

FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) Job Description

Logistics:

Last Reviewed 9-15 ; Nominated Committee? No ; Nominated by? NA Length of term NA
on committee NA Need to be MMM member? No

Day and time of Meetings: Occasional meetings. No regularly scheduled meetings.

Mission and Purpose: FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) is known as a “Quaker lobby in the public interest.” Madison Meeting’s FCNL Committee works to educate and inform F/friends about issues of concern to Quakers, as recommended by FCNL’s national office. Meets periodically to plan letter-writing and email to influence our Congress to solve problems, and contacts legislators to schedule visits. Letters to newspaper editors, reflecting FCNL positions, are also encouraged.

Guiding principles:

FCNL has created a document outlining its vision of the ideal future entitled “The World We Seek.” The framework of this document is four basic principles. FCNL seeks:

- a world free of war and the threat of war;
- a society with equity and justice for all;
- a community where every person’s potential may be fulfilled;
- an earth restored.

The “World We Seek” provides a framework for FCNL lobbying.

In addition, every two years FCNL identifies its legislative lobbying priorities, based on input from Quaker meetings and churches from around the country. These documents can be found on the FCNL website - FCNL.org

Duties and Responsibilities: Members use information suggested by the national office to facilitate communication by Meeting members/attenders with our legislators about issues of importance. Every few years the committee sponsors a fundraiser for the national FCNL effort.

Specific duties for committee’s members: Committee members sign up to produce once/monthly letter-writing sessions after both early and later Meetings for Worship. The committee provides printed information about one or more key issues, as well as paper, pens, stamps, etc. to encourage participation. Information about important issues is also shared in the Meeting newsletter.

Anyone who is interested can attend the annual FCNL Quaker Public Policy Institute, a meeting in Washington DC that focuses on a policy issue and then encourages participants to lobby legislators on the issue. This Institute is in conjunction with the FCNL annual meeting, with representatives of Quaker Yearly Meetings throughout the country.

Convener responsibilities other than above: Every two years, works with committee members to gather Meeting attenders’ input in deciding the priorities the national FCNL organization will focus on over the next two years.

Notes to nominating committee: Committee members have the flexibility of choosing the letter-writing dates for which they will be responsible and have few whole-group meetings.