

FOLKLORE SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON

Minutes of Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, December 1, 1977

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Cliff, Jonathan Eberhart, Mia Gardiner, Martin Holmer, Dolores Nichols, Dave Olive, Nancy Schatz.

OTHERS PRESENT: Bags Howard, Don Nichols, Mike Rivers.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jessie Cohen, Jeff Deitchman, Bill Destler, Lars Hanslin, Debbie Hutton, Linda Lieberman, Riki Schneyer.

The meeting was called to order at 8:25 by President Jonathan Eberhart. The minutes were accepted as submitted.

MEMBERSHIP - Dolores Nichols: The November membership figures are: 31 renewals, 41 new members, and 77 expirations, for a net of -5 for the month and a total membership of 714 paid active members. 100 more renewal notices are going out soon.

PUBLICATIONS - Mia Gardiner: This month's newsletter is a day late due to delays in getting copy in. Nobody met the deadline, and 4 items came in 10 days late. The deadline for the January issue is December 21--Mia hopes that people will be better at meeting it if the deadline is later in the month. Some Board members felt this would just result in material coming in impossibly late, but Mia would like to try it anyway.

Linda had wanted an itemized bill for the newsletter, but Batt Bates says that in order to do that our account would have to be put on their computer, which apparently would be expensive. They will give Linda an explanation of charges over the phone if she calls.

DANCE - Martin Holmer: Attendance has picked up; there have been 40-60 people at the last 4 dances. Publicity has helped. The money that is taken in goes to the caller and musicians, so the budget is balanced.

PROGRAM - Dave Olive: The December program will be Lewis and Donna Lamb; he is a fiddler from Kentucky who plays for dances, and his daughter plays guitar accompaniment. We may want to have them play for a dance. Fee is \$325, plus \$250 travel.

Next month's program, Dave is 90% sure, will be Kenny Hall. We will pay \$1000 for air fare round trip from California for 3 people. Several Board members feel this is too much to pay for a program, and there was a lengthy discussion of the issue. Dave is trying to find other gigs for the performers. The Board feels that if they have a tour, some of the other organizations should pay part of the travel expenses. Dave suggested that, since we have some grant money left that must be used by the end of February, some of this could be used for Hall's travel. The matter was not resolved.

TREASURER: Linda was absent, so there was no financial statement. Please submit receipts when being reimbursed for FSGW expenses. NCTA has informed us that our membership expires in November. They want us to join as a group; we get nothing for this \$25 membership, but it would be a courtesy to join, because we use their office for meetings. The Board agreed to purchase a group membership.

SPECIAL EVENTS: Debbie was absent, but had phoned her report in. She would like \$100 of grant money to pay Maggie Pierce's travel expenses for the children's concert. Board agreed.

The FSGW Christmas party is Sunday, December 18, and is described in the newsletter. Julie Ball is making the wassail, and wants to know how many people to plan for. Board suggests planning for 150.

Martin complains that Special Events have tended to be on Sundays, and this conflicts with FSGW dances. Several other board members noted that Sunday nights were difficult for them, and suggested that Debbie consider other nights when planning Special Events.

The Plank Road String Band is coming around soon. Debbie would like to know how the Board feels about having a half concert/ half dance with them. The Board was very lukewarm to this idea. There is no need to decide right now.

Maggie Pierce will do a house concert the same weekend as her children's concert.

There will be an important planning meeting for the Mini-Festival next Tuesday at Debbie

Jonathan mentioned the possibility of a C & O Canal Songbook as a project for FSGW. The possibility of an all-music craft fair, featuring instrument makers, inlayers, etc., was mentioned. This could be done some time in the Spring or in connection with the Glen Echo Festival.

OLD BUSINESS: Mary suggested that the possibility of broadcasting the Glen Echo Festival should be considered by the Festival Committee. She thinks WETA might do this.

There has been no feedback so far on the "mailing list" letter.

Dave Olive is interested in running the Community Cafe one night a week, at least for a while. He would be doing this as an individual, not as an FSGW project. He will call them to make arrangements.

Mike Rivers suggests that we change the bylaws to delete the prohibition against paying members to perform. There was some discussion of this idea, but no action was taken.

Has anyone been found to set up regular gospel sings? Kathy Condon will be in town after all, probably still wants to do it, and should be the first one approached.

NEW BUSINESS: Mike Rivers recommends we have the Society's tape recorder repaired. It may cost a great deal to fix--even an estimate would run about \$25.00. Mary says she might be able to find someone at WETA who could fix it.

Mary suggests the possibility of getting a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities because we are archiving. This should be investigated.

Bags Howard would like FSGW to co-sponsor a series of Buffoon Balls. He wants to be able to sell beer, and can do so at Greenbelt Armory if he has a license, but only a non-profit organization can get a license. So he wants us to lend our name as co-sponsor, with no financial risk to us. Dave moved that we enter into a limited contract with Howard so that he can sell beer, and we assume no financial obligation. Discussion followed, and Bags offered to give us 50% of the profits (armory costs \$250-300; bands will be offered a percentage). Nancy suggested that we omit mention of beer in the motion. Dave amended his motion, which then provided that the Folklore Society enter into an agreement with Bags Howard to co-sponsor the Buffoon Ball on January 7, 1978, with the understanding that FSGW will have no financial or other liabilities, and will receive a percentage of the profits, if any. The motion was seconded and passed.

Bags suggested the possibility of having regular Tuesday night clogging, and there was a discussion of possible sites, musicians, etc.

Dave congratulated Mia for the particularly attractive illustration on the front page of the December newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 p.m.