

**Minutes of the Federation General Assembly
Sunday, April 26, 2015
at the Blossom Festival, San Francisco, California**

In attendance:

Memo Keswick (President)
Kevin Greek (Vice President)
Loui Tucker (Secretary)
Sabine Zappe (Treasurer)

Board members (in alphabetical order)

Craig Blackstone (Nominating)
Lucy Chang (Past President)
Joe Croco (Archives)
Laura Douglass (Finance)
Denise Heenan (Institutes)
Marija Hillis (Promotion)
Ken Kaye (Insurance)
Bill Lidicker (Parliamentarian)
Cricket Raybern (Research)

Federation Members (in alphabetical order)

Clem Dickey
Richard Graham
Nancy Kaye
Judy Keswick
Cynthia Lambert
Louise Lidicker
Laila Messer
Sydney Messer
Marian Snyder
Vick Vickland
Erica Zweig

President Memo Keswick presided and called the meeting to order at 10:31 AM. A quorum was present. Memo reminded everyone of the procedure during the next few months: (1) election of officers today (2) installation of new officers in late May, (3) new officers assume duties June 1; (4) confirmation of Board members by the new president.

Agenda

In order to accommodate Craig Blackstone's need to leave to work on the Blossom Festival, the Nominating Committee and Election of Officers were moved up in the agenda to before the Finance Committee report.

Approval of the Minutes

Minutes of the last meeting held on March 7, 2015, were provided in advance. They included corrections submitted from various Board members before the meeting. The Minutes were not read at that time, because members received a copy to review five days prior to the meeting which provided sufficient time to review them.

A motion was made by Lucy Chang and seconded by Denise Heenan to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2015, meeting. The motion passed and the minutes will be posted on the website.

President's Report (no written report)

- *SOPs*. Memo apologized for his lack of progress in getting Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) developed during this term of office, but stated he would continue working on the SOPs as Past-President.
- *Video Challenge*. Memo updated the Board on the status of the Video Challenge Project.
 - * Memo Keswick challenged Claude and Susan Akana to videotape Gras Kalo Kolo.
 - * Elsa Bacher challenged Adony Beniares to videotape Shoror.
 - * Claude Akana challenged Craig Blackstone to videotape De Valse Zeeman.
 - * Joe Croco challenged Laura Douglass to videotape Dobrudžanska Râka.
 - * Loui Tucker challenged the Palomanians to videotape The Astonished Archeologist.

There was a brief discussion about how the challenge donation is determined. It is negotiated between the parties and can be any amount.

There was a discussion about Dobrudžanska Râka and the fact that Yves Moreau, who is usually associated with this dance, learned it from Camille Brochu who taught it at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1986. Laura would like to see the videotape of Camille Brochu doing this dance before filming. Loui said she would check the Stockton video archives for film from 1986.

- *Email from touring performing group*. Memo followed up on an email regarding a visiting performing group. Nobody took up the offer, but it was nice to know they contacted the Federation.

- *Federation sponsorship/coordination of visiting teachers/performers*. As an off-shoot of the email from the performing group seeking venues in Northern California, there was a discussion of having the Federation sponsor or coordinate bringing visiting teachers or performers through the area. Loui mentioned the way she'd been able to bring Roberto Bagnoli to the area because he was going to be at Mainwoods

and they could share the cost of his airfare. Lucy gave examples where, in the past, it would have been nice for the Federation to get involved in helping master teachers such as Marty Koenig and Cristos Papakostas, to coordinate teaching tours in Northern California. Perhaps the Institute Committee could make the necessary connections and coordinate tours on behalf of Federation clubs. Lucy will look into the possibility and report at the next meeting.

– *Future availability.* Memo reported that, while he and Judy plan to attend Statewide 2015 in San Diego, they were going to be in Europe after that, from June through August and would be unavailable for Federation business until their return.

Treasurer's Report (Sabine Zappe present; written report provided)

Sabine pointed out that, based on instructions at last meeting, she has broken out donations and fundraising. The total is in the main body of the report, but the individual amounts are in the table at the bottom. She was then instructed to separate out Video Challenge donations that have been made (\$130) and donations of this type made in the future.

She will prepare a final report through the end of the fiscal year (May 31) and hand over the Treasurer's reports, spreadsheets, bank accounts, checks, etc. to the in-coming Treasurer at that time.

The Board members formally thanked Sabine for her 7 years of service, serving under four different Presidents, as Federation Treasurer.

Secretary's Report (Loui Tucker present, no written report provided)

Promotional Items. Loui has been gathering ideas for a slogan to be used on a promotional item that could be used for both fundraising and public awareness. She gave the background for the "I dance. What's your superpower?" slogan. While it is currently available in several different styles on t-shirts and mugs, it was felt that a better use of the slogan (changed to "I **Folk** Dance. What's your superpower?") would be on a water bottle instead of a mug. Lucy will research the logo change to "I folk dance. What's your superpower?" to sure it is clear from any trademark infringement.

Loui will discuss the idea with Susan Gregory (Chair of the Publicity Committee and the Federation's graphic artist) and see if she can suggest a nice readable font and/or accompanying graphic.

Interactive Google Map. Loui has also been working on an interactive google-map showing the location of and information about Federation member clubs. She requested guidance on how to handle non-Federation clubs on this google map that will be available through the Federation website. Loui provided four possibilities.

1. Put non-Federation classes on the same map, but with a different color flag.
2. Put them on the same map, but "hide" them in the default view so that visitors to the webpage would have to affirmatively click a button to see non-Federation clubs.
3. Put them on a completely separate map accessible through the Federation website menu.
4. Not include them on any map, but provide a link on the map to a static page that would provide basic details ("Teacher X teaches classes, primarily during the day. Phone: 650-999-9999"). The existing map would include a message about how to become a Federation member in order to be included on the map

There was a discussion about (1) how much work it would be to maintain an accurate and comprehensive list of non-Federation dance clubs and (2) how to decide and who would decide which clubs/classes should be included (contra dance? salsa? square dance? ballroom? bollywood?); (3) how to keep the information accurate; (4) and the importance of having benefits to membership.

It was decided that Option 4 was preferred and Loui will make those changes requested on the map. The goal is to have the map up and active by May 1.

Nominating Committee (Craig Blackstone present; no written report provided)

Craig Blackstone officially welcomed the Federation Board members to the Blossom Festival on behalf of the San Francisco dancers.

Per a reminder from Parliamentarian Bill Lidicker, this is a General Assembly of all Federation members and the election of officers take place at this General Assembly each year.

Kevin Greek - President
Cynthia Lambert - Vice President
Clem Dickey - Secretary
Loui Tucker - Treasurer

The floor was officially opened to nominations. Hearing none, the nominations were closed. The slate of officers was then elected unanimously. Joe Croco (unofficial Federation photographer) asked the newly elected officers to stay after meeting so that he could "line 'em up against the wall and shoot 'em."

The installation of the newly elected officers will take place at Statewide in San Diego at the Installation Lunch on Saturday the 30th. Loui and Kevin are planning to attend. Cynthia believes she will be able to attend. Clem has a conflict and will have to decide about attendance. Memo said he would preside over the installation. Other Board members planning to attend are Marija Hillis, Bill and Louise Lidicker.

Finance (Laura Douglass present; written draft budget provided)

Most of the budget was discussed at the last meeting (see meeting minutes of March 7, 2015), and Laura made the changes suggested at that time. This copy of the proposed budget has a few items highlighted because, Laura explained, they needed to be discussed.

- * The Federation Cup has \$100 allocated for it. This was originally requested by Lucy to be used to pay for a prize for a promotion contest. She ultimately did not use the funds, but the item has remained in the budget. Does Kevin want to keep it? It was decided to leave in the \$100 and Kevin has it to use if he wants to.
- * The Archives Committee needs more money allocated. Funds had already been set up to pay for digitizing (a substantial but one-time expense). Additional and on-going funds are now needed because of the change in the storage unit where the archives have been housed in the past. The archives had been stored in a unit paid for by Adony and Becky Beniares for their personal items, and the Beniares did not charge the Federation for use of their portion of that space. The Beniares have since moved to another facility and the Federation archives were moved to a smaller unit. The smaller unit is \$150 per month, and \$1800 will be needed to pay for the new storage unit next year. Some consideration will need to be given to finding (1) a cheaper or free storage unit, (2) a Federation member who can house the archives for free, or (3) a Federation member who would be willing to underwrite the cost of the storage unit as a tax-deductible contribution.
- * A transfer of \$2,750 from savings would be needed to balance the budget.

It was noted that, if the Video Challenges currently booked are met and paid for, and additional video challenges are made and completed, then considerably more in donations will be made this year. It was decided to increase the "Donations" line and remove the \$2,750 transfer.

Laura will finalize the budget and forward it to Sabine (current Treasurer) and Loui (in-coming Treasurer) to be used in Treasurer reports in the coming year.

Past President (Lucy Chang present; no written report provided)

Lucy and Memo will schedule a time to talk about the New Dancer Festival Program which Memo will take over as the immediate Past President.

Vice President (Kevin Greek present; written report provided)

Many folk dance clubs were listed in the Bay Area Dance Week brochure and on their website. If your club/class is participating, please provide Kevin with feedback with respect to attendance so we can determine if this project was beneficial.

Insurance Report (Ken Kaye present; written report provided)

Ken mentioned that 31 Federation member clubs have responded so far by returning the questionnaire. Once he has a response from all clubs, and knows what the total premium will be, he and Loui will come up with a fair formula to determine the portion of the premium each club will pay.

In another piece of good news, Ken reported that the insurance broker has told him that the Federation can now insure member clubs outside of California. We have been approached in the past by clubs outside of California wishing to participate in the insurance program, and now they can become Federation members.

Research Committee (Cricket Raybern present; no written report provided)

Cricket reported that the problem in the past with inconsistent font type, font size, formatting, and margins in the dance descriptions printed in issues of *Let's Dance!* has been resolved and there should be uniformity going forward.

Cricket has also been working with the dance notations for 2006 and 2007 in order to incorporate the errata into the dance descriptions. Loui will be posting them on the Stockton website in the near future.

Archives (Joe Croco present; no written report provided)

Joe thanked Loui, Kevin and Sabine for helping with the move on Saturday to the new, smaller storage unit.

Donations of materials for the archives are still coming in, most recently from Gail Barton and Joe Moore. The Federation archives can continue to take small donations, but will need to be careful with larger donations because of the smaller space. At this point, the Archives are not accepting music on cassettes or 45s. Some LPs are being accepted, especially unusual records. Unusual books are also accepted, but not syllabi or dance notations, unless the donating party thinks they are unusual or rare. Most *Let's Dance!* issues have been or are in the process of being digitized and the archives are only missing a few early issues.

In addition many unusual items have been found among the boxes of paper. It was suggested that a description of some of the items that were found be published in *Let's Dance!* in the event some member would like to accept the items.

Memo took the opportunity to pass along Clarice Willis' Past Presidents pin to Lucy Chang. He told the story of how he found the large silver pin for sale on Ebay, but passed it up because of the high price, returned some months later when it went un-sold, and made a good offer which was accepted. Clarice Willis was the third Federation president and the first to receive a commemorative Past President's pin. The pins are no longer being issued to Federation presidents when they retire from office.

Promotions (Marija Hillis present; no written report provided)

Marija has sent a first draft of a Promotion Fund Application to Loui for initial editing. It will then go to members of the Promotion Committee for approval before posting on the Federation website. It is hoped that this application form will simplify the application process and thus encourage more dancers and dance groups to consider applying for promotion funds.

Statewide 2016 (Marija Hillis present; no written report provided)

Marija Hillis will be the Federation Statewide 2016 Committee Chair and acting liaison with the Berkeley Folk Dancers. Bill Lidicker will be the Federation Statewide 2016 Committee Deputy Chair. Marija confirmed the dates for Statewide 2016: Memorial Day Weekend, May 27-29.

Marija reported that the teachers for Statewide 2016 will be Erik Bendix and Maurits Van Geel (who will be making his teaching debut in California). Each was asked to teach both partner and non-partner dances and both expressed their enthusiasm for the idea, particularly Erik whose couple dance repertoire has been largely ignored in favor of non-partner dances.

Chubritza has been approached about providing the live music, and they have agreed in principle.

Host hotel(s) are being considered and negotiated.

The theme will be **Lights on the Bay: Reflections**. The Statewide Committee envisions having opportunities for participating dancers to share their *reflections* on the role folk dancing has played in their lives.

The Statewide Committee is working on a flyer they plan to have ready for display and distribution at the up-coming Statewide 2015 in San Diego.

Loui's offer to act as Registrar/Treasurer for Statewide 2016 was accepted by the Committee.

Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be at Stockton Folk Dance Camp, on the Sunday between the two weeks.

Lucy made a motion to adjourn which Cricket seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.