

FOLKLORE SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON

Minutes of Executive Board Meeting

December 4, 1973

Present: Andy Wallace, presiding, Bob Clayton, Janice Cole, Pat Chambers, Rich Galloway, Nan Goland, Bruce Hutton, Debbie Hutton, Bob Jordan, Becky Laird, Marietta Plank, Dick Rodgers.

Absent: Lars Hanslin, Alan Mackall, Mike Rivers.

The meeting was called to order at 8:12 p.m. by the President, Andy Wallace. The minutes were approved as unread.

SPECIAL EVENTS: Dick Rodgers

Jean Redpath and Norman Kennedy were last-minute substitutes for Utah Phillips in the concert of Saturday, November 24 at the Ethical Society. We came just short of breaking even on the expenses. Phillips, who is ill, will be rescheduled in March or April.

The square dance held at the Ethical Society on Saturday, December 1 was attended by 80 people, and has been pronounced a success.

The Open Sing will have a new format starting this month. A different person each month will serve as M.C., choosing a theme or topic as a starting point to give some direction to the sing for the first hour or so. This will give people an opportunity to think of ingenious methods of relating the songs they want to sing to the topic of the evening.

Christmas caroling will take place during the week of December 16 to 22 in as many places as can be lined up. Two caroling places have been established already: after the Sacred Harp Sing on Sunday, December 16 at the home of Louise Spottswood in Northeast Washington, and on Saturday, December 22 at the home of Dave McKelway's parents in Chevy Chase. Other likely possibilities are Georgetown, Arlington, Bethesda and Silver Spring.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Debbie Hutton

Both the blues workshop at Ted Strader's and the Old Time Banjo workshop at Bob Jordan's were enjoyed by those who attended.

The all-day Mini-Festival, including workshops, dinner, and square dance, will be held Sunday, January 20 at Cedar Lane Unitarian Church. We will pay \$200 for the use of 8 to 12 classrooms, a large meeting room, and the kitchen. Charges will be \$3 for all day, or \$1.50 for either the workshops or square dance.

The 3-hour workshop session will be divided into two parts: the first hour for beginners workshops, the last two hours for song swaps and jams. Debbie would like people to indicate their areas of interest in advance so she can plan the number of rooms to be used for each activity.

Dave and Linda Olive have offered to host a hymn sing as soon as they get their new piano moved in to their house.

PUBLICITY: Bruce Hutton

Press releases and flyers announcing the December program have gone out. A long-range calendar is being prepared which can be posted as well as sent to magazines and other publications.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Rich Galloway

Net Worth as of October 31	\$5373.53
Income - November	664.23
Expense - November	669.99
Net Worth as of November 30	\$5367.77

PROGRAM: Bob Clayton

At this time there is no further news about future programs.

#### OLD BUSINESS

In response to pleas for help in the Newsletter, several members have volunteered their help in certain areas.

There was some discussion of what the Society really needs in terms of storage space. No one knows exactly how much space would be needed to store the exchange publications in our archives because at present they are stored in several different places. It was suggested that a request be put in the newsletter for someone to let us use a basement or a room in their house so that everything could be kept in one place. Another suggestion was using the closet at the Ethical Society for keeping the circulating tapes and perhaps two years of exchange publications. We would need someone to put the publications and other materials in order. Andy suggested we might pay someone to do this job. After it is put in order it could probably be kept in order on a volunteer basis.

When Mike checked into the cost of having a phone number for the Society, he found it would cost about \$25 more to have the listing in the name of the Folklore Society than it would to have it

listed under an individual's name in D.C. The phone company considers all organizations as commercial listings, whether or not they are non-profit. Debbie will check to see if we can get a better arrangement in Maryland. Mike found that a machine which would give a caller a recorded message and record the caller's message would cost about \$125. The tape which callers would hear would give a listing of coming events, basic membership information, and our mailing address. It could also give another number to call in case someone needed to talk to a real person. We would get single party limited service, since no outgoing calls would need to be made on the Society phone.

At the next meeting we will have to decide whether or not we are going to publish another Journal. If we decide not to, the Newsletter could be expanded to three pages, and could include ads, reviews, pictures and drawings.

Pat Chambers volunteered to pick up the mail once a week and send the checks to Rich, membership forms to Janice, publications to Marietta, and take the rest to Andy.

Marietta suggested that the Society could benefit in a number of ways by offering both one-year and three-year memberships. Three-year memberships would eliminate quite a bit of bookkeeping, and give the Society extra money to work with. Rich had already researched the idea, and had figured how much the Society could make by offering long-term memberships. The idea of having all memberships come due in the same month was decided to be unworkable for an organization of our type, since people become interested in membership throughout the entire year, and figuring the cost of part of a year's membership would cause even greater bookkeeping problems. Andy brought up the need to increase the price of membership in the near future. Not only are postage and other costs rising, but we are running out of "local" talent for our programs, and we need to be able to provide more money for performers expenses so that we can bring people from farther away. It was decided that after June 30 would be the appropriate time to raise the cost of membership. The new 3-year concept will be announced at the same time as the price increase. Andy will write these items up for the Newsletter to announce the changes to the membership. If people want to renew before June 30 they can renew at the old rates.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Debbie pointed out that if we are going to change our election process before the next election we should start working on it now. It was decided that sending and receiving ballots through the mail would give a more representative election than having the election held at a monthly program. Becky and Lars will write up the necessary change in the by-laws.

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Debbie moved and Nan seconded that we give honorary one-year memberships in the Society to Leo Bernache and Betty Bramer, who work in the NFFA office, in appreciation for all their help in conducting Folklore Society business through their office. The motion carried.

Rich moved and Debbie seconded that we allow up to \$150 for Mike to purchase a telephone answering machine. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.