



Minutes of Folkdance Federation of California, South, Council Meeting on May 5, 2024

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

In Attendance:

OFFICERS - President: Diane Baker; Vice-President: Greg Solloway; Secretary: Margaret Lange; Treasurer: Mindy Belli; Historian: Wen-Li Chiang; Sergeant-at-Arms: Terry Gucwa. **STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS** - Fall Camp: Lee Otterholt; Folk Dance Scene and Visiting Master Teacher Program: Jay Michtom; Publicity: Mari Warner. **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS** - Steve Himal. **CLUB DELEGATES** - Bay Osos Dancers: Margaret Lange; Cerritos Folk Dancers: Sue Chen; Conejo Valley Folk Dancers: Marcie Tamayei; International Folk Dancers of Laguna Woods: Terry Gucwa; Laguna International Dancers: Greg Solloway; Pasadena Co-op: Lynn Bingle; Vintage Israel: Jim Rothman; West Valley Folkdancers: Jay Michtom; Westside Folkdancers: Sandy Helperin.

Approval of minutes from January 28, 2024. *Motion to approve minutes was seconded and approved.*

ELECTED OFFICER REPORTS

President Diane Baker

As appended with the following additions:

Pauline and Ed Klak will be in Southern California from May 12th to the 19th. They will be at the Bellflower Women's Club on May 15th if anyone wants to dance with them.

At the Spring Fest in Somis on April 20th there were lots of people and it was so much fun. Everyone there was having a ball. Diane thanked Terry for playing the music and for all the volunteers.

News from Northern California Federation: Regarding the Northern California Blossom Festival, it was held the same day as our Spring Fest. They had in excess of 100 people and they were thrilled with the attendance and it was a good time. The early session dances for all ages were well attended. Diane suggested we might consider adding "early session for all ages" dance sessions to our events. Regarding scholarships, nine of \$500 each were awarded in 2023.

Dick Oakes has requested that everyone read a new post on the Federation website : Cultivating and Sustaining Future Generations of International Folk Dancers under the Articles - Decline and Resurrection category.

Vice President Greg Solloway

Upcoming Federation-sponsored events:

1. Statewide May 17-19, 2024 Newark, Northern California. (approval by FDFS N/A)
2. Cerritos 15th Anniversary Party, June 8, 2024, from 1 – 5:30 p.m. (previously approved)
3. Ojai Day of Dance, September 28, 2024, Ojai, Cal. (A question arose as to whether or not the Ojai Day of Dance required approval. The consensus was that the event has become a tradition, and as such it doesn't require approval.)
4. New Year's Festival, February 15, 2025 (approval pending)
5. Laguna Fest, February 28 to March 2, 2025 (approval pending)
6. Cerritos 16th Anniversary Party, May 18, 2025 (approved)



Treasurer Mindy Belli

As appended with the following additions:

Income was about \$500 which includes all donations at the door for the Spring Festival. Expenses were about \$1,100 consisting of the visiting master teacher subsidies.

APPOINTED OFFICERS' REPORTS

Insurance Chairperson, Julith Neff

Unable to attend but communicated previously that there are no issues.

Sergeant-at-Arms, Terry Gucwa

Quorum was met.

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Fall Camp November 22 – 24, 2024

As appended with the following additions:

From Lee Otterholt: Regarding the executive committee, Lee is still the chairman. The committee has two new members, Martha Awdziejewicz and Joan Hantman. Previous executive committee members will remain involved: Kelly O'Neill will continue as registrar and will manage the bank account, Jan Rayman will continue doing all the assignments she did before. Lee has contacted all past volunteers and reported that everyone is still interested in participating in the same roles as last year. Terry Gucwa will be doing sound at Camp.

Regarding master teachers, Steve Kotansky (who had to cancel last year) can't make it this year due to health issues. Fall Camp has contracted with Genci Kastrati from Albania teaching Albanian dance, and Ira Weisburd from Florida teaching International. About expenses of teachers and travel, Marc and Jan Rayman have subsidized travel from the beginning of Fall Camp and they are willing to do so for one more year. Lee noted that this is a tremendous help and he thanked Marc and Jan.

Regarding pricing, Lee noted that this year the price will be higher: Brandeis will be 30 dollars more per person, teachers will be 20 higher, so \$585 will be the new price. Lee asked if the Federation wants the executive committee to set prices to break even, or, to keep prices lower and make camp more accessible, set prices at a loss and have the Federation subsidize the lower price.

Diane noted that the Finance chairperson was not in attendance. She asked Lynn Bingle who is on the finance committee if she would be spokesperson for Finance in this meeting. Lynn agreed.

Lee suggested the Federation subsidize \$3,000 and that would allow for pricing to be the same as last year. He suggested we could have dedicated scholarships for Fall Camp. Mindy Belli noted that she has been talking with Marshall about using the Federation reserves to subsidize events; it's being considered and it's on the table. Diane said that the easiest solution would be to allocate a \$4,000 subsidy for Fall Camp, as changing the scholarship process would be harder. She noted that this amount would allow a reduction in tuition from last year. Jay Michtom noted that \$4,000 didn't allow for a significant reduction in costs and suggested that we subsidize at \$6,000.

Terry Gucwa motioned to subsidize Fall Camp 2024 for \$6,000. Sandy Helperin seconded the motion. None opposed. The motion carried.



Finance, Marshall Cates

Not in attendance. Lynn Bingle agreed to be spokesperson for the Committee.

Diane noted that the finance committee has been trying to meet but has not yet met. Mindy said that Marshall has taken the lead in putting together a list of items to be discussed and voted upon. There will be a Zoom meeting to finalize items.

Scene, Jay Michtom

Scene does not have any problems. They are still losing about \$100 per month. The current balance is \$3126 so they have a few more years to go due to the \$4,000 subsidy that the Federation gave to *Scene* last year. He is hoping to increase membership and advertising.

Visiting Master Teacher, Jay Michtom

Jaap Leegwater presented many workshops in Southern California. Four of them were for Federation clubs (Cerritos Folk Dancers, Laguna International Dancers, West Valley Folk Dancers, and Conejo Valley Folk Dancers.) and received the \$200 reimbursement. Everyone was thrilled with their sessions. Jay noted it was a good way for the Federation to have spent these funds.

Scholarship, Carol Smith

Not in attendance. Diane noted that applications are due May 15th.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Statewide 2025, May 2nd to 4th

From Margaret Lange: She and Billy Burke had their first meeting during which they reviewed the Federation's checklist and manual for hosting Statewide. They will develop a list of committees for the host club, Bay Osos Dancers, to join. For some tasks, they hope to use the existing infrastructure from previous Statewide festivals. She will soon be approaching hotels to secure a group rate. A Save the Date flyer was produced for distribution at the 2024 Statewide Festival and has been added to the Federation website.

OLD BUSINESS

Election of Officers.

Diane asked if there were any nominations from the floor. None were given. She stated that the bylaws say that the secretary can cast a white ballot for the slate of officers. That slate was as follows: president, Diane Baker; vice president, Greg Solloway; secretary, Margaret Lange; and treasurer, Mindy Belli. She asked if anyone was opposed to that slate of officers. No one opposed it. **The white ballot was cast.** Diane noted that Federation South is still looking for a membership director.

Outreach Committee

As appended with the following additions:

From Diane Baker: Three initiatives were delivered to the Finance Committee.

Initiative No. 1. Performing in outside festivals. Toti O'Brien is chairperson for Initiative 1. The first festival will be the Pasadena Art Walk on October 4th. She has formed a committee and we have



asked Pasadena Co-op to be a co-sponsor so that our event presence. That will give us a hometown advantage to receive a mini-grant, to subsidize transportation for people who will perform.

Initiative No. 2. Training for Beginner-Level Teachers. The Federation will host one-day workshops for dancers to learn better skills for teaching beginners. The goal is for those who are current folk dancers to become more skillful at teaching recreational folk dance in their groups or to new groups of beginners, such as through Parks and Recreation departments. Billy Burke has agreed to teach the workshops.

Initiative No. 3. Dance demonstrations at health fairs. Greg Solloway has agreed to compile information on health fairs for dance demonstrations. Diane asked everyone on the council to look into health fairs in their communities, determine the dates and the sponsors, and send that information to Greg.

Instagram page. Diane asked for a volunteer to establish and maintain an Instagram page.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Diane discussed the beginning folk dance class she teaches through OLLI, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. She said it is an excellent way to advertise folk dancing in the community of people who maybe did it in college or who don't even know it exists. She recommended that if anyone wants to start a beginner class, they check out Lifelong Learning Institutes at nearby universities.

Laguna Fest 2024 Report.

From Lee Otterholt. The festival was very successful. More passports were sold than expected. The quality of teaching was good with Gergana Panova and Roberto Bagnoli. The Laguna Club has retained a lot of their dances. Marshall Cates received the Southern California Lifetime Achievement Award to Marshall Cates for dedicated service to folk dancing over the years.

The next Laguna Festival will be from February 28 to March 2, 2025. The master teachers will be the van Geels. Tineka will teach mostly Armenian dances and Maurits will teach International. Lee noted he is very happy to have them. Diane noted that Maurits knows many of Theodor Vasilescu's as Theodor taught in Amsterdam for years. And she requested that Maurits bring back at least one of Theodor's dances for the festival.

Spring Fest, Somis Report.

From Diane Baker. Valerie Daley was not in attendance to report. Diane reported that Spring Fest in Somis was very successful and thanked the Ventura Club and Valerie and Terry.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Publicity. Send photos of club events to Dick Oakes for the Federation website and to Amy for the Facebook page, and also send them to *Scene*.
2. Laguna Fest 2025 will be held from February 28 to March 2, 2025 with master teachers Tineka and Maurits van Geel.
3. Diane announced Billy Burke's new teaching guide, *A Celebration of Diversity: Multicultural Experience through the Art of Dance*. It is now for sale on Amazon, or at culturaldance.net.

MEETING DETAILS

The next meeting was set for Sunday, August 18, 2024, 9:30 a.m., virtual via Zoom.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.



APPENDICES

President's Report

Fall Camp Report

Outreach Report

President's report for FDF of CA, South Council mtg. 5-5-24

Pauline (past president) & Ed Klak will be in town May 12 – 19, 2024. Folks may attend Narodni Wed. afternoon or Thurs. evening to dance with them, and possibly Tuesday at Westside dancers.

Spring Fest in Somis was unqualified success, thanks to Valerie & Ventura club + Monica, Terry (DJ) & other volunteers

Webmaster, Dick Oakes requests that everyone read new post on website, and also in NFO magazine:

Cultivating and Sustaining Future Generations of International Folk Dancers

Identifying Opportunities and Barriers

By Andrew Carnie and Paul Collins, 2024

It is in **Articles** under **Decline and Resurrection on website.**

News from NoCal

- at least 100 people attended the "Blossom" Festival in SF on April 20
- In 2023 Federation North awarded 9 scholarships of \$500 each

Mari Warner will complete 2 more items as publicity chair, then will no longer be able to volunteer. Please send me name of qualified person who may be willing to become publicity chair.

Folk Dance Federation South, Inc
Treasurer's Report
January - May 5, 2024, FY 2023-2024
Narrative by Treasurer, Mindy Belli

Income was about \$500. It consisted of \$315 in admissions paid for the Spring Festival sponsored by the Federation. Donations from clubs and members (who joined as Associate Members) added another \$116.

Expenses were about \$1100, consisting of four Visiting Master Teacher workshop subsidies and about \$300 in support for two festivals.

A Spring Festival was held on April 24th in Somis. It was hosted by the Ventura Club and sponsored by the Federation. The admission donation was \$10. Rent was \$200. The net was \$80.

Savings Account

- The only activity this period was about four dollars in interest.
- Eight-hundred dollars will be transferred from the Special Events Fund to the checking account to cover the four Visiting Master Teacher workshops.
- The \$80 net from the Spring Festival will be transferred from the checking account to the savings account General Fund.

Totals

- The balance in the Federation's journals matches the balances reported by the bank.

Fall Camp 2024 Committee Report
For Federation council meeting May 5, 2024

ORGANIZATION:

The "Executive Committee" consists of:

Lee Otterholt (chair)
Joan Hantman
Martha Awdziewicz

The list of other "Team Members" who have agreed to do certain jobs at Camp again this year is very long and includes:

Sherry Cochrane, Kelley O'Neill, Jan and Marc Rayman, Terry Gucwa, Mindi Belli,
Marcella Lawson, Bonnie Robinson, Toti O'Brian, Dorothy Steinicke and Marie Montes.
(+Diane Baker warmups?)

TEACHERS:

The Exec Comm had its constituent meeting on Zoom April 15 and decided to ask Genci Kastrati (Albanian dances) and Ira Weisburd (International) to be the 2 teachers at Fall Camp 2024. Both have now said yes.

Although they are unlikely to sustain this practice going forward, Jan and Marc Rayman have again this year (as every year previously) very generously agreed to subsidize travel expenses for the teachers. Thank you, Jan and Marc!

Martha Awdziewicz and Sherry Cochran are coordinating on early publicity for Fall Camp 2024.

As an aside I can inform the Federation that the 2 teachers at the Laguna Folk Dance Festival (Feb. 28 – March 2, 2025) will be Tineke van Geel (Armenian dances) and Maurits van Geel (international).

PRICING:

Last year the Exec Comm set pricing for the Camp so that the Camp would more or less break even and we essentially achieved that. That resulted in prices being so high that several people said they were unable or unwilling to attend Camp. This year, prices at the Brandeis-Bardin facility will be higher so, if the Camp is to break even, the price to campers will be even higher. The question the Executive Committee wishes to place before the Federation council is: **"Does the Federation want the Executive Committee to set prices at a level at which we believe we will be able to "break even" or does the Federation want us to set prices at a level we believe will result in a loss of a certain amount that the Federation would then subsidize and, if so, how large would the Federation like that subsidy to be this year?"**

Outreach Committee Report for Council Meeting May 5, 2024

We've adopted 3 initiatives for the 2024-5 fiscal year and sent a request for funds to Finance Committee. We are in the process of applying for a mini-grant and for acceptance in the Pasadena Art Night Friday eve. Oct. 4, 2024. Toti O'Brien is chairing the event, and has formed her committee and outlined contents of presentation. We have asked Pasadena Co-op to be a co-sponsor.

Billy Burke has agreed to teach a one day course for participants to acquire skills & strategies to teach recreational folk dance to small groups such as thru park & rec.

We are actively noting local festivals, health fairs, etc. where recreational folkdance demonstration and audience participation could take place. We request that each council member also search for opportunities like health fairs that take place in the vicinity of your club. Send contact info to Greg.

We are seeking an avid Instagram person to start a page for the Federation. Who can you suggest in your club?

The folk dance class organized thru OLLI at CSULB will be continued in the summer quarter. 15 folks attend regularly. Afternoon sessions appeal to those who prefer not to go out in the evenings. Consider organizing a beginner class thru OLLI if the University near your club has an affiliation with OLLI.