

To: SAYMA (Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association) Annual Gathering 2023

From: SAYMA Representatives to the Friends Committee on National Legislation

Re: Representatives' Report for 2023

Mary Lou Hatcher, Clerk of FCNL's General Committee, has made available a 2023 Report to Yearly Meetings. Please visit FCNL's table or click [here](#) if you would like a full copy of the report.

FCNL's Annual Meeting in November 2022 ("Brave and Constant") brought 500 Friends together to do its annual business and lobby for environmental justice. Jane served as clerk of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee and Susan attended her second annual meeting which was the first hybrid meeting to be held. The theme of Annual Meeting 2023 will be "Justice calls us. Love unites us." The programming promises to be outstanding.

During Spring Lobby Weekend in March 2023, more than 300 young advocates lobbied Congress to "Invest in Violence Interrupters."

Over 250 meetings, churches and individuals took part in setting legislative priorities for this 118th Congress.

Over 2000 Advocacy Team members brought U.S. complicity in the Saudi-led war in Yemen to the attention of Congress in 2022. This year we have an energetic and challenging campaign to "Invest in Peacebuilding." FCNL is strengthening its commitment to transformation as an organization that reflects and includes the diversity of the United States, most recently by offering microaggressions training to its members of Advocacy Teams (see fcn.org/ajedi). The members of the Advocacy Corps organized their communities to lobby for the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Bill.

FCNL's policy committee is reviewing a record number of responses to its call for discernment on the issue of reproductive healthcare and abortion. There will be listening sessions during annual meeting 2023 on this issue.

And finally, FCNL has formed a new department of Community and Culture, headed by former Executive Committee member Lauren Brownlee. This department will work on Quaker outreach and building the beloved community we seek.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Hiles and Susan Penn