

Minutes of the Folk Dance Federation of California (North) Board Meeting
Sunday, July 26, 2015
at Stockton Folk Dance Camp, Stockton, California

In attendance:

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

Board members (in alphabetical order)

Gary Anderson (*Let's Dance!* Editor)
Craig Blackstone (Nominating)
Lucy Chang (Institutes)
Marija Hillis (Promotion)
Bill Lidicker (Parliamentarian)
Cricket Raybern (Research)

Federation members

Louise Lidicker

President Kevin Greek called the meeting to order at 9:42 am.

- Approval of the Minutes

Minutes of the last meeting, held on April 26, 2015, were provided in advance. They included corrections submitted from various Board members before the meeting, including corrected orthography for dance names containing diacritical marks. The Minutes were not read. Board members received a copy to review on July 19, five days prior to the meeting, which provided sufficient time to review them.

A motion was made Cricket and seconded by Lucy to approve the minutes. The motion passed on a voice vote.

- Interim Board actions: Three votes were taken by email since the April 26 Board meeting:

1. On May 11, 2015, President Memo Keswick submitted this motion to the Board members by email:

Motion First: Kevin Greek. **Motion Second:** Loui Tucker

"The submission deadline date of a Folk Dance Federation Scholarship application for a 2015 event starting 06/27/2015 or later shall be May 31, 2015 or 60 days prior to the start of the event - whichever benefits more the applicant."

Rationale: The objective of the Federation scholarships is to grant an opportunity to enthusiastic people who want to study and continue study of dance and music that these camps provide as a specialty. It is hoped that the people who receive the scholarship help inspire and/or teach others in the art. Without scholarship help these candidates may not otherwise attend the camps/workshops. The Federation did

not publicize the scholarships enough this Spring but, following an email announcement the first week of May, we are now beginning to receive promising candidates. It doesn't serve our community, the Federation, or these summer camps to now disappoint applicants and tell them that they cannot receive the scholarships this year because of a deadline technicality that we can excuse. We should continue to accept applications until May 31 and still publicize scholarship openings for the open date. In the future we should consider extending the deadline as needed and publicize the openings repeatedly and much earlier in the year.

On May 13, Memo wrote that the motion had passed:

There are 17 members of the BOD. Therefore, the BOD vote for the following motion passed: 9 (yes) 4 (no) 4 (no response)

2. On May 28, Lucy Chang asked that the current year Scholarship Fund be increased from \$1200 to \$2000. On May 31, Memo wrote that the increase had been approved:

The vote to increase the Scholarship funding budget from \$1200 to \$2000 has passed in the AFFIRMATIVE !

3. On June 1, Lucy asked that the current year Scholarship Fund be increased by \$400 to fund a sixth applicant:

Yesterday, we received another applicant whom the Scholarship Committee would also like to award \$400 to a week long summer camp.

On June 3, Lucy reported that the additional funding had been approved:

The Scholarship Committee thanks you for your speedy review of our request for an additional \$400 in funding for the 6th applicant. The results were 13 unconditional AYE, 2 conditional Aye, No Nay, and 1 did not vote. The request is approved. Thank you.

- Committee changes

1. Communications: Kevin Greek has appointed Susan Gregory as interim chair of the Communications Committee. There was discussion about clarifying the difference between the Publicity Committee and the Communications Committee. Loui Tucker enumerated three areas to be covered: print flyers and publications, online publications, and meetup.com presence.
2. Scholarship: Kevin Greek has appointed Gary Anderson as chair of the Scholarship committee; Gary has appointed Connie Hull to the committee.
3. Institute: Lucy Chang has succeeded Denise Heenan as chair of the Institutes Committee. Lucy has appointed Claude and Susan Akana to the committee.

- Officer's Ball

Loui included a written proposal for the Officers' Ball: that it be held at the Albany Veterans Memorial Hall. The hall has previously been used for the President's Ball, can accommodate at least 100 people, and is at least as large as the Livermore Veterans Hall. Loui and Marija confirmed that parking was adequate. Loui noted that an Albany city ordinance prohibits music after 10:00 pm. Loui stated that we currently have the hall reserved from 1:00 pm to 11:00 pm., but may want to reserve it earlier in order to decorate and to accommodate a 1:00 pm. starting time. The Albany hall will also be used for Statewide in 2016; using it for the Officers' Ball will introduce the hall to dancers and should draw more people from San Francisco and the North Bay.

The date was missing from the proposal; Loui stated that the date should be Saturday, October 24.

President Kevin volunteered to coordinate the Officers' Ball. Loui provided Kevin with a list of Board members who would help: Lucy to arrange the Institute (teachers), Loui to obtain the hall, and Susan Gregory to produce flyers. Loui also has a list of people who Kevin can ask for help in decorating, and providing food and beverages.

Loui and Lucy had created a planning checklist for past events, but we can also create a new checklist.

The Board agreed on the need for a save-the-date flyer, and that the dance should have a theme (Loui and Sabina Zappe suggest "Dance Buffet"). We cannot create a full-page flyer until Susan returns from Europe. Loui will get publicity to Gary by Aug 2 for *Let's Dance!*

Cricket noted that for next year we should get a full-page flyer in the August issue of *Let's Dance!*

Bill noted that the checklist should have dates on it.

Craig proposed that we invite Bill Cope again to provide music, and the Board consensus was that we should do so.

Loui Tucker noted that in the future we should start looking for venues no later than January.

- President's Report (Kevin, written report included)

- Bay Area Dance Week

The written report contained a summary of Bay Area Dance Week poll results. Kevin said that he would like the Federation to participate again next year, as it didn't cost much and a lot of people did participate. Marija noted that folk dancing had more presence in Dance Week this year than it did last year.

- Reduced dues for out-of-state members

Kevin solicited comments on the suggestion. The consensus was that we should not reduce dues, as out-of-state subscribers enjoy the same benefits as in-state subscribers. Loui noted that individual hardship cases could be provided at reduced cost, or paid for by another member.

- Proposal to rename Publications/Communications Committee to Social Media Committee

Kevin opined that Communications is like "social media." Loui added that Publications is traditionally "physical advertising media", while Communications is letters and outreach. Loui asked whether a rename or merge would require by-laws change. No one was sure. Craig noted that we should not merge the functions simply because the same person (Susan) currently chairs both.

Loui proposed that Communications include Facebook, the Web pages, and meetup.com presence, and suggested that we approach people who were volunteering for similar Stockton functions. Cricket and Cynthia may approach another interested person. We need to let people know that they will not be left to do the work alone.

Lucy asked if there was a Standard Operating Procedure manual for Communications. Loui didn't think there was one.

- Treasurer's Report (Loui) - written report included.

During the President's report we realized that the Treasurer's report had been accidentally omitted from the printed agenda.

Clubs added to our insurance policy pay an up-front charge, which improved our balance, and the charge has increased due to adjustments of risk factors (based on number of people at an event multiplied by the frequency of events).

There was not a lot of activity, and we are on-budget for this time of year.

- Vice President's Report (Cynthia)

There is a date for the Camelia Festival, but no teachers are available. We may introduce Newer Dancers Festival, or Family Dancers Festival in order to attract younger dancers. Loui noted that Steve Kotansky did a fabulous job of "winging it" when a group of young dancers showed up this year.

- Institutes (Lucy) – written report included.

Claude and Susan Akana joined the committee, as noted above. The Committee is looking for teachers for Heritage Festival and Officers Ball.

- Scholarship (Lucy, past chair and Gary, current chair) – written report included.

- This year saw six really strong applicants, and six scholarships were awarded. We are happy to see a variety of camps. Last year saw not nearly as many applicants. Three of the applicants were first-timers at the camps they attended. (Lucy)

Several policy points were made and not disputed:

- The Camps need not be in California. (Lucy)
 - The extra budget this year does not establish a precedent. (Bill)
 - The approval of all six applicants does not establish a precedent for approving all scholarship applicants in future years. There must be a review, and checks and balances. Two years ago a poor application was declined. (Bill and Lucy)
 - There is no limit on the number of approvals; it is at the discretion of the committee chair, who is also guided by the budget. (Cricket, Bill)
 - The Committee does give thought to each application, identifies inconsistencies and holes in the applications, and corresponds with the applicants, all in an effort to properly use the money. If there is not enough money, the committee will correspond with the board. (Lucy)
 - Scholarships are typically 50% of an event's cost, but the percentage is a guideline, not a rule. (Bill, Lucy)
- The written report proposes a Scholarship Ball. (Gary)

Two specific ideas for fundraising in conjunction with a dance program were suggested:

- A donation to place a dance on the program worked in Sacramento. (Cynthia)
 - A raffle could be held for the opportunity to place a dance. (Cricket)
- Restricted funds no longer need to be kept in a separate account (Cricket).
 - Gary would like to see more than 50% funding, or more flexibility. Lucy suggested a cap, i.e. 50% of cost up to a limit.

- Editor (Gary)

We receive good reports from Peninsula and Sacramento Councils and from Berkeley. We need someone for North Bay.

- Promotions (Marija)

The package included a proposed form for "Folk Dance Promotion Fund Grant Application," and Marija solicited requests for changes and corrections. Several suggestions were offered:

- Include the monetary limit (\$2000) on the form. (Gary, Lucy)

- Add links to other grant offerings. (The current wording on the application form is meant to encourage people to apply elsewhere and for us to discover other sources of funding, not to require a list of other grants.) (Loui)
- Always have a printed form, for non-web people. (Gary)
- Print a flyer on one side, and the form on the other side. (Cricket)
- Move the application button to the bottom of the web page, to encourage people to read the page. (Loui)
- Distinguish travel grants from other grants. People may not realize that both are available, but perhaps from separate grantors. (Bill)
- Statewide 2016 (Marija and Berkeley Folk Dancers)
 - The band, hall, and teachers are all booked.
 - A save-the-date flyer has been produced.
 - We should target the December issue of *Let's Dance!* for the complete announcement, and consider an early-bird discount (Loui)
 - The date and location were announced after the Talent Show at Stockton Week 1, and we will do same for Week 2.
- Research (Cricket)

Cricket thanked Bill for exceptional research in dances published in *Let's Dance!* People have requested two dances per issue, but that would require three or four more people, plus space in the publication. We try to include one dance per issue, and sometimes two.

Cricket described the guidelines for participation in the Research committee:

- Attendance at Stockton not necessary; dances can come from other festivals, e.g. the Camelia Festival.
- Physical meetings of the Research Committee are rare: perhaps once every three to four years. Most work is done through e-mail.
- Notes can add styling, and items learned in teaching. Errata produced during Stockton Camp are limited to corrections, and not expansion.
- The Stockton Research committee is a subset of Federation Research Committee.
- *Let's Dance!* notes are generally more complete than Stockton syllabi notes.
- *Let's Dance!* notes are indexed on the web site (Loui)
- We have discovered that earlier copies of *Let's Dance!* had inserts (slightly larger sheets, without page numbers) with dance notes. The inserts were typically removed by the recipients, or fell out. (Loui)
- An on-going project is incorporating *Let's Dance!* errata into Stockton syllabi, The project works backward from the present and has reached 2005.
- Parliamentarian & By-Laws Report (Ad-Hoc) (Bill)

Kevin stated that Bill and all other committee chairs have been reappointed, except as otherwise noted, such as the Institutes Committee.

- Nominating Committee (Craig) – No report.
- Insurance (Ken Day/absent) – written report included.
- Membership (Alicia LaFetra/absent) – written report included.

Some individual lapsed members were discussed. One has died, one had moved to exclusively Israeli dancing, and a third will be rejoining.

The format of the membership report suggested that Libraries with *Let's Dance!* subscriptions are members. They are, and have a vote. Loui will ask Alicia to provide a list of libraries. (Loui)

- Past President (Memo/absent)
- Publications and Communications Committees (Susan Gregory/absent)
- Finance Committee (Laura Douglass/absent)
- Archives Committee (Joe Croco/absent)

The following status was provided:

- Some archive materials were donated to the Stockton Folk Dance Camp for their store. (Loui)
- We need to establish an accession policy for the archives (Loui). E.g.,
 - We are missing a couple of isolated issues of *Let's Dance!*, or have only one copy. (We want two complete sets).
 - We would like to get the nine issues of the precursor to *Let's Dance!*, called *The Folk Dancer*. They were printed on very acidic paper. After nine issues the publication was then renamed to avoid conflict with Michael Herman's publication of the same name.
 - We don't need calendars.
 - We might take costumes.
- Next BOD meeting

Loui noted that, historically, the next meeting has been held at a home to finalize the Officer's Ball. The next board meeting was tentatively scheduled for September 12, to coincide with the St Bede's party on that date. The location was not decided.

- Adjournment

Loui made a motion to adjourn, which Cricket seconded. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:48 am.