

Folkdance Federation of California, South, Council Meeting
September 26, 2021 9:30 a.m.

MINUTES

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Diane Baker at 9:30 a.m. In attendance were :

OFFICERS: President: Diane Baker. Vice-President: Leslie Halberg, Secretary (Acting): Stefanie Holzman, Treasurer: Mindy Belli, Historian: Wen-Li Chiang, Sergeant-at-Arms: Terry Gucwa, STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Fall Camp Co-Chairs: Marc Rayman and Jan Rayman. Finance: Marshall Cates, Folk Dance Scene: Jay Michtom, Insurance: Julith Neff, Scholarship: Shana Winokur, PAST PRESIDENTS: Marshall Cates, ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Steve Himel, CLUB DELEGATES: Cabrillo: Jody Stern, Conejo Valley: Marilyn Ludwig; Cerritos: Sue Chen, Fantasy: Vincent Cheng, Foothill: Jan Rayman, Laguna International: Greg Solloway, Narodni: Julith Neff, Pasadena Co-op: Leslie Halberg, Scandia: Stefanie Holzman, Tuesday Gypsies: Asako Oshiro, Ventura: Carol Smith, Veselo Selo: Shana Winokur, Vintage Israel: Jim Rothman, West Valley: Monica Zordich, Westwood: Rita Sklar

Introduction of guests

Diane thanked Stefanie Holzman for taking minutes.

Approval of minutes from June 27, 2021 meeting

Carol Smith moved to approve the meeting minutes from June 27, 2021. Jan Rayman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Elected officer reports

President's report – The By-laws have been revised.

The Ojai event is planned. The Ojai playlist is posted on website. Syllabus will be posted after the event. Music for teaching will be delivered to attendees who request it via We Transfer. Thanks to the committee who is planning event. Marshall chair, Leslie, Carol, Mindy and Music Man Terry Gucwa. 19 people have preregistered, including committee members. It's worth the drive to dance & socialize!

Diane adds, "a thank you to all who are patient while I'm learning how to fulfill responsibilities of office. I appreciate you coaching me."

Vice President's Report - Festivals for 2021, 2022

Dancing Together Again in Ojai Oct. 2, 2021

Chinese New Year Feb. 26, 2022 (Note change of date)

East West Workshop in February 26, 2021, not Feb. 5.

Currently the group is using the Cerritos Senior Center. They close at 5 pm. Usually the festival goes from 1 pm to 5:30 pm. If they close at 5, then we would need to close at 4:30 (because we need time clean, clear, and get out). It depends on next year's schedule which we don't know yet. If it is still 1 – 5, then we will cancel the festival. Wen-Li was asked about holding a shorter festival, but indicated he didn't like the idea. Wen-Li was asked about whether this affects the presence of a guest teacher. He replied that they hadn't invited one yet. Diane asked that they keep posting about the event. Shana suggested having a guest teacher at the June event instead of the Feb. event.

Pasadena Winter Fest

Pasadena is going to hold a Winter Fest, but no location has been identified yet. It may not occur depending on the results at Ojai. When asked what would be the evidence about Ojai that would affect the Pasadena event, the sponsors responded that Ojai is a measure of number of people that may come. Currently, the rule is that Pasadena requires a mask. It was determined during the conversation that there is no real connection between the 2 events. However, Pasadena is inside, and it is a 4-hour event. Do people want to dance in masks for 4 hours?

Laguna Fest March 4-6, 2022

It's still on for the first week in March. The committee is currently arranging teachers as well as back up teachers, and firming up the facility.

Treasurer's Report - Mindy Belli

Year-End Report

Folk Dance Federation South, Inc

June 1, 2021 – Sept 23, 2021

Notes by Treasurer, Mindy Belli

Income: Some clubs resumed dancing or with modifications. Two more clubs (a total of 7) applied for Club membership. That is income, but merely goes towards offsetting the insurance premium of \$1000 paid to the NFO in early 2021. The only donation was from Amazon Smile.

Expenses:

So far, one club applied for financial assistance under the Pandemic Relief Fund.

The Federation began planning a one-day festival in Ojai with the potential for dancing in the open-air patio. The only related expense reported to the treasurer is \$450 to the facility. About 18 have pre-registered; many say they will register and pay and the door.

The only other expense was for the Past President's pin.

Scholarship applications were approved, with a total of less than \$600. However, awards might be cancelled if the Fall Camp is cancelled.

Total Cash Assets

Checking: \$13,372, Savings: \$61,487. Total: \$74,859. Down about \$2,140 (for special project expenses).

The savings account is divided into 3 funds. Their balances are roughly:

\$32,000 - General Fund

\$17,200 - Special Projects Fund

\$11,200 - Memorial (Scholarship) Fund

The current balance reported by the bank for the accounts each equals the running balances in the Federation Journals.

When the opportunity arises, the Federation will again actively support the teaching of folkdance and folk customs. Donations from clubs along with donations via Associate-level memberships, and donations from Amazon Smile will be very helpful.

**Treasurer's Report for Folk Dance Federation South, Inc
June 1, 2021 - Sept 24, 2021 (1st period, FY 2021-2022)**

Some clubs were engaged in modified activities. The Federation planned a festival in Ojai. "Income" was nearly all from Savings.

Expenditures	Actual	Budgeted	Over/ Under
Insurance Premiums for clubs	0.00		
Pandemic Relief Payment	1,690.00		From Special Prox Fund
Visiting Master Teacher Program	0.00		
Scholarships	0.00		
Festivals & Institutes	450.00		From the General Fund
Meeting Lunch &/or Room	0.00		
Website domain names (2)			
Taxes /Fees			
President's pin	40.00		
Publicity	0.00		
Directory (mailings?)	0.00		
Total Expenditures	2,180.00		

Income	Actual		
Club Renewal Deposits	87.00	Two more clubs; total of 7 renewals.	
VMT Program, transfers-in	0.00		
Scholarship Fund transfer-in	0.00		
Ojai Festival tix sales	340.00		
Donations to Fed'n	8.92	From the Amazon Smile program.	
Assoc' Member Dues	0.00		
Insurance Fees (not-yr-end) N/A	0.00		
Total Income	435.92		

Income less expenses	(1,744.08)
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Checking, Begin'g Balance per bank	11,628.82	9/22/2021
Outstanding items	1,743.00	Transfers from Savings, less checks written
Journal's Checking balance	13,371.82	9/23/2021 Matches journal
Savings, Beginning Balance per bank	63,625.61	6/30/2020
Interest earned	1.61	
Transfers to Checking	(2,140.00)	
Savings, Ending Balance per bank	61,487.22	9/23/2021 Matches journal
Sum of Checking & Savings	74,859.04	

Appointed Officers' Reports

Webmaster's Report

Dick has added website URLs to the Camps listing so dancers may contact a camp to see whether they are closed, on Zoom, or are going live. He has added, in the History section, a Camps (Closed) page. He continues to keep up the Master Teachers pages, updating biographies, and trying to keep up with folks who are deceased (please let

him know of any changes!). Finally, Dick continues to update the Calendar page. Dick also takes care of any problems submitted by appreciated folk dancers! Shana added he makes changes very quickly.

Sergeant-at-Arms

We have a quorum.

Standing Committee Chair Reports

Report for September 26, 2021 (via Zoom)

This report covers the time since the Federation council meeting on June 27, 2021.

Fall Camp registration opened on July 17 with an email announcement to more than 800 recipients. The dates of the camps are Nov. 12-14, 2021, Nov. 11 – 13, 2022.

US policy on entry for Italian citizen Roberto Bagnoli is planned to be relaxed in time for his travel to Fall Camp. (We learned that some people mistakenly believed there were relevant restrictions on entry to the US for Canadian residents Sonia & Cristian, but that was incorrect.)

Fall Camp continues to be threatened by the pandemic. The contract with Brandeis-Bardin specifies that if we cancel between today and Oct. 13, the Federation pays a penalty of \$7500. If we cancel after that date, the penalty is \$15,000. We requested direction from the Federation president and Finance Committee regarding how much money the Federation was willing to risk losing for conducting Fall Camp 2021 or canceling it. They established a limit of \$7500.

Well-intentioned health-based constraints on Fall Camp will be imposed by federal, state, and local governments as well as by Brandeis-Bardin. We have conducted two polls of campers to gauge the level of interest in attending under some specific credible scenarios. In addition, we are continuing to devise and consider alternate plans to aid in deciding whether we can conduct a safe, comfortable, fun camp without risking exceeding the Federation's limit. It is too soon to know.

- Marc Rayman and Jan Rayman, Fall Camp co-chairs

When questioned about the amount we pay for the camp, the Raymans stated it depends on the number of people, type of room, and food. It appears that Brandeis is limiting the use of the facility. They have not incentivized the use of their facilities. They believe that Brandeis-Bardin is well-intentioned. They just don't want a super spreader event. This is why they will not allow people of different households to share a room. Restrictions may be lifted depending on Covid conditions. Diane thanked Jay and Jan.

Finance Marshall Cates

The committee met twice. Once was for reviewing scholarship applications. We approved all the scholarships. The second meeting was to see what the Federation could handle in terms of liability about Ojai.

Folk Dance Scene Jay Michtom

Gerda Ben-Zeev has been working with Scene for over 25 years. Now, her poor health has forced her to resign as our Business Manager. Jan Rayman has graciously volunteered to pick up most of the many tasks that Gerda has been doing. Gerda has been a main stay for Scene and has kept us comfortably out of red ink. We heartily thank

her for her long and busy service, and wish her the best. Jan has been working with Scene, and now we are fortunate to have her add these duties to her already busy schedule.

Now, how does this affect you? First of all when you meet Gerda or Jan at a festival or Fall Camp, you might want to tell them how much you appreciate their efforts. Secondly you should be aware of the changes. When you renew your subscription it will now go to Jan. Her address will be on the return envelope you will receive (as well as in several places on Scene) so it will look different. Also, we have had to change the bank that we use, and the new name on the account will now be: "Folk Dance Federation." So your check should be made out that way, rather than to Folk Dance Scene. Checks for ads will still go to Steve Himel, but will also need to be written similarly.

Scene bank account

Our new account will be in the names of Jan, Sandy Helperin and Marshall.

We also continue to lose money each month because it costs more money to print than the payment. Up until the pandemic, we had ads that were income. We hope with everything opening up, we may OK with more ads. We need more subscribers, and more on-line subscribers. Maybe you could ask your members to subscribe. Diane thanked them for a good magazine. Jay says that the thanks should go to the staff who really do the work. Marshal Our by-laws require who should be on the bank signatories. We have been out of compliance, but we are now in-compliance. Steve Himel reminds people that with the opening of the camps, ads can be taken out. Diane suggests sending thank you notes or get-well cards to Gerda. If you have a copy of the membership list, you have her address or email Diane for her address.

Scholarship Shana Winokur

Shana stated that the recipients of scholarships were announced. They received 3 requests and all 3 were approved for Fall Camp. She suggested that if Fall Camp is cancelled, then the committee could offer them other camps to attend. Scholarships were approved in Aug. for Fall. Shana suggested that they could open scholarships in April for next year's summer camps. Marc thanked the scholarship committee's work for Fall Camp.

Insurance Julith Neff

Insurance goes from Nov. to Nov., so any active clubs need to send in forms to Julith by mid-Oct. Diane added that the insurance contact from each club could go to the Federation website, then to publications in order to find the insurance forms. Since our current insurance provider has a contract period that runs from November 9 to November 9 of the following year, Julith will need to send for new certificates for any active clubs around mid-October, which is coming up in just a few weeks. She states that some groups may have changed venues since starting up again. **Therefore, she would like to receive written certificate requests from all clubs who will be dancing from now to the end of the year with your current dancing location.**

It was suggested that we could send out the information to club presidents. If a club has not changed location, then send information to Julith that the location is the same, and who the contact person is with their email address. Julith stated that NFO insurance is cheaper because we are not paying by member. Shana asked in the past we needed to keep the old sign-in sheet for 5 years, is that still necessary under NFO? Julith will ask about this as we no longer submit rosters. Mindy suggested that people should still sign-in for insurance purposes. Diane added that the membership packet for 2021 did not include insurance information. Julith is now asking for insurance information because she wants to stay current so that clubs are covered. Diane will send a letter to all club delegates, if the delegate is not the insurance rep, they need to forward it to the person who is in charge of insurance ONLY if the club is currently dancing now. Diane stated that the insurance policy continues through Feb and that we are just doing a continuance of insurance.

Old Business

Membership Renewal/Insurance for 2022

Packets are to be sent to Delegates on October 31, 2021. Renewal dues and forms to be submitted by **Dec. 15, 2021**. Diane researched about the Federation paying for 6 months of membership after they resume dancing as stated by Marshall during June 27 meeting. Diane could not find any evidence of this. Marshall stated that the Federation Relief was about insurance starting in the middle of the year. The Federation would pay for all insurance for the year for 2021. However, Marshall commented that the membership dues were never covered. It was the insurance that was covered.

It was clarified that if a club starts dancing, then the club needs to start paying membership dues. The Federation sent out a package for membership for 2021 to each club. Diane commented 7 or 8 clubs have already paid for their membership.

Diane asked, so why haven't you (asking Marshall about Pasadena Co-op) sent in dues? Marshall replied that the club was waiting for the packet. Diane said that the membership packet was sent in on April 7, 2021. It stated dues were not due until 1 month after you started dancing. She wanted to know if dues were waived. If a club starts up in the late part of the year, it doesn't have to pay dues. (If the club meets fewer than 6 times from the time they begin dancing until the end of the year). If this is the case, then the club will pay for next year's membership dues. Diane passionately stated, "We want people to start dancing."

In the bylaws it states that we send out information in Aug and it's due back in Oct. As a result of Covid disruption, it was decided to send out the packet on Oct 31, and have it due back on Dec. 15 in order to continue our insurance. **Dec. 15 is a hard deadline.** Return Membership information to Amy Dale.

Amy Dale reports that 8 clubs have renewed Federation Membership. The membership packet was sent out on April 7, 2021. The due date is 1 month after dancing has resumed in person. Please send an emailed message to Diane when contact persons, location & meeting date of club change.

Sue Chen asked if the insurance covers the group, and not by individual members, so how do the new members get insurance? Julith stated that if the club is a member of the Federation, and pays insurance, then members are covered. Diane added that members and guests are covered.

Marshall asked Diane to make a request to the Fiscal Committee about the 2021-2022 cycle so that we have a record of who has paid dues. Diane asked him to clarify. Marshall said it's about rollover. Diane said that in the minutes of June 2021 that Marshall stated that each club would get 6 months of membership – is probably inaccurate. We only offered to pay insurance for the year. Mindy asked that the fiscal committee review this for clarification.

It was asked whether the NFO names from each club. Julith stated that you see on our membership form, that there is a \$1 per member. She will ask the NFO about whether they need names. Mindy added that to ask people for \$1, is a pain. At this point, the Cerritos club doesn't need to do anything, but celebrate new members.

Diane suggested that we ask for rosters to see the numbers of the club, and that we ask \$1 per member for such things as festivals and that a sponsoring club could ask for financial support from the Federation with these funds.

Resumption of in person dancing. Report from clubs

Fantasy just started dancing last Sunday. We plan to dance every Sunday from 3 -7. We ask everyone to wear mask and to check their temperature. We are thinking about asking for vaccine records.

Tuesday Gypsies- nothing so far. We did a 1-time afternoon dance, but we haven't decided on another one. The facility is available, but we are waiting.

Vintage Israeli – We've met once, we're planning to meet next Saturday. Not too many people have expressed interest; there is lots of fear. We require vaccination proof. It's optional to wear masks. If we require masks, we

would only have a handful of dancers and we couldn't pay for the rent. Diane asked if the facility was ventilated? Yes, it has AC and the windows can be opened. The Fire Dept. has checked it out and said it was OK.

Conejo Valley – We started in July, dancing weekly. We have about half the people we normally would have. We are not required to wear masks. Some do, some don't.

Ethnic Express – Not dancing yet.

Prescott – Still active, but it's a small group

Mountain Dancers are disbanding

Veselo Selo – Started up in Aug. We are dancing weekly for 2 hours instead of 3. In the past, most people left after 2 hours so we shortened hours. We require proof of vaccination, but we don't require masks.

Laguna International – We are dancing every Wed. 5 – 7 outside. Zooms on Sunday.

West Valley – We are dancing, but not at the Senior Center which is not open. We are dancing at a private facility, reasonable price, nice floor. We may ask for proof of vaccination and may also ask for masks. Julith asked if the facility has asked for insurance. They'll look into this.

Cerritos – We started in Aug. - every month 2nd and 4th Thursday from 1:30 – 4:30 at Cerritos Senior Center. We are following the cities requirement's – 6 feet distance, and wear masks. The city didn't ask about vaccination status, but in our club we have our own regulation and require members to sign that they are completely vaccinated. The city doesn't allow us to check the certificates, so we just ask the people to sign the declaration. We will continue the Zoom class on Tuesdays until the Senior Center allows us to continue. We will not meet in November because the Senior Center is not available. In Dec. 2nd and 5th Thursday because of Christmas.

Other

Steve Himel reminded people that they should send updated days, time, and please to the Folk Dance Scene and Website so the information is up to date. Steve will send the info to Dick Oakes if clubs want him to.

Membership packet includes new contact name, email address, time and place of dancing, insurance contact and email. Mindy stated that the forms need to include all this information. Diane responded that it is all on the form, but not everyone reads this information

Adoption of Proposed By Laws

Diane stated that the revised by-laws were created by a committee.

Carol moved that we adopt the revised by-laws. Marshall seconded the motion. Stefanie suggested that the removed sections should be struck out rather than deleted. The discussion was that this would make a very messy document and that the original document was still available.

The motion passed with 1 abstention.

Officers We still need candidates for Secretary, Membership and Publicity.

New Business

Formation of a committee to revise Standing Rules

We need to align the standing rules to the new by-laws. Marshall needs to be on the committee. Julith is willing. Diane is there by default. Diane will invite Dick Oakes to be part of it.

Next meeting

One person indicated that in-person would be difficult to be present. Usually there is a meeting before an event, but what if the event is cancelled? It was also suggested that there was better attendance if the meeting was virtual.

It was decided that the next meeting would be **virtual on Jan. 23, 2022 at 9:30 am.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01.

Respectfully submitted,
Stefanie Holzman

Guest Secretary

9/26/2021 Federation Council Attendees

OFFICERS

President: Diane Baker

Vice-President: Leslie Halberg

Secretary (Acting): Stefanie Holzman

Treasurer: Mindy Belli

Historian: Wen-Li Chiang

Sergeant-at-Arms: Terry Gucwa

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Fall Camp Co-Chairs: Marc Rayman and Jan Rayman

Finance: Marshall Cates

Folk Dance Scene: Jay Michtom

Insurance: Julith Neff

Scholarship: Shana Winokur

PAST PRESIDENTS

Marshall Cates

GUESTS

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Steve Himel

CLUB DELEGATES

Cabrillo: Jody Stern

Canejo Valley: Marilyn Ludwig

Cerritos: Sue Chen

Fantasy: Vincent Cheng

Foothill: Jan Rayman

Laguna International: Greg Solloway

Narodni: Julith Neff

Pasadena Co-op: Leslie Halberg

Scandia: Stefanie Holzman

Tuesday Gypsies: Asako Oshiro

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