

Minutes of the Folk Dance Federation of California (North)
Board Meeting
Sunday, January 15, 2023, via Zoom Teleconference

In attendance:

Ulrike Narins (President)
Laura Richardson (Vice President)
Sabine Zappe (Treasurer)
Clem Dickey (Secretary)

Board members

Adony Beniares (Nominations)
Craig Blackstone (Parliamentarian)
Laura Douglass (Finance)
Kevin Greek (Archives)
Marija Hills (Promotions)
Betsy Moore (Scholarship)
Lon Radin (Institutes)
Marcia Rosenblatt (Membership)
Marian Snyder (Past President)
Loui Tucker (Editor)

Interim board actions:

On November 23, 2022 Ulrike sent an email to the Board members asking that they vote on approval of the 2023 budget as amended by Laura D on November 20 at about 4:15 pm. On November 23 Ulrike reported that the budget had been approved by a vote of 9-0.

On January 4, 2023 [date? Jan 4 was the first email with Betsy on the distribution list] Ulrike appointed Betsy Moore as chair of the Scholarship Committee.

President Ulrike Narins called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm. A quorum was present.

- Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting, held on November 20, 2022, were provided in advance. Craig moved to approve the minutes. Marian seconded. The motion passed 14-0.

- Statewide 2024

Adony reported that Peninsula Dance Council could not find anyone willing to be the Statewide Chair, but PFD is willing to help organize and run the event. Ideally we should have a venue determined by the time of Statewide 2023 (in May), but sometimes that has not happened. For instance, the Statewide held in Campbell did not have a venue until the preceding September. Loui and Craig noted that a Statewide need not have a single chair, but does need a single person as liaison with the Board. Marija will write a short piece for *Let's Dance!* to solicit volunteers. We will need people to handle the instructors, the hall, money, and publicity. Adony noted that someone needs to keep track of the many pieces.

Stanford is not willing to rent space. Twin Pines is expensive. West Valley College might be an option, but a May date may conflict with graduation. Sabine noted that many hotels have ballrooms, though we would be competing with weddings. The Russian Center in San Francisco is a possibility; Craig noted that it has been the site of two Statewides but he has not looked into it recently. Whoever looks for a venue should ask about rates for a non-profit; those may be lower.

We should get the documents which Marina Troost put together for Statewide 2022. Sabine offered to assemble financial reports for the last three or four Northern California Statewides; she has those.

- Treasurer (Sabine) – written reports for November and December included

The December report is a full-year report.

- Membership (Marcia) – written report included

The report shows 10 new individual members, but most of those are people who had previously been listed as family members. Clem moved to accept the membership report; Laura R seconded. The motion passed 14-0.

Loui reported that we have a new mailing house, and the membership database changes were due to comparing their database with the old mailing house database. Loui reported that the membership list has had the following line count (lines are not quite the same as people; they include libraries and organizations.)

Date	Lines
6/2009	421
1/2013	431
1/2016	406
1/2018	377
1/2023	355

Changs has 12 new members since May, and Berkeley Times ran an article on the Berkeley Folk Dancers Birthday Ball. Loui has not been able to interest the San Jose Mercury News' Lifestyle section in Folk Dance.

Marian said that the Berkeley article was due to Rosemary Klems and that the Times had interviewed Marija Hillis. Berkeley funds scholarships to their Beginners program through a grant from Mel Mann.

The Federation has money from the Jim Kaumeyer endowment, but needs ideas. Scholarships are an idea.

Craig noted that the increase in Changs membership had no single impetus. Some people were returnees, some were on an extended visit to San Francisco, and some were drawn by the availability of parking.

Loui asked Marian and Craig write to about their experiences for *Let's Dance!*

Kevin noted that the Bay Area Dance Week web site has some "save the dates" entries for April 21-30, but that there are usually more by now. He will check with groups to see if they can schedule dances. Kevin also asked that groups who have events planned submit them to him for our web site. PFD has listed their monthly parties through the end of the year.

- Editor (Loui)

The January issue of *Let's Dance!* was again 28-pages. Two pages per month have been taken by Statewide, which will probably continue through May/June issue but not to the July issue. *Let's Dance!* earned just over \$2000 in ad revenue in 2022.

- Parliamentarian (Craig) – written report included

Craig has distributed proposed changes to the bylaws covering administration of electronic nominations and elections, and spelling out some abbreviations in references. Adony agrees with them, but not everyone had received a copy as of the meeting. Ulrike re-sent them during the meeting.

There was discussion of changing officers terms to two years, or starting officers terms in January (not June), or both. Starting terms in January would align them with our fiscal year.

Craig moved to approve the revisions to the bylaws. Laura D seconded. Loui, seconded by Clem, moved to amend the motion to make officers's term two years. Craig argued that the amendment would require additional, as yet undrafted, changes to the bylaws. Loui withdrew the amendment; Clem agreed to the withdrawal. The original motion passed 14-0. The amendment must be approved at a second board meeting in order to be adopted.

Craig can put a copy in the members-only Google Drive folder, and he will bring printed copies to the next board meeting.

Craig will also prepare a red-lined draft of the bylaws which provides two-year terms for officers.

- Promotions (Marija)

Marija thanked the board for think if way to attract new members.

- Website (Kevin)

The website has additional past issues of Let's Dance! The videos section is popular. He will write an article about the website for *Let's Dance!*

Ulrike asked board members who have not done so to add their contact information to the spreadsheet in our Google Drive folder.

- Insurance (Michael Giusto, not present) – written report submitted

- Nominations (Adony)

Adony reported that all four officers have orally agreed to run for another term. The bylaws require written consent, so he will request email confirmation from each officer. He asked Loui to put a small note about the nominations in *Let's Dance!* If we are to vote electronically, the board needs to approve that by February 15. We do get more participation through electronic voting; about 100 people voted in the 2022 electronic vote. Adony moved to conduct voting electronically this year; Lon seconded. The motion passed 14-0.

- Other items

Ulrike reported that one person had inquired about donating a costume. She had tried to contact the Stockton Folk Dance Camp about accepting the donation but had received no response. Adony suggested that Ulrike talk to Denise Heenan, who runs the Stockton bazaar.

The Peninsula Council will not host Heritage Festival this year, but hopes to occasionally feature master teachers at their monthly parties. They are working to host Iliana Bozhanova and Tudor Yankov.

Changs has asked City College of San Francisco about holding Blossom Festival but has not yet received a response. They hope to hold it the third or fourth weekend of April, and if it as City College it will have to be on a Sunday.

- Next meeting

The next meeting will be held 12:00 noon Sunday, February 12, 2023 at Live Oak Park in Berkeley. We do not expect quorum, so the meeting will likely be an informal discussion. We intend to finish the meeting by 12:50 so as not to overlap the Festival of the Oaks afternoon program.

The following meeting will be held on March 19, 2023 on Zoom, at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87205423165?pwd=Ym5MVVDJKUXV1Q2ItUXJhRXlFYWJqUT09> (Meeting ID: 872 0542 3165, Passcode: 755652).

- Adjournment

On a motion by Ulrike, seconded by Marija, the meeting adjourned at 4:47 pm.