

REGISTRARS' REPORT

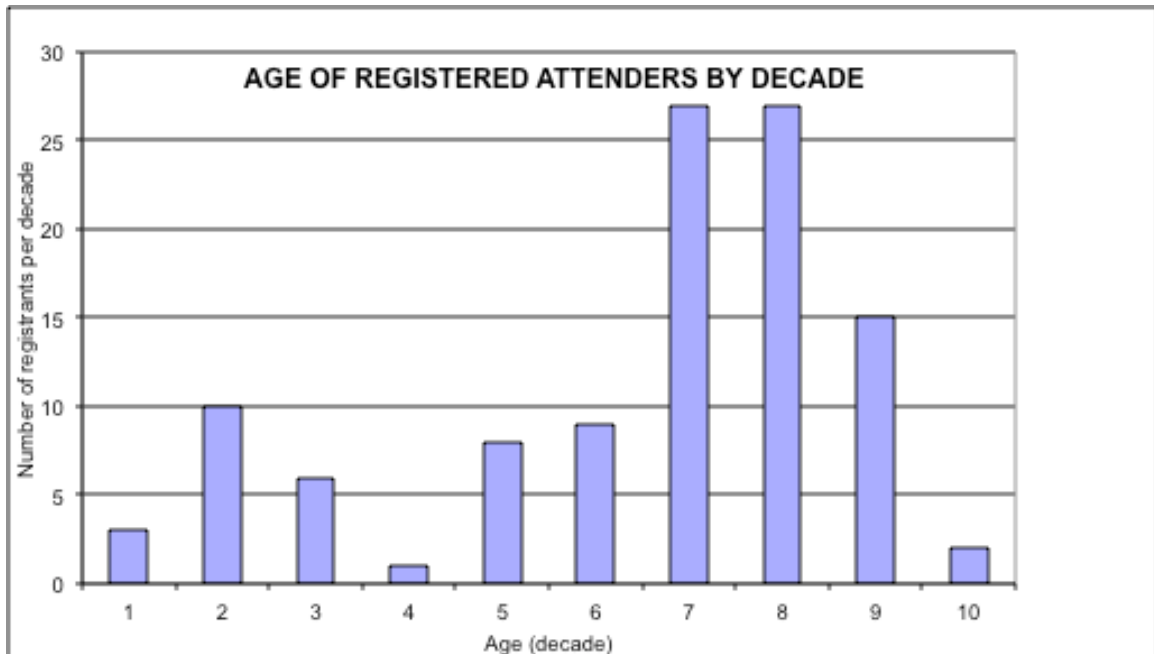
Fall Quarterly meeting was held in the Family Bible Church across the street from Friends House in Santa Rosa. The church has some improvements since 4 years ago when Quarterly was last here: a U-shaped desk has been added to the lobby (ideal for registration, although the height was not accessible to wheelchair users) and the audio-visual system in the sanctuary has been upgraded to digital.

Registration sign-in sheets were pre-printed and on clipboards for self-registration by up to 4 attenders at a time. Hand-written entries on these forms and a change-of-address form were transcribed into spreadsheets. Attenders were asked to enter their ages, which has not been requested for a number of years.

At the final plenary, the information in the box to the right was reported, where all but "count" refer to attenders' ages. At a later date, we can compare the means medians of ages at this session relative to prior sessions where age data is available; there has likely been an increase in mean age, although attenders from Friends House evidently skewed the distribution by increasing the number in the 70 to 90+ range. There were 2 attenders not counted who were under 1 and 3 years old, which also affects the mean and median age. There were also 2 FRAPs and one or more teens who did not sign in with the Registrars.

count	108
sum	6401
mean	59.3
std dev	23.5
median	68
max	96
min	4

and

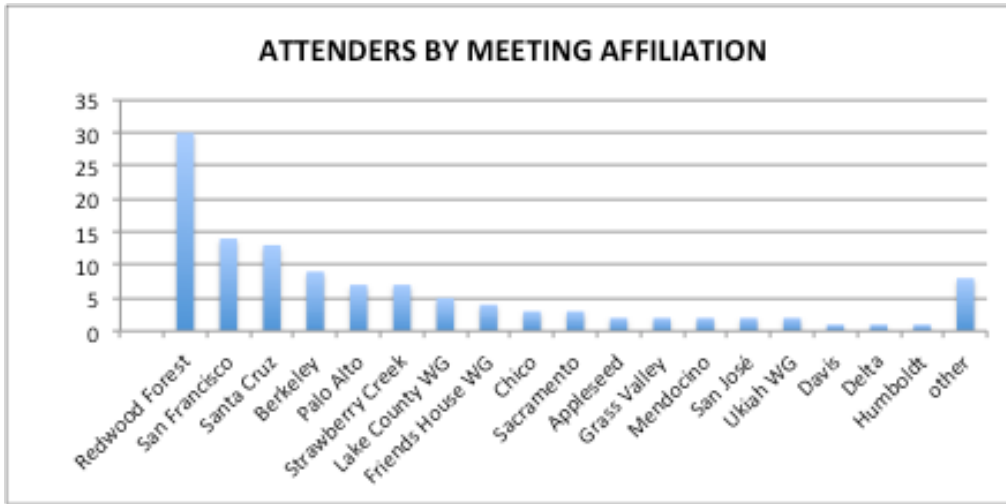


A remark was heard regarding the meaning of the sum of all the ages of all signed-in attenders. The total of 6401 years has no intrinsic meaning, but illustrates the accumulated experience of Friends at this (and similar) gatherings. Assume that 1/3 of each attender's life has been as a practicing Quaker – the ratio is larger for those under 20 and probably smaller for convinced Friends in their 40s and 50s, but the exact ratio is not significant. The Quaker experience of the whole gathering therefore comprises

2019 WINTER COLLEGE PARK QUARTERLY MEETING

2134 years, representing a cumulative wisdom that no smaller group – and certainly no individual – could achieve. This wisdom is what Quakers draw upon when making collective decisions by “sense of the Meeting.”

Registration for Quarterly sessions always includes one’s Meeting or Worship Group affiliation. The following chart shows the stated affiliations of Winter 2019 registrants. Not surprisingly, the largest number of attenders came from the host Meeting, probably including some from Friends House Worship Group who did not specify the subsidiary affiliation. The “other” category includes 2 from Meetings in Maryland and one each from F.A.S.E., First Mennonite Church of San Francisco (formerly Berkeley), La Jolla, and West Newton, Indiana (the latter being our guest speaker).



I do not have comparable data for recent Winter Quarterlies easily retrievable. The only Winter registration data at hand is for 1999, hosted by San Francisco Meeting. There were 101 attenders from 18 Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups (as in 2019). The attendance from the host Meeting was quite small (4); there were likely more who helped with lunch but did not register. There were significant differences in the small Meetings represented at the session.

