State of the Society Function

The State of the (Quaker) Society address is delivered each YM event early in the event. A friend is asked to research the topic, principally by reading the reports from each RM and committee, collected into Documents In Advance. The researcher develops one or several themes, and prepares the address.

The request is made by the AYM Presiding Clerk, together with the AYM Secretary.

Traditionally, a member of the host Meeting has been asked to prepare the address. It is possible that a member of a different Meeting could be asked. Since preparing the address is a big task, there is merit in the idea of asking a Friend from other than the host Meeting.

Workload of the function

Time Interval	**Tasks**	**Workload**
12 months prior to YM start	n/a	
8 months prior to YM start	Was asked by the Secretary, so kept an eye on Secretary's Newsletters, read all material that came out, to start thinking about the task	Spent time monthly to read and reflect on themes
1-2 months prior to YM start	Secretary sends out the set of reports as part of Documents in Advance	2 weeks full-time
1 week prior to YM start		
First 2 days of YM		
Whole of YM		
1 month after YM		
Overall workload:	6 months of 'reflecting' time + intensive period (could be 2-weeks full-time) of thinking and writing	
Skills required to undertake this function	Presentation is important. Needs to be well constructed and engaging. Need experience in "writing craft". Lifetimes of wrtining essary and reports. Capacity to draw together ideas and themes.	
This functions works most closely with:		

Tasks included in this function

This function includes doing these tasks:

1. Jacque sent the reports. Met with Jo Jordan. Spoke about how to do it. It's a key note, no pressure!! Will depend on individual who does the task.
2. Deadline to finish 2 weeks before YM. Started reading reports (a lot of them!!). Looked at Documents in Retrospect for last 4 years, read SoS from each year, read them out loud to get a "feel" for the document.
3. "Some people will like this, and it will be nice, some people won't like it and won't tell me, and some won't mind!"
4. Started several preliminary drafts, then the righting was fairly straight forward.
5. Once written, sent as a final document through to Secretary and Presiding Clerk. They had no changes, so stopped worrying!
6. Presented at second formal session in the evening after Winter School. Free to experience the rest of YM,