

Minutes of the Folk Dance Federation of California (North)  
Board Meeting  
Sunday, March 19, 2023, via Zoom Teleconference

In attendance:

Ulrike Narins (President)  
Sabine Zappe (Treasurer)  
Clem Dickey (Secretary)

Board members

Craig Blackstone (Parliamentarian)  
Laura Douglass (Finance)  
Michael Giusto (Insurance)  
Kevin Greek (Archives)  
Marija Hills (Promotions)  
Betsy Moore (Scholarships)  
Lon Radin (Institutes)  
Marian Snyder (Past President)  
Loui Tucker (Editor)

Members (Statewide 2024 committee)

Evan Chu  
Catherine Mao  
Rebecca Tsai

President Ulrike Narins called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm. A quorum was present.

- Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting, held on February 12, 2023, were provided in advance. Laura D moved to approve the minutes with two corrections: Laura D was not present on February 12 and the one reference to "Laura D" should have read "Laura R." Craig seconded. The motion passed 12-0.

- Statewide 2024

Ulrike welcomed the 2024 Statewide committee. The Smile Dancers of Fremont have volunteered to organize Statewide 2024. They were represented by Catherine Mao and Rebecca Tsai (and Evan Chu, who joined the meeting later). Smile Dancers has met since January 2023, but its leaders have many years of folk dance experience. Catherine presented a video and still media showing their group. The committee has identified two potential sites for Statewide 2023.

The first is Our Lady of Guadalupe School, 40382 Fremont Blvd, Newark. Smile dances here. The school has a full basketball court, recently refinished floor, and adjacent kitchen area. The area does not have working appliances, but we could plug in microwave ovens, coffee pots, etc. The basketball court has some Christian iconography on the walls which we might want to cover with decorations. Evan will verify that the school is willing to let us do that. Cost is \$1000/day for the basketball court and \$500/day for the adjacent kitchen area.

The second is the Newark Pavilion, a Portuguese community center, at 6430 Thornton Ave, Newark. It has event halls, and a full kitchen and bar. Cost would be about \$6000 for a weekend.

The Petaluma hall which we used for the 2022 Statewide cost about \$2500 for the weekend, but Loui opined that it is no longer reasonable to expect a hall in the Bay Area in the \$2000 per weekend range.

Evan said that Smile would need to know all the components of Statewide. Ellie Wiener did provide a helpful email, and Ulrike noted that Marina Troost has a binder with all the tasks. Marina is currently out of the area, but will return about April 25.

Evan also emphasized the need to keep everyone apprised of progress. Sabine suggested a group email. Marija noted that the current Google Drive folder contains a suggested timeline.

For publicity at Statewide 2023 we do not necessarily need a date, logo, or an exact venue. We can just say "East Bay."

- Treasurer (Sabine) – written reports for February and March included
- Past President (Marian)

Berkeley Folk Dancers started a Family Folk Dance Class today. Eleven people attended, and the four-year-olds are adorable.

- Membership (Marcia) – written report included

Craig moved to accept the report; Laura D seconded. The motion passed 13-0.

- Editor (Loui)

The April *Let's Dance!* is out. It is 28 pages – down from 32 last month but still remarkable. Martha Awdziejewicz (in San Diego) has her copy already. The new mailing house noticed that we did not have non-profit status with the Post Office, and we corrected that. That new status may have caused the exceptionally early mailing. The shorter cycle may allow Loui to move the deadline out five days.

- Scholarships (Betsy)

We have received three applications: two for Stockton Folk Dance Camp and one for a national Ukrainian dance competition in Florida. We typically cover 50% of tuition, but as our form has no place to specify cost we do not know what 50% of the Ukrainian dance cost would be. We should consider revamping the form to include a place to specify cost. Betsy was advised to share the applications with the committee (Adony Beniares, Wendi Ellis, Marina Troost, and Sabine Zappe). Loui suggested that Betsy write an article for *Let's Dance!* to publicize scholarship availability.

- Parliamentarian (Craig)

Craig has drafted revisions to the by-laws to make officers terms two years (they are currently one year) and to align terms with the calendar year (and with our fiscal year).

- Website (Kevin)

Bay Area Dance Week will be April 21-30, and publicity is free this year. The Smile Dancers and the Federation are registered. Entries may include photos and videos. The URL is <https://www.bopsidy.com/h/BADW>. The Federation's page is <https://www.bopsidy.com/bop/FolkDanceFederation>. Events must be free. Craig intends to list the Blossom Festival (Saturday, April 22). Masks are currently required for the Blossom Festival, but Changs may review that before the event.

Kevin has renewed our domain registration and will send the bill to Sabine.

- Insurance (Michael)

Michael is investigating our cost of insurance. Our insurance currently costs more than National Folk Organization insurance. Michael is shopping with our agent, with the NFO, and with the NFO's agent. Insurance through NFO would require each club to join NFO, a total cost of \$2900. We will consider dropping accident insurance, which is about 30% of the cost and is not required by venues. We might also consider changing our renewal from mid-July to November, as fewer people are on vacation in November.

Michael believes that our accident policy covers our members, while our liability policy covers club and venue liability. Accident coverage is \$5000; liability coverage is \$1,000,000.

- Nominations (Adony) absent, written report submitted

- Other items

Nothing has been done yet for Officers Ball. It is usually held in mid-October; the 21st is a Saturday. We might use a venue in consideration for Statewide, if affordable. Marian noted that Officers Ball needs a functioning kitchen. Evan will check with the Newark Pavilion and get back to us (by email) in a week

- Next meeting

The next meeting will be held 3:00 pm Sunday, May 7, 2023 on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82142239442?pwd=c3dEbHNDOFRQK1dGUmxYZEdQbmJTUT09> (Meeting ID: 821 4223 9442, Passcode: 147746).

- Adjournment

On a motion by Marian, seconded by Marija, the meeting adjourned at 3:34 pm.