

Minutes of the Folk Dance Federation of California (North)
Board Meeting
Sunday, November 19, 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)
Betsy Moore (Scholarships)
Loui Tucker (Editor)

Statewide 2024 committee

Rebecca Tsai

President Ulrike Narins called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm. A quorum was present.

- Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting, held on September 10, 2023, were provided in advance. Approval was deferred due to confusion over which event (Statewide 2023 or Stockton Folk Dance Camp) used Bella Fabric t-shirts.

- Officers Ball

The Officers Ball had fewer attendees than expected, about 20 less than last year. The decline might have been due to the COVID surge or the Barn Dance theme. We could try a Balkan theme next year. The Ball has lost money on a cash basis; Sabine expects that a return of the \$1000 cleaning deposit will turn the Ball slightly positive.

If we use the same hall we should get ourselves on their calendar in February. Hayward and Livermore also have nice halls, though Hayward's kitchen does not work. Ulrike has marked her calendar to reserve a hall in February.

- Bus Shelter Advertising Campaign (Loui)

Loui has distributed a mock-up of the final design. The mock-up did not take long; Clear Channel had templates from which to choose.

- Statewide (Rebecca)

The Committee has met with Yannis Constantinidis and will meet with Cesar Garfiaz.

Rebecca provided links for the t-shirt and poster. Yannis is to provide an additional picture for the shirt.

Maria Hillis and Marian Snyder will help arrange a take-out meals; they have checked with some local restaurants.

Bill Cope will host Yannis and Ellie Wiener will host Cesar. Yannis's son might come. Cesar's wife and children are coming also. Evan will provide airline miles for the teachers.

The Committee will need lots of people to help on all three days with registration, set-up/decoration, music, and meals. Rebecca proposed identifying one manager and some helpers for each function.

For the January *Let's Dance!* Loui will need registration forms by the first week of December. Rebecca will send them.

The Committee plans to write articles in *Let's Dance!* about Yannis (Greek Dance), Cesar, Square Dance, and Taiwan. Rebecca could use assistance with the Greek article.

Adony suggested a site tour of the facility in December, after the Kolo Festival. Rebecca agreed.

- Vice President (Laura R)

The M&M cooking team is interested in taking a break. In the past we have had catered food at Officers Ball. Alternatively Laura R would also be happy to help with preparation and cooking.

- Treasurer (Sabine) – written reports for September and October, Officers Ball preliminary report and yearly comparisons included
- Past President (Marian)

Marian asked about budget and expectations for the Past Presidents gathering at Statewide. The Federation has not always provided a budget, but did at least by the year of the last Statewide in San Jose (at Del Mar High School). The Sacramento and Petaluma gatherings were very informal. Loui noted that both Northern and Southern Presidents are invited; she will send Marian a list with email addresses. Craig suggested budgeting \$100. The scheduling needs to be coordinated with the Statewide committee. Marian has emailed Evan but has not heard back yet.

- Statewide 2024 (Rebecca)
- Treasurer (Sabine) – written reports for July and August included
- Membership (Marcia) – absent, written report included

Loui, on behalf of Marcia, noted that repeating credit card payments help a lot in managing renewals.

We need a policy for dropping non-paying members. We currently keep them on the books for up to eight months, which causes extra expense if they do not renew and the impression of double-billing if they renew very late. Loui proposed a policy for reminders like "email, second email, drop, third email". The third email might be sent after one or two missed issues of *Let's Dance!* Craig recommended no more than three issues of *Let's Dance!* after lapsing. Craig also recommended that we postpone a final policy until Marcia is in attendance.

On a motion by Loui, seconded by Betsy, the written Membership report was approved 11-0.

- Editor (Loui)

The November issue honoring Yves Moreau generated requests for 85 copies. We netted \$345 from donations ranging up to \$100.

Half a box of copies of the December issue were damaged in shipping from the mailing house to the printer. The printer reprinted those copies at no charge, and forty of the reprinted copies will ship Monday, November 20. UPS has denied the claim for damages.

- Finance (Laura D) – written 2024 budget submitted

Laura clarified some items (\$13030 membership income was estimated from membership count) and adjusted web site expense (reduced by \$500, as no renewal expenses expected). Laura moved approve the budget; Craig seconded. The motion passed 11-0.

Budgeted income is \$42,930 and budgeted expense is \$48,250. We regularly run a deficit; printing and mailing costs for *Let's Dance!* exceed dues income. Foreign member costs (we have about 10 foreign members) are about triple domestic member cost. We last raised dues about 2010. One member did not renew due to that increase.

- Scholarships (Betsy)

All members of scholarship committee have agreed to serve next year.

We should make it clear that scholarships are not just for Stockton Folk Dance Camp. Such a clarifying announcement could provide a list of likely camps: Mainwoods, Kolo Festival, Statewide, BACDSS.

- Web site (Kevin)

The web site improved a little bit: at Loui's request Kevin has added software to monitor how people use the ads. Esterlanz and their youth group have added listings. Kevin is still looking into using Humantix for event tickets.

Loui will write an item for *Let's Dance!* requesting that groups check their folkdance.com listing to make sure that their information is up-to-date.

- Archives (Kevin)

Kevin has sorted LPs, 78s and 45s into new boxes with dividers. He has photos of all albums and un-sleeved records, and will build a catalog as he finds time to do so.

- New business

Bay Area Dance Week will be April 26 through May 5. Accounts will probably open for information entry in January.

- Next meeting

The next meeting will be held 3:00 pm Sunday, January 14, 2024 on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82142239442?pwd=c3dEbHNDOFRQK1dGUmxYZEdQbmJTUT09> (Meeting ID: 821 4223 9442, Passcode: 147746).

- Adjournment

On a motion by Clem, seconded by Sabine and passed 11-0, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.