 8<sup>th</sup> month. Registration is now open at [www.neym.org](http://www.neym.org).

4. We note that Mike Hirtle has agreed to serve as clerk of the Finance Committee for the coming year.

5. Treasurer’s Report: Peter Swaszek presented the final quarterly and year-end report for the fiscal year that ended the 31<sup>st</sup> of 5<sup>th</sup> mo. 2014. He noted that the operating surplus for the year was \$4,728.30, which has been added to our general fund reserves.

6. No report was received from Ministry and Counsel this month.

7. Saylesville: Joanne Griffin reported that the meeting will be sponsoring a second program about bullying-prevention, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month following meeting for worship, using a video entitled “The Rock.” This is instead of the usual third-Sunday music program.

8. Given the light agenda, the clerk invited those present to bring forward any concerns that might be appropriate for consideration by our meeting and its committees. We heard concerns about the continuing tensions resulting from the John Kellam minute, and about Friends’ policy on divesting from fossil fuels as one response to climate change. These will be referred to the appropriate committees.

9. No further business appearing, we adjourned, intending to meet next on the 14<sup>th</sup> of 9<sup>th</sup> mo. at the Saylesville meetinghouse.

Mark Conley, Assistant Clerk and clerk for the day

Elizabeth Cazden, recording clerk

### Please Help Find “Lost” Members of Our Meeting (continued from p 1 – see there to contact us)

James Phineas Gosselink (1963): Lived in Providence, then Rochester NY. Recent: Darrow School in New Lebanon NY.

Jane Haddad (1954): Junior member. Daughter of deceased member Barbara Haddad.

Lived in Cumberland, Easthampton MA, Exeter NH, Morris MN, and Greenfield MA. Recent: Monson MA.

Judith Howe (1934): Lived in Providence. Recent: Warwick RI.

Jeffrey Helmers (1960): Lived in Warwick. Recent: Baltimore MD.

Jason Kerr (1964): Son of former member Jessie Kerr. Lived in Providence. Recent: Minneapolis MN.

Alfreda Meyers (1940): Lived in Valley Falls. Recent: Lincoln RI.

Claire Smith (1929): Previously member of Germantown Friends Meeting. Member of Conanicut Meeting.

Former wife of deceased member William Smith. Recent: Jamestown.

Julie Sophos (1926): Recent: Attleboro. Had been in contact within past few years.

Elbert (Bert) Wade (1930): Previously member of Allens Neck Monthly Meeting. Lived in Providence and Bedford VA. Recent: Philadelphia PA.

William White (1977): Junior member. Recent: Cumberland. Had been in contact within past few years.

Son of member Kenneth White II.

## Film "A Place at the Table" – *thoughts from Marjorie Smith* (cont from p 1)

Parents obviously loved their children and were dismayed and worried that they were not able to provide enough, and high enough quality, food for them. One parent, who finally found a job at less than minimum wage, discovered that what she had left after the costs of working bought less food than what she had received in government support.

Historical footage showed that in the first decades after World War II, U.S. government programs supplied nearly all jobless and otherwise hungry Americans with a basic level of nutrition, mainly through buying excesses of agricultural commodities and distributing these. Then in the 1980's and 1990's, the political scene changed; these programs have been dismantled to the point that about 1/3 of all American children live on the edge of chronic hunger ("food insecurity"). Church and other private charitable programs have tried to fill the void, but as the video pointed out, these are set up as temporary, stopgap measures. It should not be up to churches and charities to handle a long-term, chronic situation that arises from a lack of jobs and family support and has political and economical causes.

All of us who watched the video seemed deeply moved; in the discussion afterwards, Dan could hardly get us to stop talking and go home! Only the next day could I put a name on my huge upset -- I'm angry that the richest country in the world allows (or some would say arranges) for a large proportion of our children to go hungry, with all the learning disabilities and ongoing health conditions that chronic hunger causes, not to mention the sheer unfairness of it.

What I did to take the edge off my anger was to go and buy lots of canned meat and fish for the Camp St. Ministries box (because so much of what's given to charities is carbohydrates). But I'm aware that this is a temporary "fix" -- it does not speak to the larger problem of lack of jobs, poorly paying jobs, and a lop-sided agricultural policy.

There was interest, that evening, in doing something as a Meeting. It seemed to me that there would be a lot more talking needed, as well as accessing our emotional response, before it would be worth making specific proposals.

If the Meeting does decide to do something about structurally chronic hunger, I hope that we would look at all the levels of causation, and focus our efforts to respond to the structural causes so that the situation does not continue indefinitely.

Three levels that I am able to see are:

- 1) the politics of our 2-party system;
- 2) the economic environment which currently removes vast amounts of wealth, one paycheck or loan payment at a time, from working people and concentrates that wealth "upwards" towards a very few individuals, large corporations, and "superbanks," which are increasingly able to dictate economic and political conditions to their own benefit;
- 3) the way the money system is set up, whereby money is released into the economy on a "loan" basis from the superbanks, which requires us to pay interest to them via taxes, at the same time that jobs become fewer and pay less.

I expect #2 would be fairly difficult for us to talk about as a Meeting, because many of us, including myself, are somewhat privileged economically. We have or had white collar jobs, we have more than adequate housing, we have as much wealth "security" as you can have in a world facing climate change. But there is leverage to be had, if we can face the implications of our privilege, to lead by example among the wider privileged population. And there is the creative power of following the "sense of the meeting" into new and possibly system-altering action: this could be inspiring and fun to be part of.

With love, Marjorie Smith

## Around the Meeting

**Address Changes** – Kimi Cabbage has a new address and phone number. She's now at

92 Melrose Street, Providence, RI 02907, and her telephone (cell) is 401-288-7651.

**Camp Street 's Lunches at Home** - Lunches at Home in the Camp Street neighborhood

need peanut butter and tuna fish. Please contribute foods and personal grooming items in the box in the foyer.

## Help Needed With Transport

John Gaffney has reported that Bill Brown has broken his arm and is unable to drive. John needs help, specifically someone to drive his van so that he can get to Meeting for Worship. John and Bill live downtown. If you think you might be able to help, please call Dan Lederer for details at 401-831-0243.

## Hannah Monroe and the Quaker Voluntary Service – Please Help

Hannah Monroe's upcoming work with the Quaker Voluntary Service for legal aid in Atlanta GA was detailed in last month's newsletter (May, p 4), but was missing some information.. QVS is a registered 501(c)3 and all donations are tax-deductible. You can make a check out to Quaker Voluntary Service with "Hannah Monroe" in the memo line, and send it to Quaker Voluntary Service - PO Box 17628 - Atlanta, GA 30316. You can also reach Hannah directly at 401-941-4776 or [hannahemonroe@gmail.com](mailto:hannahemonroe@gmail.com)

## Quaker Poetry Reading – August 15, East Greenwich

Martin Willitts, Jr., a Quaker poet from Syracuse, NY, will be providing a poetry reading from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on Friday, August 15, at Symposium Books, 1000 Division Street, East Greenwich., with readings also on the 16th and 18th in Brockton and Cambridge (MA). He is a published Quaker poet with numerous poetry collections, including a national poetry anthology of Quaker poets. One, "Searching for What Is Not There", won a national poetry contest for ecological poems (Hiraeth Press, 2013). Some of his poems can be found online by searching for "Martin Willitts Jr, poetry".

## Friends Journal Index to Articles *(from Jim Rose)*

Friends,

I have been working with Friends Journal for three years on making their archive more widely available. To this end I have developed a new web site <http://fjarchive.info/> This is an index of over 8000 articles by over 4000 authors on 200 topics; articles written between 1955 and 2011. Subscribers to Friends Journal have easy access to the text of those articles on the FJ site. Two other sites related to Quaker literature are:

<http://quakerheronpress.wordpress.com/> <http://pamphlets.quaker.org/g/>

Jim Rose 5455 Wingborne Court Columbia, MD 21045

## Passing of Dave and Anne Burnham

Dave and Anne Burnham died June 5 and 4th respectively. Dave was the head of Moses Brown for 16 years and Anne was a math teacher at Lincoln for many years. A memorial service was held Saturday, June 21 at Central Congregational Church in Providence, followed by a gathering at Moses Brown. Dave's and Anne's obituaries include suggested donations to their scholarship funds at the Northfield Mount Herman and Paul Cuffee schools, and can be found on the Monahan Drabble Sherman website at <http://mkds.com/home.aspx#defaultnf.aspx>.

## Future Events – Events that recur and/or happen beyond the next month

[2014 unless noted, month in brackets indicates a recent issue that has an article about this event]

August 8, 4 pm: Vigil re Middle East conflict, Providence, Burnside Park – p5

August 8, 7:30 pm: Vigil, Providence, Burnside Park – p5

September 11- 20: Peace Walk through Rhode Island- p5

Sept. 21: People's Climate March in New York City- p5/6

## Rhode Island-AFSC-SENE Events To Support and Plan For

(from Martha Yager, AFSC Program Co-ordinator)

**Immediately and Aug 8:** At this date (Aug 3) well documented events related to the conflict in Israel/Palestine are in a sorrowful and horrific state. Call your congress-people and insist that they put their best efforts to pressuring BOTH sides to stop violent actions and stop actions that lead to violence.

In RI: Senator Reed 202-224-4642 Senator Whitehouse 202-224-2921 Congressman Cicilline 202-225-4911  
Congressman Langevin 202-225-2735

In MA: Senator Warren 202-224-4543 Senator Markey 202-224-2742 Congressman Kennedy 202-225-5931  
Congressman Keating 202-225-3111

The message can be simple: The US must stop funding the violence and insist that Hamas and Israel equally stop the bombing. There must be a ceasefire, followed by serious efforts for Israel to end the occupation of both Gaza and the West Bank and Hamas to end anti-Israeli policies and actions so that there may be real peace. *[ed. note – the above item was modified by the editor]*

**Aug. 8 (Friday) at 4 pm:** Vigil (re above) in Providence. Gather at the part of Burnside Park facing the old Post Office on Exchange St. We will bring signs and leaflets.

**Aug. 8 (Friday) at 7:30 pm:** Vigil for a nuclear free future in honor of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at dusk (7:30pm) August 8th. We will gather at the little park where the two rivers meet where Waterfire is held. The entrance to the park is off of Steeple Street Bridge.

**Sept. 21 People's Climate March in New York City - Save the date:** As the UN prepares for another round of talks on climate change, there is a call that has been endorsed by many organizations, including peace groups, that understand that the future of the planet as we know it is endangered and it is time for serious changes to the way we live on the earth, for a massive mobilization to encourage world leaders to act boldly for our future. This event coincides with International Day of Peace, which gives us a great opportunity to link the need for just distribution of resources to be part of conflict prevention as the climate crisis worsens. <http://peoplesclimate.org/about/>  
(more events, cont. p6)

## Hosts Sought For International Students from Tyler Lewis

[ed. note: Tyler is now working for the organization that arranged her hosting, so she writes this as both a representative and a prior host]

Many of you have met Christy, my Chinese daughter for this year - it has been a joy to have her in our home and as part of our family. She and Emme have had special times together and we're sad to see her go back to China this summer. We will see her in the fall, however, when she returns to Bay View Academy as a junior. We are looking forward to a life-long relationship with our dear Christy, who calls me Mom.

Christy will be living in Barrington next year, and I will be the local representative for NACEL, the organization through which many Chinese and South Korean students come to Bay View and LaSalle.

I'd love it if you'd consider hosting a Chinese or South Korean student for school year 2014-2015. The student will attend either Bay View in Rehoboth, or LaSalle in Providence. Transportation to and from school is provided, the students are insured and have their own pocket money (often more than me!). Further, there is a really generous monthly stipend for hosting. It's not all about money but it certainly helps.

Students have an F-1 visa, which allows them to study in this country and they have the support of their schools and of NACEL. As a local rep, I would be your resource for any trouble-shooting, questions and guidance.

Please give me a call or email me if you would like to chat about hosting a high school student - 401-419-9105 / [tyger251@gmail.com](mailto:tyger251@gmail.com). Also, you can visit [www.nacelopendoor.org](http://www.nacelopendoor.org) for information on the Private School Program and what to expect and look forward to as a host family.

In the light,

Tyler Lewis



## CLERK'S CORNER by Dan Lederer

**A Question of Numbers**

I like playing with numbers, so I was happy to receive my copy of the latest NEYM Directory, which contains a variety of statistics (mostly as of December 31, 2012) about the various meetings that constitute our Yearly Meeting. Now before your eyes glaze over at the mention of statistics, please bear with me for a few minutes, since I think you may find some of these numbers to be interesting.

NEYM includes a total of 66 monthly meetings, plus, within them, 7 preparative meetings (such as Saylesville), 3 indulged meetings (such as Conanicut), and 12 worship groups. The 66 monthly meetings are organized into 8 quarterly meetings, ranging in membership from Salem Quarterly Meeting, which includes Cambridge and Wellesley, with 955 members, to Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting, in Maine, with 126. Our quarterly meeting, RI-Smithfield, ranks fifth in size with 355. Among the 66 monthly meetings, Cambridge is the most populous, with 412 members, and we are second, with 220, followed by Hartford (180), Wellesley (178), and Hanover (153). Looking at "resident members", rather than total members, Cambridge is again first with 297 and we are again second with 170, followed by Wellesley (140) and Mt. Toby (125). Of course this immediately raises questions about how different meetings are counting. For example, do they include junior members (we do), do they remove inactive members after a period of time (we don't), and how do they define "resident members" (we count all RI residents plus any Massachusetts and Connecticut residents who are active at Meeting)? But, given the information at hand, this is the best we can do.

The next question is, why should we care? Well, these numbers have implications for deciding how much support we should be giving to NEYM. NEYM's expense budget for their 2014 fiscal year (which began October 1, 2013) is \$758,603, which includes an expected deficit of \$54,763. A major portion of their income is from individual and monthly meeting contributions. In the year analyzed (2012), Providence Monthly Meeting contributed \$19,948. For comparison, Cambridge contributed \$54,000, Mt. Toby \$ 20,550, Wellesley \$17,198, Hanover \$16,125, and Hartford \$16,233. So we ranked third behind Cambridge and Mt. Toby. But meetings vary in size, so perhaps a more sensible comparison would be to look at the amount contributed per resident member. During calendar year 2012 Cambridge led the way at \$182, followed by Hartford (\$176), Mt. Toby (\$164), Hanover (\$135), Wellesley (\$123), and then Providence (\$117).

In the budget we just approved for our new fiscal year, which began June 1, we will be sending NEYM \$21,500. Our most recent count of resident members is 170, which means that we are now budgeting \$126 per resident member. NEYM is expecting to receive an overall average of \$110 per resident member this year, but if it received, on average, \$130 per resident member, it could eliminate its predicted deficit. If the above numbers are valid, then it looks like we're close to doing our share to make this happen, but should we be doing more?

**Rhode Island-AFSC-SENE Events To Support and Plan For** (cont'd from p 5)

**Peace Walk Sept 11- 14, 20:** As part of Rhode Island's month of peace activities (organized by the Peace Flag Project), AFSC-SENE is helping plan a peace walk through the state. We will start in Westerly on Thursday, September 11, walking about 10-12 miles a day to get to Warwick by Sunday evening (Sept 14). Arrangements are in process for those who want to do the entire walk uninterrupted, and potlucks are expected each night for all. Partial and day walkers are welcome, and are the majority of participants. The following weekend, on Saturday, Sept. 20, we will pick up at that point for the final walk into Providence, where we will join the Peace Meditation Walk that is a traditional part of our local celebration. Let me know if you have interest in participating. [myager@afsc.org](mailto:myager@afsc.org)

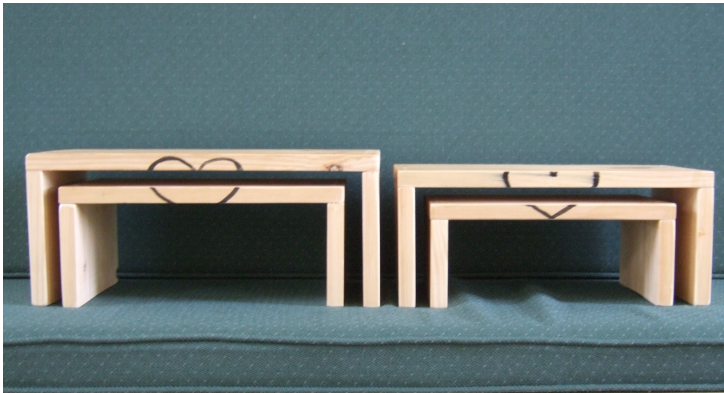
**Community Safety Act in Providence:** For those of you that live in Providence, I hope you will join AFSC-SENE and many community partners in the coming months as we support an ordinance submitted to the city council that addresses racial profiling and other practices by the police. Months were spent talking with community groups that are most impacted by these practices to address the dual need to deal with the guns and violence that are real threats to safety for all and the need for the police to do more to respect people's basic civil rights protecting them from unjustified searches. It is called the Community Safety Act. We pulled best practices from across the country in addition to listening to local ideas. We intentionally did not initially negotiate with the police, feeling that it was important to introduce an ordinance that stated a strong community vision. We understand that the legislative process will of course include discussions with the police and we look forward to that work. I will be happy to talk to you about this effort and hope especially you will join me in working with the East Side city counselors.

## First Day School Report *(continued from page 1)*

First Day School has reinvigorated our teen program with Megan Smith coordinating efforts. A group recently went out to breakfast to get to know each other. Contact Megan if you are interested in learning more.

At the request of a meeting member, the First Day school recently built foot stools to be used during meeting for the comfort of those whose feet dangle while seated. Bob Elliott led the team in assembling and staining the stools.

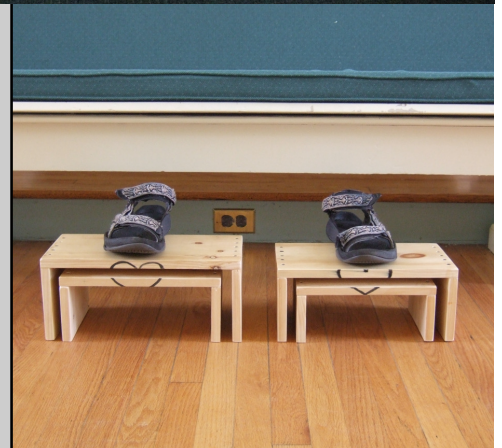
And First Day School sponsored the ice cream social for coffee hour on Sunday July 13<sup>th</sup>, supplying the ice cream, and thankful for other's contributions, including toppings, sauces, nuts and baked goods.



## Providence Monthly Meeting - Contacts

**Providence Meeting** (401) 331-4218 <http://providencefriends.org>  
99 Morris Avenue, Providence, RI 02906

Presiding Clerk: Dan Lederer [clerk@providencefriends.org](mailto:clerk@providencefriends.org)  
Assistant Presiding Clerk (To Be Named) [assistclerk@providencefriends.org](mailto:assistclerk@providencefriends.org)  
Recording Clerk: Betsy Cazden [recordingclerk@providencefriends.org](mailto:recordingclerk@providencefriends.org)  
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Website: [webclerk@providencefriends.org](mailto:webclerk@providencefriends.org)  
Moses Brown School Liaison: Willis Monroe [liaison@providencefriends.org](mailto:liaison@providencefriends.org)  
Young Adult Friends: (To Be Named) [yaf@providencefriends.org](mailto:yaf@providencefriends.org)  
To schedule the Meetinghouse: Bruce Shaw [scheduling@providencefriends.org](mailto:scheduling@providencefriends.org)  
AFSC SENE: Martha Yager (508) 399-6699 or [myager@afsc.org](mailto:myager@afsc.org) or [www.afsc.org/sene](http://www.afsc.org/sene)  
Adult Religious Education: Zona Douthit [adulthood@providencefriends.org](mailto:adulthood@providencefriends.org)



Elizabeth Bonner Zimmerman

Newsletter of  
Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of  
Friends  
(401) 331-4218 or <http://providencefriends.org>

## Meeting for Worship each Sunday

Providence: 10:00 am      Saylesville: 10:30 am  
Conanicut (Jamestown) 10:30 am (Old Meetinghouse)

**First Day School, Providence** - Sunday. Children join Meeting for Worship from 10:00-10:15 am and then proceed to First Day School from 10:15-11:00 am.

## Other Meetings for Worship (All welcome):

**Monday** - 12:30pm - Moses Brown Upper School

**Tuesday** - 7pm - Young Adult Friends at  
116 Waterman St. ([yaf@providencefriends.org](mailto:yaf@providencefriends.org))

**Wednesday** - 8:25am - Moses Brown Lower School

**Wednesday** - 9:40am - Moses Brown Middle School

**Wednesday** - 10-11:30am 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wed's - Saylesville

**Thursday** - Noon-12:45 pm Brown University in  
J. Walter Wilson room 411

**Potluck, Providence** - each First Sunday

## Meeting for Business

Providence: Second Sunday each month at 12:00pm  
Saylesville: Second Sunday of each month at 9:30am

**AFSC SENE Support Committee** - Second Tuesday, 6:30-9:00 pm Volunteers needed and welcome.

## Summer News

### Next PFM Issue in September

### HELP WANTED (from the editor)

The editor is looking for help with this newsletter in a few ways. Some simple pasting of materials into a .DOC file needs to be done throughout the month. The other need is for scheduling help - I seek to set a time to meet with someone each month in order to get these letters done in a timely manner. I am hopeful that setting a meeting with a co-worker to do the work will act as a deadline, and so keep me from putting it off because of distractions. These can be different people, and even different people in different months. Please send any response to [Steve@absteve.com](mailto:Steve@absteve.com), or 401-273-7076, or see Steve Schwartz.

Thanks.

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