

Minutes of the Folk Dance Federation of California (North)
Board Meeting
Saturday, February 8 at the Festival of the Oaks,
Live Oak Park, Berkeley

In attendance:

Board members:

Laura Richardson (President)
Clem Dickey (Vice President)
Sabine Zappe (Treasurer)
Betsy Moore (Secretary)
Laura Douglass (Finance)
Kevin Greek (Archives, Website)
Marija Hillis (Promotions)
Lisa Michael (Scholarship)
Lon Radin (Institutes)
Ulrike Narins (Past President)
Loui Tucker (Editor)
Lothar Narins (Research)
Craig Blackstone (Parliamentarian)

Others:

Lone Coleman
Margaret Harrison
Joe Croco

President Laura Richardson called the meeting to order at 12:08 pm (Past President Ulrike Narins wielded the gavel). A quorum was present.

Laura thanked the past officers and welcomed the new board members.

- Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the December 15 board meeting were provided in advance. On a motion by Laura D, seconded by Loui, the minutes were approved 12-0.

- Storage space project report
Kevin reported that the archives have been moved to Extra Space Storage, 2576 Scott Blvd, Santa Clara. The space is working out well. Joe, Kevin, and Loui have the keys.

Wendi Ellis donated some shelves and Laura R has a thank you note ready to send to her. Kevin bought additional shelves for \$200 (will submit receipt for reimbursement) and says we now have enough shelves.

- General assemblies – planning for 2025

Craig says we need only one general assembly meeting per year and it does not need to be tied to the officer election. Notice of this meeting was provided more than 30 days in advance. Laura D made a motion that this meeting be the general assembly for this year. Craig seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Treasurer (Sabine Zappe):

Sabine submitted written reports for December 2024 and January 2025. Laura D noted that the January report didn't have a line item for promotions for Cardak ensemble and Sabine replied that she hasn't received a request for that yet.

Loui moved and Craig seconded that we allocate the money from Bernice Schram's estate to fund scholarships. The scholarship budget will not be changed but the Treasurer will maintain a line in the Treasurer's report to keep track of the extra funds (currently ~\$6700). The motion carried 13-0.

- Membership (Marcia was not present but sent a written report):

Some members dropped and we have some new members, for a net increase of one. Laura D moved that we accept the new members, Clem seconded, and the motion carried 13-0.

- Editor (Loui):

Let's Dance is healthy. The latest issue is back up to 32 pages, the third one in the last calendar year that's that big. Loui has the luxury of delaying articles for the next issue.

Loui is continuing to index past issues and is up to 1965. It's fun to read about people she knows.

Several people noted that they really appreciated seeing the recent article about Loui.

In 1964-1989 the Federation put out a calendar with pictures of costumes and with the dates of festivals filled in. In April, Loui will propose that we put out something similar for 2026.

- Scholarship (Lisa Michael):

Lisa thanked Betsy for help getting started. She wants to keep the same scholarship article in Let's Dance as last time. Laura D asked to add Ti Ti Tabor to the list of camps we can provide scholarships for.

- Parliamentarian (Craig Blackstone):

The website has the old bylaws. The latest version says July 2023 on the first page and the last page is signed by Clem in August 2023. Craig will make sure the latest version is posted. Laura D suggested having the date on every page. (In a subsequent email, Laura R reported: Thanks to Kevin, the current bylaws are now linked here on our website: [https://www.folkdance.com/about/officers/.](https://www.folkdance.com/about/officers/))

Craig suggested having a search tool on the website and Kevin agreed to look into that.

- Promotions (Marija):

Marija is getting ready to request the check for Cardak.

There is a new funding request from Hollis Radin. Since 2013, Hollis has run a Dancing Without Borders Meetup group. She has gotten some funding from folk dance groups but has also provided funding herself. She is requesting the Federation to pay half of the Meetup cost for the next 4 years, which would be \$178.99 per year. Clem said the Peninsula Council is paying the other half. Loui noted that the promotions committee doesn't need to ask for approval for expenditures within their budget.

Marija said Hollis told her there's room for 2 other meetups on her account (no one at the meeting understood Meetup well enough to grasp what that means). The group currently has 651 members and 8 organizers. Hollis and Rebecca Tsai are the main organizers. Post-meeting update: Hollis says that her Meetup account has the ability to host up to three meetup groups. The Dancing Without Borders group is focussed mainly on the Peninsula and Fremont. If someone wanted to host a group for another geographical area or a specific interest group, that could be done under the same account.

- Research (Lothar Narins):

Lothar read a report from Cricket: As of February 1, Cricket resigned and Lothar is now chair. The report described what the research committee has done, including providing a dance description for each issue of Let's Dance in 2024.

- Archives (Kevin Greek):

The website is up to date.

Bay Area Dance Week is coming up, Apr 26-May 4. Go to the BDW site <https://dancersgroup.org/badw/> to sign up to give a free class.

- Insurance (Mike Giusto not present):

Sabine reported that all groups have now made their insurance payments for the period starting June 2024.

- Publications/communications (Susan Gregory not present):

Sabine reported that Marcia needs to print new payment envelopes and wonders if we plan to increase the dues. Sabine made a chart of income and Let's Dance costs. We are losing money every year on Let's Dance. There's been no increase in 15 years. This will be discussed at the April meeting.

- Proposed meeting date changes:

- April 20 is Easter so the meeting will move to April 13. 3:00 on Zoom.
- The August meeting will be held on August 24 to avoid conflicts with festivals and Betsy's vacation.
- June 15 is Fathers Day but it was agreed to keep that date
- The October meeting will be on October 5, the day after the Officers Ball.

On a motion from Craig, second by Joe, all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 12:57 pm.