



MINUTES OF THE FOLKDANCE FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA, SOUTH COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

The council meeting of the Folkdance Federation of California, South was held on March 15, 2026 virtually via Zoom. It began at 9:31 a.m. and was presided over by President Solloway.

ATTENDEES

Officers: President, Greg Solloway; Vice President, Chin Yu; Treasurer, Mindy Belli; Secretary, Margaret Lange; Insurance Chair, Julith Neff; Historian, Wen-Li Chiang; Sergeant-at-Arms, Terry Gucwa; Parliamentarian, Marshall Cates

Standing Committee Chairs: Budget & Finance, Marshall Cates; Fall Camp, Jan and Marc Rayman
Folk Dance Scene: Michael Wright; Somis Day of Dance: Valerie Daley

Past Presidents: Diane Baker and Marshall Cates

Associate Members: Steve Himel

Club Delegates: Bay Osos Dancers, Margaret Lange; Cerritos Folk Dancers, Sue Chiang; Conejo Valley Folk Dance, Paula Davis; International Folk Dancers of Laguna Woods, Terry Gucwa; Laguna International Dancers, Greg Solloway; Pasadena Co-op, Marshall Cates; Narodni International Folkdancers, Julith Neff; Santa Barbara International Folk Dance, Michal Lynch; Vintage Israel, Jim Rothman; Westside Folkdancers, Sandy Helperin.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Solloway asked if there were any changes to the previous meeting's minutes. None were noted. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2025 meeting as written.

MOTION: A motion to approve as written the minutes of the previous council meeting on December 14, 2025 was made by Julith Neff and seconded by Amy Dale. The motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICER REPORTS

President Greg Solloway

President Solloway reported the following:

Regarding Laguna Festival, it was well attended with up to 96 people attending.

Genci Kastrati will be in New Mexico in July if anyone on the West Coast is interested in inviting him as a visiting master teacher while he's here. Greg will contact the chair of Visiting Master Teachers when he has more information.

Vice President Chin Yu

Cerritos Lunar New Year Party. Vice President Yu reported that an application was received for the Cerritos Lunar New Year Party for February 20, 2027. Vice President Chin Yu asked for a motion to approve the festival.

MOTION: Greg Solloway moved that the Federation sponsor the Cerritos 2027 festival. Jan Rayman seconded. All approved. The motion carried.

Somis Day of Dance. Valerie Daley noted that the facility is overbooked for the scheduled date of April 18, 2027. The options are to change the date to the 11th or the 25th or keep the 18th and switch the facility to a nearby school. Paula Davis noted that keeping the scheduled date is optimum as dancers may have begun



planning around that date, however, it depends on if the floor is adequate. She offered to inspect the floor of the school facility. She proposed that if the floor is acceptable then we keep the April 18th date, and that if the floor is not adequate, then the date of the festival be moved to the 25th. President Solloway agreed and said he would follow up via email to the Council.

MOTION: Paula Davis moved that we keep the April 18th date for the Somis Day of Dance if the floor is adequate, and if not, we select the April 25th as a back-up day. Solloway seconded. All approved. The motion carried.

Statewide 2027. An application has not yet been submitted for Federation approval.

Treasurer Mindy Belli

Treasurer Belli presented and reviewed the following reports to the council: Treasurer's Report – Fiscal Year 2025-2026 3rd period; Fall Camp 2025 Income, Expense, Net; and 2026 Club Memberships. After discussion, Treasurer Belli noted that the Fiscal report needed to be revised. All reports, including revised Fiscal report are attached.

APPOINTED OFFICERS' REPORTS

Insurance Chairperson, Julith Neff

Chairperson Neff stated that she is up to date on all requests. She noted that she will need to update request for Somis if there are changes. She noted that she appreciates when members send completed forms to her expeditiously. She noted that her phone number on the form is incorrect. Her correct number is (562) 410-6964.

Membership Chairperson, Amy Dale

Chairperson Dale noted that she is happy to do more of the membership tasks to consolidate process. She would like to be the central point of contact.

Dale asked for a motion for Santa Barbara International Folk Dancers to become members of the Federation.

MOTION: Diane Baker moved to approve the Santa Barbara International Folk Dancers membership. President Solloway seconded. None were opposed. The motion carried.

Dale and President Solloway discussed Olivia Bacalla, who recently moved from Florida to North Hollywood and is interested in starting a folk dance club at a dance space that is available for no charge. Olivia has completed an application. She currently doesn't have members to populate a club. Diane noted that a club should have a minimum of six members. Solloway will contact her to follow up.

Dale discussed the Crestline/Lake Arrowhead area group which has applied as an associate organization member and is getting started in a senior center. Diane Baker noted that an associate organization needs a council vote of approval after the form and membership fees are paid. The form and fee have been paid.

MOTION: Treasurer Belli motioned that the council approve the Crestline/Lake Arrowhead group as an associate organization. Dale seconded the motion. None were opposed. The motion carried.

Sergeant-at-Arms, Terry Gucwa

A quorum was met.



STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Finance, Marshall Cates

Marshall had no report.

Scholarships, Carol Smith

Carol Smith was not present.

Scene, Michael Wright, Editor

Michael stated that the layout team, the Cross', are stepping back from their role in October. He is looking for a new graphics layout person or team to work with him to create a final layout.

Secretary's note: Michael can be contacted at michael@theresultsgroup.com, 707-484-4022.

Visiting Master Teachers, Jay Michtom

Jay Michtom was not present. President Solloway noted that he was contacted by Ellie Weiner of the northern Folk Dance Federation of California about a tour by Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu. He noted that subsidies are available for member clubs to pay their share of the shared teachers' expenses plus teachers' fees. Laguna International Dancers, San Diego group, Cerritos, and Oasis have contacted Ellie to confirm interest.

Outreach Committee

President Solloway reported that the committee has not met since becoming a standing committee.

Paula Davis noted that she was expecting to have a message sent to club leaders asking for members to join the Outreach Committee and asked for an announcement to be placed in the *Scene*.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fall Camp (discussed under New Business)

Statewide 2027 (discussed under New Business)

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Fall Camp at Brandeis University Campus, Marc and Jan Rayman

Jan reviewed their Fall Camp report (attached). She noted that she and Marc accept the Federation's invitation to lead Fall Camp subject to the concurrence of three provisos. 1. Cost and price. It is important that the Federation understands the financial outlook. 2. Teachers. They would like to draw from local teacher talent only to eliminate costs of outside teachers. 3. Authority. They reserve the right to plan and execute Camp their way, while reporting regularly to the Council, and they will ask for help when needed. Their conditions for chairing Fall Camp were agreed upon. Greg welcomed them as chairs and thanked them.

Statewide 2027

Vice President Yu reported. Currently it is not clear as to who is the chairperson and there is uncertainty about the venue. Balboa Park has been requested but approval has not been received. She asked for



advice as to whether an alternative location should be investigated. Additionally, she noted that San Diego has limited members available for team support tasks and they will require support from other clubs. Solloway noted that the Federation can help, and it is important to form committees and look for a backup location. Steve Himmel noted that it is the Federation's job to get a Statewide chair. Solloway will take the lead to work with Yu and coordinate resources. Michal Lynch noted that factors that are often important to cities when considering facility requests are that the organization is a non-profit and includes seniors participants and that these factors should be included in applications if possible.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS CARRIED

1. That the minutes of the previous council meeting on December 14, 2025 be approved as written.
2. That the Federation sponsor the Cerritos 2027 festival.
3. That we keep the April 18th date for the Somis Day of Dance if the floor is adequate, and if not, we select the April 25th as a back-up day.
4. That the Santa Barbara International Folk Dancers membership be approved.
5. That the Federation approve the Crestline/Lake Arrowhead group as an associate organization.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Southern California International Folk Dance Lifetime Achievement Award was awarded to Martha Awdziejewicz.

FUTURE MEETING DETAILS

The next council meeting of the Folkdance Federation of California, South was set for Sunday, June 28, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., virtually via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

The council meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Margaret Lange

May 29, 2026

Secretary

Date Submitted

Folkdance Federation of California, South

Date of Approval

2026 Memberships, Folk Dance Federation of CA, South

	<u>2026 Club Memberships</u>	<u>\$15 fee</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Mtgs fee</u>	<u>SubTot</u>	<u>Insur</u>	<u>Donation</u>	<u>Scene</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	Bay Osos Folk Dancers	15	15		30	60			90
2	Cabrillo Int'l Folk Dancers	15	23		38				38
3	Cerritos Folk Dancers	15	27		42	60			102
4	Conejo Valley Folk Dncrs	15	21		36				36
5	Fantasy Folk Dance Club	15	20	7.5	42.5	60			102.5
6	Karpatok Hungarian Ens	15	16		31	60			91
7	Krakusy	15	34	7.5	56.5	50			106.5
8	Kypseli Greek Dance Ctr	15	9		24	60			84
9	Laguna Inter'l F Dancers	15	32	7.5	54.5	60			114.5
10	Int'l Folk Dance Club (Lag' Wds)	15	29		44	60			104
11	Narodni Int'l Folkdancers	15	4		19	60			79
12	Pasadena Folk Dance Coop	15	41		56	60			116
13	Prescott Int'l Folkdancers	15	12		27		23		50
14	Rainbow Senior Club	15	19		34	60			94
15	San Diego Folk Dance Club	15	38	7.5	60.5		100		160.5
16	Santa Barbara Folk Dncrs	15	10	15	40	60			100
17	Solvang Vlg Folk Dancers	15	23	15	53	60	25		138
18	Ventura Int'l Folkdancers	15	12	7.5	34.5	0	0		34.5
19	Vintage Israeli Dancers	15	25		40	60			100
20	West Valley Folk Dancers	15	14		29				29
21	Westchester Lariats	15	22		37	60			97
	Totals	315	446		761	890	148		1740.5

Note: Insurance premiums are NOT income; they are a pass-through to the NFO.

#	<u>Associate Memberships</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Means</u>	<u>NA</u>	<u>SubTot</u>	<u>NA</u>	<u>Donation</u>	<u>Scene</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	Belli, Mindy	10	by Zelle				0		10
2	Ellinger, Elyse	10					25		35
3	Westside Daytime FDRs	10					25		35
4	Himel, Steve	10							10
5	Julian, Jana	10					90		100
6	Nevenka	10					10		20
7	Smith, Helen	10							10
8	Miller, Megan (3/14/2026)	10	cash				20	10	40
9	Miller, Clarissa (9/27/2025)	10	cash						10
		90					170		
	YOUR Name Here?	Only \$10	Pay by Zelle or check.						
	Totals	70					150		270

Two sets of checks were deposited via teller at WF Bank on 12/22. The bank's totals matched my totals. Additional checks were deposited by phone.

As of 12/23/2025. Updated 3/14/2026 (#9).

1740.5

-148

1592.5

Notes re Associate Memberships

9. Megan Miller paid in cash for an Organizational Associate Membership. I kept the \$40 cash and sent 20 & 20 via Zelle to WF from my personal account.

This is the first report for Fall Camp 2026.

We accept the Federation's invitation to lead Fall Camp, subject to concurrence with three sets of provisos. We understand these might not be acceptable, and if that's the case, we readily accept that and respectfully decline the kind offer to lead camp.

Cost and price

We think it's important for the Federation to understand the financial outlook. We've been in contact with Brandeis-Bardin to get some of the missing prices and to clear up some confusion. As has been reported before, their prices are higher this year, as is typical. Even with the \$6000 the Federation is investing in camp, our analysis shows that prices for campers will be essentially unchanged from 2025.

Teachers

We will have only local teachers whom we will select. In our opinion, Catherine Rudin was no better than some of our local teachers. We are fortunate to have excellent local teaching talent here in Southern California, and we should utilize and showcase that talent by having only local teachers at Fall Camp this year.

An outside teacher is expensive. It cost Fall Camp \$1700 to have Catherine. Even with 60 campers, that's more than \$25 per camper. (As Fall Camp 2025 had fewer paying participants, she actually cost more than \$38 per camper.) More to the point, we estimate that at most 5 people attended Fall Camp 2025 specifically because of Catherine. She was not a draw, and in our assessment, she cost more than she was worth. Given how expensive camp is anyway, we don't believe the extra cost of a little-known, non-master, guest teacher is justified.

Authority

We reserve the right to plan and execute Fall Camp our way. We greatly appreciate the Federation's financial support, and as when we led Fall Camp in 2018-2022, we will give reports at Federation meetings of the style we did then. We will ask for help from the Federation or from individuals when we need it. We were unhappy in 2019 when the Federation reneged on an explicit agreement by imposing a change that was poorly informed, detrimental to planning, and ultimately of no value. We make every effort to welcome good ideas, but having

invented Fall Camp, run it three times, canceled it once (even as planning was mature), and been deeply involved in the other three, we are wary of unsolicited “help” and direction. In addition, we discourage offers of help in front of others, as that makes it awkward to decline.

Once again, if the Federation does not consider our approach to leading camp, that's fine. We would be happy to support another leader however they wish or to disengage entirely, depending on the leader's preference.

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