

November 16, 2025

AFSC Online Corporation Meeting, SCYM Representative report

On Saturday November 8 from 10am - 1pm (Central Time), the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Annual Online Corporation Meeting took place via Zoom. A roll call identified Friends from across North America and Africa. It was a pleasure to see Nell Warnes – now living in Georgia – introducing herself as part of SCYM. We were informed that a quorum was present. AFSC Board and Corporation Clerk, Alvaro Alvarado welcomed Friends and led us in opening silent worship.

Concerns were shared about the times we live in. Not only about the genocide in Gaza and devastating situation in the Sudan and elsewhere. Not only the division domestically and the pushing of limits on a government of three branches with supposed checks and balances. But also the aggressive pursuit of individuals and organizations that merely speak out in opposition to the administration's policies. The corporation meeting was only four days after Zohran Mamdani was elected mayor of New York City; and we had already heard threats to New York by the administration.

The first topic was about the administration's attacks on religious organizations and individuals. We learned about AFSC's focus on security and safety of the organization, including office security and cybersecurity.

On a positive note, we were informed that AFSC's budget is nearly \$50 million, the highest since 2008, and that AFSC is in a good financial position. In the US, AFSC's "Stronger With Immigrants" program (<https://afsc.org/stronger-immigrants>) provides aid for immigrants in Central America with legal matters. AFSC work continues under continued difficult conditions in Gaza since the aid and cessation of Israeli attacks has yet to be realized. AFSC is working through partners in Sudan. The message we continue to receive is: Stop the wars.

Joyce Ajlouny, AFSC's General Secretary, spoke to us from Switzerland where she was taking care of family. She shared information about the corporation meeting April 9-11, 2026 with the theme of "Spirit-Led Activism for a Suffering World." AFSC is seeking suggestions for the keynote speaker and workshop ideas (<https://tinyurl.com/CorporationApril2026>). AFSC is also seeking volunteers for its governance roles. Please send nominations of yourself or others to DWatson@AFSC.org.

The Friends Relations Committee shared the importance of the role of representatives to AFSC. All corporation members (including YM reps) are AFSC liaisons. Our role is to "share news about AFSC's worldwide work and opportunities for Friends to get involved." It is also to mobilize our communities regarding AFSC programs and campaigns. The committee is looking at ways to improve new rep onboarding.

Holding all in the Light,

Alex McDonald – Member of Live Oak Friends Meeting and South Central Yearly Meeting's AFSC representative with Cassie Hardee of Fort Worth Friends Meeting.