

**FOLK DANCE FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA SOUTH  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
October 18, 2020**

President Diane Baker called the meeting to order at 11:06 via ZOOM conferencing.

**President's Report:**

**New Secretary:** First order of business was to vote in the new Secretary, Camille Dull; term of office started as soon she was voted in. Robert Altman made the motion; Julith seconded. All were in favor.

**Sargeant at Arms:** Terry Gucwa volunteered to serve as Sergeant at Arms

**Federation needs 2 more offices filled:** Publicity and Scholarship.

**Publicity:** Leslie is now doing publicity as well as filling the post of vice president.

**New Membership Chairwoman is Mindy Belli:** Bob Altman said he would continue doing the initial electronic part of the membership chairman duties that involved posting the directory on the website, but wanted someone else to do the necessary follow-ups. Marcella requested a brief description of duties and Bob said: October of year electronic packets are sent to clubs to sign up or renew their membership with Federation. Each club needs to respond and pay fees due including insurance. Bob would send out the initial email, but someone else would have to interface with the Clubs about sending back forms and checks, contacting clubs that didn't respond, etc. They would deposit the money received and keep track of everything. Scanned information would go to Julith who needs it for Federation insurance calculations. They would also produce a membership directory of current members and current clubs, keep the spread sheet up to date, and send the list to Bob.

Mindy said she would receive applications; Diane said she will follow-up on those who do not respond. Bob would continue doing the electronic part. A team effort!

**Vice President's Report:**

**Status of festivals:**

Cerritos: Jan/Feb festival is cancelled. Next festival will be May 2021.

Laguna: Uncertain about festival; waiting to see COVID data and restrictions, safety.

Statewide: 2021 Statewide Festival is in Petaluma; Southern California has 2022 Statewide Festival.

Pasadena: No New Years' Festival and no Winter Festival.

For more festival information, go to the Federation website, to Calendar, or contact Fran Prevas.

**Treasurers Report:**

Mindy: Treasurer's report covers whole year, taxes are filed, and all related reports are also filed.

Copy of the report is attached.

**Club Activities during COVID shutdown:**

**Westwood:** Rita Sklar said they were a social club as well as a dance club; they used to go on trips together. On dance night, they came early and talked and then danced. They went into ZOOM mode in May and now meet virtually every other week on Sunday, with good participation, discussing different topics. August is a talk by Rita about the difference between a plague pandemic and a virus (COVID) pandemic. They will also be talking about the propositions on the ballot during the coming weeks.

Contact Rita for more information and ideas you might incorporate.

### **Summary of reports Diane received:**

**Historian's Report:** René Besné, donated an album of 2 music CDs "which are the complete "kolo hour" (it actually lasted 2 hours) at the last yearly festival held by the Federation South in Ojai, 1964." (It was 1965 when statewide festivals began being split yearly between the North and South.)

"Some of the selections on these discs were unique to Floating Kolo in their use for the particular dances – 'Sitno Žensko', 'Karagouna', 'Plevensko Pajduško', and 'Jovano Jovanke' being examples."

Anyone interested in listen to music of those two CDs may contact Wen at [chiangwenli@yahoo.com](mailto:chiangwenli@yahoo.com).

**Fall Camp:** Fall Camp for November 2020 is cancelled. However, Brandeis-Bardin is reserved for Nov. 12-14, 2021 and Nov. 11-13, 2022 Fall Camps. Because of COVID-19, Fall Camp 2020 is canceled. We announced that in a broad-distribution email on Aug. 24 and through other means. (As a reminder, we reported in January that we had reserved Brandeis-Bardin for Nov. 12-14, 2021 and Nov. 11-13, 2022.)

Earlier in the year, we had arranged for Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu and Roberto Bagnoli to teach at Fall Camp 2020. Early in May, with approval from President Pauline and Vice President Diane, we paid Roberto the \$800 we had contracted to pay him at Fall Camp in order to support this master teacher who was in dire financial straits because of the (entirely appropriate) COVID-19 restrictions. We offered to pay Sonia and Cristian, but for legal reasons related to COVID-19 support they were receiving from the Canadian government, they declined with gratitude.

### **CD Dance Music Donation:**

Wen Lee received a donation of 2 CDs from Rene Besne that are valuable and he wanted to make them available to the Federation. Marshall was concerned about copyright laws; he also said we don't really have a way of maintaining a music collection. UCLA turned down the donation. It was suggested that Bill Cope in Northern California might want the music.

Marshall said he has archives of dances syllabi. Billy Burke indicated that we all have stuff that no one seems to need or want and no place to store stuff. Alas!

**Costume Committee:** Elizabeth (Betchen) Barber continues to be available for questions about costumes and folklore.

### **Scholarship Committee:**

A good job of revision of the scholarship application has been done. Chairperson was Pauline Klak and she and Marcella Lawson worked on it together. A revised, streamlined application is posted on website. Dates on form need to be changed for 2021.

### **Folk Dance Scene:**

Fran Prevas asked if we should have clubs listed in the Scene Calendar that are not meeting. It was decided that we should.

Signers on Scene bank account: Someone on the Federation Fiscal Committee has to be on the account. Currently Marshall Cates is not a cosigner on Scene bank account. Marshall will work with Sandy Helperin, Gerda Ben-Zeev and Nancy Bott (member of Westwood and Gypsies) to work things out.

It currently costs us more to print and mail issues than we get from subscriptions, but the income from ads keeps us above water. Currently we have 215 subscribers. We continue to have a small but steady decline; when will we reach the point where it is no longer viable to continue. We have done many things to increase our circulation, such as offering free copies, 'drawings' for a trial subscription, publicizing at festivals and clubs (including non-Fed clubs); and would welcome help in promoting it further.

About 84 subscribers get Scene on Email, which saves us printing and mailing costs, and helps our finances. We would like more to switch to Email; there are several advantages to them to do so:

- They receive their copy several days earlier

- The issue comes in color,

- They can read it on-line, print it out, forward it, and save it without taking up storage space.

- The annual fee is \$10 rather than \$18.

We are aware of delivery problems from the Post Office. The issues are mailed out – 1<sup>st</sup> Class Priority- well ahead of time, and in spite of assurances that they will be delivered promptly, that is often not the case. Some get there late, some arrive damaged, some never arrive. We have made the offer to all subscribers that if they don't get their issue, or it is damaged, we will send another one without charge.

Some of the committee members have been working on Scene for over 20 years. We have recently gotten a few additions that have proved to be very valuable assets. But we could use more to replace those that have left for one reason or another, or would like some time-off-for-good-behavior. If you are willing to volunteer for the committee, please contact me.

### **Insurance:**

Julith Neff can't get information from insurance company about going forward about fees, etc., during this uncertain, COVID-related time. Suggested we change renewal deadlines until we get back to normal. Current deadline in January 2021. Discussion ensued about flat rate per club vs per member rate. Insurance company NFO was mentioned as a company which might be flat rate. It was noted that COVID-related problems would be excluded from insurance. Marshall Cates noted that clubs rather than members should be insured.

Pauline moved that we authorize the president, insurance chairperson, and fiscal chairperson to research and determine if we should change insurance companies. In light of January deadline, she also moved that we authorize them to make the change. Leslie seconded. All in favor. Julith said that if they get the info early enough they will notify the president so she can call a quick meeting.

**Note:** We will continue with the Federation membership fee of \$1 per club member regardless of type of insurance we get.

**Note:** Insurance premiums last year were 10 cents more than rate charged; we absorbed the loss.

**Note:** Financial support to clubs: Federation offered to pay minimum insurance

**Old minutes:** October 2019 minutes need approval. Mindy moved to accept minutes from 10/19. Leslie seconded. All in favor.

### **Digitizing Festival Videos:**

Marshall is in the process of continuing to digitize the festival videos and is editing to only include dances, not the teaching, in order not to step on teachers' toes. Teacher may be visible during the dance. These dances are available by dance name on the Federation website. Marshall needs dance videos for Laguna from 2010 to the present. Marcella will talk to Laguna folk to get the missing videos to Marshall.

### **Clubs Reports:**

Pauline suggested Folk Dance Scene show which clubs are meeting via Zoom for Federation and non-Federation clubs. Jay Michtom, Scene Editor, agreed to do that. Shawna Winokur suggested adding a link to Scene calendar showing groups dancing all over the place.

### **Which Clubs are Meeting:**

Laguna: Virtual dancing twice a week

Santa Maria folk dancers; Mindy has not received a check from them; Diane will f/u

Cerritos: 6-8:45 on Tuesdays with Wen Lee Chiang

**Federation letterhead and website** homepage has contact information that no one answers. Pauline will contact web master and correct that with up-to-date information.

**Meeting adjourned:** 12:55

**Next meeting:** Probably 3rd Sunday in January 2021. Wen wanted earlier meeting time. All agreed on 10:30 a.m. for next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Camille Dull, Secretary

## **Attendees Federation Zoom Meeting 10/18/20**

### **Officers:**

Diane Baker, President

Leslie Halberg, Vice President

Camille Dull, Secretary

Mindy Belli, Treasurer

Robert Altman, Membership

Wen-Li Chiang, Historian/Recorder

Terry Gucwa, Sargeant at Arms

Marshall Cates, Parliamentarian

### **Standing Committees:**

Finance, Marshall Cates

Insurance, Julith Neff

Archive, Marshall Cates

Fall Camp: Mar and Jan Rayman

Scholarship: Pauline Klak

### **Past Presidents:**

Pauline Klak

### **Guests:**

Carl Pilsecker

Eva Durai

### **Club Delegates:**

Bay Osos Folk Dancers

Billy Burke

Cabrillo International Folk Dancers

Georgina Sham

Cerritos Folk Dancers

Sue Chen

Fantasy Folkdance Club

Vincent Cheng

Laguna International Dancers

Marcella Lawson

Narodni International Folkdancers

Julith Neff

Pasadena Folk Dance Co-op

Marshall Cates

Tuesday Gypsies

Sandy Helperin

Veselo Selo Folk Dancers

Shana Winokur

West Valley Folk Dancers

Jay Michtom

Westwood Co-op Folk Dancers

Rita Sklar

**Eligible to vote at next meeting:**

Bay Osos

Cabrillo

Cerritos

Fantasy

Laguna

Narodni

Pasadea

Tuesday Gypsies

Veselo

West Valley

Westwood