

FOLK DANCE FEDERATION OF N. CALIFORNIA
MINUTES OF THE ASSEMBLY MEETING

April 23, 2006

Blossom Festival, San Francisco

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 am. Attending were: Vick Vickland, president; Ann Brown, secretary; Louise Lidicker, treasurer; Laila Messer, past president; Sidney Messer, Joel Bruxvoort, Elsa Bacher, Frank Bacher, Barry Moore, Bill Fleenore, Page Masson, and Edith Cuthbert.

The meeting was called to order at 10:47 am. The minutes of the previous meeting, March 4, were approved.

Officer Reports

President's Report – we are still seeking candidates for the secretary and historian position.

Treasurer's Report – We are in good shape and the income from Statewide is starting to trickle in. Income from ads in "Let's Dance" were \$315 higher than expected. We have a CD maturing soon. Memberships continue to come in. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Editor's Report – A proposal was made to raise the advertising rates in "Let's Dance!" for non-member clubs and for individuals.

Current nonmember rates: \$40 full page ad; \$25 half page ad; \$15 quarter page ad

Current member rates (new) \$35 full page, \$20 half page; \$10 quarter page

Proposed new individual and nonmember rates: \$50 full page ad; \$30 half page; \$15 quarter page

Louise Lidicker moved to adopt the new rates. The changes will be recommended to the Executive Board at their meeting that immediately followed. (see below).

Membership Report - we have 2 new members, bringing our total to 409 members.

Sidney postponed more research on the EBCOS (the college online subscription service) until our new non-profit status is determined.

We also discussed creating a new updated directory. Our directory is from 2004, and officers have changed. The

time will be right this fall after new officers are installed. Sidney has the directory on an Excel file and is cross checking information. He is separating clubs from individual members.

Laila reported that in the past, new members would receive a copy of the bylaws, along with a directory. Because of declining interest in these items, now new members get a welcome letter, a brief history of the Federation, and a certificate for a free festival event. Vick will include a line in the welcome letter that states that the directory and by-laws are available by request. The new directory should also have a disclaimer that no commercial use of the listings is allowed.

Joel Bruxvoort, webmaster of www.Folkdance.com, has set up a "self service" renewal page for clubs. While renewing, they can also update their events, meetings, and contacts. Joel stated that there are many ways people can help get this set up. He really needs someone who can type. Elsa Bacher will ask Brian and Joyce Bender to help. George Fairbanks has offered to do a one time project, so Vick will ask him to contact Joel.

Costume Committee – No report. Some beautiful ones were spotted at the Statewide Festival!

Finance Committee – Toba has resigned as chairperson, but is still on the committee, along with Page Masson, and Bill Fleenore as the new chairman. The end of the fiscal year is May 31, and they recommend an internal audit (review of bank statements) to be conducted by the Finance Committee.

The books have been reviewed every year, but not as an audit.

Revisions to Articles of Incorporation – Here are 2 approaches suggested by Bill Fleenore:

1. Start with the Nolo Press book recommended by many others, OR
2. Start with our past Articles of Incorporation

Vick suggested that we start with what is legally acceptable as outlined in the Nolo book, and adapt our current Articles of Incorporation to that. The change in status is expected to take 9 – 12 months.

Nonprofit status - We are researching changing the designation of our non-profit status. We are now a 501c7, a "mutual benefit corporation". We are seeking a 501c3, a "public benefit corporation." Bill reviewed the history of our seeking the status, and noted that Fed. South has had 501c3 status since the 1970's.

It is thought that it is too expensive to hire an attorney, and we don't need one anyway. We can probably get all of our questions answered by a tax advisor. We are searching the archives for the Articles of Incorporation beyond the first page, to determine if we are a non-member (voting-wise) club. If Associate members can't vote, we retain the same name and status. If associate members can vote, many changes will be required.

One idea suggested was to include the Assembly with the Board of Directors, so that there is only one governing body.

Bylaws Committee - on behalf of the Committee (in the absence of the committee chair, Bill Lidicker), Louise Lidicker distributed the latest draft of the revision of the Federation Bylaws prepared by the committee. They are now seeking further comments from the Board on this draft.

Insurance – Elsa Bacher has been running the Insurance program, which is widely acclaimed for the savings that it offers to clubs. Vick wants to write to all the insurance contacts at each club, to ask if they will help by learning the procedure for obtaining insurance. Vick would like Elsa will do a training for any who will help with insurance.

Folkdance Promotion Fund - No proposals have been submitted yet. The procedures for grant applications are published in "Let's Dance!"

Nominating Committee – Vick Vickland will be continuing as President, Louise Lidicker as treasurer, and Ann Brown changing to vice-president. The secretary position and the North-South Chairperson remain open. The officers were installed at the Statewide Festival in May.

Scholarship Committee – there is one more application available for a tuition scholarship to the Stockton Folkdance Camp.

Publications – Dance Description Project – there are 200 dance descriptions available in PDF format, downloadable through www.folkdance.com. One can also search for thousands more. It is easy to add more descriptions. Although the project is well underway, there is still work to do. Vick suggested that we put in an ad in “Let’s Dance”.

Announcement - the 2006 Kolo Festival will not be at the Russian Center this year, due to the expense of renting the facility.

Meeting adjourned.

(Very Brief) Meeting of the Executive Board - Ann Brown moved to raise the ad rates (see Editor’s Report above), and the motion was passed unanimously.