

Minutes Folk Dance Federation of California, South, Council Meeting

April 16, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes from January 22, 2023, meeting were moved, seconded, and approved.

ELECTED OFFICER REPORTS:

President Diane Baker announced:

- That Margaret Lange has agreed to be secretary. There was no opposition and Margaret was elected. However, she is unable to attend today, so Georgina Sham will take the minutes.

- That all current officers will stay on for the next year.

- That Fall Camp may take place after all, as Lee Otterholt is interested in chairing the camp. He will decide by May 1st, therefore reservations for Nov 10-12, 2023, have not been cancelled.

- That the membership directory is in preparation. It will not be published or posted online. Your personal information will be sent to members just once, after which time you will need to email info@folkdance.org and Diane will provide you with the information.

- That Dick Oaks has updated the website and calendar so it's more user friendly and a great resource. He has added additional syllabi, including the first Santa Barbara conference in 1956.

Vice President Report:

- Laguna Festival: Greg Solloway reported that the festival first weekend in March was in person and had about 80 preregistrants. With five live-bands they used no recorded music for the weekend! There were close to 100 in attendance on Saturday night. There was a loss of about \$1300- \$1500. They are looking forward to next year.

•Cerritos 14th Anniversary Party May 6, 2023: Wen-Li Chiang stated this party will be on May 6 this year, and you still have time to preregister and save \$2 (until April 29) and pay just \$6. Just contact Wen for payment. You may also email to suggest dances or to state you'd or your group would like to lead a dance/dances.

Treasurer Report:

- Mindy reported a large donation of almost \$14,000 has been received from the father (Henry) of a folk dancer named Beatrice Rasoff and her partner, Emile de Portimo.
- Amazon Smile has ended but we did receive one last donation in February.
- If all would become associate members, you would donate \$10 each which would help us cover operating expenses such as the website.
- In order to subsidize the Folk Dance Scene and the hard working volunteer team there, we transferred \$4000 which should keep them afloat for a few years. This transaction was approved last meeting. Printing and postage is still desired by many and is expensive!
- Laguna Festival had a loss. The Federation provided \$300.
- There was a \$275 subsidy for a Fall Camp camper who required the funds but was unable to apply for scholarship because of timing, and the council approved the need for her to go to the camp.

APPOINTED OFFICERS' REPORTS:

Insurance Chairperson: Judith Neff said she gets a break right now because everyone has their certificates. Jim Rothman reported that they need to leave their place by April 30 and he's going to be looking at another place today. They've been dancing in Sherman Oaks and will now be in Encino if this place works out. Steve Himel advised him to let Scene know of new address and he'll put it in the directory.

Sergeant at Arms: Terry Gucwa: We have a quorum.

Historian: Wen-Li Chiang: No report

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS:

Finance: Marshall Cates: The reason for Scene's subsidy of \$4000 is to qualify for free checking plus a little cushion.

Scene: Jay Michtom: No new report—now in good shape with the subsidy.

Visiting Master Teachers: Jay Michtom said Iliana Bozhanova and Todor will be here in August and have already a pretty full schedule so Bart Carpenter is not actively looking for more bookings. Diane said Iliana typically teaches one or two different dances to each group, so it pays to go to as many of her workshops as you can.

Scholarship: Carol Smith: No applications have been received so far. Deadline has been changed to May 15, 2023. Rule that you cannot reapply within four years has been changed to three years. Shana suggested more publicity and have Jay send to his list about scholarships and ask people to bring a copy to their group (this has already been done). Scholarships are for festivals, camps, workshops, seminars, etc.

Statewide 2023 Report: Diane reported that there are 48 pre-registrants right now, many from the north! It would be embarrassing if there are more from the north than from the south! Send a check and save money. Parking problems have been resolved with a parking lot 2 miles away and a shuttle to bring people back and forth—if you preregister, you will be emailed a shuttle schedule. Schedule will also be on the website. The Sunday afterparty will end at Crafted at the Port of LA, where the parking lot is, so very convenient! The parking lot is at 22nd Street on Minor Avenue. There will be an area at the front of the dance venue for the band to unload, then the members can find street parking or go to the parking lot and take the shuttle.

The concert will be at 5 p.m. on Saturday featuring 16 dancers from Bata's Ensemble. The community members of San Pedro have been invited—we're hoping for a standing room only concert.

T-shirts have been ordered, plus 20 more for those who want to buy at the site.

OLD BUSINESS:

Website: Dick Oaks has improved the readability of the calendar. He has also been collecting statistics which shows an average of 5000 requests/day though the website host does not include which section of the website is most visited.

NEW BUSINESS:

Liability Waivers: Waivers were instituted for COVID to protect the Federation from lawsuits. Should we keep requiring them or stop? Carol made a motion to discontinue waivers; seconded by Shana. Discussion: the waivers are only to protect the Federation so no one can sue us. If a suit is brought, it will be costly, even if we settle out of court or win the suit, it will cost the Federation. We have \$85,000 to protect. Mindy said she's the keeper of the signed waivers, and though the odds are extremely small, having signed waivers will provide peace of mind even though a pain in the neck. Every club really should have a waiver for themselves, just general liability, so that if there's a trip and fall or they're mugged in the parking lot, they can't turn around and sue that club. And the directors/officers are the targets, by the way. They can be personally liable. A vote was taken and by an 4 to 8 vote, the motion was defeated.

Ojai festival: We've had two successful events with no significant loss at the cost of about \$200. Dates available are 9/16 and 9/23 this year. The group preferred 9/23 which is date that will be reserved, and Carol will cochair the event.

Fall Camp 2024: Diane said the only weekend space available is the weekend before Thanksgiving. Should we book it and put down the deposit? As there's a 90 day cancellation possibility, we can ask for early registration and be able to cancel if necessary. Having it close to Thanksgiving may bring family visitors to the camp. Go ahead and book it.

Spring Festival 2024. Should we have a Spring festival now that Westside no longer has them? Yes, but not during Passover which is evening of April 22 through 30th so any time before that in April. Diane recommends we have it at the dance hall owned by Tom Bozigian and Sheree King, said to be very large and with a wooden floor in Fullerton. The other place

suggested was Soma near Thousand Oaks but that's much further for people in the south to access, and we already have a festival in Ojai in the north.

Young People: Diane's other topic is young people who dance, but usually with the Serbian church or Ukrainian Cultural Association, etc. Diane was thinking of the beginner festival where Pauline invited the girl scouts. Perhaps invite youth from 3 churches, the girl scouts, and have each group teach one of their dances and perform. Problem is we don't know whether the teachers are any good—they could be awful. If we can get some good teachers with the kids' groups, we could build it up. It may require time, resource and money. Perhaps we can use the money that Henry donated because he wanted to promote youth potency. Perhaps we can have the girl scouts earn a badge by learning/teaching dances. Something to think about. Joe said he started dancing at 15 and did not like to learn from a peer—only from an adult.

Billy Burke: Diane raised the possibility of the Federation making a donation to the cost of the celebration of Suzy Burke's life. Carol Smith moved that we give Billy Burke \$250 from the Folk Dance Federation, seconded by Mindy. Motion carried. Mindy will send a check to Carol who will take responsibility of getting it to Billy. Individuals may donate directly and should RSVP if you plan to attend.

Lynn Bingle said she'd got an email from publicity chair Marie Werner about the Photo Shoot. "It was shot March 16th at our home base in Altadena. As you can see (She sent a photo), a certain amount of just hanging around was involved, but less than most of us expected. The students did an impressive job of organizing the shoot, working together harmoniously, and generally pulling off a clockwork production day. At this point, they're in post-production for a couple of months, but we expect to hear from them later on and we hope to be able to share some clips.

Diane said a graduate student who was making a film about Serbia and wanted folk dancing in the background and various clubs were involved. She suggested live, but they didn't want the masked dancers. Masking was required at the time, so Pasadena served as the dancers.

Diane showed the boats Mindy had the idea of making with corks and card stock for the sail for Statewide. People can decorate them as they please.

Next meeting will again be virtual, on Sunday, August 6th. We're supposed to have one a quarter.

Meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

ATTENDANCE – April 16, 2023

OFFICERS

President: Diane Baker

Vice-President: Greg Solloway (Newly elected)

Secretary (Acting):

Treasurer: Mindy Belli

Historian: Wen-Li Chiang

Sergeant-at-Arms: Terry Gucwa

Parliamentarian: Marshall Cates

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

Cabrillo: Georgina Sham

Cerritos Folk Dancers: Sue Chen

Conejo Valley: Marcy Tamayei

International Folk Dancers of Laguna Woods: Terry Gucwa

Laguna International Dancers: Greg Solloway

Narodni International Dancers: Julith Neff

Pasadena Co-op: Lynn Bingle

San Diego Folk Dance Center : Mary Marshall

Ventura: Carol Smith

Veselo Selo: Shana Winokur

Vintage Israel: Jim Rothman

Westside Folkdancers: Asako Oshiro