

# Minutes of the Folk Dance Federation of California (North) Board Meeting

## Sunday, June 15, 3pm over Zoom

In attendance:

Board members:

Laura Richardson (President)  
Sabine Zappe (Treasurer)  
Betsy Moore (Secretary)  
Marcia Rosenblatt (Membership)  
Laura Douglass (Finance)  
Kevin Greek (Archives, Website)  
Marija Hillis (Promotions)  
Lon Radin (Institutes)  
Ulrike Narins (Past President)  
Loui Tucker (Editor)  
Craig Blackstone (Parliamentarian)  
Susan Gregory (Publications/Communications)  
Lothar Narins (Research)

Others:

Memo Keswick (2026 Statewide Chair)

Laura R called the meeting to order at 3:08 and wished all of the fathers in attendance a Happy Fathers Day. A quorum was present.

## Minutes from the last meeting

Minutes from the April 13 board meeting were provided in advance. On a motion by Sabine, seconded by Craig, the minutes were approved 10-0.

## Report on Statewide 2026

(Ongoing business—moved up due to Memo's schedule conflict.)

Memo Keswick provided a written report in advance and attended the meeting to field questions and discussion. The current plan is to use the church that Memo's group usually dances in for Friday and Saturday and switch to the Women's Club for Sunday, when the church is unavailable. The schools that might be possible venues are not able to commit to a date so far in advance. If it turns out that one of the schools is available, Memo doesn't think it would be a problem to switch. The Women's Club is a small venue but the group thought that it should work for Sunday since many people leave (Laura R thought there were 30-35 people at this year's Statewide on Sunday). The date of June 12-14 is pencilled in for the church.

Memo can send diagrams and pictures of the church hall and he has the contract, pricing, etc.

Memo plans to have one major teacher (possibly Konstantin Marinov) plus one local. He does not want to hire any teachers whose ability to legally work in the US is questionable.

The theme being considered is "village dancing". Laura D asked whether this would include allowable variations and understanding ethnography and Memo said yes we want to come away with a better understanding of where things came from.

## Reports from Board Officers and Chairs

- President (Laura Richardson)  
Nothing to add - discussion later in agenda
- Vice President (Clem Dickey)  
Clem not present
- Secretary (Betsy Moore)  
Nothing to report
- Treasurer (Sabine Zappe)  
Sabine provided a written report in advance. There was no discussion.
- Past President (Ulrike Narins)  
Nothing to report
- Membership (Marcia Rosenblatt)  
Marcia provided a written report in advance. There are two new individual members: Christine Johnston and Sue Nelson. On a motion by Loui, seconded by Sabine, the new members were accepted 13-0.
- Editor (Loui Tucker)  
Just finished printing the July/August issue. Features Sunni Bloland. 32 page, healthy issues, lots to read. Loui thanked her wonderful staff of proofreaders. Jay Michtom, editor of The Scene (so cal) just resigned after 27 years. Other long-tenured editors were mentioned. Loui likes doing this and will continue as long as we want her to.
- Finance (Laura Douglass)  
Nothing to report
- Institute (Lon Radin)

Lon reported that Loui put a note in Let's Dance asking for teachers for the Officer's Ball and there were responses from Adony and Alan R. Things don't really start hopping until after Stockton.

Loui says we need to have something to put in the September *Let's Dance* issue with at least the theme and a tentative list of teachers. Deadline Aug 1, next meeting Aug 24.

Sabine suggests making the event a fundraiser for the scholarship fund.

Suggested theme: "funding the future"

Laura R: Encourage people to bring a young person to the ball.

Maybe teaching could focus on dances that are appealing to a younger crowd.

Marija can think of some dances like that.

Marija: funding has FUN in it.

Suggestion to decorate in fake dollar bills

Think of something to auction off (like the infamous banana at Stockton)

Craig, Marija, and Lothar offered to teach.

Loui suggested asking Janetta Redzic (leader of Cardak) to teach.

- Scholarship (Lisa Michael)

Lisa was not present but provided a written report in advance. Sabine noted that the report is missing the one scholarship we gave for North/South and Laura R said she would tell Lisa.

Discussion:

Why are there more people? BYU kids finally coming back after COVID, we get more each year from Sussefusse.

Loui was alarmed that we spent nearly all of the Bernice Schram funds. Seems fiscally irresponsible. We received an unprecedented number of applicants this year and since we had the Bernice Schram funds available we decided to use them so we could offer the same size scholarships we have in the past. Stronger guidelines are needed for how to distribute available funds (larger budget, smaller scholarships, fewer scholarships?).

Craig's group has a scholarship committee and he will try to get their SOP.

Laura D suggested we change the SOP to make sure previous recipients show they do give back to the community.

Loui: in the 70s scholarship recipients were expected to put on a workshop and receipts from that would be put into the next year's scholarship fund.

It was agreed to ask Lisa to give a timeline to provide a new SOP, refining guidelines.

- Parliamentarian (Craig Blackstone)

Nothing to report

- Promotions (Marija Hillis)

Nothing to report (she's keeping track of Cardak, looking forward to seeing what they do)

- Research (Lothar Narins)

Dance descriptions have been placed in each *Let's Dance* issue. Will work on new ones from Stockton.

- Archives (Kevin Greek)
  - a. Updated web site with images (making sure all images are public domain).
  - b. National endowment for arts defunded everything - Mosaic Festival is not happening, World Arts West will be significantly reduced in scope.
  - c. We continue to receive donations of records. Kevin will put images on the website and people can go to the storage facility and check them out.
  - d. Loui: are water bottles for sale on website? Yes. at "store"
  - e. Officers ball fundraising: Kevin found a site with 200 plus fundraising ideas. He will put something together.
- Insurance (Michael Giusto)

Michael provided a written report in advance. Insurance runs from 1 July to 30 June. He will send certificates of insurance this week. There are 67 clubs in the Federation insurance program with 1167 individual members.
- Publications/Communications (Susan Gregory)

Nothing to report

## Business (ongoing)

1. Loui: membership survey  
After a short discussion Craig moved, Marija seconded that Loui should go forward with the survey. Motion passed 13-0.
2. Loui: calendars  
Loui provided a calendar prototype and proposal in advance.

Loui started by praising Susan's design skills.

There was discussion about how many calendars to print. 200 seems safe so that we don't have too many unsold, but the discount if we buy 300 is significant. Proposed: give away to first 50 officers ball registrants (or charge 50%) or charge \$5 if ordered with Officer's Ball preregistration (we usually get about 50 preregistrations).

Discussed having the proceeds go into the scholarship fund (incentive to buy) and having non-Federation members pay \$15 (incentive to join).

Loui moved, Marcia seconded that we produce the calendars but **I don't think we voted on this motion.**

Discussed having a calendar insert showing local events (maybe next year it could be on the actual calendar). Would they be Federation events, local events? Many events we don't know the exact date ahead of time but we could put them in empty squares for that month.

Berkeley Folk Dancers will gauge interest in the calendar to help decide whether to order 200 or 300 (Marija).

Loui will order the calendars in September. If people want to add something, let her know

3. Laura R: Progress on Visiting Teachers coordination list (task completed)  
Laura put out a query about whether people know itinerant teachers. Ellie, Adony, Loui, Craig, Denise, Lon, and Joyce Clyde know who the teachers are and how to get hold of them. Laura R will put an operating procedure together about teacher guidance.

## Business (New)

1. Membership drive (Laura R)  
Laura is working on ways to do the drive, etc - table til August meeting.
2. Scholarship fundraising  
We'll wait for the committee to come up with guidance.  
Sabine suggested adding a button on the website to direct donations to scholarships. Kevin will do that.
3. Proposed Board Meetings 2025 at 3pm
  - o 24 August (Deconflicted with Betsy's vacation)
  - o 5 October (Officer's Ball is 4 October)
  - o 7 December (budget approval meeting) Laura D will be out of town. She will have the proposed budget ready for the October meeting and we will approve it by email.

On a motion from Craig, seconded by Ulrike, approved 13-0, the meeting was adjourned at 4:42 pm.