

Northern Yearly Meeting—Friends Committee on National Legislation Representatives Committee (FCNL Reps)

Job Description

Purpose

The FCNL Reps Committee provides an essential link between FCNL and NYM, keeping both informed of mutual concerns and goals. Its members join in FCNL's work, and encourage active involvement of the NYM community in legislative efforts focused on peace, justice, and environmental stewardship.

Founded in 1943, FCNL is composed of Quakers who bring spiritual values to bear on public policy decisions. It has two distinct components, both of which operate in the public interest and are governed by the Religious Society of Friends. The first, is a national, nonpartisan lobbying network that encourages Congress and the administration to advance peace, justice, and environmental stewardship. The second, the nonprofit FCNL Education Fund, promotes civic engagement through education and training. [The World We Seek: FCNL's Statement of Legislative Policy](#) provides a detailed description of FCNL's overarching vision and the beliefs that underpin it.

Membership

At the core of FCNL is the General Committee, which oversees its world-mending mission. Each yearly meeting in the United States and other recognized Friends organizations are invited to name representatives to the General Committee. The current General Committee membership is composed of Friends from twenty-three yearly meetings, nine Quaker organizations, and at-large members named by the General Committee itself, for a current total membership of about 225.

FCNL asks NYM to appoint six representatives (reps) to serve on its General Committee. Per FCNL bylaws, *"All members of the General Committee must be members of the Religious Society of Friends or otherwise demonstrate a history of connection with and commitment to the Religious Society of Friends."* The reps hold a reciprocal responsibility to NYM and FCNL.

NYM Expectations for FCNL Representatives

1. The NYM Nominating Committee identifies potential reps, which in turn are approved by community as a whole at an Interim or Annual Session.
2. Length of term: 3-year staggered terms that may be renewed.
3. All members
 - a. Meet with the committee at least twice annually, and as needed.
 - b. Contribute to reports and other communication efforts.
 - c. Participate in NYM activities to discern the community's legislative concerns and priorities (e.g., Interim & Annual Sessions, and other relevant NYM events).
 - d. Request financial support from the NYM Finance Committee as needed for travel.

4. Convener—selected from within the committee.
 - a. Liaison to the NYM clerks' team and the Nominating Committee.
 - b. Sets meeting agendas and guides proceedings.
 - c. Oversees report writing and other communication with the larger NYM community.
5. Recorder—selected from within the committee.
 - a. Documents committee meeting proceedings
 - b. Collaborates with convener in preparing committee reports

FCNL Expectations for General Committee Members (Revised 10/2/20)

The FCNL General Committee meets annually and conducts its sessions in the manner of Friends. Right action, and associated tasks and decisions, are discerned in worship. At FCNL's Annual Meeting, the General Committee is charged with approving the budget, and the officers and committee members to act on its behalf during the year. The General Committee also sets the legislative policies and priorities that will guide FCNL's educational and lobbying activities.

As General Committee members, NYM representatives are asked to:

1. Attend the Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. (online or in-person).
2. Bring NYM concerns to FCNL's attention.
3. Interpret FCNL policies and procedures to NYM.
4. Be cognizant of the secular legislative process, hold a general concurrence with FCNL goals, and have an expectation of seeking divine guidance.
5. Honor FCNL's commitment to diversity by being open to varying viewpoints, and by communicating these viewpoints to NYM and FCNL.
6. Contribute, as each is able, to meeting FCNL's need for on-going financial support.
7. Serve in one or more of the following ways:
 - a. Member of a Standing or Ad Hoc FCNL Committee
 - b. Legislative Activist
 - c. Builder of Lobbying Networks
 - d. Advocate for FCNL

Annual Timetable

Yearlong	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Committee member recruitment—keep Nominating Committee apprised of needs and recommendations for members. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. FCNL bylaws require membership in Religious Society of Friends. b. Strive for balance & diversity of representatives, including between states (WI, MN, IA, MI, SD) 2. Encourage NYM community involvement in, and support to FCNL activities (e.g., emails, phone calls, lobbying and financial support). 3. Inform NYM about FCNL policy positions. 4. Support FCNL Advocacy Teams and encourage: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. connections between advocacy teams. b. development of new advocacy teams. c. connections between advocacy teams & other like-minded organizations.
January— February	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discern needs, topics & timing for educational offerings. 2. Determine timing of annual NYM report (Spring Interim, Annual Session) and draft one-page synopsis of previous year's work that may include; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Links to FCNL annual report & accomplishments from FCNL website. b. Updates on advocacy teams in NYM. c. Stories highlighting NYM's connection with FCNL.
March— April	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spring Interim Session 2. Determine FCNL staff attendance at Annual Session. 3. Work with Annual Sessions Planning <u>if</u> offering an Annual Session workshop.
May	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submit written annual report to NYM clerk early in the month. 2. Annual Session (Memorial Weekend)—present report (< than 5 minutes). 3. Possible educational offering to be co-led with FCNL staff. 4. At close of session gather from Nominating names, phone, email, address, monthly meeting, terms for NYM's FCNL reps. & forward to FCNL ASAP.
June— August	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine committee members attending FCNL Annual meeting. 2. Register for Annual Meeting and Public Policy Institute. 3. Members request funds as needed from Finance Committee. 4. Attendance in-person requires booking lodging, which can be expensive.
Sept— October	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fall Interim Session 2. Public Policy Institute attenders begin working with FCNL to arrange lobbying visits with their senators and representatives. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Visits are typically ½ hour. b. For in-person visits allow ample time for travel and security screening.
November	FCNL Annual Meeting and Public Policy Institute
December	Reimbursement requests need to be submitted well before end of the calendar year, and must be accompanied by documentation of expenditures. NYM website provides guidance for submission.