

# MINUTES OF FOLK DANCE FEDERATION BOARD MEETING

March 10, 2012  
Camellia Festival in Sacramento

## Board members:

Lucy Chang, President  
Denise Heenan, Vice President  
Loui Tucker, Secretary  
Sabine Zappe, Treasurer  
Gary Anderson, Let's Dance!  
Becky Beniares, Archives  
Laura Douglass, Finance  
Connie Hull, Scholarship  
Bill Lidicker, Parliamentarian  
Ellie Wiener, Statewide

## Members and Visitors:

Joe Croco  
Irene Croft  
Richard Graham  
Louise Lidicker  
Hollis Radin  
Lon Radin  
Mandy Stracke  
Vic Vickland

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 AM. A quorum was present. Vic Vickland welcomed the Federation Board to the Camellia Festival. Hollis Radin and with her husband, Lon, were introduced. Hollis is the vice presidential nominee.

Approval of the Minutes. The minutes of the February 25, 2012 meeting in Berkeley were read by Loui Tucker. Sabine Zappe made a motion to approve the minutes. Bill Lidicker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Membership Report. Lucy presented the Membership Report (see attached) on behalf of Marion Rose. One new group has been added, San Pedro Kolo Dancers in San Pedro, California. Sabine Zappe made a motion to approve the new members as presented. Becky Beniares seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Statewide. Sabine reported on the plans for the Installation Lunch. She also noted that 16 people have signed up to date. The Decorating Committee is scheduled to look at the venue in the next two weeks so they can plan the decorations. There was another short discussion about conflicting dates.

Scholarship. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Scholarship Committee was re-written by Connie Hull, Lucy Chang, Bill Lidicker, and Gary Anderson. The proposed SOP was passed around along with the prior description – with highlighting used to note the significant differences.

Lucy's position is that, although we have limited funds, if someone has a financial need, we should expand the granting of scholarships to festivals and workshops in addition to major week-long camps. Past scholarships have been for Stockton Folk Dance Camp, but not for Razzmatazz or Mendocino, for example. In the last two years scholarships were opened to include week-long camps other than Stockton, but no applications have been received. Lucy would like scholarships to be available for people needing financial assistance to attend weekend workshops like the Kolo Festival or Statewide. Lucy sees this move as making the awards more

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inclusive and as good PR for the Federation. Some members of the Scholarship Committee feel the focus should remain on major camps only.

Bill believes scholarships are a tool to encourage existing dancers to become leaders, not just to get dancers to dance at local events. Adding all events will make things chaotic and add pressure on the Scholarship Committee members. It might also throw our finances out of whack. We should be focused on helping dancers become leaders.

Loui believes opening up the scholarships should not generate a huge increase in applications. She mentioned as evidence that there has been a line on all the publicity for the Heritage Festival for the last three years stating that anyone needing financial assistance should contact her and she intended to personally pay for anyone who wanted to attend who didn't have the money. She has never been taken up on that offer. Most people can afford the fees for a weekend workshop (\$100 or less), or they just pay for what they can afford – the Saturday night party, for example. It's the week-long camps that require a significant financial commitment, and those happen primarily in June, July and August.

Bill pointed out that we have a limited budget and typically give two half-scholarships (although three have been granted in some years).

When it was suggested that we should set a deadline for all applications, it was pointed out that the deadline is already on the application that is available on the Federation's website: 60 days prior to the first day of the event.

Lucy suggested we try this expanded scholarship program for two years and see what happens. She stressed that we need to expand our perspective to serve more dancers and not just prospective teachers. She believes that we need to give dancers financial support and they will give back to us in other ways such as writing an article, teaching, community involvement, and promoting folk dancing. We may have a few more applications during the year instead of just 3 or 4 once a year for Stockton Folk Dance Camp but we should be able to handle any increase.

It was clarified that, at this point the Board is merely giving direction to the Scholarship Committee. The committee members will have to formalize the SOP and present that for a vote of the Board.

Connie said she would change the wording of the SOP to define "events" (for which a scholarship can be granted) as being "folk dance camps, workshops, and festivals," and also add that a scholarship recipient can perform other tasks besides providing a written report or teaching at a class. It will also be stated that the Federation President is a member of the Scholarship Committee, whereas currently it is stated only in the Federation bylaws.

New Dancers Festivals Ad Hoc Committee. This committee will meet Sunday May 6 at Lucy's house. The agenda will include a review the past year's festivals, the results, how we can improve them, what needs to be changed, etc. The South Bay will hold one in late June or early July. Anyone involved in the New Dancers Festivals is invited to come to the meeting to talk about successes, problems, etc.

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Officers Ball. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of those present that we should hold another Officers Ball. The Livermore Hall was a good choice for the hall, and Lucy said she would find out what dates in the fall are available. She knows they are already booked in October, but will start checking dates in November. Once we have a date, additional planning can begin.

The 2012-2013 Budget. The Finance Committee is still working on this and, while the final budget will be presented for approval at the April 22 General Assembly, Lucy shared the preliminary budget at this time. She pointed out that at one time we had total funds of \$93,000. Currently we have \$81,000, and much of that is set aside for specific purposes -- the Promotion Fund and the Scholarship Fund. After taking out the earmarked funds, we really have only about \$15,000 in the General Fund. Membership dues, despite being raised about two years ago, do not cover the Federation's expenses.

It was noted that we need to find out exactly how much is in the Scholarship Fund as those funds are set aside and cannot be counted in the General Fund. Up until the move to the Chase accounts, there were separate CDs at Wells Fargo for scholarship funds. Sabine said she would track down the bank statements, take out however much has been given in scholarships and add in earned interest, and come up with an accurate figure.

It was suggested that *Let's Dance!* could be run with less color, although the full color makes it more appealing. Gary stated that his printer is a color printer and it cannot be changed to black-and-white. It was suggested that our own advertisements (Statewide, New Dancer Festivals, etc.) could be half-page ads instead of full-page ads. They cost money to print, but the Federation does not pay for the ads directly.

Some important notes in the preliminary budget:

- The \$600 for Board expenses will cover either food or room rental, but not both.
- The Federation Cup is something Lucy is paying for this year, but funds should be established for future presidents to use for specific projects such as this.
- The cost for the Archives is the storage locker which has been donated but should be accounted for in the budget.
- The \$1500 for the New Dancer Festivals is the \$250 offered to a club that agrees to put on a New Dancers Festival. (It should be noted that Turlock did not request funds.) This will cover six festivals, but we would like to offer more in different venues.
- The cost item of \$435 is for a CD duplicator and that cost might be lower. This will help make CDs for institutes in the future.
- The Officers Ball is expected to bring in enough to cover expenses – break even.
- Insurance is self-funded and should not cost the Federation anything – break even.
- PayPal fees are incurred when members pay their dues or an event on-line, but these fees are not large.
- Perhaps we could raise donations to \$500 since we got a \$100 check this last week.

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It was decided that we should begin a fund-raising discussion via email and Gary Anderson, Lucy Chang, Loui Tucker, Sabine Zappe, Connie Hull, Laura Douglas, Hollis Radin, Ellie Wiener, and Denise Heenan all indicated they wanted to be involved in that discussion.

The next Federation Board meeting is April 22, which is actually the Annual General Assembly meeting. Bagels and cream cheese will be provided.

Laura Douglass made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Becky Beniares. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at noon.