

Minutes of the Folk Dance Federation of California (North)  
Board Meeting  
Sunday, October 20, 2024, 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, Website)  
Marija Hillis (Promotions)  
Betsy Moore (Scholarship)  
Marcia Rosenblatt (Membership)  
Loui Tucker (Editor)

President Ulrike Narins called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm. A quorum was present.

- Minutes of previous meetings

Minutes of the March 17 meeting were provided in advance. On a motion by Laura D, seconded by Loui, the minutes were approved 11-0.

Minutes of the August 11 meeting were provided in advance. On a motion by Loui, seconded by Laura R, the minutes were approved 11-0.

- Officers Ball

Laura R reported that we have 31 people registered. Loui will publicize the ball on the FDFC and BBMDE groups this week, and hopes to do so each week. We hope to get some attendees from the Turlock/Modesto area; Judy Kropp is teaching and brought about seven people last time she taught.

Kevin helped Laura R update the online registration form with a dietary restriction question. The form may default to include a \$10 donation. If so, that needs to be fixed so that is not the default.

We can get in around noon. Marian will provide dinner, Mason jars, plate, silverware, and tablecloths. If possible she will also bring an unbroken water dispenser. (The dispenser which she used to use may have been broken.) Laura R will ask Hollis and Lon to bring juice and water; Laura R will bring coffee, tea, and the hot water urn. Bente Larsen has also volunteered to help in the kitchen.

We should remind board members to bring snacks. Marija offered to bring extra food.

Laura R will ask Susan Gregory to create name tags. Susan is doing them for Kolo Festival and has done many themed labels for Moveable Feet.

Marija has the final list of dances (to be taught?). Lon Radin is doing the music. Lon may emcee the afternoon workshop. If he does not, Laura D can do so.

Craig and Loui will emcee the evening party.

Sabine and Ulrike will help Laura R at the registration table.

Loui has the 50/50 drawing paraphernalia.

Kevin can't really find much in the way of decorations with hands. Loui: suggested filling rubber gloves with Plaster of Paris. Adony offered lights, and noted that we could blow up pictures like those on the flier. Nice gloves may be available cheaply at a dollar store or a thrift store.

Loui asked if we could have a photo booth/backdrop as we did last year so that people could memorialize their attendance.

We will have a contact at the hall. There is always a person on site and we usually offer them dinner.

Laura D can pick up some dolls and bring them.

Marian has the tablecloth collection.

Bill Cope brings sing-along booklets, but Loui and Sabine have them in their basement.

Set-up clean-up is not a problem. Everyone still around is happy to help.

- **Storage Space (Kevin)**

We are currently paying \$247/month for storage; Kevin provides a list of similar units available for \$50 to \$210.

We have boxes of papers, dolls, and posters. If moving and reorganizing the collection, consider additional shelving units. Twenty are available for free on Craigslist. Also consider replacing moving any papers which are stored in cardboard boxes to plastic bins, to avoid silverfish. Post a map or diagram on site as an aid to finding things. Consider tossing or digitizing some things. Kevin enumerated the tasks: moving, sorting, labeling, inventorying, and acquiring shelves. Joe, Laura D, Laura R, Ulrike, and Lothar Narins volunteered to help.

There was Consensus to allow Kevin to use his judgment in picking a unit. Most sign-ups are online; Kevin can just direct Sabine to click a button. Moving Day can be determined by Google Poll, there are fewer than 50 boxes. We expect to do this sometime after the Kolo Festival, which ends November 30.

- **General Assembly**

Ulrike sent out a notice on October 14: we will hold it at the Officers Ball, about 6:30 pm. Adony will present the slate of candidates and ask for nominations from the floor. Then Adony, Craig, and Loui will assemble a ballot for the online election. (Adony will use the 2023 ballot as a template.)

- **Treasurer (Sabine) – written reports submitted for August and September**

Our bank, JP Morgan Chase, has offered a Zelle account. Ulrike agreed that we should have one. Sabine will set one up.

- **Editor (Loui)**

The November *Let's Dance!* is another big issue: 32 pages due to some unexpected ads. There is an ad for the International Dance Arts Collective (in Roseville). They have an evening show on Friday November 8th and a matinee on Saturday November 9. Their director is a former BYU dancer. Loui hopes to organize a carpool.

- **Membership (Marcia) – written report included**

On a motion by Craig, seconded by Sabine, the membership report was accepted 12-0.

- Finance (Laura D) – written draft budget included

We need to approve the budget by the end of December. Laura D should solicit budget requests by December 1.

- Institutes (Laura D, for Lon)

The teachers for the Officers Ball are on the cover of the November *Let's Dance!* Teachers Pete Galanais, Lenore Watson, and Julie East need to be added to the website listing.

- Scholarship (Betsy)

Following the discussion of the August meeting, Betsy agrees that fund raisers for scholarships sounds like a good idea. Loui suggested that Betsy ask groups to put out a donation basket for scholarships, or perhaps as part of a special event. Every club used to generate money for Federation scholarships. Some clubs (Berkeley, Saratoga) offer their own scholarships. Betsy will submit to *Let's Dance!* an article with that suggestion.

- Promotions (Marija)

The Committee received a promotions application from the International Dance Arts Collective. The collective teaches children, and proposed to sponsor a Peruvian teacher. Their total budget requires \$6000 to invite a Peruvian teacher and to buy costumes for Peruvian dancing. After consultation with Laura D, Laura R, Ulrike, Loui, the grant was approved. The collective also received a grant from NFO.

Grants are limited to \$6000 per year, and \$2000 per year to any one applicant.

Loui asked if our promotion application was worded to clearly convey that grants were available for any project prompting folk dancing, and not just recruiting Federation members. The wording is broad enough, but we may need to make groups aware that the funds are available. Groups of which we are aware include Polish, Serbian (St. Archangel Michael, Bata), Mexican (which performed at Statewide), Hungarian (Esterlanz), and Croatian (Zelko). If necessary, restrictions (frequency, geography) can be made by the committee. Marija could write "Do you know of a performing or teaching group which needs funds?"

Loui cited an article which described a "magic triangle," performers, class members, audience members. She recommended that we support all three legs of the triangle.

Marija will write an article for *Let's Dance!* to publicize the broad scope of the grants.

If we receive too many applications we can revise the rules, such as further restricting the frequency of awards, so long as we make the changes clear.

Adony noted that Wendi Ellis has experience with grants, and would be a good addition to the Committee.

Maria would like to reach out to the Mexican group which performed at Statewide; Rebecca Tsai or Catherine Mao will have their contact info.

- Website (Kevin, written report submitted)

Kevin picked up some donated items which he has earmarked for the Stockton auction. Festival not ready for scheduling yet. The festival is scheduled for October 6 at San Jose History Park.

Some groups have dropped their memberships; Kevin would like permission to drop their web listings. We should reach out to Rebecca Tsai and Aaron Alpert to ask if they want group memberships (for an additional \$5) before taking their groups off the website. We also have about 30 group members which are not listed on the website. Kevin will contact them.

- Good of the Order

Laura R wants to reach out to Margaret Lange and Billy Burke to offer help and consultation with Statewide 2025. Adony has contact info for Billy Burke.

Ulrike has a book "Folk Dance Musings" published today on amazon.com.

Ulrike plans to pass the gavel to the new President at the Moveable Feet New Year's Eve party.

- Next meeting

The next board meeting will be held at 2:00 pm Sunday, December 15, 2024 on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83470189967?pwd=4dV3sPSPGvi6aV5Hb0ChhT1Uo5pHoi.1> (Meeting ID: 834 7018 9967, Passcode: 147746).

- Adjournment

On a motion by Loui, seconded by Laura D, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.