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Photo by DAG Photo/FCNL



Michael Snarr (left) with participants from Wilmington College at FCNL's Spring Lobby Weekend 2022. See page 8 for Q&A.

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Forward Plan Resulted in a More Effective FCNL

By Adlai Amor

For the first time in many years, FCNL staff gathered in person and virtually for a group photograph at Annual Meeting 2022.

An analysis of the 2018–2022 Forward Plan concludes that despite the challenges of the last five years, the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) has been transformed into a "bigger, more resilient, and effective lobbying organization that continually innovates to meet challenges while remaining grounded in Quaker faith and practice."

In 2017, the FCNL Executive Committee approved the FY 2018-2022 Forward Plan. In describing the plan, former FCNL General Secretary Diane Randall said, "[W]e boldly venture forth, rooted in God's love, grounded in Quaker faith and practice, and guided in Light."

FCNL was often referred to as Capitol Hill's best-kept lobbying secret, but that is no longer true today. The analysis says that while it is not yet a household name, journalists now call FCNL lobbyists for analysis and comments on various issues.

Faith groups rely on FCNL's ability to harness the grassroots. Partners, including those from conservative circles, seek FCNL out for its ability to talk to both sides of the aisle.

These are among the highlights of the report:

Priority: Change Public Policies

- » Despite political gridlock in Congress, FCNL and its partners successfully lobbied for at least 18 bills that were signed into law by either President Donald Trump or President Joe Biden.
- » Many of these bills were first introduced in earlier sessions of Congress but did not pass until several sessions later, such as the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act (P.L. 115-441). Three bills that impacted Native American women and girls were also passed: Savanna's Act (P.L. 116-165); the Not Invisible Act (P.L. 116-166); and the Violence Against Women Act, which passed with strong tribal provisions as part of the 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 117-103).
- » For the first time Congress, passed a War Powers Resolution (S.J. 68) requiring the removal of U.S. troops from a conflict (in this case, Yemen), but President Trump vetoed it.

"Partners, including those from conservative circles, seek FCNL out for its ability to talk to both sides of the aisle."

Priority: Strengthen FCNL's Strategic Advocacy Network

- » Constituents conducted 4,372 lobby visits from FY 2018 to FY 2022 or an average of 874 lobby visits annually.
- » 163 Advocacy Teams were organized in 44 states. Teams in 20 states, such as Pennsylvania and California, are coordinating to reach more members of Congress.
- » Online actions (phone calls, emails, or letters) totaled 308,582. These actions come from 97,917 constituents. For perspective, FY 2018 saw 8,577 constituents participate in 15,450 online actions, rising to 21,348 constituents participating in 91,145 online actions in FY 2022.

Priority: Expand Media, Marketing, and Communications

- » Beginning in 2018, FCNL carried out multiple radio media tours (RMT) annually, reaching more than 172,371,300 listeners in all 50 states across countless radio stations. The advertising equivalent of this exposure is more than \$1,340,925 while costing FCNL less than \$25,000 annually.
- » FCNL released 14 radiopublicserviceannouncements (PSAs) which were aired by 13,776 radio stations and reached an estimated 96,000,000 listeners. The advertising equivalent of this exposure is \$695,475. The total cost of the PSAs is \$63,700.
- » In FY 2020, fcnl.org was redesigned, and a new website for Friends Place on Capitol Hill was launched in 2021. The new website resulted in a Google grant that gives FCNL \$10,000 monthly for online search ads.
- » Email remains the major communications tool for FCNL. There were 2,740 unique mailings (excluding recurring emails like a welcome series), and 16,865,670 emails were sent. A third (32%) of these emails consisted of action alerts.

(Continued on page 6)

Century-old Artwork Finds a Home on Capitol Hill

By Kristen Archer



▲ Steve Hulbert, Louise Hulbert, Mark Hulbert, and Bridget Moix at the unveiling of the burlap embroidery. Photo by Wesley Wolfbear Pinkham/FCNL.

A century-old work of art, which took more than six months to restore, now hangs over a fireplace mantel in one of the Friend's Place dining rooms where historic meetings for peace and planning for demonstrations took place in the last 50 years.

It is a gift by the Hulbert family and is the very first work of art to adorn the bare walls of the newly reopened Quaker guesthouse. Indeed, aside from a fresh coat of paint, the walls were entirely empty—that is, until October 28 when the Hulbert family unveiled their gift.

"It feels like it's come home. It needs to be displayed. It represents such a wonderful message that should all be reminding us of right now," said Mark Hulbert during its unveiling.

The artwork is a statement about Quaker efforts for peace and cooperation—timely, as Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, setting off months of war with no end in sight, despite ongoing calls for diplomacy.

The artwork, originally from Russia, depicts a man leading a horse. Although it still has to be confirmed, there are words from what appears to be a Ukrainian folk song embroidered in the burlap.

"Regardless of one's attitude towards the invasion of Ukraine, it's not the people of Russia who are invading. We want to create this understanding and that's what the piece represents. And that's what Friends Place represents. I'm sure my great-uncle would be ecstatic," Mark said.

The artwork is made of threads unraveled from garments distributed 100 years ago by a Quaker-led relief program, which were embroidered onto a burlap feed sack. It was given by villagers to Alfred G. Smaltz, uncle of longtime FCNL supporter Jean Smaltz Hulbert.

Smaltz grew up on a farm in northwest Iowa. After World War I, he joined the American Friends Relief and Reconstruction Mission to support post-war reconstruction in Russia. He traveled to Russia in 1922, where he helped replace farmers' horses that died in the war.

Smaltz visited horse bazaars in Siberia, where he purchased 1,000 wild horses and helped lead them on a 55-day, 1,500-mile trek back to the famine zone



Alfred Smaltz (right) and his personal interpreter, Ilia Andreyevich Tolstoy. Photo courtesy of University of Iowa Libraries.

where he was stationed. The townspeople gifted this tapestry to him as a gesture of gratitude.

After her Uncle Alfred's passing, Jean Hulbert inherited the piece and displayed it prominently in her home for decades. When she died, her sons Steve, Mark, Tom, and John—Smaltz's great-nephews—realized it was time to determine the next stop on its journey, and they wanted it to be meaningful.

Mark Hulbert reached out to former FCNL General Secretary Diane Randall to discuss some options.

The Hulbert family's rich history with FCNL spans decades. Jean was active with FCNL throughout her life. In 1974, Mark seized the opportunity to get involved as well. He attended his first Annual Meeting and served on various committees. He also served as the clerk of the General Committee, and of the Executive Committee.

Kristen Archer is FCNL's social media and editorial director. 

(Forward Plan from page 6)

Priority: Build Relationships Between FCNL and the Religious Society of Friends

- » The number of active Quakers in the FCNL database grew from 5,350 in 2018 to 6,801 by 2022.
- » Quaker meetings and churches continue to be deeply involved in setting FCNL's legislative priorities. There were 279 submissions in 2018, 208 in 2020, and 263 in 2022.
- » Virtual and in-person visits to yearly meetings reached 129 from 2018-2022, and FCNL was featured in 17 of their plenaries. Similar visits to monthly meetings totaled 188 in the same period.

Priority: Ensure Organizational Sustainability

- » FCNL grew from 47 staff positions in FY 2018 to 67 in FY 2022. Based on a 2022 survey, 62% of FCNL staff are white; 23% are African American; 6% are Hispanic; and 4% each are Asian, Native American, or Middle Eastern.

- » FCNL continued to evolve institutionally. In addition to the existing Associate General Secretaries Team (AGST), a Senior Leadership Team (SLT) was created in 2020. Several functions of the AGST were transferred to the SLT. Several departments were consolidated.
- » Annual fund income (foundation, individual donors, meetings, and churches) grew by 45% from \$4,707,990 in 2018 to \$6,824,650 in 2022. This growth represents a 15% increase in individual donors for the five-year period.
- » FCNL Education Fund assumed governance of William Penn House, now renamed Friends Place on Capitol Hill, in September 2019. The same green building principles used in renovating the FCNL building (granted Platinum LEED by the U.S. Green Building Council) and the Quaker Welcome Center were also used in Friends Place.

A copy of the 20-page report can be viewed at fcnl.org/forwardplan.

Adlai Amor is FCNL's associate general secretary for communications. 



The Washington Newsletter is a publication of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) and the FCNL Education Fund, two national nonpartisan Quaker organizations working for peace, justice, and environmental stewardship.

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Viewpoint: Zoomers Have Not Given up on Democracy

By Clare Carter

I started voting when I was 18. It was the 2018 midterm elections. For the next two years, I continued to vote in local and national elections, and I was excited to vote in 2020.

Prior to the last presidential election, I had marched in Washington for the Women's March in 2017; worked as an Advocacy Corp organizer at FCNL, lobbying on gun violence prevention; and volunteered in the advocacy sphere.

Then in January 2021, a friend texted me to turn on the news. I saw footage of people forcing their way into the U.S. Capitol, protesting the results of an election they deemed fraudulent. I had only been voting for a couple years at that point, and only once in a presidential election. The footage shook me.

The deep partisan divide in the United States was laid bare that day. Though there seemed to be some unity around condemning the January 6 insurrection, the farther we get from that event, the deeper the divide grows.

This is most surprising when it comes to issues that seem to be for the good of the country, or for humanity. This is especially apparent in the issue of gun violence prevention. According to a Public Policy Polling survey, 83% of gun owners support expanded background checks on sales of all firearms. Yet, bills supporting universal background checks stall in Congress.

With gun violence reaching public health crisis status in the United States, this sort of legislation



Clare Carter (front row, second from right) with the rest of the FCNL Program Assistant cohort 2022–2023. Photo by Wesley Pinkham/FCNL.

(which many refer to as “common sense legislation”) should not be so controversial. However, it continues to be so—because of the deep partisanship in our government.

We see it on the international stage as well. The Yemen War Powers Resolution, having wide support in Congress, could be the simplest legislative way to end U.S. support for the Saudi war in Yemen. Like the bills supporting universal background checks, we are seeing a lack of action in Congress.

These failures—along with countless other instances of congressional partisanship—left me less than optimistic.

I felt discouraged, especially since former President Donald Trump and his supporters in Congress continue to question the election results despite the courts judging that he lost.

Still, I voted this November, just as I have in every previous election in which I was able to. Despite past

discouragements, I found that I was joyful.

On November 8, more young adults turned out to vote than in the last 30 years (excluding the 2018 midterm election) with 27% of 18-29-year-olds casting their ballots.

State and national offices continue to diversify as more LGBTQ+ candidates won their contests than ever before. Voters also elected the first Gen Z candidate to the House of Representatives.

I'm proud that my generation, Gen Z or Zoomers, continues to vote, despite the rhetoric that our votes don't matter or that elections are fraudulent. Voter suppression and gerrymandering occurred in many states, but we voted anyway.

The results of this midterm election demonstrated to me that we Zoomers are resilient, and we have not given up on our democracy.

Clare Carter is FCNL's program assistant for Quaker outreach. 

Q&A: Empowering Youth Through Advocacy

With Michael Snarr

*Michael Snarr is a professor of political science at Wilmington College in Ohio. A regular attendee of FCNL's Spring Lobby Weekend, Snarr has brought more than 200 students to Washington, D.C., to learn and lobby their members of Congress. He has co-edited several books, including *Introducing Global Issues*, and *Foreign Policy in Comparative Perspective: Domestic and International Influences on State Behavior*. Snarr represents Wilmington Yearly Meeting on FCNL's General Committee.*

How did you get into your current role? Why do you think it's important to involve young adults in policy work and advocate with them?

Back when I was in college and graduate school, I had no idea I would be working with young adults on advocacy. When I arrived at Wilmington College, my father, Neil Snarr, was just beginning to work with Jim Cason and FCNL on advocacy, and I essentially inherited that role.

Involving young adults in policy work all comes down to empowerment. Teaching them how to lobby and helping them go through the process gives them the confidence they need to advocate for the rest of their lives.

What issues do you think are the most salient for young adults right now?

My more liberal students are interested in environmental issues, like climate change, and various human rights issues. My more conservative students are interested in many of these issues as well but advocate different responses. These students are also more focused on the job market and economic opportunities, which can seem overwhelming at times.

What have been your biggest takeaways or "Ahas!" from working with young people?

Students want hands-on experiences. The classroom is important, but getting off campus and engaging in activities like lobbying is very impactful.

Also, students on different ends of the political spectrum may read things differently, which is interesting.

For instance, one of my students read an FCNL blog post about violence interrupters and immediately wondered if it was about gun control ... which it is not, but that is where his mind went.

What are your hopes for the future of our democracy, our country, and our world, and what role do you think young adults will play?

I hope our democracy will give more opportunities for young people to have an impact and share their voices. When they are ignored, they tend to disengage, which is not good for democracy.

What, in your opinion, might FCNL's role be in the future with young people? How can we continue to engage them, welcome them, and grow with them?

I think FCNL has to face difficult questions in the future with respect to young people. My biggest concern is how to increase political diversity among young people involved with FCNL.

We are successful at attracting more liberal students, but I don't think we're nearly as good at appealing to those who are more moderate in their politics. This is a diversity issue we have not fully confronted.

Ultimately, we can bridge divides, but it requires patience and intention. I encourage students to focus on the practical importance of meeting the other person where they are.

Q and A by Kristen Archer. 

Young Adult Programs

Registration Deadlines and Program Dates

Advocacy Corps

DEADLINE 4/14/2023

PROGRAM 8/2023–5/2024

Program Assistant Fellowship

DEADLINE 2/10/23

PROGRAM 8/2023–7/2024

Summer Internship

DEADLINE 3/24/23

PROGRAM 6/2023–7/2023

Spring Lobby Weekend

PROGRAM

March 25–28, 2023