

Minutes Folk Dance Federation of California, South, Council Meeting
January 22, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 9:30am.

Marcella Lawson was thanked for taking minutes.

Minutes from October 29, 2022 meeting were moved, seconded and approved.

President requested that a message from Billy Burke be read by Margaret Lange:

In the span of 11 days I lost the two most impactful women in my life. My mother Bobby Burke passed away January 1, 2023. She was my first dance teacher, my first dance partner and my first best friend. My wife Susie passed away January 11, 2023. She was the love of my life, my best friend and truly my smarter half. Each spent the better part of their lives promoting, performing and teaching music and dance that celebrated various cultures of the world. Should anyone wish to remember them through a donation to ethnic music or dance, please do so by supporting a person or group that celebrates multiculturalism through music or dance. This could be a direct donation or even just by going to a concert or arts event. Introduce a friend or even more importantly a young person to the joy and wonder of world music and dance.

Billy Burke

Elected officer reports

President, Diane Baker

See attached report.

Appreciation was expressed for the new banners.

Vice President, Greg Solloway

Motion: Approve Laguna Festival as a Federation-sponsored event.
Moved, seconded and approved.

Upcoming Federation sponsored events:

- Cerritos East West February 25, 2023 1 – 5:30 p.m.
- Cerritos 14th Anniversary Party May 6, 2023 1 – 5:30 p.m.
- Laguna Festival March 3-5, 2023 Laguna Woods
- Statewide Harborview Festival May 19-21, 2023 San Pedro

Recent past events:

- VP reported on recent event with Professor Anton Andonov at Laguna International Dancers. 30+ attendees. Very successful.
- Marshall Cates reported on recent Pasadena Winter Festival. 30+ attended, including several from Orange County, despite pouring down rain. Live music by Fifth Friday band. People seemed to be having fun. Successful.

Treasurer, Mindy Belli

See attached report.

- Mindy reported that Amazon Smile is ending, therefore we will no longer receive that small bit of income.
- Q from Marshall: One Fall Camp attendee was granted free attendance separate from Scholarships. This expense not listed.

The expense should come from the General Fund. Mindy will correct.

Appointed Officers' Reports

Insurance Chairperson, Julith Neff

Three issues were mentioned, but no action was taken.

- The NFO renewal period is different from the Federation renewal period which causes some confusion.
- Several problems with contact info that sometimes prevents clubs receiving the renewal packet: Change of contact person for the club. Change of person's contact information. Names and contact information are provided, but the club the person is representing is not clear.
- It would be helpful to revise some info on the renewal packet. Julith requested that people fill out the certificate request when they renew.

Sergeant-at-Arms, Terry Gucwa

We have a quorum.

Historian, Wen-Li Chiang

Conveyed via email that he had nothing new to report.

Standing Committee Chair Reports

Fall Camp, Marc & Jan Rayman

Final Report attached.

During the meeting Marc screen shared a version of the report that highlighted several items.

Marc read a feedback comment from Master teacher Ahmet Lüleci as evidence to the Federation that the camp was worthwhile:

“Roberto and I go to camps all over the world, and Fall Camp is one of the best organized and most fun camps either of us have ever been to.”

“Marc and Jan rock! They thought of everything. They made camp fun for everyone, and I had a great time here.”

“Even when there were problems, they solved them while staying calm, friendly, and humorous, without ever letting anyone else know there were problems.” [He indicated he is visibly anxious at his World Camp when there are problems.]

“This [Brandeis-Bardin] is a great venue for a camp.”

62 people attended camp.

Finances highlights provided verbally:

- We got a very low price from Brandeis Bardin. Last year and this year. It's not going to happen in the future.
- Fall Camp 2021 yielded this surplus that was documented in last year's report. We use that to put a wood floor in two rooms this year instead of in the one that we had the two previous years. And we used it to keep the registration prices the same.
- There's the loss this year, but of course we went into it anticipating a loss because we had a surplus from last year and the objective was to use the surplus.
- Marc made a rough estimate of how much more fall camp would cost next year if it were *exactly the same* camp and including Brandeis Bardin's price increase. We do not know the full extent of the increase, but Brandeis-Bardin would charge at least \$1,501.17 more in 2023 than they did in 2022.
- Marc concluded that there's enough money for 186 more camps. Details are in the written report.

Marc and Jan were thanked for their fine service to the Federation.

Q: What is the capacity at camp?

- 114 residents. The final number depends on how many people per room and if Fall Camp has access to all the room.
- Also, there is a judgement call including how many dancers can comfortably fit in the dance hall, and recent camps have also limited the number to attempt to reduce COVID transmission.

Finance, Marshall Cates

No report. The committee has not met.

Scene, Jay Michtom

See attached report.

Scene has been experiencing a deficit every month because of the cost of mailed subscriptions.

Suggestion from Marshall: Ask Fiscal committee for support if account balance goes below \$1000.

Suggestion from Margaret: Several ideas to reduce cost. Jay confirmed that they have already done all of those.

Motion: *The Federation shall provide additional support to Scene as needed.* Moved, seconded and approved. Jay will send a written request to the Finance committee chair in order to provide a paper trail of this transaction.

Diane reminded us that Scene starting a *Last Dance* segment to honor the passing of dancers.

Visiting Master Teacher, Jay Michtom

See attached report.

Illiana coming in August and available to clubs for workshops.

Scholarship, Carol Smith

New info and application is available and has been sent out. Carol can be contacted directly with any questions.

Membership.

See attached report provided by Diane Baker.

One club has rejoined: San Diego Folk Dance Center

Motion: *Accept rejoined club San Diego Folk Dance Center.* Moved, seconded and approved.

Note, Ethnic Express in Las Vegas is meeting monthly in various locations. Call ahead if you will be there.

Statewide 2023 committee, Diane

See attached report.

- Bata's ensemble will not come, so we are in the process of planning different Saturday afternoon activities.
- Online registration is available through Eventbrite, but it is recommend to send your check the old fashioned way. That saves you money because we do not pay the price of processing credit card.
- Diane will send printed flyers and registration forms to any clubs who request printed flyer.
- Jay announced that Scene will reserve the April Scene for Statewide.

Old Business

Nominating Committee

No committee has been formed.

Nominations are needed for a slate of officers to serve June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024

The President invited nominations from the floor. No one was nominated.

Diane will ask existing members to continue to serve.

New Business

Fall Camp Chairperson(s)

This is a high need. The reputation of Camp is stellar and we don't want to risk it. Suggestions for a Chairperson are requested to be sent to Diane.

Federation Web Site Calendar

By convention the calendar has only listed Federation Sponsored events. The webmaster wants council to decide if related events should be listed. Examples: NFO conference, hybrid events to which Federation members may want to attend, festivals in other states. What would be the boundaries for listing non Federation events? Discussion.

Motion: *The federation allows the webmaster to post announcements for non-profit non-federation folk dance events as part of a calendar function.* Moved, seconded and passed.

Related discussion:

- Marc asked if we know how many people access this part of the website. Diane will ask Dick if there are analytics on the website.
- Comments that the website doesn't push out info sufficiently.
 - Diane commented that a publicity person for the Federation would be helpful.
 - What is the website's purpose?
 - Marshall asked is it information or publicity? Which is priority?
 - Mindy commented that informed users use the site to look for forms, dance info, etc. and suggested to highlight the calendar, make it front and center, so new users can find folk dance event info more easily.

- Diane will suggest to Dick to make calendar link more prominent.
- Margaret suggested adding an alert functionality to be notified when something new is added to the website.
[Marc commented technology exists that allows individuals to do this.]

Next meeting

Sunday April 16, 2023 9:30 a.m. virtual

Meeting adjourned 11:07am

ATTENDANCE – January 22, 2023

OFFICERS

President: Diane Baker

Vice-President: Greg Solloway (Newly elected)

Secretary (Acting): Marcella Lawson

Treasurer: Mindy Belli

Historian: Not present

Sergeant-at-Arms: Terry Gucwa

Parliamentarian: Marshall Cates

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Fall Camp Co-Chairs: Marc Rayman & Jan Rayman

Finance: Marshall Cates

Folk Dance Scene and Visiting Master Teacher Program: Jay Michtom

Insurance: Julith Neff

Scholarship: Carol Smith

PAST PRESIDENTS

Marshall Cates

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Steve Himel

CLUB DELEGATES

Bay Osos Folk Dancers: Margaret Lange

Cabrillo: Jody Stern

Cerritos: Julith Neff

Conejo Valley: Marcy Bregman

International Folk Dancers of Laguna Woods: Terry Gucwa

Laguna International Dancers: Greg Solloway

Naraodni: Diane Baker

Pasadena Co-op: Lynn & Rick Bingle

Ventura: Carol Smith

Veselo Selo: Shana Winokur

Vintage Israel: Jim Rothman

West Valley: Monica Zordach

West Side Folk Dancers: Sandy Helperin

Federation South Membership Report January 2023

22 Clubs formally are Federation clubs

2 no longer Federation member clubs, are somewhat active

Scandia Dancers several performances in 2022

Ethnic Express dances informally 1X month at an Ethnic restaurant with dance floor, Las Vegas.

San Diego FD Center has re-joined after a hiatus

The club with the most members is the Krakusy Polish Folk Dance Ensemble—35 members in 2023!

Veselo co-sponsors events at Narodni instead of weekly meetings.

Number of members is approx. 375. (Some members belong to more than one club and SD FDC will report number of members after 1-28-23.

NFO membership applications for the 16 clubs + Federation that need liability insurance are in process.

President's Report January 22, 2023

Positive Bright Lights

success of Fall Camp

dance sessions with a master teacher

interesting articles in Scene

news the Laguna FD festival will occur in 2023.

Federation Banner is printed and ready for any club to check out and hang for special events. Includes small sign to place at door inside a building or at covered entrance.

Plus:

the Krakusy Polish Folk Dance Ensemble has recovered from covid closure and has welcomed many new members.

Member clubs are scheduling special events for their regular meeting nights. Special events with live music, commemorations, celebrations... A proven means to welcome returning dancers

Fixer Uppers

Volunteers needed for Federation officers, Statewide responsibilities, and now Fall Camp Chairpersons

Statewide Report

Committee in process of planning Saturday late afternoon activities – tea dance & brief concert by local ensembles

Online registration is available thru Eventbrite. \$100 buys weekend of all dance events until Feb. 1st when price increases to \$120.00

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/harbor-view-statewide-tickets-503119874087>

Please announce at upcoming club meetings. I will send printed flyers & registration forms to clubs upon request.

Parking permit has been assured by the Port Authority in the public lot at 22nd & Miner Sts.

Arranging van transportation for those who want door to door service is in process.

Volunteers are making decorations. We welcome additional fish and antique nautical maps.

Joan has prepared a list of dances that she is prepared to teach. Committee members are previewing videos and making their preferences known. Email me if you want to help select Israeli dances to be taught at Harbor View Statewide.

Recommend that folks planning to stay in San Pedro book room now at Studio 6 Suites motel, 525 S. Harbor Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90731 310-548-1080. The motel within walking distance of Wigwam Hall has not been renovated and is not recommended as is. More luxurious rooms are available at the DoubleTree, San Pedro, and at the Crown Plaza, San Pedro.

We need volunteers for lunch service, welcome at door, driver for teacher, set up & clean up, coffee brewing, DJs to assist Adony. Raise your hand, please!

3 reports in one submitted by Diane Baker

January, 2023

Scene Report

In spite of all we have done to reduce expenses it still costs us more to print and mail a copy than we receive in subscriptions. In the past the deficit was made up by revenue from ads. However, during the last few years our ad income dropped to almost zero, so we were losing about \$100 per issue. Thus, our bank balance which had hovered between \$3,000 and 4,000 is now down to nearly \$1,000. If that continues we will be out of funds in a year, and we will need to request a bail-out in order to stay in business.

This month we have some excellent news in that the ads have recovered greatly; over \$200 for this issue. That will cover this month's deficit, and the prognosis for next month also looks good. But the long-term situation is still in doubt.

VMT

We had one visiting master teacher (Dr. Andonov at Laguna) and the \$200 reimbursement has been paid. Next on the horizon is Iliana Bozhanova in August of this year.

Fall Camp 2022 Summary

This report covers the time since the Federation council meeting on Oct. 30, 2022. This is the final report for Fall Camp 2022 and the final report for all Fall Camp activities led by Marc and Jan Rayman.

Fall Camp was conducted Nov. 11-13, 2022. The camp leadership committee was Marc and Jan Rayman (co-chairs) and Sandy Helperin. About 13 other members of the folk dance community contributed varying amounts of talent, effort, and other resources to make the camp successful.

Feedback

There were a great many very positive reviews. The quotations below constitute only a small fraction of the feedback but are included here as evidence to the Federation that camp was indeed successful.

Master teacher Ahmet Lüleci said the following at camp (and approved being quoted by name). (Master teacher Roberto Bagnoli concurred with Ahmet's comments and approved being named):

"Roberto and I go to camps all over the world, and Fall Camp is one of the best organized and most fun camps either of us have ever been to."

"Marc and Jan rock! They thought of everything. They made camp fun for everyone, and I had a great time here."

"Even when there were problems, they solved them while staying calm, friendly, and humorous, without ever letting anyone else know there were problems." [He indicated he is visibly anxious at his World Camp when there are problems.]

"This [Brandeis-Bardin] is a great venue for a camp."

We did not seek permission to quote other campers, so names are not used here:

"You... created a most special experience (again) for all who attended Fall Camp '22."

"I am still glowing with the pleasure of attending Fall Camp. You guys do such a magnificent job, pulling it all together with grace, patience and humor. For me, this was the most enjoyable camp yet. Both Ahmet and Roberto are wonderful teachers and the dances taught were just the right variety of easy and medium difficulty. Easy enough to learn but complex enough to be fun and exciting."

"Thank you for a wonderful weekend. I've been on committees to organize dance camps for years, and I still can't imagine how much work went into making the weekend as special as you made it. Bravo!!"

"I wanted to say THANK YOU for the most fun and enjoyable Folk dance camp. Your dedication, efforts, time, talent, and your mathematical plans and schedule were excellently prepared and fun filled. The print out materials are impressive!... Thank you is not enough but THANK YOU!"

"I want to let you know how successful I thought camp was this year. We all know and appreciate how much effort camp represents, and I hope it's rewarding to see so many dancers enjoying themselves and each other."

"I want to compliment you on the excellent video production that you did."

In addition, Ahmet and Roberto each told us they were treated better than at other festivals and camps. Every teacher at Fall Camp 2019 and 2021 said the same. We believe this helps bolster both the reputation of Fall Camp and the reputation of the Federation among master teachers.

Attendance

We limited attendance this year to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Of course we cannot know everyone who might have attended if not for the pandemic, but here are some relevant notes. We do know of some people who would have registered but did not for reasons related to COVID-19. Some considered the health risk of attending too high. In contrast, others considered our COVID-19/long COVID policy too stringent. Five informed us they wanted to attend but would not get a booster between June 13 and Nov. 1, 2022, as we required, so they were ineligible.

In addition, we know of 6 people who did not attend because of conflicts that weekend. One other person canceled because of the switch from Steve Kotansky to Ahmet Lüleci (as explained in our Oct. 30 report). Even after registration closed, between 12 and 4 days before camp, 5 people canceled because of contracting COVID-19 and other health reasons. We were able to fill some of those vacancies.

After all that, 62 people (including Ahmet and Roberto) attended for all or part of the weekend. This was the first Fall Camp for 19 of the participants.

Finances

We managed to get an unexpectedly low price from Brandeis-Bardin again. (We explain on the bottom of page 3 that that will not happen in 2023.) As reported in detail at the Jan. 23, 2022, Federation meeting, Fall Camp 2021 yielded a surplus of \$2,696.78. That allowed us to install wood floors in two rooms in 2022 instead of only the one we had in 2019 and 2021. The second room, while smaller (about 44' x 30'), has HVAC, which the larger one does not. In addition, that surplus allowed us to offer campers the same registration prices in 2022 as in 2021.

In addition to income from registrations, camp received generous donations from 25 people. (One of them did not attend camp at all because of contracting COVID-19.) All donors were offered tax letters from the Federation, and the Federation treasurer agreed to send letters to the 11 who wanted them.

We note here that Ahmet charged more than Steve Kotansky would have.

A financial summary is on page 3 in the same format as 2019 and 2021 to allow for straightforward comparison. As in 2019 and 2021, it includes some expenses **not** charged to Fall Camp as a reminder that future camp planners may wish to account for expenses that would not be apparent from a thoughtful consideration only of the breakdown of the actual expenses. The summary here does not