

Minutes of the Folk Dance Federation of California (North) General Assembly Meeting

Saturday, February 7, 2026, at 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)

Ulrike Narins (Past President)

Loui Tucker (Editor)

Craig Blackstone (Parliamentarian)

Rick Henderson (Institute)

Lothar Narins (Research)

Adony Beniares (Nominations)

Lisa Michael (Scholarship)

Others:

Doug Keislar - Berkeley

Judy Keswick - Chico

Andrea Bowman - Chico

Memo Keswick - Chico, chair of Statewide committee

Cynthia Gross - president of Chico World Dancers, on the Statewide committee

Laura R called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.

Laura R introduced Rick Henderson as the new Institute chair.

Approve Minutes from last meeting


 FDFC Minutes 20251214.pdf

On a motion by Craig, seconded by Ulrike, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Reports from Board Officers and Chairs

- President (Laura Richardson)

Laura asked Memo to report on the Statewide Festival. Memo provided a written report

 2026_01_31_Statewide_Report for the board.pdf .

85 people have preregistered so far, including 10 or more from the band and their spouses (comped). The report includes a breakout by city (not necessarily club). Memo believes there will be more registrations. He is pleased with the numbers and feels the pressure to get enough people is off. The festival has met its initial target income of \$13,500, which includes \$735 in donations.

The playlists for the parties will be set, with no requests, but they will take into account people's home clubs and their repertoires in creating the playlists. The committee will reach out to attendees to share the emcee job.

The committee is asking for clubs to bring banners to hang in the hall. They'd like to know the dimensions of the banners ahead of time, and photos of them would be nice to have. The Folk Dance Federation Welcome Dancers sign would be good to have (Adony will arrange).

The festival will include a music workshop with a Bulgarian musician. He has provided his first score. Students are expected to study the scores ahead of the festival. Memo is working with Kotse and Ahmet to finalize the schedule.

Memo expressed appreciation for materials received from Federation South. Laura thanked Memo for the report.

- Vice President (Clem Dickey)

Adony has agreed to once again be the Nominations committee chair.

- Secretary (Betsy Moore) - nothing to report

- Treasurer (Sabine Zappe)

Sabine submitted written reports for December/year end, and January:

 Treasurer's Report - December 31, 2025.xlsx and

 Treasurer's Report - January 31, 2026.xlsx

There is almost \$21,000 in the scholarship fund. Otherwise, business as usual.

Calendars: we sold 138 of the 150 that were printed. The cost to produce the calendars was \$708, and the \$468 surplus goes into our coffers.

- Past President (Ulrike Narins) - nothing to report

- Membership (Marcia Rosenblatt)

Marcia submitted a written report: [x FDF Membership Report February 7, 2026.xlsx](#) . There are 14 new individual members and 4 new family members.

Marcia said much of the increase in new members is thanks to Memo and he in turn said it's due to the fact that Chico dancers now have an active board and due to the Federation promo.

Memo mentioned that the online Statewide registration form did not have a way for people to specify that they want to use their new member discount for Statewide, though the printed form did.

This is the largest increase we've seen in a long time. Loui pointed out that we have more members this year than last year.

Laura pointed out that voting to approve the new members seems unnecessary. She would like to remove that from our procedures and we will consider that at our next meeting.

On a motion by Rick, seconded by Ulrike, the new members were approved unanimously.

- Editor (Loui Tucker)

The March issue of *Let's Dance* is in production, with placeholders for material on Festival of the Oaks. She is grateful to all of the contributors.

- Finance (Laura Douglass) - not present (traveling in Antarctica)

Sabine proposed paying Kevin Greek for the work he does as webmaster. He has been out of work and could really use the money. Paying for this type of service is not unusual, though Kevin doesn't mind doing it for free when he has other work. He would be paid as a 1099 employee/independent contractor. The budget line item for this would be archives or communications. We do have the funds available. Sabine moved that we pay Kevin \$45/hour and no more than \$450/month, to be reviewed at every board meeting. Rick seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

- Institute (Rick Henderson) - nothing to report.

- Scholarship (Lisa Michael)

Not much to report. One application came in for a camp in France.

Lisa wants to consider moving the deadline to more than 45 days ahead or make acceptances rolling because she feels that if people's attendance is contingent on getting a scholarship, they need to know sooner. Adony suggested making an early deadline so people can book ahead, and then having a second deadline if the budget hasn't been fully used. Lisa will discuss this matter with the Scholarship committee and update the SOP accordingly.

- Parliamentarian / By-Laws Ad-Hoc (Craig Blackstone) - nothing to report

- Promotions (Marija Hillis)

Maria was busy with the festival and wasn't able to attend the full meeting.

- Research (Lothar Narins)

Things are generally going pretty well.

- Archives (Kevin Greek) - not present

- Insurance (Michael Giusto)

Mike was not present but Loui and Sabine reported that he has insurance matters well in hand.

- Publications/Communications (Susan Gregory) - not present

- Nominations (Adony Beniares)

Clem will run for President and Adony will talk to the other officers about keeping their positions or moving to VP. He has some other ideas of people to tap for positions.

New Business

- Elections this year - discussed above

- Other new business

Craig reported that the Blossom Festival will be at City College once again. It has to be May 15, which is later than usual and not during Bay Area Dance Week, but this allows them to keep the festival as a free event.

Loui asked about choosing a date for the Officers Ball so we can reserve the hall. October 3 was chosen and Sabine will reserve the hall.

Laura R requested that each committee chair write a Standard Operating Procedures document if they don't have one already.

Board Meetings 2026 on the dates listed below, via zoom, at 3pm.

- 12 April
- 21 June
- 9 August
- 4 October
- 13 December

On a motion by Craig, seconded by Clem, approved unanimously, gavel wielded by Ulrike, the meeting was adjourned at 12:54 pm.