

Minutes of the Folk Dance Federation of California (North)  
General Assembly and Board Meeting  
Saturday, September 28, 2019  
at All Saints Episcopal Church, Palo Alto, California

In attendance:

Joe Croco (President)  
Marian Snyder (Vice President)  
Laura Douglass (Treasurer)  
Clem Dickey (Secretary)

Board members

Craig Blackstone (Nominations)  
Lucy Chang (Finance)  
Mike Giusto (Insurance)  
Kevin Greek (Past President)  
Marija Hillis (Promotions)  
Lon Radin (Institutes)  
Marina Troost (Statewide 2020)  
Loui Tucker (Editor)  
Sabine Zappe (Scholarships)

Members

Richard Graham

President Joe Croco called the meeting to order at 10:14 am. A quorum was present.

- Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting, held on July 28, 2019, were provided in advance. Loui made and Craig seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

- 2019 Officers Ball

The Officers Ball will be held at the Hayward Veterans Hall on October 19, 2019; the theme will be "Around the World in 80 Dances." We need a minimum of 40 attendees, and believe nearly that many have already signed up. The cut-off date for pre-registration is October 12.

Lucy will bring dispensers for water, coffee, and lemonade. Marian will bring Mason jars (for cold drinks), plates, silverware, and blue tablecloths. Loui will bring hot drink cups and instant coffee. Craig will bring postcards from around the world to decorate the tables. Kevin will bring room decorations, including balloons. Board member bringing snacks should let Laura or Joe know what they are bringing.

Joe or Kevin will get water bottles to sell, from storage. We will not distribute music due to copyright concerns; Lon has not specifically requested dance notes. We may want a sign directing people to individual teachers for music and dance notes.

Marian and Marija are planning to start the dinner with a salad and bread. The main course may include rice, chicken, and grilled vegetables. Dessert will be brownies.

Lon will get the sound system in advance from Adony Beniares. Lucy has only two pieces of workshop music so far, and needs them all. Loui needs them also, for the party.

Loui thinks that we have the hall from noon; the doors open at 1:30 pm. Joe received a final payment notice from the hall; payment is due October 17.

- 2020 Statewide – Marina Troost, written report included

Marina has chosen a theme: “Pastoral Fandango.” She is looking for dances which have animal names.

Ahmet Lüleci has pointed out that our offered fee is lower than what is provided by other weekend events, particularly Monte Toyon. Ahmet has orally agreed to teach, but has not yet signed a contract. The teachers fees were based on past years; Clem noted that we should consider adjusting them in the future. The consensus was leave the fees as they are this year. We are not sure of the revenue from a North Bay event, and hope for a good turnout from surrounding areas such as San Francisco, South Bay, East Bay, and Sacramento. Ahmet will also have a session at Saratoga the preceding Thursday.

Lucy noted that we should not charge for water, tea, or coffee, or basic snacks. Loui suggested that we offer a premium snack for a price. She noted that we should not sell bottled water, as it is usually a non eco-friendly form of tap water. Clem noted that Redding had a donation basket next to their snacks. Saturday lunch will be from Costco; we are planning to charge \$12 to make a bit of money.

Chubritza is contracted to play in the main hall. Marina has been considering additional music in the kafana. Having more musicians might attract people who come specifically for live music. Loui noted that we would need ground rules for the kafana music: it should play only during Chubritza’s breaks, and should be acoustic (not amplified). Furthermore we need to make sure that Chubritza agrees to the arrangement.

Marina plans three levels of registration fees, based on date of payment, plus an at-the-door rate. Sabine volunteered to act as registrar. Work scholarships will be arranged through Marina (or her designee), but regular Federation scholarships will be handled by the Federation Scholarship Committee.

Loui noted that Marina needs to make hotel reservations for the North and South Federation Presidents (or reimburse the Presidents for alternate paid accommodations such as Airbnb). We have not had a price limit on alternate accommodations in the past, but it would be wise to set one. Joe, as North President, said that a stay in a private home would be nice. Loui will provide Marina with contact information for South President Pauline Klak.

Loui will need photos and biographies of the teachers, and possibly of Chubritza, for *Let’s Dance!*

- President (Joe)

Joe would like to support Carolyn Cole-Sayre, who wants to start a folk dance club at San Francisco State University. She had no one at the first meeting on September 9, but had four folk dancers and some onlookers at a flash mob event on September 11.

- Treasurer (Laura)

Laura offered to send a spreadsheet to anyone who wanted one before the next meeting. Lucy indicated that she needed one as an aid in developing the budget.

Pursuing an item from the last meeting, Lon reported that Wells Fargo offers 1.6% annual interest on a 9-month CD. Our account is with Chase, which probably has similar rates. Marina noted that Patelco Credit Union has very good rates. Laura would prefer to deal with a single institution; Craig noted that we would have to verify that a credit union offered memberships to organizations. Laura noted that two institutions would require two meetings to transfer signatures to a new set of officers.

- Website (Kevin)

Kevin suggested using CafePress to offer Federation-branded merchandise. Clem noted that their merchandise tends to have a generic look, as all uses have the same products with different logos. Craig noted that they are a good way to raise funds without dragging inventory around.

Kevin has been investigating online membership management software. The current software handles renewals but not donations. It is Open Source, and so could be modified to handle donations. We do not need an SSL certificate until we have a test version running. The function would include automatic credit card billing, with a notice sent beforehand.

Kevin asked the Board to remind clubs to check their listings at folkdance.com for out-of-date information.

- Finance (Lucy)

Lucy will provide each board member with the amount spent by their function this year, and will request a budget amount and justification for next year. She will do this by email.

- Membership (Marcia Rosenblatt) – absent, written report submitted

(The report included five new members, but the Board overlooked approval of the report.)

- Editor (Loui)

The October issue of *Let's Dance!* ran only 20 pages. There were fewer ads and less text. The print shop which we use is being sold, but we do not expect a significant change in rates. It is a Minuteman Press franchise and we are their largest customer.

- Scholarships (Sabine)

We have a little bit of money left, available to fund a scholarship to, e.g., Kolo Festival.

- Promotions (Marija)

Lucy had suggested to Carolyn Cole-Sayre that she ask for money to print flyers. Marija has not heard from her. Lucy advised that Marija could approve a request, with a limit, if Carolyn asks.

- Insurance (Michael)

Forty-nine clubs are insured; we are up-to-date on Certificates of Insurance with a three-day turnaround. Michael is considering using an interactive PDF form for insurance applications and renewals, rather than a Microsoft Word document.

- Nominations (Craig)

Craig has a potential candidate for Vice President, and Clem and Laura have agreed continue in their current positions. He does not yet have a candidate for President.

Thirteen clubs have agreed to participate in the passport program: Berkeley Folk Dancers, Cabrillo Folk Dancers, Cafe Shalom, Changs Folk Dancers, Kopachka Folk Dancers, Moveable Feet, Nirkoda, Palomanians, Petaluma Snappy Dancers, San Francisco Dance Circle, Saratoga International Dance Family, Village Dancers of the Valley, and Loui's Monday Israeli group. Loui offered that Craig could probably add Gigi Jensen's San Leandro group. We had discussed having the passport ready for Officers Ball, but Craig has not heard from Susan Gregory recently. The passport listings should include club name, address, dates, and times, which can be obtained from the web site listings (assuming they are correct). Lucy asked Craig to develop a short description of the passport which she could give to other groups which she attends, e.g. Scandi and Scottish.

- New business

Craig reported that Golden Gate Park's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary begins April 4, 2020. The observation will last one year. He noted that the idea to start a Folk Dance Federation originated in Golden Gate Park. Changs Folk Dancers will participate, and Mandala Folk Dance Center probably will also. Craig asked if the Federation wanted to participate. There is no financial commitment to become a sponsor. There was general agreement that the Federation should participate. Laura asked the exact date of the conception of the Federation. No one knew, but Craig or Loui may be able to find it.

- Next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 3:30 pm on Saturday, November 23, at All Saints Episcopal Church in Palo Alto.

- Adjournment

On a motion by Craig, seconded by Loui, the meeting adjourned at 12:06 pm.