



Minutes of Folkdance Federation of California, South, Council Meeting on October 22, 2023

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

In Attendance:

OFFICERS - President: Diane Baker; Vice-President: Greg Solloway (Newly elected); Secretary: Margaret Lange; Treasurer: Mindy Belli; Historian: Wen-Li Chiang; Sergeant-at-Arms: Terry Gucwa; Parliamentarian: Marshall Cates. **STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS** - Budget & Finance: Marshall Cates; Fall Camp: Lee Otterholt and Jan Rayman; Folk Dance Scene and Visiting Master Teacher Program: Jay Michtom; Scholarship: Carol Smith. **PAST PRESIDENTS** - Marshall Cates. **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS** - Steve Himal. **CLUB DELEGATES** - Cerritos Folk Dancers: Sue Chen; Conejo Valley Folk Dancers: Paula Davis; International Folk Dancers of Laguna Woods: Terry Gucwa; Laguna International Dancers: Greg Solloway; Pasadena Co-op: Lynn Bingle; San Diego Folk Dance Center: Mary Marshall; Ventura: Valerie Daley; Veselo Selo: Shana Winokur; Vintage Israel: Jim Rothman; West Valley Folkdancers: Jay Michtom; Westside Folkdancers: Sandy Helperin; Margaret Lange; Bay Osos Dancers.

Approval of minutes from August 6, 2023. Correction from Marshall Cates as follows: The subsidy of \$6000 to Fall Camp is a one-time subsidy for the next year's camp deposit. This deposit will free up \$6000 for the following camp deposits so subsequent subsidies should not be needed. *Motion to approve minutes as corrected was seconded and approved.*

ELECTED OFFICER REPORTS

President Diane Baker

As appended with the following additions:

Regarding Camp Hess Cramer, no temple member was identified to aid in reserving Hess Cramer for Fall Camp. Fall Camp 2024 and 2025 will need to be held at some other location. Regarding Far West Music Association conference, Diane displayed a card that Mindy had printed for the event. Regarding the website, it is getting lots of visits. She can send the statistics to anybody who wants them.

Vice President Greg Solloway

Upcoming Federation-sponsored events:

Fall Camp, Simi Valley, November 10 – 12, 2023

Winter Fest Pasadena, January 13, 2024, to be held at Alta Dena Community Church from 1 to 5 p.m. with an entrance fee of \$10.00. There will be live music.

East West Cerritos Chinese New Year, Feb. 17, 2024

Laguna Fest, March 1 – 3, 2024, teachers are Roberto Bagnoli and the second teacher was not divulged at the time of the meeting. There was no opposition to making the Laguna Fest a Federation event.

CA Statewide 2024, May 17 – 19, 2024 in Fremont, CA

Cerritos Anniversary Fest, June 8, 2024 (previously approved)

CA Statewide 2025, May 2-5, 2025 in Arroyo Grande

Lynn Bingle noted that she would like the New Year's Eve festival in Pasadena to be placed on the calendar but that it is a club event and not a Federation event.





Treasurer Mindy Belli

As appended with the following additions:

Income was very low, consisting of donations and the net proceeds of the Ojai Day of Dance.

The major donation was nearly \$7,600 from the estate of Henry Rosof.

The sum of the checking and the savings accounts is \$78,748.00.

There was discussion regarding acknowledging donations on the Federation website. There is a page for acknowledging donors. Diane will discuss this with Dick Oaks about updating the list to include the three major donors from 30 years ago.

Under expenses, the one-day festival was clarified to be the Cerritos festival.

APPOINTED OFFICERS' REPORTS

Insurance Chairperson, Julith Neff

Not in attendance; no report.

Sergeant-at-Arms, Terry Gucwa

We have a quorum.

Historian, Wen-Li Chiang

No report.

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Finance, Marshall Cates

No report.

Scene, Jay Michtom

No report.

Visiting Master Teacher, Jay Michtom

Ten workshops with Iliana and Todor were held in August 2023. Of those, seven were for Federation clubs and received the \$200 reimbursement.

Jaap Leegwater and his accompanist will be coming to Southern California in April 2024. Those workshops will be coordinated by Sherry Cochran. Federation clubs that participate also will be eligible for federation reimbursement. His accompanist, Philippe, is available for accordion lessons. It was noted that Cerritos and Conejo Valley clubs have signed up for Japp's workshops.

Scholarship, Carol Smith

One person attended North South with half of the tuition on scholarship. Diane suggested that in 2024 we increase the promotion of the scholarship opportunities. Marshall suggested that we announce these at upcoming festivals. Shana suggested that we create a written handout with scholarship opportunities for distribution at clubs and festivals. Carol said she will have this ready for the upcoming Fall Camp.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ojai Day of Dance September 23, 2023, Ojai Art Center

From Carol Smith: Ojai Day of Dance was successful. Everything ran on time: the music, the program. Everyone left with smiles. Carol suggested that the event should be continual.





Fall Camp November 10 – 12, 2023

From Lee Otterholt, Jan Rayman, and Kelley O’Neill: Events will be held in the Wapner Hall which has a limit of 60 persons. Wapner Hall has heating and air conditioning whereas the barn used in previous years does not. The schedule is simplified, i.e., no double booking. The traditional activities will be offered: nature walks, star gazing, making fall wreaths. Also, there will be a Found Poetry project. As of the meeting date, 54 people were enrolled. Attendance is challenged by the increase in registration fees due to a combination of additional fees and cabin cost increase. Cost cutting efforts are in place. Regarding publicity, there is no Facebook page for the event; we do not have a publicity person as we are short an officer.

Statewide 2025

From Margaret Lange: The Portuguese Hall in Arroyo Grande has been reserved for May 2 to 4, 2025. A slide show of the facility was presented. The dance floor is 50x75 feet and is wood on a raised foundation. The entire facility is available for the one cost, that means the kitchen, the outdoor patio, the barbecue area, etc. Billy Burke, the 2025 Statewide host, has secured Zeljko Jergan as a master teacher and is in search of a second teacher. The facility has lots of parking and is less than a mile directly off of the 101 freeway with restaurants in the nearby village and hotels nearby. At this point, we are penciled in for May 2025 sealed by a handshake. In January, we will make it official with a \$1000 deposit. It was noted that Billy puts on classy events so no doubt it is going to be great.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Spring Fest in Somis at the Thursday Club. Valerie Daley reported that April 7, 15, or 21 can be accommodated. Correction: the 20th is the Saturday. There is a 200-dollar fee for the building. It was recommended that the entrance fee for the event be 10 dollars. ***Motion for Federation to sponsor the event on April 20, 2024 carried.***

NEW BUSINESS

1. Folk Dance Promotion.

Jan Rayman placed articles in The Scene and the NFO newsletter regarding need for large-scale outreach. The only responses came from the Northern California Federation members. Jan’s Meetup groups have approximately twenty thousand members. She suggested that we rent halls in 2024 and invite meetup members to beginner classes. Discussion followed. Jay suggested that we set up an Ad Hoc committee for folk dance promotion. Diane summarized: we had a good discussion about all the factors that contribute to the success of new groups such as charismatic teaching, quality of music, the easiness or difficulty of steps, and the feeling of camaraderie of people in the same age group. Jan and Shauna already started/volunteered to head up a promotion group. We could add to that but will put that off until next February.

2. Nomination Committee. Diane is seeking volunteers for the nomination committee for officers to start in May of 2024. Officers are currently needed for Membership and Publicity.
3. Diane needs a volunteer to be a keeper of the Westwood Co-op photo albums, historical articles, flyers and other items dating to the 1940s. Scanning and uploading items to the website was suggested.



MEETING DETAILS

Next meeting proposed for Sunday, January 24, 2024, 9:30 a.m., virtual via Zoom.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.



President's Report 10-22-23

I'm thrilled that location and chairperson are determined for Statewide Fest 2025. Thanks, Billy & Margaret for volunteering and finding a venue so rapidly.

Bob is in the process of sending membership renewals. I received the package for approval on 10-21-23. He is not calculating the dues for each club this year.

The Wilshire Blvd. Temple staff person in charge of camps, Janine Regal, informed me that Camp Hess Kramer is not likely to be available for rental until summer 2026. Joan Hantman does not attend that Temple and could not think of a folk dancer who does. (Jan suggested that the Federation may have an easier time reserving HK for Fall Camp if a dancer is a Temple member.)

Valerie Daley ascertained that the Grange Hall in Somis can be rented for a Spring Fest in April 2021. The Nouveau Ballet studio in Fullerton has limitations as a venue for Spring Fest. May serve as a venue for meet up dance event.

Sans Frontieres sounded heavenly at the Far West Music Association conference Oct. 14. Valerie gracefully provided just the right amount of teaching. Several members of the public joined the dance line; others listened appreciatively. The room designated for the dance session was changed at the last moment and proved to be small and not adjacent to other conference sessions.

Dick Oakes has again "perked up" the calendar page on website and added new articles. See "Whose dance is this?" which Loui Tucker approved to be added to articles link. Includes suggestions for how to categorize recently created dances using traditional music. https://socalfolkdance.org/articles/whose_dance_is_this_tucker.htm