

Minutes of the general membership meeting of March 19, 1965, at Hawthorne School (6th and I Sts., SW.)

- 1) The meeting was called to order by the Vice-President, Chuck Perdue, at 9:02 p.m.
- 2) The quorum was called. There was a quorum present.
- 3) The minutes of the February 19 meeting were read and approved.
- 4) The nominating committee's nominations were posted on a blackboard during the proceedings. More about this later.
- 5) The amendment to the By-laws was proposed, read, and, there being no discussion, voted on. The amendment was passed.

6) The Treasurer was called upon to describe the Treasurer's office. After stating the main duty which is to keep from going bankrupt, the Treasurer described the Society's assets and discussed the budgetary handicap involved in our depending on how many non-members come to and pay for our meetings. There are not enough paid memberships to provide the capital for grandiose programming. It was asked how members felt about charging themselves for events, as proved necessary for the McPeake concert. Regarding the McPeake concert, the membership heard about the subsidy given the Society's undertaking by Stanley-Williams Presentations, who split the expenses above and beyond the profits with us 8 to 1. In discussion of the above, it was asked if the Society must profit from each meeting. The Society must be able to pay the running expenses and to grow into ambitious programs and not to exploit those who come before it.

The Treasurer was concerned with the problem of when and how to conduct business. The paying customers are restless when we conduct meetings. He asked how members felt about limiting meetings to 2 or 3 a year. Other ideas were to set meetings for 8:00 p.m., programs at 8:30 p.m. regularly; or to set meetings for 7:30 p.m. Nothing was made definite.

A formal treasurer's report will be made in April. A quick rundown on typical expenses per meeting was given. The current philosophy of not charging members for programs was noted. All programs of the Society have made a profit, except the McPeake concert.

7) The Program Chairman described the programs and his general view of the Society and ideas for future programs. He mentioned the evening classes in folklore available through the University of Maryland's University College; to enroll write to Mr. Walker. This class is taught by Mrs. Birdsall, one of our members. In general a "folklore"

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society could concern itself with 1) discipline or study to make a contribution to knowledge, 2) entertainment, or 3) recreation. Our Society goes in no clear direction as yet. The practical problems it has are availability of money, availability of people to come before it, and size of audience to anticipate.

8) The job of Publicity was described by Gerry Parsons. The important things are 1) to promote programs, 2) to build a general community understanding of what we do. As the Society needs a symbol of its own, members were asked to design one.

9) The hopes of transmuting the newsletter into a journal were described by the Publicity-Publications Chairman. So far the newsletter has been a bare bones, but it is hoped that it can be made something for members to look forward to, something larger with reviews and articles. Articles and ideas will be needed. The newsletter is to be mimeographed, and perhaps 5 pages, and is to have a printed poster with it. In discussion, members stated that the short, newsy newsletter was all right, and that the longer one sounded like work. It was suggested that the newsletter might take advertising. This suggestion will have to be decided on. The possibility of charging a subscription price for it, if it's respectable, was raised. This would mean increasing the membership fee perhaps. The newsletter-journal could be sold on the news-stands, perhaps.

10) The membership chairman reported the present membership as 45 individual and 38 family memberships. Membership cards were available from him. He brought up the problem of involving the members in the running of the Society when their wants are unknown to the officers. Members suggested that to gain members letters might be written to universities' student newspapers.

11) The Special Events Chairman commented that in the beginning every meeting was a special event. But now we can have Special Events as the phrase is commonly understood. For the future, the special events he would like to begin working on are 1) an event featuring local people especially the Perdues, the Dildines, Helen Sawyer, Charlotte Daniels and Pat Webb, the Fosses. It was pointed out that the Fosses have gone to Louisiana. And 2) an event with blue grass performers. And 3) a square dance and pot-luck supper. And perhaps we can begin the summer with a picnic-festival for the second weekend in June. Further suggestions for special events will be gladly accepted but please write them down.

The folksing of January 8th was mentioned. The policy on such events is to make them open to any performer,

free to members and of nominal cost to non-members, and have them not too structured. The Program Events Chairman proposed that the Society have regular monthly sings and also bigger affairs a few times per year - two series. More about this later. It was also mentioned that the Arlington Recreation Department will have a folk festival in May.

12) Proposed amendment to the By-laws was read. Here it is again: "The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of candidates for office and shall report to the membership at the March meeting. At that meeting, and again at the April and May meetings, additional nominations for any office may be made and seconded from the floor". (Section VI, paragraph B)

13) It was announced that members are entitled to a 20 % discount at Sophocles Pappas' Guitar Shop.

14) The nominating committee made its report, the following nominations: President, Chuck Perdue; Vice-President, Jonathan Eberhart; Secretary, June Silverman; Treasurer, Sol Schneyer; Publications Chairman, Linda Brennan; Publicity Chairman, Ed Morris; Membership Chairman, Nan Perdue; Program Chairman, Joe Hickerson; and Special Events Chairman, George Simpson. Nominations from the floor were John Dildine for President, Chuck Perdue for Vice-President, Carol Lee for Publications Chairman. Gerry Parsons and Jim Lee were nominated for office but declined.

15) A show of hands was asked, pro and con, on the proposals for special events. Everything proposed was given approval. However there was a dissenting minority whose opinion was that number one, an event featuring local singers, was not a good idea because this would mean their being used. The dissenters were two of the above-mentioned local singers, and felt that they would not care purely to entertain but would rather do something useful.

Other special events were proposed. Proposal 1) (5) a benefit for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. If this or some other organization were to solicit the Society, then a decision can be made. There was some feeling that the Society should stick to folklore. Proposal 2) (6) an all day picnic with workshops and other folk festival trimmings. Proposal 3) (7) children's concerts.

16) The admission charges were discussed. The Treasurer said that one dollar does not seem to be too much. Members felt that perhaps a student rate is desirable, and/or a reduced rate for student memberships. And/or an increase in the rates for memberships in order to solve the budget problems.

17) The Society's self-image was discussed. It was stated that the Society's self image is not set yet.

18) A couple of proposals were made: that the newsletter add the list of officers to every issue, and that copies of the By-laws go out by mail to new members soon after they join.

19) It was mentioned that the Society is acquiring a library. There are tape-recordings of all meetings to date. Also there is a dulcimer, contributed to the Society by Howie Mitchell. The tape situation is that the Board would like to limit the use of these tapes but as yet there is no policy. A committee is working on it. These archives are in the possession of the Secretary.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

June Silverman
Secretary