Friends World Committee on Consultation
Section of the Americas
FWCC-SOA

One of the major efforts of FWCC-SOA during the past year has been on having "Salt and Light" events. These events reflect the theme of the World Gathering of Friends in Kenya is April 2012 "Being Salt and Light: Friends living the kingdom of God in a broken world". Knowing that only 1000 Quakers worldwide would attend the World Gathering, the "Salt and Light" events would allow Quakers in the Section to participate even if they are not able to go to Kenya.. A "Salt and Light" event was held in Knoxville hosted by West Knoxville Friends Meeting and SAYMA in October, 2010.

There were 16 events during the autumn of 2010, and more have been held this spring including one after the 2011 Annual Meeting which was held in Philadelphia. The Salt and Light event was led by David Wolfe and Linda Kusse-Wolfe of Great Plains Yearly Meeting. They reported on their time in Iran where they were official Christians in a government-run Interfaith Institute.

Because of this year's emphasis on "Salt and Light" events the annual meeting itself was mainly a business meeting as required by the by-laws. There was much discussion about how the annual meeting would be held next year. It was decided that it would be at the World Gathering at the times that the sections meet. It was hoped that there would be a greater representation from Latin America. There was, of course, time for worship, singing, and fellowship. There was Celebration Service for Margaret Fraser who has resigned as executive secretary of the Section.

The other major activity of the FWCC is the Global Change initiative. This is a consultation among Quakers to see if there is a unique perspective that Quakers have in regards to the changes in our world, climate, economic, political, etc. Six queries were written for Quakers to address in cluster meetings, gatherings of Quakers all over the world. The responses are to be complied and then presented at the world gathering.

There are many changes in FWCC, in part because of changes in personnel and in part because of financial constraints, but FWCC continues to be an organization that welcomes Quakers who practice in different ways and who live in different parts of the world and represents Quakers to the wider world. This year the annual meeting approved the affiliation of Iglesia Evangelica Union Boliviana Amigos. FWCC-SOA helped plan and participated in the Latin American Peace Conference of the Historic Peace Churches in November, 2010 in the Dominican Republic. This was part of the World Conference of Churches program "The Decade to Overcome Violence".

Tim Lamm continues as Clerk of the Southeast Region and Sallie Prugh was nominated as the Clerk of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee.