

Minutes of the Folk Dance Federation of California (North)
Board Meeting
Sunday, April 13, 3pm over Zoom

In attendance:

Board members:

Laura Richardson (President)
Clem Dickey (Vice President)
Sabine Zappe (Treasurer)
Betsy Moore (Secretary)
Marcia Rosenblatt (Membership)
Laura Douglass (Finance)
Kevin Greek (Archives, Website)
Marija Hillis (Promotions)
Lisa Michael (Scholarship)
Lon Radin (Institutes)
Ulrike Narins (Past President)
Loui Tucker (Editor)
Craig Blackstone (Parliamentarian)

Others:

4 students from New York

President Laura Richardson called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm. A quorum was present. There were also four students from New York who had found our Zoom link online. For an assignment on non-profit governance, they were required to attend a non-profit board meeting. Laura allowed them to attend on condition that they not cause trouble and that they find and attend an International folk dance event in their area.

Minutes from last meeting

Minutes of the February 8 board meeting were provided in advance. On a motion by Laura D, seconded by Ulrike, the minutes were approved 11-0.

Reports

- Treasurer (Sabine Zappe):

Sabine submitted written reports for February and March 2025. There were no comments.

- Membership (Marcia Rosenblatt):

Marcia submitted a written report. There were 9 dropped individual, 1 dropped family, and 1 dropped group memberships. There were 1 new individual, 1 new family, and 1 new group memberships. On a motion by Clem, seconded by Craig, the new members were approved 12-0 (the vote was taken near the end of the meeting but is recorded here for simplicity).

- Institute (Lon Radin):

Laura D reported that she will not be available to help with the institute for the Officers Ball. Therefore, Lon is looking for another volunteer.

- Promotions (Marija Hillis):

Marija was unable to attend the Cardak fundraiser but Loui reported that it was very well attended and well organized. There were about 15-20 dancers from our local international dance community. About \$9000 was raised.

- Editor (Loui Tucker):

Let's Dance is healthy. The May/June issue will be mailed in the next few days.

- Archives (Kevin Greek):

Kevin received a donation of some records.

Kevin requests that people send calendar info for the folkdance.com events page to events@folkdance.com. He has not received many submissions lately.

- Scholarship (Lisa Michael):

Lisa has received 8 applications so far: 7 for Stockton and 1 for an international camp this summer. May 15 is the deadline for Stockton applications.

New Business

- Statewide 2026 Planning (Laura R)

Laura thanks everyone for their review of the proposed lease agreement for CORE Butte Charter School. She confirmed that the lease date needs to be corrected and that the

lease does include restrooms, two classrooms, and the snack bar. The school usually only rents out its facility 3 months ahead so they will need a waiver to lease to us so far in advance. Since school gets out at the end of May, the festival will have to be held in June. Laura is gathering dates for other events that may conflict so we can choose the best date. June Camp in the Chicago area was mentioned; please let her know if you know of others.

- Proposed Membership Survey (Loui)

In the November Let's Dance, Loui reprinted the results from a 1947 survey that was conducted by Clarice Dechant, the immediate past Federation president. It showed a snapshot of who dancers were at the time in terms of age, marital status, and other factors. Loui proposes recreating the questions (we don't have the survey—only the summary of the results) and surveying current dancers. This could be done with little or no direct cost via various means (on our website, in Let's Dance, via email). One purpose would be to create visibility for the Federation, and the results could be interesting. Laura D suggested that a link to the original survey results be posted with the new survey and that it be made clear that the purpose is not to get anything from respondents.

A motion to create a committee of 3 to 5 people to review the original survey results and create a new survey in the next calendar year was made by Loui, seconded by Lisa, and approved 13-0. Kevin volunteered to be on the committee and do web stuff. Loui would prefer that someone else chair the committee but since no one stepped forward she will be the chair for now.

[Question: were there other volunteers for the committee? How will additional committee members be found? Answer: Loui says that she will put something out on the FDF Google Group and maybe bbmde and see if anyone else volunteers to help. Laura R noted that the president is on all committees by default.]

- Providing Let's Dance Electronically

Marcia had suggested adding a question to the above survey asking whether people would prefer to receive Let's Dance electronically. The group agreed that this is a separate question. Several people felt strongly that Let's Dance should not go fully electronic. Craig and others said that it's good to have the paper version to show people to encourage them to join. Loui noted that if too many people opt out of the paper version, we could lose our non-profit bulk mail rate. Currently there are less than a dozen PDF subscribers, half of whom are in other countries. There are also several subscribers in other countries who continue to prefer the paper version even though they have to pay extra for it. Clem cautioned against considering a dual fee structure for PDF vs. paper subscribers. Loui agreed to put an item in the July/August Let's Dance giving people a way to request to receive their subscription via PDF instead of on paper.

The discussion moved on to making more recent issues of Let's Dance available on the website. Currently, issues are posted after two years. There is concern that putting very recent issues online would cut into subscriptions. The conclusion was that Loui will send Kevin a batch of issues to post every six months with the newest being a year old.

- Membership Rate Change discussion (Marcia)

The question of whether we need to change our membership rates came up because Marcia needs to print new membership envelopes. It was agreed that the Federation has plenty of funds and there is no need to raise rates at this time.

- Proposed Calendar (Loui)

Loui had an article in the April issue of Let's Dance about the Costume Calendar that the Federation used to put out every year. Loui suggests that the Federation put out a wall calendar with photos of people at dance events. She said Susan Gregory has created a couple of prototypes. It could be given free or at a reduced price to members and sold to non-members. Loui moved that we create a subcommittee to produce a 2026 calendar that would be available in time for the Officers' Ball. Marija seconded the motion and it was approved 12-0. (There was some additional discussion of the details before the motion was approved but Craig pointed out this would be better to discuss in the committee and bring the conclusion back to the board.)

[Question: who is on the committee/how will members be chosen? Is Loui the chair? Answer: Loui says that she will be the chair and will ask Susan Gregory to help with graphics and photo selection. She also sent an email to the board asking for help selecting the images. Laura R noted that she is on all committees by default.]

- Proposed committee for Visiting Teacher Coordination (Laura R)

Laura R stated that she receives 1-2 requests per month to help coordinate appearances for teachers who will be visiting the area and she feels unqualified for this task because she doesn't know many of the teachers or people who would be interested in booking them. The group was reluctant to form a committee for this but felt it would be best to create lists of teacher contacts (e.g. Loui and Sabine for Roberto Bagnoli, Ellie Wiener for Zeljko Jergan, etc.) and people or groups with specific interests (e.g. Nadav and Susie of Kopachkas, Joyce Clyde, Memo Keswick for Bulgarian; Memo Keswick and others particularly interested in live music), and also for Laura to forward requests to the full board for help as needed.

[Question: who will create these lists? Answer: Laura created a spreadsheet and sent an email to the board asking for help filling it in.]

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 15 at 3pm. One agenda item will be to begin planning the Officers' Ball.

On a motion from Loui, second by Ulrike, all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 4:16 pm.