

Minutes of the Folk Dance Federation of California (North)
General Assembly and Board Meeting
Sunday, July 28, 2019
at University of the Pacific, Stockton, California

In attendance:

Joe Croco (President)
Marian Snyder (Vice President)
Laura Douglass (Treasurer)
Clem Dickey (Secretary)

Board members

Craig Blackstone (Nominations)
Kevin Greek (Past President)
Susan Gregory (Communications)
Marija Hillis (Promotions)
Bill Lidicker (Parliamentarian)
Lon Radin (Institutes)
Cricket Raybern (Research)
Marina Troost (Statewide 2020)
Loui Tucker (Editor)

President Joe Croco called the meeting to order at 10:13 am. A quorum was present.

- Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting, held on April 28, 2019, were provided in advance. Loui made and Craig seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

- 2019 Officers Ball

The Officers Ball will be held at the Hayward Veterans Hall on October 19, 2019. Loui, on behalf of herself and Lucy Chang, verified that officers who helped last year will assume the same duties this year: Marian and Marija for catering, Susan for flyers, Joe and Laura to organize snacks and refreshments, Kevin for decorations, and Clem to help at the door. To complement the theme, "Around the World in 80 Dances," Loui suggested using hot air balloon images for the flyer and decorations.

We made a little bit of money last year and hope that a return to Hayward (from Pleasanton) will increase attendance this year. Loui also asked if we could raise the price of the dinner or party. Marian replied that Berkeley Folk Dancers charges \$15 for dinner while the Officers Ball charges \$10. A \$5 increase in dinner price met with general agreement.

Lon reported that Alan Rothchild, Kaela Fine, and Yale and Marcia Rosenblatt have agreed to teach, and that Aaron Alpert and Barbara Bevan have also agreed, conditional on other commitments. Lon is still pursuing other teachers; Loui noted that Lenore Frigo was popular for contra. Loui will check with Bill Cope about a sing-along as in past years. Loui will manage the workshop and Lucy is scheduled to emcee the party; Loui may fill in for Lucy depending on Lucy's health.

- 2020 Statewide

Marina has scheduled Statewide for the weekend of May 22-24. She has a tentative schedule for each day. Adony and Becky Beniares have agreed to handle decorations, Chubritza is under contract for music. Ahmet Lüleci and Bruce Hamilton have agreed to teach, and Gergana Panova may teach depending on her schedule. Ken Olcott may call contras. Marina is still looking for a performance group. She has talked to Evan Chu about videotaping, and video and audio distribution (DVD/CD or web).

Recent Statewides have been priced at about \$100. Marina expects a budget of \$10,000 to \$11,000 and a price between \$100 and \$105. Marina suggested making sandwiches for lunch one day, Loui noted that the

Berkeley 2016 Statewide served sandwiches from a caterer one day.

Marina suggested possible themes of the Miwok Tribe, Wine Country, and Hands around the World. She has talked to Susan about a save-the-date flyer and to hotels about discount rates. Marina wanted a flyer by November, in which case Loui would need it by October 1 for the November *Let's Dance!* Loui noted that the *Let's Dance!* ad could slip to December and did not need to include a theme. The ad for Folk Dance Scene needs a different format to fit on the smaller page. Marina is also planning ads for the National Folk Organization, the Eastern European Folk Dance Society and the Society of Folk Dance Historians; and a listing on Dance Gypsy.

Moveable Feet may host an event with Ahmet as well, Marina has asked that such coordinated events occur after Statewide.

Marian asked about a t-shirt; Loui noted that the t-shirt would depend on the theme.

Marina asked about using a second room, a kafana, for music. Loui replied that it had been done before with limited success. If the room is too far from the main hall people will not go there. Marina asked about musicians for Bruce Hamilton, as he is used to teaching with live music. Loui noted that Bruce taught at Statewide 2018 without live music.

- Moving the IFD Yahoo Group to Google Groups

Loui announced that she plans to move the International Folk Dance Yahoo Group to Google Groups, as adding members to the Yahoo group has become cumbersome. Cricket added that the Research committee had problems with attachments on Yahoo. There were no objections.

- Folk Dance Passport

Craig reported that four member clubs have responded favorably to the proposal for a passport-like booklet to be stamped when a dancer visits a club. Clem added that Adony intends to respond favorably on behalf of the Palomanians. Loui suggested that Officers Ball provide a stamp (if the passbooks are ready by then). Marian noted that BFD has a stamp, and stamps can be purchased for about \$35. Susan asked for specifics on the book; Craig and Joe suggested a passport-sized book with one page per participating club (with meeting info). Susan proposed a mid-September deadline for inclusion in the first edition of the book.

- President (Joe)

Joe is looking into making Past Presidents pins. Loui noted that we stopped making them when the former supplier closed, but that we do have the die. The old pins are heavy, containing 2-4 ounces of silver.

- Treasurer (Laura) – written report included

Laura will look into moving some of our bank account money into CDs, with Lon's help. The maturities need to be staggered to preserve some liquidity.

Every club has paid insurance dues. We collected \$5585 and paid \$5783. There were funds left over from last year to cover the \$198 shortfall. Loui noted that insurance is intended to be self-funding.

- Website (Kevin)

The website now has a "donate" button. Funds go directly to the bank, and not through PayPal. Kevin is investigating online membership subscriptions (PayPal offers an automatic renewal feature). There is currently an option to renew through PayPal, which about 50 members use. But the payments currently made through PayPal are difficult to process because they are not itemized. The online membership would permit each member to edit their data, e.g. address. The Federation would need an SSL Certificate at a cost of \$64/year. Each payment category (Individual, Joint, Group, Student) would require a separate button. Craig made, and Lon seconded, a motion to authorize Kevin to pay the SSL Certificate fee. The motion passed unanimously.

- Membership (Marcia Rosenblatt) – absent, written report submitted

Laura made and Loui seconded a motion to approve the membership report, which included new members. The motion passed unanimously.

- Institutes (Lon)

Lon will tabulate the annual Stockton dance survey after the second week.

- Scholarships (Sabine Zappe) – absent, written report included

About \$100 is left in the fund.

- Promotions (Marija)

Marija received a note from Carolyn Cole-Sayre which proposed funding folk dance camps at college campuses, perhaps offering food, e.g. pizza or ice cream, to attendees. Several people had observations on attracting younger people to dance: younger teachers, a younger group, a different playlist, high-energy music, and couple dances such as salsa and swing. Jerry Duke, as professor emeritus at San Francisco State University, might be able to arrange a venue. Cricket noted that the folk dance as a way to dance after college attracted some Brigham Young University students. Marija said that Berkeley Folk Dancers had offered an eight-week on-campus class at UC Berkeley, but students were quite busy and none continued at BFD. Laura will sponsor a Federation membership for Carolyn.

- Research (Cricket)

The Committee is still working on an update to “Steps and Styling,” including digitization. Bruce Hamilton is updating the English section, Joyce Clyde is creating a Balkan section, and Denise Heenan will work on the Scottish section.

- Archives (Kevin)

Joe reported that Laura can bring some dolls to the Officers Ball. We still have about 80 water bottles. None are at Stockton as no one volunteered to bring them.

- Next meeting

The next meeting will be held prior to the Moveable Feet French Workshop on Saturday, September 28, 2019, at a location to be determined.

- Adjournment

On a motion by Laura, seconded by Craig, the meeting adjourned at 12:07 pm.