

FOLKLORE SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON
Minutes of Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, July 7, 1977

Board members present: Mary Cliff, Bill Destler, Jonathan Eberhart, Mia Gardiner, Debbie Hutton, Linda Lieberman, Dolores Nichols, David Olive, Nancy Schatz, Riki Schneyer.

Others present: Don Nichols, Helen Schneyer.

Board members absent: Jessie Cohen, Jeff Deitchman, Lars Hanslin, Martin Holmer.

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 by President Jonathan Eberhart. In discussing the minutes it was noted that the June program (Stecher & Bradley) was not a grant-supported program. The names of Rich Galloway and Don Nichols were added as "others present," and the minutes were accepted as corrected.

Membership - Dolores Nichols: 69 renewals, 62 new memberships, and 38 expirations, making a balance for June of +93 (applause), and a total membership of 686. Renewals were mostly from notices which were sent out with stamped, self-addressed envelopes--obviously this pays off. Only 13 memberships were sold at the Glen Echo Festival itself, but the vast majority of the month's new members were from that event (identifiable by yellow form from flier). 3000 fliers were printed, 2000 given out at Glen Echo. Possibly could have had better membership activity at Festival if had had 2 FSGW booths, prominently located.

The honorary membership of Betty Bragmer is due to expire. The Board agreed that this membership be continued for another year.

Dolores asked for a definition of "family" membership. The By-laws include "spouses and dependent children" in a family; what about people who are not married but living together? The Board felt that family memberships should be open to the growing number of people in the unmarried-but-living-together category. Amending the By-laws to this effect was considered and rejected as potentially raising a great many problems. It was agreed that cases would be decided by the membership chairman within guidelines outlined by the Board, i.e., that no more than two adults living at the same address should have a family membership if they want it.

Treasurer - In Lars' absence, Debbie reported that we spent \$40-60 on expenses for the Glen Echo Festival, not including the membership fliers.

The deadline for grants such as the one we now have was June 30, but the deadline for grants for special events (such as next year's Glen Echo Festival) is not until sometime in the fall, so we can still apply.

Lars, contacted by phone, wants to hold a budget meeting in 2-3 weeks, by which time he and Linda will have a budget report for last year, and will prepare a proposed budget for the coming year. This meeting was tentatively scheduled for July 21. All Board members who will need funds in the coming year (for FSGW business, that is) should be present or submit requests for money.

Publicity - Jessie was not present. It was noted that the membership fliers worked well, and the signs at Glen Echo were good.

Publications - Mia Gardiner: Files and materials have not yet been obtained from Al, and Mia will need to meet with either Al or Nan to discuss the newsletter as she has many questions. The deadline and publication date of the September newsletter were discussed: it should not come out too far ahead of the late Sept. sampler concert, but should allow people enough time to make Getaway reservations. It was decided to get the newsletter out by Sept. 8 or 9, with a copy deadline of August 24; material should be sent to Mia's home.

Special Events - Debbie Hutton: Two dates have been reserved at the Ethical Society--one Nov. 6 for Bruce Phillips & Rosalie Sorrells (we have not yet gotten confirmation from them), and a late September date for for a Sampler Concert, which will probably include Steve & Linda Hickman & Bob, and possibly also a dance by their dance group. Plan to have 3 samplers this year, in September, January, and April.

We will need to find a new square dance caller, as Bob Dalsemer is moving away.

Debbie will start negotiating now to set up a series of monthly Saturday children's concerts, perhaps co-sponsored with the Ethical Society. Admission might be \$1.50 for adults, 75¢ for kids, with 1/2 going to performers and 1/4 each to FSGW and the Ethical Soc. This will be set up as a series, and publicized (esp. heavy publicity in the neighborhood and through schools and nursery schools) as such. Possible performers include Maggie Pierce, Ella Jenkins, the Storytellers, Billy Vanaver & Livia Drapkin. Performers do not have to be non-FSGW people, but this is a good thing to coordinate with features at the Red Fox or other activities.

Debbie feels a slight conflict-of-interest problem between the Red Fox and FSGW house concerts. Should people do both? A house concert with Faith Patrick is a possibility for September; possibly also an afternoon workshop if she is interested. We would guarantee \$25 or less for house concerts.

Debbie asks that others who have ideas for performers or visitors to do concerts or workshops please let her know. Perhaps we should make up a questionnaire for people to make suggestions.

Program - Dave Olive: No report now. Dave is working on setting up program schedule and has written to Red River Dave McHenry, Wade Mainer, the Brazilian Samba Band (1/2 prog.)

Bill noted that he will be Program Chairman for the Baltimore Society this year, so possibly the two groups can co-ordinate to bring performers in. Neither group wants to be a carbon copy of the others, but each should be encouraged to let the other organization know if they bring in people who are interested in performing in the other city.

Old Business - The Glen Echo Festival was a great success; the Park Service was very pleased and wants to do it again next year. Details were discussed at a special meeting last week. Most people do not want to charge admission, especially if we can get a grant, but if the grant is not forthcoming, would like to find some money to pay a few performers. Only "ethnic" performers (older people who expect it and won't come otherwise) should be paid--the rest of us should donate our time and effort. It was suggested that all non-FSGW performers at Glen Echo should get thank-you notes from us. Mia has already written to all the foreign groups, so the only other person is Libba Cotton. Nancy will write her. Jonathan would like to see more ethnic and foreign stuff--possibly a separate festival. Debbie suggests combining the foreign stuff with regular festival, perhaps with an expanded format.

Debbie reported that Perry MacHugh of "Streets for People" is tentatively planning an international festival for August 7, 1977. Should contact Mia to trade names of performing groups. Also possibly a few FSGW people could help--for money to go to FSGW.

Mia would like to send newsletter to Embassies, to try to get more foreign involvement. Board agrees.

Nancy contacted Board members about preferences for a meeting night, and found a slight preference for keeping meetings on Thursdays, but couldn't talk to Jeff, who is the reason for considering this question. Rumor hath it, however, that his Thursday night gig is no longer going. If true, no problem. Nancy will contact him before next meeting. Board agreed to leave meetings on Thursdays for time being, possibly appoint an "acting" Board member if necessary. Will continue to keep Jeff advised of meetings in any case.

Question: Does Mary Cliff have the tape yet? Answer: Not yet.

The matter of discounts for FSGW members at local stores was discussed. A committee will be set up later to inquire at all kinds of stores with relevant business. It was noted that NCTA has a list of stores, etc., that distribute NCTA materials--could be useful.

The Getaway will be October 21-23, at the usual camp area in Prince William Forest Park. Tom McHenry is Getaway Chairman, as Bill will be unable to do it. Tom was not present; he was not contacted because of the ignorance of the secretary, but he should attend the next few meetings.

New Business - The possibility of a program presenting Martin, Bogan, & the Armstrongs was discussed. \$800-\$1000 will be needed to pay them, so it would have to be a grant program. The grant expires 2/1/78; there are 4 programs left on the grant. 2 will be monthly programs, 2 special events.

Jonathan suggested that we donate some money to the Ethical Society to be earmarked for light bulbs. Will consider this formally next month.

The question of whether FSGW should take an ad in the program book for the National Folk Festival was discussed briefly but not resolved.

Mary Cliff noted that folk music programming is being cut back at WETA-FM. There was a discussion of what the Society can do to urge WETA not to take this step, without getting into the issue of Mary's personal battles with the station's management. In the fall, we can encourage membership to write station in protest. Meanwhile, a motion was made and carried that we write a letter to WETA stating our position as calmly as possible. Jonathan will draft and sign letter on behalf of FSGW.

Debbie will contact Sidwell Friends about dances in the fall. An alternative location is Glen Echo.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15.