

MINUTES OF THE FIC BOARD MEETING

April 16-17, 1988

Hosted by Green Pastures Estate, Epping, New Hampshire

INDEX OF MEETING TOPICS

	Pg	
1-President's Report	1	12-Brochure & Outreach Mat'ls
2-Elections	2	13-Alpha Farm Hosts Sept. Meet
3-Treasurer's Report	3	14-Author Sought for New Book
4-Communities Directory/Mag Crisis	4	15-Stelle Continues as FIC HQ
5-Communities Video Tour w/ Russian	7	16-Staffing Budget Proposal
6-\$10,000 SoL Credit Line to CESCO	9	17-Bylaws Amendments
7-Reports of Visits to Communities	10	18-FIC Member Communications
8-Written Visit Report Guidelines	11	19-Fellowship Logo in Process
9-Membership Process Revisions	12	20-Conference Call Not Placed
10-Outreach & Representation of FIC	12	21-501c3 Tax Filing to Proceed
11-Selection Values in Recruitment	13	

BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Participating	Home Community	Related Affiliations
Allen Butcher	Twin Oaks VA	Fed. of Egalitarian Communities (FEC) CESCI, School of Living (SoL)
Bob Watzke	Farm Home Cntr WI	Community Ed. Service Council (CESCI)
Caroline Estes	Alpha Farm OR	North American Bio-regional Congress
Dan Quesenberry	Shannon Farm VA	Inter-Communities of Virginia CESCI, SoL
David Thatcher	100 Mile Lodge BC	Emissary Foundation International
Faith Morgan	* Occidental CA	CESCI
Harvey Baker	Dunmire Hollow TN	Congenial & Harmonious Assoc. of TN Intentional Communities(CHAOTIC)
Laird Schaub	Sandhill Farm MO	FEC
Rita Tarkinow	Farm Home Center WI	
Absent		
Al Barberg	Stelle IL	CESCI
Bob Brown	* San Diego CA	
Suzanne Riordan	* Sta. Barbara CA	Inst. for Study of Am. Religion
Charles Betterton	Stelle IL	Community Publications Cooperative Communities magazine editor, CESCO Community Service Inc, National Historic Communal Societies Assoc.

OTHER MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Art Rosenblum	* Philadelphia PA	Aquarian Research Foundation
Barbara Lee	Dunmire Hollow TN	CHAOTIC
Carol Thatcher	100 Mile Lodge BC	Emissary Foundation International
Chris Collins	* New Haven CT	Community Publications Cooperative
		Communities magazine typographer
Johanna Bailey	The Ark MA	
John Ewbank	Bryn Gweled PA	CESCI
Mary Vogel	Sirius MA	Greenfield Land Trust
Simon Gribben	* Los Angeles CA	Aquarian Research Foundation

* Home towns listed for those who aren't intentional community members.

1-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The April 88 board meeting began Saturday afternoon with Dan reviewing the development of the Fellowship for Intentional Community since the fall 87 board meeting at EAST WIND in Missouri. He noted that the Fellowship's goals and immediate objectives for incorporation have been identified and the membership and leadership structure defined. In addition to a sense of direction, personal relationships among organizers and activists have been strengthened in the FIC meetings, providing added personal motivations for meeting attendance.

Dan observed that the last six months marked the completion of the Fellowship's two year re-organization into a corporation (after enjoying 38 years of informal organization). Now that the corporate membership process is in place, communities and individual communitarians without a history of participation in the informal organization have started joining the Fellowship.

In fact, three New England communities joined the Fellowship just before this meeting ---SIRIUS MA, STEINER FELLOWSHIP NY, and ABODE OF THE MESSAGE NY. All three have invited other Fellowship members to visit their communities after the Green Pastures meeting. (Barbara, Dan and Harvey visited Sirius and the Abode during the week following the meeting, as well as THE ARK MA, RENAISSANCE MA, METTANOKIT NH of FEC and KRIPALU CENTER FOR YOGA AND HEALTH MA.)

Dan noted the issues requiring attention from the meeting. Some of the key items are simple or direct---board elections, bylaws amendments, and community visit reports. Others are complex---new member selection values, the communities video tour with the Russian author, and the financial and management crisis at Communities magazine and Directory. He listed a number of other interesting activities available at Green Pastures during the weekend, outside of the FIC and CESCO meetings. Finally, Dan observed that meeting participants were going to have to budget their time carefully if they hoped to complete the very full FIC agenda, get to know Green Pastures and renew personal friendships all in one weekend.

2-ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Four board members were carried over from last year to complete two-year terms--Al, Allen, Bob W and Suzanne. A fifth, Ed Olson, resigned mid-way thru his two-year term. Five board members had expiring one-year terms--Bob B, Charles, Dan, David and Laird. With a maximum of 12, up to 8 more members could have been placed on the board of directors.

With strong encouragement from Caroline and Rita, the board discussed efforts to recruit more women onto the board. Despite previous efforts, only one 87-88 board member was female. (Our Treasurer, Faith, chooses not to be a board member.) Considering this and other imbalances, Harvey and Laird withdrew from board candidacy to make space for representation of a wider spectrum of communitarians.

Both explained that they were committed to continued involvement in the Fellowship. They were comfortable that FIC's unanimous decision-making process insures their ability to express themselves and be heard equally in meetings regardless of whether they were board members. (See attached Bylaws Amendments, Article V.E. about holding membership meetings in conjunction with Board meetings.)

Dan observed that every board meeting since incorporation had discussed the disadvantages of failing to involve more women as board members. In a recent phone call to Dan, Suzanne expressed this concern again when discussing the agenda for this meeting. Dan said that there appeared to be more men than women willing to participate in board meetings and FIC networking. Caroline responded that she was confident that interested female communitarians would become involved if the opportunity was made known to more communities.

Board members also expressed concern about other groups that were under-represented. Allen and Art both spoke of the need to reach out to the numerous traditional spiritual communities that share Fellowship interests, especially peace church and other Christian communities. Dan mentioned the Yoga/Hindu communities, like Kripalu and Yogaville, and also the MOVEMENT FOR A NEW SOCIETY, a political renewal network which includes a number of urban group houses in land trust.

After Laird assured the board that he would continue as secretary, his decision to withdraw was accepted. Considering the geographical need for representation from the Deep South, Harvey agreed not to withdraw his candidacy with the understanding that board membership would be expanded from 12 to 15 to allow for wider representation.

DECISION: It was agreed that the next meeting would consider amending the bylaws to expand the board to up to 15 members. The purpose of this expansion would be to balance the numbers of male and female board members, and to encourage the participation of other groups of communitarians that are under-represented in the Fellowship. (This bylaws amendment must be considered at the next board meeting since it was not announced in advance of this meeting.)

DECISION: Four outgoing board members were unanimously re-elected for two-year terms---Bob B, Charles, Dan and David. Also, four new board members were elected for two-year terms---Caroline, Faith, Harvey and Rita. Faith withdrew from the board later in the meeting.

DECISION: For the 87-88 year the following officers were elected: President--Dan, Vice-President--Caroline, Treasurer--Faith, Secretary--Laird. (Treasurer and secretary are not required to be board members).

DECISION: The Executive Committee will be Bob W, Caroline, Dan and Rita. The function of President may be shared by the Executive Committee. Job responsibilities of the president include internal and external communications, program oversight and task delegation, membership maintenance, meeting agenda prep, convening of meetings, and legal representation.

3-TREASURER'S REPORT

Income for 1987 was \$421.02 including a \$200 donation from Shannon Farm. During 88 thru March 25, another \$596.95 was received with \$300 coming from CESC grant funds. Faith and Laird have been reimbursed \$117.51 for office expenses (primarily printing, postage and long distance phone calls). Faith reported cash on hand of \$900.46 plus about \$200 in dues collected thus far in the meeting. The meeting was then recessed until Sunday.

Saturday evening (and into Sunday morning) Caroline, Laird and Dan prioritized the remaining agenda items, developed a budget for the remainder of 1988, and reviewed the details of \$1,100 in office expenses that Dan submitted from his first year of operations as president. Beginning with the April 87 printing and distribution of the first draft of the bylaws, Dan has financed Fellowship office expenses personally until sufficient income accumulated to pay these initial costs. When the meeting reconvened Sunday morning, Caroline and Laird proposed that the expenses Dan submitted be paid according to a schedule.

DECISION: A \$500. budget was approved to finance Fellowship office expenses for the rest of 1988. All of these expenses will be related to internal communications, coordinated by the Executive Committee. Or, to outreach, which is also coordinated with the membership committee---Al, Dan, David, and Suzanne.

DECISION: \$550 will be reimbursed to Dan immediately. The remaining \$550 will be paid as new income is received with fifty percent of all new income going to this obligation until payment is complete. Board members expressed appreciation for Dan's assertive, continuing efforts in Fellowship communication and development work during the past year.

4-COMMUNITIES DIRECTORY AND CRISIS AT COMMUNITIES MAGAZINE.

(BACKGROUND: Publication of COMMUNITIES magazine has been suspended since the 87 summer quarter issue because of severe financial problems. Editing work on the 87/88 Directory stopped at about the same time. CESCO, Federation, Emissary Foundation and a number of communities and individuals have expressed strong support for the Fellowship interest in working on this crisis.

This meeting included continuation of a year-long dialogue with the magazine's editor, Charles, and the publishers, Charles and Chris. The objective of this dialogue has been to facilitate resumption of editorial work on the new Directory and to develop financing for Directory publication and distribution. The fate of the quarterly magazine has also been discussed.

(Historically, Communities magazine has always operated at a deficit. So staffing has been inadequate and there has been no professional marketing. After subsidizing operating costs for 10 years, TWIN OAKS withdrew in 1984.

(Then STELLE FOUNDATION, INC, (SFI) stepped into the breach. Although increased circulation through mid-87 brightened the financial picture, Communities magazine was still losing \$2-3,000 annually. The deficit would have been much larger without the yearly \$7-10,000 in book sales from ads in the magazine. Even though they have closed the gap significantly, (SFI) has become over-extended, too. Not only in labor hours, but in personally assuming the magazine's debts.

In traveling to this meeting, Laird visited several communities in the Midwest, Eastern Canada and New England. He reported that the first stop on his trip was Stelle, where he met for several days with Communities magazine editor and Fellowship member Charles Betterton. During their meetings, several critical facts were re-confirmed.

Communities' Fall 87 issue features child care and education in community and was guest-edited by Allen. It has been typeset for publishing. Most of the Winter 88 issue on Planetary Consciousness and Community, guest-edited by Garreth Branwyn of GESUNDHEIT INSTITUTE, was also typeset. But no funds were available for publishing either issue.

In the past, the Directory issue has always been a big seller which reduced the deficit from the quarterly issues of the magazine. But editing a new Directory consumes a lot of labor and office and correspondence expenses, which SFI had no prospects of procuring. In fact, Communities magazine had a \$4,000 CESCO loan, as well as other loans, that it had no means of repaying. So, Communities' editorial staff at SFI, with encouragement from FIC, asked the Fellowship for assistance in editing and financing up to 10,000 copies of an updated, high-quality Communities Directory. Estimated cost: \$20,000.

Laird presented a well-developed proposal for assistance, initially developed in collaboration with Charles. (Charles sent a letter to the board stating that he was unable to attend the meeting due to last-minute complications at work concerning budget deadlines.)

Laird outlined the major steps toward editing and publication of a new Directory. As envisioned, the revised directory would include expanded descriptions of interested communities, quick reference charts, related articles, possibly, a catalog of community products and businesses, as well as the regular, shorter listings seen in previous Directories, all bound in paperback book form rather than as a magazine.

Allen suggested categorizing communities in the quick reference charts according to networks, spiritual beliefs and personal growth systems, economic values (common income, co-op, tithing), decision making processes (charismatic, planner/manager, democratic, consensus), land holding methods (co-op, communal, land trust), and other major common characteristics. Chris Collins cautioned that format (layout) design must be set early, before the editing, and that we should schedule six months for editing.

David reinforced Charles' preference for using a flat-spine, paperback book format rather than the traditional magazine form because of the wider distribution and marketing possibilities open for books. Caroline agreed and suggested that, considering the added unit cost, the Directory should be revised every 3-5 years rather than annually. Chris warned that there will be more layout complications with the paperback format. But these could be limited by publishing in a larger size, like that of the book, BUILDERS OF THE DAWN.

Chris said that stiff binder copy (book format) would cost twice as much as the magazine now costs. For 4,000 copies of the magazine, the cost for layout and printing has been over \$4,000. Of course, there would be a dramatic drop in cost per unit if a larger quantity were printed. David said the currency exchange rate is such that printing costs could be reduced by 30% if the printing was done in Canada instead of the U.S. He will ask Freisen Press of Winnipeg for costs on the book and magazine formats at several different volume print runs.

John said he would like to see FIC involved in marketing the Directory. While he was aware that budget to cover Directory work is a problem, he thought CESCO could help with fund raising. David suggested charging a fee for community listings in the Directory. But John felt that listing fees should not be required because then many groups would not participate. Alternatively, he suggested soliciting donations from the communities interested in being listed. John also noted that CESCO could serve as a tax exempt conduit for such donations.

Harvey said that communities open to new members would likely pay a fee. But to obtain a more complete listing, a range of financial support options could be offered in addition to donations, such as fee for feature articles describing particular communities or community networks. Allen recommended inclusion of a catalog section for paid product and service advertisements. Laird suggested that, rather than listing fee, communities be asked to pre-purchase 5 or more copies of the Directory in advance of publication.

David and Dan thought that the board should seek financial support not only from communities willing to donate funds and labor, but also from those communities wanting to invest in the Directory as a potentially profitable venture. Caroline pointed out that the magazine's quarterly issues are financially dependent on the Directory. So, if Communities does not retain the Directory income, the quarterly dies.

Dan responded that the first priority should be publication of a Communities Directory that is financially secure in a long-term sense. He was concerned that the quarterly's chronic deficit problems not be allowed to interfere with timely publication of the Directory. However, he recognized the value of resuming publication of the quarterly if at all possible.

While SFI, or more specifically, Charles, is the magazine editor, the publisher is COMMUNITY PUBLICATIONS COOPERATIVE (CPC), a division of UNSCHOOL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CORPORATION. The publisher has ultimate responsibility for the magazine---layout and financing as well as the editing. Allen asked whether we should seek transfer of CPC from Unschool to CESCO, or to FIC if it obtains its own 501c3 tax exemption in time. Alternatively, FIC members could join the Unschool board, which now consists of Chris, Charles and Paul Freundlich, director of CO-OP AMERICA.

Chris suggested another option: FIC or CESCO could co-publish the Directory in partnership with CPC/Unschool. Allen and Dan both expressed support for co-publishing. They felt it would allow FIC and CESCO to engage in Directory financing without involvement in the magazine's past finances.

Laird called for volunteers to do editorial work on the Directory. He said that he would serve as overall coordinator and would solicit and edit listings from Federation communities.

DECISION: The FIC, with CESCO, Federation and Emissary support, will negotiate with CPC/Unschool to co-publish the new Communities Directory. If successful, the Fellowship will raise the funds and labor necessary to publish and distribute the Directory by the summer of 1989. This project will be coordinated by a Directory committee of Laird and Caroline with David and Carol in an advisory capacity.

DECISION: Directory editing work will be coordinated by the Directory committee. Laird will provide overall coordination of FIC editing work. Listings will be solicited and edited by regional, or network, coordinators as follows:

- Mid-Atlantic-----Dan
- Southeast-----Harvey
- Emissary-----David
- (New England-----Johanna volunteered after the meeting.
- International---David
- Land Trust-----Allen
- Federation-----Laird

The Fellowship will seek a network coordinator for Christian communities and regional coordinators for the West Coast, the Southwest and the Midwest.

5-COMMUNITIES VIDEO TOUR WITH RUSSIAN AUTHOR

Art distributed issue #157 of Aquarian Alternatives, the newsletter of the Aquarian Research Foundation. Then, Simon and he discussed a communities video tour which will include Soviet government researcher Peter Gladkov. From the newsletter and that discussion, we learned about the details of the tour, as well as the Soviet interest in learning about voluntary intentional communities that are not government-run. (The tour began during the second week in May. Tho scheduled to last two months, Gladkov's participation was ended after five weeks. Simon Gribben, the scheduled video producer, has been replaced by videographers Suzanne Baxter and Ron Garber. Art hopes to continue the video tour thru the end of June, finishing up in central Virginia.)

The communal Hutterites, organized around 1520, moved to the sparsely-populated Ukraine in 1770 to escape religious persecution in Austria and Moravia. One of the original peace sects of the Protestant Reformation, the Anabaptist Hutterites have been persecuted from their beginnings for refusing to bear arms and make war. In 1876, again seeking religious freedom, they left Russia for South Dakota where 20,000 Hutterites live on communal farms today. Now, Gorbachev's plans for perestroika, reorganization, appear to involve renewed Soviet interest in spiritually-based intentional communities and other voluntary communitarian groups.

At the invitation of the Aquarian Research Foundation, Soviet Academy of Sciences Research Fellow Peter Gladkov was scheduled to make a two-month tour of successful U.S. intentional communities during this summer. He plans to produce a scholarly report to the Academy and a popular book for Russian and English-speaking readers. Peter Gladkov is a close associate of Professor Georgi Arbatov, Soviet Premier Gorbachev's advisor on U.S. affairs. So, the results of his tour will receive significant attention from political leaders in the Soviet Union, as well as in the U.S. Publishing of the English version of his book is being managed by New York literary agent Peter Miller.

Art and Judy Rosenblum's Aquarian Research Foundation is the U.S. sponsor of Gladkov's tour. Art lived with the BRUDERHOF for 12 years in Paraguay and continued his membership for four more years after the moved to this country in 1960. In 1965, after six months at MENNONITE HOUSE in Atlanta, he joined REBA PLACE FELLOWSHIP in Evanston, Illinois, where he became a printer. After ten months at Reba Place, he went on the road setting up printing equipment for peace groups and visiting intentional communities.

In 1969 Art settled in Philadelphia and started Aquarian Research Foundation to explore, and influence the selection of, positive future for humanity. He feels that "cooperative communities have (not individually but as a movement) found ways to solve almost every social problem, and yet our media focuses so much on negative events that such success is ignored."

During a personal trip to Moscow last year, Art wrangled a meeting with Professor Arbatov and arranged a visit to U.S. communities for Soviet author and poet Igor Mikhailusenko. That visit was cut short when the Russian became sick. Peter Gladkov's tour is a follow-up to last year's visit. Art believes that American media interest in these activities can help advance peace education and USSR-US friendship, as well as help Americans to learn of the wide variety of alternative community lifestyles now being practiced in the U.S.

Art will pilot the four person tour group---including Peter and videographers Suzanne Baxter and Ron Garber---in his four passenger Cessna. In the east, they planned to visit the BRUDERHOF in New England, co-operative settlements in Philadelphia and, in Virginia, INNISFREE VILLAGE, THE GATHERING, SHANNON FARM and, possibly, SPRINGTREE and COMMON GROUND. Other communities also serving as tour hosts include PADANARAM in Indiana, SUNRISE RANCH in Colorado and one or more of the 300 HUTTERITE colonies in South Dakota.

The Soviets are paying for Peter's Aeroflot tickets to this country. But tax-exempt Aquarian Foundation has accepted responsibility for raising the money to cover all U.S. expenses of the tour, including the cost of 100 hours of video taping. The projected cost is \$15-20,000. A \$10,000 loan is available, but additional funding is needed. Art is interested in discussing tax exempt donations, loans, or investments that would share in the financial success of the tour. Copies of an edited documentary and/or footage of single communities, or networks of communities, will be available to those helping finance the tour.

Dan asked what other assistance was needed from the Fellowship and other U.S. communitarians to make the tour successful. And, Dan also wanted to know what assurances could be provided for dealing with any factual errors that may be introduced during the video editing process. Simon said that when the tour arrives with the Russian to visit a host community, they want to capture communitarians "doing what they do", generally video taping ongoing community projects and activities. They don't plan to record special presentations or staged events.

After two months of touring and 100 hours of video tape, Simon estimated that Aquarian will have a \$12,000 direct investment in the raw footage. Because of the limited budget, the editing process must proceed as quickly as possible. So, community editing involvement will have to take place at the editing facility and within the schedule of that facility. (Facilities for editing the video tape have not been located. Please notify Judy at Aquarian if you know of possible editing facilities.)

Caroline said that ALPHA FARM has been video taped many times with generally positive experiences. Alpha has always requested that their exact location not be publicized. Also, they send someone to review the production during the editing process.

David said that many of us view our home communities as spiritual places and hope for respect of that awareness. He emphasized the need for mutual respect and mutual humility. David expressed appreciation for Aquarian's efforts in sponsoring the Russian's U.S. communities tour. Then, he said that the gate to SUNRISE RANCH is open for the tour group to spend a few days "doing what you want to do", with the understanding that the Emissaries want some input into the finished video documentary.

Art commented that a video documentary could expand awareness of the tour to make a much wider statement for world peace and USSR-US friendship than would be possible with only the books and the report to the Soviet Academy. Then, Art spoke of the Soviet motives for learning about Western intentional community. For him it went back to former U.S. presidential candidate Barbara Hubbard when she asked the Soviets what they wanted for the future.

The Soviets told her that they looked beyond the socialist state to the ideal of community. Very possibly, Art felt, Peter Gladkov is being sent to the U.S. to gather ideas for the re-opening of Soviet society to the diverse concepts of voluntary intentional community. Such an opening could focus positive attention on the evolution of intentional communities worldwide.

DECISION: The Fellowship will publicize this communities video tour, including the need for financial support, and will encourage intentional communities to host tour group visits and provide financial support where convenient.

6-\$10,000 SCHOOL OF LIVING CREDIT LINE TO CESC

Dan informed the Board that networking among member organizations was making a big difference. Upon Allen and Herb Goldstein's initiative, the School of Living has extended a \$10,000 line of credit to CESC for use in making additional loans to intentional community businesses.

(BACKGROUND: The School of Living administers a \$150,000 fund derived from the sale of Deep Run Farm community property. Deep Run belonged to the SoL Land Trust, so sale proceeds were recycled into the land trust movement. \$100,000 has been earmarked for investments in land trusts for intentional community or homesteading use. The remaining \$50,000 has been used as an endowment fund to finance educational work in land trusts, permaculture, FOURTH WORLD ASSEMBLIES and GREEN REVOLUTION, the SoL newsletter. (Allen, Dan and CESC president Herb Goldstein are SoL board members.)

7-REPORTS OF VISITS TO COMMUNITIES

In December Laird was at ALPHA FARM OR for the second time in 87. As a result of those visits Caroline decided to attend this meeting. Laird also went to BREITENBUSH OR where he learned that, after a protracted struggle, that intentional community had collapsed under a \$6,000/month debt. Since the beautiful Breitenbush land was never converted to community ownership, the resort facilities will now be operated by the owner.

Laird visited STAR DANCE CA where he spoke with Geoph Kozeny who has since written the board expressing interest in working on the updated Communities Directory. At STELLE IL Laird worked with Carroll English, Charles Betterton and Jerry Emory. The people at Stelle are seeking to diversify their membership by creating a wide range of options for sub-group lifestyles and objectives. Stelle has changed its vision. It is now open to all and has no membership requirements. There are plenty of leadership opportunities in Stelle's two independent ownership groups---the Stelle Homeowners Assoc. and The Stelle Group, Inc.---and their newer development corporation, Stelle Foundation, Inc.

Outside of Toronto Laird visited STONE SOUP, a new community in the making. At SIRIUS MA he spent some good time with Corinne McLaughlin sharing their visions of a continent-wide network of intentional communities. Laird said that the people at Sirius are very supportive of Fellowship efforts and were happy for the opportunity to become formal members of the Fellowship. He reported that, despite publishing and distribution problems, Corinne and Gordon have moved 8,000 of the 10,000 copies of the second English printing of BUILDERS OF THE DAWN.

David and Carol spent time before this meeting on a speaking tour of New Age centers throughout New England and Eastern Canada. They met with Mark and Catherine Yeoell at KRIPALU CENTER FOR YOGA AND HEALTH MA, which is housed in a former Jesuit monastery with four acres of floor space under one roof. With the Yeoells they discussed the technical aspects of financing New Age health programs, as well as techniques for stimulating and maintaining the spiritual positiveness of the members of the Kripalu staff.

At HEARTHSTONE COMMUNITY David and Carol met with Terry Molnar of the TRUSTEESHIP INSTITUTE. Hearthstone is an association of people from SIRIUS, THE ARK, the Institute and other close neighbors on Baker Road, Shutesbury MA. The Institute helps companies convert to worker ownership using the MONDRAGON COOPERATIVE model, helps organize land trusts, and promotes the concept of socially responsible investing.

Carol and David visited the CENTER OF THE LIGHT, a community of natural healers which is also near Shutesbury MA. There they spoke with Eva and Eugene Graf, who expressed interest in the work of FIC. They also visited RODALE FARM, home of Rodale Press and Organic Gardening magazine. There they talked with members of the core community that operate those businesses.

Dan reported on the March gathering of INTER-COMMUNITIES OF VIRGINIA which was hosted by YOGAVILLE. The 45 communitarians participating were from COMMON GROUND, THE GATHERING, GESUNDHEIT INSTITUTE, INNISFREE VILLAGE, MSH ASSOCIATION, SEVENOAKS, SHANNON FARM, SPRINGTREE, and TWIN OAKS, as well as Yogaville. Eight of these communities are located within an hour of Charlottesville VA. This proximity has facilitated well-attended gatherings for the last four years, with meeting sites rotating among the diverse spiritual and secular communities involved.

While at Yogaville in March, gathering participants toured the health service facilities, school, auto and heavy equipment repair garage, natural foods store and shared in the community's noon meditation at the LOTUS (Light of Truth Universal Shrine). Aside from the group meditation, the highlight of this gathering, as in the past, was the sharing circle. Each communitarian in the circle had the opportunity to speak about their role in their home community. This sharing enables people to initiate functional, one-on-one connections with members of other communities. In fact, Inter-Communities relationships have been the key to organizing visits to some of these communities for the Aquarian tour group.

Dan also attended an open house at AKWENASA, a community that moved from New York City to the Charlottesville area less than a year ago. Akwenasa has been renovating Monticola, an ante-bellum plantation house and farm on the historic upper James River.

Allen announced his plans to attend the third annual conference of the International Communal Studies Association. The conference will be held July 18-21 at New Lanark, Scotland, the restored mill town founded by Robert Owen's family.

8-GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOL FOR WRITTEN VISIT REPORTS

Laird recommended that the board accept the proposed Community Visit Report Guidelines, which lists potential elements of a Visit Report (see attached). Allen noted that these guidelines would be useful in standardizing report information. Dan observed that the guidelines required the reporter to involve members of the visited community in report editing to insure accuracy. Caroline moved that the proposal be accepted.

DECISION: The Community Visit Report Guidelines were accepted with the added provisions that the reporter must:

- provide NOTICE IN ADVANCE to members of the visited community if there is even a possibility that a report will be written.
- send a copy of the completed report to the visited community and distribute community responses to report recipients.

9-MEMBERSHIP PROCESS REVISIONS

Bob W proposed that, for emphasis, a box be placed around the Individual Profile form statement that FIC accepts restricted disclosure and limited release of information when the individual so specifies in their profile. Dan noted that the Community Profile form accepted at the East Wind meeting should have the same emphasis added. Laird pointed out that a profile form should be created for organizational members that were not communities, such as CESCO, SCHOOL OF LIVING and COMMUNITY SERVICE, INC.

DECISION: The Individual Communitarian Profile was accepted as proposed by Bob W. The membership committee was delegated to create a profile form for support organizations seeking full membership in the Fellowship. All Profile forms will emphasize the voluntary nature of this information gathering process by accepting restricted disclosure.

DECISION: Associate Membership begins when the individual or organization pays dues. Full membership is available to those Associates who file an individual or organizational Profile with the Fellowship, and who accept the subsequent invitation to full membership.

DECISION: Bylaws Article V. Membership was amended according to the previously-submitted proposal (see attached) for the purposes of:
 defining Associate Membership,
 defining the role of the profile and full membership,
 holding an annual membership meeting "in conjunction with the annual board meeting" to maximize membership involvement.

10-OUTREACH AND FELLOWSHIP REPRESENTATION

With the FIC membership process in place, Laird proposed that outreach efforts be expanded to include FIC representation at the various gatherings attracting communitarian participation. Conferences of the following organizations were listed by board members:

Nat'l Historic Communal Societies Association	International Communal Societies Association
The Bruderhof	Fourth World Assembly
Rainbow Gathering	Bio-Regional Council
World Future Society	Green Party
	American Culture Association

Laird proposed empowering FIC members to represent the Fellowship at gatherings of these and other related organizations. But he cautioned that Fellowship representatives must be clear about when they are speaking for FIC and when they're speaking for their home community or as individual communitarians. Caroline questioned why the FIC should have a board if they cannot speak. She felt that the board must be aware of choosing directors who understand their representational role, so that they can speak for the Fellowship.

Allen and Laird were concerned about reports from two communities that had been visited by an FIC board member, as to how that member had represented the Fellowship and their role in it. Dan, with support from Bob, asked members to speak about personal experiences and objectives for the Fellowship, but to avoid presenting themselves as "officials".

DECISION: The Fellowship did not authorize board members to speak for, or represent the Fellowship, but, rather, encouraged all FIC members to speak personally about their membership in this organization and its communitarian purposes (as described in the FIC brochure). With this qualification, members were encouraged to share information about the FIC---at meetings of the organizations listed and anywhere else people were interested in knowing more about intentional community.

11-SELECTION VALUES CONSIDERED IN NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT

88 Green Pathway
Values Proposal

Dan observed that broad-based outreach activities bring up the issue of membership selection values. He recalled that, at our September East Wind meeting, Laird had expressed the concern of Federation representatives about involvement with groups that are not egalitarian---that is, those who do not practice democratic decision-making and/or that do condone violence, sexism or racism. The board considered Laird and Dan's proposal, Fellowship Values for Full Membership Selection (see attached). Their proposal upholds the values of peaceful conflict resolution, individual equality, participative decision-making, open discussion of community life, and interest in the purposes of FIC.

Harvey reported that, on the way to this meeting, Barbara, Dan and he had met to discuss this issue at TWIN OAKS with Allen and three other Twin Oaks members---Thea, Ira and Elias. The group discussed whether FIC's member selection values should be so inclusive as to extend beyond egalitarian groups. While the Oakers stressed the importance of egalitarian principles, they valued inclusion of communities in the Fellowship that did not share all of their principles.

For instance, there was support for the inclusion of Yogaville, whose guru, Sri Swami Satchidananda, makes frequent statements, and acts, in support of egalitarian principles. Also, Padanaram, where Bible communalism supports traditional sex roles. The Twin Oaks members saw value in developing an inclusive network that would place a wide range of communitarians in dialogue within the common Fellowship purposes.

David felt that FIC should be widely inclusive, holding the realization that members will attract others who share a common awareness with the Fellowship. Faith, who has attended Fellowship meetings since childhood, said that, in the past, FIC participation had always been an open process, accepting people casually and setting no conditions or restrictions. Harvey proposed that the FIC be inclusive of all who are willing to respect meeting process and the equality of other members.

DECISION: Other than commitment to the meeting process, and to equality among meeting participants, the values listed in the proposal did not necessarily relate to the basic purposes of the FIC's function as an inclusive fellowship of communitarians. However, this proposal was referred to the next board meeting for further consideration.

12-FELLOWSHIP BROCHURE & OUTREACH MATERIALS

In addition to updating the board of directors listing, three other changes in the brochure were suggested: delete the phone number from Stelle's address listing, add the \$20 organizational membership listing to the Contribution Form, and change the lead statement from "The Fellowship nurtures a sense of oneness among communiterrans..." to "The Fellowship nurtures a sense of connections among communitarians..."

Laird and Dan expressed interest in developing an outreach package, based on existing documents where possible. The package would be designed to inform communitarians about Fellowship purposes, activities, and membership process. Laird also pointed to the need for a Fellowship video, or slide show with audio tape, which would describe FIC history, organization, and associated communities.

DECISION: The brochure will be updated to integrate the suggested changes. 2,000 copies will be printed using a heavier paper stock than was used in the previous printing. Dan will be responsible for this project.

DECISION: Recognizing the desirability of more outreach, the board encouraged Laird and Dan to develop an outreach package. Development of a Fellowship video or slide show was encouraged if specific funds were raised for the project.

13-ALPHA FARM HOSTS SEPTEMBER 88 MEETING

(BACKGROUND: Throughout the Fellowship's long history, meetings have always been held in the Northeast or Midwest. However, in the incorporation meeting in 1986, a commitment was made to seek the participation of more communities from the West. A year later at East Wind MO the Fall 88 meeting was scheduled for the West Coast. A call went out for a community in that region willing to host the meeting. Alpha Farm responded.)

(Alpha Farm is on 280 acres in a rain forest of Oregon's Coast Range of mountains. Founded in the early 70's, Alpha is a small, income-sharing, business-oriented community with a history in community networking and social activism. One of the few western communities active in CESCO, Alpha Farm helped create the Earth Communities Network, a short-lived gathering of intentional communities in the West.)

DECISION: The Fellowship's Fall 88 meeting will be held at Alpha Farm, Deadwood, Oregon on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 23, 24 and 25. Participants are requested to notify Alpha Farm in advance and to come early, prepared to start meeting on Friday morning. Executive committee meetings and other preparations will begin September 15. All FIC meetings are open to the participation of all communitarians.

14-AUTHOR SOUGHT FOR FIC CHAPTER IN NEW BOOK

Don Pitzer, director of the CENTER FOR COMMUNAL STUDIES, is editing a new book, "AMERICA'S COMMUNAL UTOPIAS: THE DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESS", which has been scheduled for publication in 1989. Don has offered space for a chapter on the FIC in this popular herstory of communal societies. Dan asked if one of the board members would write an FIC history for the book.

DECISION: The FIC will seek a communitarian writer to author a herstory of the Fellowship for publication. This opportunity will be made known to the membership and affiliated organizations.

15-STELLE CONTINUES AS FIC HEADQUARTERS

(BACKGROUND: The Fellowship was originally organized at a COMMUNITY SERVICE, INC, conference back in 1948. The purpose was to form a national communities network. During the 50s the FIC created CESCO and published an Intentional Communities Guidebook, which included the communities listings now published as the Communities Directory. However, during the early 60s, FIC participation dwindled to the point that election of officers ceased and it became just a social adjunct to CESCO meetings.

(Over twenty years later, sometime before 1984, Stelle members began providing vital energy to networking efforts among intentional communities. In 1984 the editorship of COMMUNITIES magazine was transferred from TWIN OAKS to STELLE FOUNDATION, INC, an independent, newly-emerging leadership group at Stelle community. This small group included Charles Betterton, Ed Olson, Renee Trenda, Al Barberg, and, later, Kathy Feinman. At the FIC's 1985 annual meeting at Yellow Springs OH, these SFI people proposed that the informal FIC be incorporated and funded by CESCO to again pursue the vision of a widely-inclusive, North American network of intentional communities.

(SFI publicized these efforts in Communities magazine. Charles, Ed and/or Al joined the boards of CESCO, FIC and Community Service, Inc, and also inspired new participation from other communitarians. SFI hosted FIC's incorporation meeting in 1986 and, also, the first membership meeting in 1987. So, it has been only natural to look to Stelle as FIC headquarters.

(However, during the last year, SFI energy for FIC work has been severely reduced as each of the original SFI leaders, except Charles, has found it necessary to move from Stelle into nearby towns for economic and/or professional reasons. Even Charles' involvement has been limited by changes in his personal life and his new full-time work in HUD-funded community development. Simultaneously, Fellowship organizing activities are requiring more and more attention.)

Last September at East Wind, and during the months since that meeting, Dan, Faith, Allen, Laird and others have expressed concern about the lack of communication and responsiveness from FIC headquarters at Stelle. Dan was especially concerned that membership forms and dues payments received at Stelle were not being sent to him and Faith, the treasurer. When Laird visited Stelle on his way to this meeting, he spoke with SFI members about these problems.

Fortunately, Jerry Emory, a newer member of SFI, has agreed to staff the Fellowship headquarters desk. Carroll English agreed to provide Jerry with backup support. Carroll is a long-term Steller and networker who has visited several FIC communities. She is the editor of Stelle's community newsletter, The Placemaker, and is a reliable and very informative correspondent. Laird felt quite confident that Jerry and Carroll could effectively manage the inquiries coming into FIC headquarters, with Charles and other SFI members providing support when possible.

Dan reported on his and Charles' discussions and correspondence with Don Pitzer. They have talked with Don about possibly moving the FIC HQ to the Center for Communal Studies (CCS) at the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville. As director of CCS and the National Historic Communal Societies Association, Don is definitely interested in a stronger relationship between CCS and FIC.

However, he feels that more time is needed to develop a Fellowship - Center relationship before seeking university support. David agrees with Don that time and energy should be invested in a stronger relationship before the Fellowship considers seeking administrative support from CCS. Charles expressed the same caution after his visit to CCS last winter, according to Dan.

DECISION: Stelle will continue as continental headquarters for the Fellowship with administrative responsibilities assumed by Jerry Emory, who will have backup support from Carroll English. The board asked that special attention be given to processing all membership forms and dues payments. The forms should be sent to Dan for member listing and confirmation. Dues payments should be sent to Faith, the treasurer.

16-STAFFING BUDGET PROPOSAL

Dan proposed that the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) be contacted about financing for an FIC staff and other operating costs, according to the budget proposal approved at the East Wind meeting. The \$110,000 budget included field coordinators for eastern and western regions, a headquarters office manager and an editor for Communities magazine.

DECISION: Dan will seek an interview with NEH in Washington, DC, about financial support for the Fellowship. An additional \$20,000 will be added to the proposed budget to provide financing for an updated Communities Directory. Developments will be coordinated by the Finance Committee---Charles, Dan, Suzanne and Laird.

17-BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

DECISION: Bylaws Article VI. Board of Directors was amended according to the previously submitted proposal (see attached) for the purposes of:

- having the board itself elect new board members "until such time as a direct election by the full membership is devised,"
- re-naming the decision-making process to use the word "unanimity" rather than "consensus". (The bylaws specify that, after "adjournment for reflection", the board may decide by a two-thirds vote. Such practice is not within the definition of consensus.)

18-FIC MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Bob Brown asked in advance of the meeting that FIC consider publishing a newsletter.

DECISION: Rather than a newsletter, board members will continue to rely on the regular correspondence from officers, which may include summaries or extracts from the correspondence of others.

19-FELLOWSHIP LOGO OF THREE INTERTWINING TREES IS IN PROCESS

At the request of the East Wind meeting, Laird had asked a Sandhill Farm artist to create a Fellowship logo consisting of three trees with limbs intertwined. Laird displayed a well-developed drawing of three intertwined trees in a grove at Sandhill. The work was well-received by the meeting but several changes were requested.

DECISION: While encouraged by the Sandhill artistry, the board requested that the logo be modified to show three trees of different size and species to symbolize diversity, with intertwined branches moving upward and outward only (none downward) to indicate a sense of forward movement. Also, for ease of reproduction the trees should be stylized somewhat. The board expressed appreciation to the Sandhill artist and hope that the requested modifications could be integrated effectively and in time for the next meeting in September.

20-CONFERENCE CALL NOT PLACED

Laird and Dan reported that the absent board members---Al, Bob, Charles and Suzanne---had all been in recent communication with them concerning items on this agenda. Other members noted that the agenda was running far behind schedule.

DECISION: The board decided not to make a conference call to board members absent from the meeting.

21-501c3 TAX FILING TO PROCEED

While the East Wind meeting had agreed that a 501c3 application should be filed, the responsible committee---Bob W, Dan and Charles---had not taken action. Bob stated concerns about the pitfalls of preparing applications for 501c3. He would prefer that the application be prepared by a tax lawyer licensed in Illinois, FIC's state of incorporation. However, lacking funds for legal fees, Bob was willing to have the application prepared by FIC members. John suggested that Herb Goldstein be consulted since he has expertise in 501c3 filings.

DECISION: Dan will complete and submit the 501c3 application, after consulting with Herb Goldstein, the president of CESC.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED Sunday evening following a two-hour session after supper.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by:

Dan Christenberry 6-17-88 and
Dan Christenberry

Allen Butcher 6-16-88
Allen Butcher