

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

Sunday, December 14, 2025, 3pm over Zoom

In attendance:

Board members:

Laura Richardson (President)

Clem Dickey (Vice President)

Sabine Zappe (Treasurer)

Betsy Moore (Secretary)

Laura Douglass (Finance)

Lon Radin (Institutes)

Lisa Michael (Scholarship) - joined at 3:45

Ulrike Narins (Past President)

Loui Tucker (Editor)

Craig Blackstone (Parliamentarian)

Laura R called the meeting to order at 3:02

Approve Minutes from last meeting

[FDfC Minutes 20251005.pdf](#)

On a motion by Craig, seconded by Ulrike, approved 9-0, the minutes were accepted.

Reports from Board Officers and Chairs

- President (Laura Richardson) - nothing to report
- Vice President (Clem Dickey) - nothing to report
- Secretary (Betsy Moore) - nothing to report
- Treasurer (Sabine Zappe)
 - October and November reports in [meeting folder](#). No discussion.

- Past President (Ulrike Narins) - nothing to report
- Membership (Marcia Rosenblatt)
Marcia provided a [written report](#).

On a motion by Clem, seconded by Craig, approved 9-0, the board accepted the six new individual and one new group members.

Loui noted that someone asked if the membership is growing because they saw that we announce new members in *Let's Dance* every month. The answer is that although we gain a few members each month, we lose a few more so the overall trend is downward. Laura D found numbers from 2018 that corroborate this.

- Editor (Loui Tucker)
The January *Let's Dance* has been printed. It's 28 pages. Recent issues have been 32 pages because they had more ads.
- Finance (Laura Douglass)
Laura D presented a draft of the [2026 Budget](#). She noted that it's not that different from past years. Line items for dedicated funds have been added at the bottom.

There was some discussion about the Scholarship item and it was noted that the amount is based on what we've spent in the past few years. If we don't use it all we'll keep the remainder in the kitty for future years. We currently have about 15K in dedicated scholarship funds, plus more to be added from calendar sales.

Laura D noted that the budget puts us in the red but we have enough reserves, and also that we had more income than expenses the last couple of years.

Laura R asked what row 25 "Transfer between funds" means. It indicates that if our actual income and expenses match the budget, we'll have to transfer that amount from reserves to cover expenses.

On a motion by Ulrike, seconded by Clem, the budget was approved 9-0.

- Institute (Lon Radin)
Lon has been doing this for well beyond his anticipated tenure and would like to transition to a new person. There used to be a lot of festivals that required help to identify teachers but they have mostly fallen by the wayside, leaving only the Officers Ball. (Craig pointed out that the Blossom festival still exists but doesn't have an institute.)
There was some discussion about whether we still need an institute chair. Laura D found that the bylaws specify the Institute committee as one of the standing committees, so we'd have to amend the bylaws to remove it.
Loui suggested Dick Rawson as the new chair. Lon & Loui are willing to stay on the committee. Laura R will check with Dick.
On a side note, Laura R pointed out that the bylaws state that each standing committee has a Standard Operating Procedure but not all of our committees currently have them.
- Parliamentarian (Craig Blackstone) - nothing to report
- Promotions (Marija Hillis) - Marija not present

- Craig noted that the Blossom festival no longer has a free venue at City College and is unlikely to get a free facility in the future. They would like to keep the festival as a free event as part of Bay Area Dance Week and would like to explore using promotions funds to do that. A possible new venue is the Waldorf High School, where Craig teaches. They charge \$150/hr so the cost would be ~\$650-700. Waldorf HS is available in early May (not in April).
 - Loui noted that Cardak performed at the Kolo Festival and was very well received. Their success demonstrates that the promotions fund was well spent.
- Research (Lothar Narins) - not present
 - Archives (Kevin Greek) - not present
 - Insurance (Michael Giusto) - not present
 - Publications/Communications (Susan Gregory) - not present
- Scholarship (Lisa Michael)
 Lisa reported that we gave only one scholarship after Stockton, to North/South. The scholarship application can no longer be submitted through US mail, only online. The [Scholarship Committee SOP](#) is basically as revised in November. After a brief discussion and minor editorial changes, the board voted 10-0 to approve the new SOP on a motion by Laura D, seconded by Ulrike.

Ongoing Business

- Membership Survey (Loui) - There's a report in the next *Let's Dance*. Dancers are getting older, average age 72, way more women than men, more married than single....
- Statewide 2026 Planning - Memo was not present. It was noted that some Statewide items were included in the budget.
- Calendar sales (Loui) - We've made back our investment. Sold 7 at the pie party and would like to sell the rest. Loui has put out notices on all the email lists. She'll have calendars at NYE and parties in Jan.

New business

None

Proposed Meeting Dates for 2026

Meeting dates presented as shown in the [agenda](#). Betsy asked to have the Dec meeting earlier if possible.

On a motion by Loui, seconded by Craig, approved 9-0 (Ulrike against, ha ha), the meeting was adjourned at 4:01 pm.