

FOLK DANCE FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA, INC.  
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES  
Vick's residence, Sacramento, CA  
May 21, 2005

President Laila Messer called the meeting to order at 12:48 p.m. A quorum was not present. Attendance: President Laila Messer, Secretary E.C. "Vick" Vickland, Treasurer Louise Lidicker, Joel Bruxvoort and Toba Goddard.

**ELECTED OFFICER REPORTS**

**President:** Laila expressed pleasure regarding her two years as President. She was pleased with the participation of so many people, especially the officers, committee chairs and those who contributed such excellent articles to *Let's Dance!* She has been working on developing family dance through Changs. She expressed concern about the low attendance at most festivals, and particularly at the demise of the Cherry Blossom Festival. She has developed a letter of introduction for new members with complimentary festival tickets for them, as well as the availability of a copy the by-laws and directory for those who would like them. We are now publicizing the names of new members, with their city of residence, but not their street address.

**Secretary:** Vick has continued to distribute minutes to officers, meeting attendees and others who express an interest in receiving them, plus writing "What's Happening" for *Let's Dance!* This has saved a considerable amount in postage.

**Treasurer:** Louise reported that we have had a \$6981 deficit in the past year. Past treasury records have not been well kept, and she is trying to bring them up to date. We have not been getting the optimum interest on our money in the past year. She is working on a plan to get the optimum interest, while still having sufficient funds to carry on current activities. We need a financial committee chair, and hope someone with accounting experience will apply.

**APPOINTED OFFICER REPORTS**

**Editor, *Let's Dance!*:** Assembling a magazine is a lot of work, but there are those who make it much easier. Thanks to those who have contributed articles and letters. It is the articles from our members and friends who make the magazine much more relevant to today's dance situation. Special thanks to Laila for getting us started and supplying pertinent articles She has that unique quality of being able to talk to people at dances and ending up with an article for *Let's Dance*. Gary recommends that business cards be provided to elected officers.

**Historian:** Absent

**Membership:** Sidney Messer reported that we now have 63 clubs an increase of two in the past year, and 238 associate members, an increase of 20, or 6%.

**Parliamentarian:** Position unfilled. We need a person with knowledge of Roberts Rules of Order. If someone is very familiar with Roberts Rules of Order and would like to serve as Parliamentarian, please contact Vick. Laila has agreed to serve in that capacity for the present time.

**Publications:** Joel Bruxvoort submitted his report: The past year has been busy for publications. The web site has an automatic calendar that helps keep track of events in the Federation and beyond. Anyone can add the basic information for folk dance events directly on the web. These are sorted by date and are automatically removed from the

calendar after the date of the event. Corrections and questions about an event may be mailed to [Joel@folkdance.com](mailto:Joel@folkdance.com). Dick Rawson and Joel can make corrections. Flyers may also be placed on the web for any event. These are linked from the listing of the event, and can be viewed or printed. The committee hopes more dancers will take advantage of this calendar.

The new Index And Pronunciation Guide, a reference to Federation dances and basic information about them, sold well in its first year. The committee hopes it will be widely used. The Federation has permitted the posting of dance descriptions on the web. Dick Rawson is coordinating this program.

Publication sales from the internet have slowed this past year. Most sales have been from festivals where the publications have been available for viewing. The inventory of publications has been returned to the Federation. We need someone to maintain and distribute these as needed.

The committee recommends that we use "on demand" printing for any publications that are out of print, to reduce the need for storage. An on-demand printing service ([cafepress.com](http://cafepress.com)) can provide copies of our publications, printed, bound and mailed when ordered, for approximately the same cost as our current cost of copying and binding.

The Miller Database of Dances (over 9000 records) is now available for searching and browsing on our web site. All the dances we place on line can be linked to this database.

Joel would like assistance with the updating of the directory. He recommends a study/work group to consider how to revise and update the directory, to include e-mail addresses, current listing of officers and revised club information.

Publicity: Donna Frankel continues submitting articles on publicity to *Let's Dance!* She recommends offering programs to high schools. She also recommends that the Federation commit to:

- 1) Training K-6th teachers to incorporate folk dance in their schools PE, drama and after school activities.
- 2) Making folk dance a family friendly endeavor
- 3) Increased dance festival advertising of both dance sessions and the concerts to the local community-discounted tickets, tickets used as prizes in poetry contests, or?
- 4) Helping to keep the prices down. The new poor are our elderly on fixed incomes and children. These two groups have time to dance and will greatly benefit from all that folk dancing has to offer. Scouts, Boys and Girls clubs, Y camps, etc. all could use folk dance teaching.
- 5) Insist that mixers be added to every dance session and encourage long paired partners to seek partners they don't know every 4th dance. Techniques I have used for this include a string dance-someone holds the ends of strings-each tied to a ladies finger, the men pull a string for a partner. Another technique that can be used on any waltz, polka, or non-choreographed dance is to have the ladies on one wall, the men on the other, the head line leaders dance down the middle followed by the next couple, etc. This works beautifully when the genders are uneven. After dancing down the center, the couple breaks apart and joins the line of the gender to get another partner at the top to dance down the hall with. I play 3 songs of a style when doing this type of party dance. Another technique-dance chaos mixer or some other mixer-even Ve David works-when the music ends, the person

you end up with is your next partner. There are many other ways to mix up long standing couples. In my classes I don't allow two people to dance more than 3 dances together until they have danced with every other person in the room of the opposite gender at least once. I have elaborate ways to pair people-by birthdays, favorite colors, flowers, pets, food, national origins, ages, languages spoken, number of children, hobbies, etc. I can only say when I am new to a dance group that does couple dances, the first thing I notice is are the couples willing split up often to take in new partners? If not, I don't come back-and I love to dance. What about those who are shaky on the dancing and are left out? You can hardly blame them for not returning.

6) Promote exhibition groups-many people see a dance show long before they dance in a class or club.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Absent. Jim Oxford mailed a written report quoting the bylaws regarding quorum requirements for meetings. "During this fiscal period enough interest has been shown for Federation activities to register a quorum present, although sometimes just barely, and waiting for late arrivals, at every Assembly and Executive Board Meeting. More participation is encouraged."

#### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Costume Research: No report. It was suggested that the Federation Camera continue to be maintained by this committee. The camera is old and can be considered surplus when it is no longer needed.

Dance Research:

Finance: We have no Finance Committee Chair. Any volunteers?

Insurance: Elsa Bacher submitted a report. The Federation offers public liability insurance of one million dollars to its clubs and accident medical insurance of \$ 10,000 to its club members. This insurance is administered under the United Square Dancers of America insurance program with the Markel Insurance Company of Virginia, an A rated firm. The insurance year runs from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2005. So this report is midway through the year of activity. At present we have 58 clubs insured representing 1956 dancers. 7 of these are "small" clubs with 10 or fewer dancers. \$9629.75 has been paid in to cover premiums and administrative fees. \$9041.20 has been paid out in insurance premiums. (\$ 4.60 per dancer; \$ 45 for "small" club.) \$588.55 = the difference. We have issued about 135 insurance certificates and covered an additional 37 events (mostly one time demonstrations). One accident report was filed. A claim has yet to be submitted. Frank has resigned as insurance Co-chair.

Statewide 2006, San Jose: No report

Teachers: No report

#### ROTATING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Institute: A poll of favorite dances was conducted during each week of the Stockton Folk Dance Camp, with over 100 responses received. The committee compiled the responses, selected dances for the 2 planned institutes, and selected teachers. The first institute was held at the Autumn Harvest Festival, October 16, 2004, at CSU Fresno. Marion Earl taught 3 Romanian dances (Dana, Opinca and Jurelul), and Campbell Miller taught an American Vintage dance (Metamora Waltz).

North/South: Absent. Irene Oxford mailed a written reported: North/South meetings are held annually at Statewide. The 2004 N/S meeting was held at the "Valley Fever" festival in Modesto on 5-30-04, chaired by Wilma Anderson. A second N/S

meeting was in Fresno on 10-17-04, chaired by Irene Oxford. A lively discussion was held on various topics, including folk dance teacher training and festival procedures for which a new manual is to be implemented. Host councils at most locations use their own guidelines as to concert tickets, performers and their families, fees for institute instructors, food and space for meetings. Nadine Mitchell has resigned as secretary of this N/S committee. Vick Vickland has agreed to be the secretary. The next N/S meeting will take place at Statewide 2005, June 5, immediately following the installation brunch.

Scholarship: No report.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vick Vickland, Outgoing (Gone) Secretary