

FOLKLORE SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON

Executive Board Meeting -- Tuesday, 2 December 1969 -- Room 710, Dupont Circle Building

Present: John Dildine, Mike Rivers, Joe Hickerson, Frank Daspit, Gene Anderson, Frank Goodwyn, Bob Clayton, Roni Bowie, Gus Meade, Kathy Goldman, Reed Martin

The meeting was called to order by President John Dildine at 8:15 p.m.

The Secretary read the minutes of the November 4th meeting; approved as corrected.

The Vice President reported no vice.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Joe Hickerson

We have 184 Individual and 143 Family memberships for a new record total of 327.

~~Frank Daspit~~ ^{Joe} ^{of Frank Daspit} requested more membership cards, which he needs by the next Board meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gene Anderson

Net worth as of 31 October 1969:	\$1,897.56	
Income, October	85.00	(Newsletter, publicity)
Expenses, October	239.14	(Newsletter, publicity)

Net worth as of 30 November 1969: \$1,743.42

This does not include income from the Getaway in September, plus \$400.00 from last year's Getaway in the Getaway Account. It was suggested that the \$400.00 be transferred to the regular account.

PROGRAM REPORT: Gus Meade

Norman Kennedy, whose program was cancelled in November, is being rescheduled, probably for January regular program. February program will be the Liars' Bench featuring Marshall Dodge and possibly two other liars; George Carey will try to get in touch with Tom Flowers for this. Marshall Dodge gave Joe Hickerson his okay by phone, but Program Chairman was advised to confirm this -- and all program hirings -- by letter, as policy. March program will be the Russell Family. April program will be the Valley Singers. (See minutes of previous meetings for details on who these people are.) May and June are still not set.

(PROGRAM REPORT - continued)

It was generally agreed that the Society owes the members one more program because of the November cancellation. Gordon Bok was suggested for a make-up program.

Other suggestions for programs included Benny Thomason, the best of the Texas fiddlers (Gus's opinion); another Barn Dance program, perhaps as a Special Event rather than as a regular meeting since October's program was a Barn Dance. Reed Martin volunteered to call square dance places about halls, so we could have a Barn Dance program with square dancing.

John Dildine mentioned a new auditorium that is being built at Montgomery Blair Junior High School, a Montgomery County public school. Could we possibly use it for programs when it is completed, and if so could we charge admission? Not everyone is pleased with the Smithsonian as a meeting place.

SPECIAL EVENTS REPORT: Bob Clayton

The last Open Sing turnout was disappointingly meager. The Open Sing for December will be Christmas caroling, Saturday, 20 December, starting from the Alexandria Folklore Center at 8:00 p.m.

No Sampler Concert is scheduled so far for lack of a hall. The Ethical Society auditorium and Pierce Hall are still possibilities for this.

PUBLICATIONS REPORT: Frank Goodwyn

The December Newsletter reads "November" in one place and "Nevenber" in another; but nowhere "December." There are also two misprints in names. All names should be submitted in writing, for both the Newsletter and publicity, to minimize spelling misunderstandings and errors. Also dates, times.

There should be more information in the Newsletter about the programs performers than has been put in so far. Both Newsletter (Frank G.) and publicity (Roni) should be given program information and background on performers as far in advance as possible. (For publicity, Roni should have information at least a month and a half in advance.)

December 18 is the deadline for the January Newsletter.

Publications Chairman has put 10 copies of the Winter issue of the new Journal on sale at the Maryland Book Exchange, and 10 copies at the University of Maryland bookstore. Discount Books, near Dupont Circle, was suggested as another possible outlet. Further suggestions will be welcome.

(PUBLICATIONS REPORT - continued)

Advertising as a possible source of income in forthcoming issues of the Journal was discussed. One-fourth of the Journal devoted to advertising would support the total issue, Publications Chairman was advised by Dick Rodgers. Rates suggested were \$40.00 for a full-page ad, \$25.00 for a half-page ad, \$15.00 for a quarter-page ad, and \$1.00 a line with a \$2.00 minimum for anything less than a quarter page. This is very cheap advertising, as advertising costs go, but would serve well the needs of the Journal in revenue. Joe suggested that the Publications Chairman draw up a rate sheet. Dick Rodgers is working on record companies for ads. Reference was also made to the Philadelphia Folk Song Society's publication, which has a "blurb page," "a buck a blurb," charging \$1.00 for a 30-word blurb. Another suggestion was to list single-line ads as classified ads.

Publicity^{rations} Chairman asked if we should continue with our exchanges as the list now stands; some of the publications we receive don't seem to be worth much in terms of interest. Joe spoke strongly in favor of keeping all exchanges up, and of keeping the publications received in exchange; they are valuable as documentation and we should get as many of them as we can.

Joe suggested that the budget be reconsidered on the basis of extra (unexpected) income from memberships which could be allotted to the Newsletter, since Frank G. mentioned a tight budget.

Membership Chairman (Joe) has ^{suggested weeding} ~~weeded~~ out the Subscriber and Exchange portion of the mailing list, ^{reducing} it from 120 to 64 names, ^{which would reduce}.

PUBLICITY REPORT: Roni Bowie

Publicity Chairman called "Playtime" and "Do You Know" about the January program -- both accepted publicity on the phone.

No flyer was mailed out for the December film program. The Board decided not to send one even though the Newsletter's misprint of "November" for "December" might mislead people into thinking the film program was in November: Every flyer mailing costs about \$30.00.

(See also parenthetical note under Publications.)

OLD BUSINESS - Getaway Rates

Discussion of Getaway as a family affair versus as a money-making affair. Joe would like to see Getaway rates be made more beneficial to family groups than at the 1969 Getaway; suggested the same rates for adults as in 1969, \$8.00 for the first child, \$6.00 for the second child, \$4.00 for the third child, etc. -- in effect, a sliding scale for families. Twelve years would be the cutoff age between child and adult. Another

(OLD BUSINESS - Getaway Rates - continued)

possibility is a two-rate plan: \$10.00 per individual and \$25.00 per family group regardless of size (for example). Another possibility is to leave the rates as they were in 1969 but set an upper limit so that people with lots of children or lots of children over 12 years of age could still afford to come en famille -- say \$55.00 as an upper limit.

The Board's consensus resulted in a resolution, recommending to the Getaway Committee that the Getaway be priced so as to be more advantageous to family groups, and that the price structure when set by the Getaway Committee be brought up for Board approval.

OLD BUSINESS - Mailing List Revision

In regard to our intention to weed out the General Mailing List by April 1, 1970, based on notification by people who want to be retained on the list, Mike Rivers suggested that we offer something to people as an incentive to notify us that they want to stay on. A motion was made and seconded that the next three Newsletters (January, February, March) carry a notice that any non-member who brings that month's Newsletter to the regular program meeting will get in free (one to a customer). The vote split 4-4, with one absention; President John Dildine broke the tie in favor of the motion. Mike wrote up and gave Frank G. the copy for the Newsletter, beginning with January.

OLD BUSINESS - Payment to Dept. of Agriculture Performers by NFFA

John Dildine talked to Jack Bathan, Acting Executive Secretary of National Folk Festivation Association, about payment still due to folk performers the Society helped arrange for bringing (see minutes of previous Board meetings). Mr. Bathan said that all commitments will be taken care of by the first of the year (i.e., in January, 1970). If nothing has been done by 31 January 1970, John will talk to NFFA again. If they will not act the FSGW Board may be requested to authorize payment from Society funds.

NEW BUSINESS - Report of American Folklore Society Annual Meetings in Atlanta

Joe H. reported on the meetings, which he attended; specifically the session on state and regional folklore societies; and a subsequent letter which he received from Robert Byington (copy attached) of the AFS proposing a newsletter to be financed by AFS involving the use of mailing lists from state and regional societies. The Board must approve the use of FSGW mailing list by anyone outside the Society. If we do send them our list it will be with a letter stating strongly the desire that it not be published or otherwise sold out or distributed (in whole or any portion

(NEW BUSINESS - AFS Meeting Report - continued)

thereof), being authorized for use only in connection with the AFS newsletter. Joe suggested that once our mailing list is up-to-date (~~after the April 1st weeding out~~), we have ~~an extra~~ copy of the list run off and sent to Byington, at the expense of the Membership Committee's budget. It will then be up to the Membership Chairman to keep Byington up to date on our membership changes.

There is a strong move to hold the 1971 annual meetings of the AFS in Washington, D.C., in November. (The 1970 meetings will be in Los Angeles.) Alan Jabbour will be sending a letter on behalf of the Library of Congress suggesting this, and things look favorable for its occurrence. If Washington is chosen, FSGW could contribute to the benefit of AFS and itself, including providing Saturday evening entertainment. Joe requested that the FSGW go on record as endorsing the move to hold the 1971 meetings in Washington and offering its support; ~~he will write a letter urging that Washington be the site selected.~~

NEW BUSINESS - Policy on Cancellation of Meetings

We don't have a policy on this. If we have to cancel again, as we did in November, the best way to handle informing the membership seems to be as it was done that time -- by dividing up the membership list and telephoning everyone -- at least when the cancellation is so close to the day of the program.

We could be more foresighted: We could have anticipated a cancellation due to the March on Washington a week in advance. Unresolved question: Do we owe the membership a program for the one(s) we cancel, if we have to cancel? *(Yes, it was decided - see Program Report, p. 2.)*

MISCELLANEOUS

Someone's name and phone number should be in every Newsletter as a person to get in touch with from the Society capable of answering questions regarding the Society, programs, etc.

The October 20th issue of Atlanta's "The Great Speckled Bird" (newspaper) contains a writeup of the 1969 Getaway -- favorable -- by one "Og," guessed to be Bud Foote. (Copy attached.)

A flyer advertises Ewan MacColl & Peggy Seeger as available for concerts in the U.S. in April-May, 1970.

WAMU-FM is rebroadcasting old programs of John Dildine's since he has not had time to do new ones recently. Anyone interested in presenting a specialty of his choice on the radio in conjunction with John should get

(MISCELLANEOUS - continued)

in touch with him; if there is sufficient interest within the Society, John will put together a series of people from the Society. He will also supply copy to Frank Goodwyn for an announcement concerning this in the Newsletter.

There will be no Sacred Harp Sing in December. Gene Anderson will be the Sacred Harp liaison to Frank G. for Newsletter announcement of meetings.

Pres. Nixon had Taylor Vrooman and the Beers Family at the White House.

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:00 p.m.!

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Goldman
Secretary

"The Great Speckled Bird" — Atlanta, Georgia
Oct. 20, 1969

FESTIVAL IS A DIRTY WORD



FESTIVAL is a Dirty Word and no Wonder: see they take \$3.50 or \$6 or whatever an then iff'n you Get to Set within three miles of the Stage why you are Lucky as you can Be; sure you can Hear the Music blowed through miracles of Modern Electoronics but it is cheaper to Buy the Record; and as for the Feelins of Community generated by Gettin together with other Musiclovers why it dont make Overmuch sense to give a Promoter \$4.50 so you can meet other Members of the Community.

Which is maybe why the Folklore Society of Greater Washington calls its thing not a Festival but a Getaway, an this was the Fourth Annual: it was Patterned on the festivals the Atlanta Folk Music Society used to give at Unicoi, an very nice too: some folks were Invited Performers which means they got room board an transportation, an the Rest of the Folks was payin guests an it Cost like fifteen for Room Board Music and All from Friday night to Monday noon, or either a couple bucks to come in for a Day and hear the Music, an I guess the FSGW maybe broke even.

Everybody worked in kitchen or registration or whatever includin Invited Performers an there was Music goin on Aroun the Clock includin wellknown folks like Bob & Evalyn Beers an John Jackson an Mike Seeger an folks not yet so wellknown but who will be like Gordon Bok who is as wild a guitarist as I have Run Up On: Chuck & Nan Perdue an their

tribe were there an they are some fine Performers in an old downhome gentle fashion I tell you; Barbara Carns when she is On which she was is one of the Better white lady Blues singers aroundabout.

Lonnie Herrmann is a Oriental-lookin lady who plays banjo an Nashville fiddle an is Delightful; an Jon Eberhart big blackbearded moody motorcycle-rider part of the Sloop Singers; and Andy Wallace another Sloop Singer who this year was organizer of the Getaway; an so on.

There was Maybe two-three hundred people there/Eleanor Walden Hoffman from Atlanta sang "Mountains of Mourne"/Bob Beers an Mike Seeger got into a fiddle duet on "Soldiers Joy" an Bob cut Mike off at the ankles/a very-latin lookin guy Name Alberto Vasquez played Uncle Dave Macon stuff/ they was so Many Kinds of Music in so many concerts workshops parties an so on that Unless you were 1,000% committed to one Party Line or Another why you were Boun to enjoy yourself/a Group of Kids an a couple Adults got into a Impromptu kids rhyme workshop on the MessHall Back Porch/ Izzy Young of New York's Folklore Center is wearin his Hairs long like Unto a Hippy/all this was Last Month an they will Do it Again nex Year all out in the Woods an it will Probably Rain Again an nobody will give a Damn.



FOUNDED 1920

THE PENNSYLVANIA FOLKLORE SOCIETY

Lycoming College - Williamsport, Pennsylvania

November 18, 1969

Mr. Joseph C. Hickerson
Route 1, Box 706-A
Accokeek, Maryland 20607

Dear Joe:

I am happy to report that the efforts of the AFS Committee on State and Regional Folklore Societies to promote publication of a newsletter, financed by the AFS, and devoted to the growth and development of local folklore societies have met, thus far, with encouragement from the g[G?]ods.

At the recent meeting of the American Folklore Society in Atlanta, Kenneth Goldstein, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFS, instructed the Committee to draw up an "argument" for the implementation of our newsletter proposal (a copy of which was sent you a week or so ago), which, he assured us, he would then submit to the Executive Board for their approval--accompanied by his strongest recommendation. The Committee is now preparing this "argument." I should add that John O. West, of the University of Texas at El Paso, has been appointed Editor.

What I would like to solicit from you now is the membership and/or subscription list(s) of your society. Would it be possible for you (or whoever is responsible for maintaining the list) to send me a copy as soon as possible? Since it is our intention to mail out the newsletter to all members of all local societies, we must incorporate yours with the others in a master list. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

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Robert H. Byington
Executive Secretary

RHB:VM