

FOLKLORE SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON
Minutes of Executive Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 6, 1978

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mia Gardiner, Lars Hanslin, Debbie Hutton, Linda Lieberman, Tom McHenry, Don Nichols, Nina Perkins, Arlene Rodenbeck, Nancy Schatz.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jonathan Eberhart, Wally Macnow, Dick Rodgers.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mary Cliff, Janice Cole, Dave Olive, Dolores Nichols.

The meeting was called to order at 8:20 by Treasurer Linda Lieberman. Vice-President Tom McHenry took over as presiding officer when he arrived. The minutes were corrected to show that Debbie was a member of the Budget Committee, and then were approved.

MEMBERSHIP - Don Nichols: The membership figures for November are: 50 new members, 55 renewals, and 75 expirations, for a net for the month of +30, and a total paid membership of 1064.

SPECIAL EVENTS - Debbie Hutton: The Ed Trickett concert is "pretty definitely tentatively set" for Jan 20. The hall is reserved, but not yet confirmed. Admission will be \$2 & \$3.

Debbie asked the Board's feeling about having another Special Event the night before the Trickett concert (which is the week before the Mini), because blues singer Bill Livers will be in town. The Board has no objection, so Debbie will set it up. Admission will be \$2 and \$3.

John McCutcheon will be calling the dance for the Mini-Festival, with Double Decker playing. John would like to do the Sunday dance, and that will be fine if Martin has not already booked that date. If he has, Debbie will have McCutcheon do a house concert. Debbie proposed admission for the Mini should be \$2 for workshops or \$2 for the evening dance, or \$4 for both. Dave suggests \$3 for either the workshops or dance, or \$4 for both. The Board agrees. There will be a meeting to plan Mini-Festival workshops at 7:30 Friday Dec. 8, before the program.

The Watsons did not like either of the alternatives we offered, and ask for \$700 guarantee. FSGW would get the next \$500 after expenses, and any remainder would be split. There was some discussion of halls and publicity for a Wednesday night concert, and Debbie moved we offer the above fee structure. The motion was seconded, and defeated. Debbie then moved we go back to our earlier proposal (\$500 plus 50% of profit) as a final offer; if they reject this, we'll skip it. The motion was seconded and passed.

Debbie passed around some material about a musician from India who would like to do a concert in March. The date is open, but would probably be the 3rd weekend. We could offer him \$100 plus 50% of profit. Debbie will find out if he's doing other gigs nearby.

Joe & Antoinette McKenna will be in town in April or May and would like to do a concert. We could offer them \$200 guarantee.

Alex Campbell (described as the "Scottish Pete Seeger") will be here in the Spring. We could probably guarantee \$150.

The Tom Paley concert lost money. There was almost no publicity, because Dick missed the newspaper deadlines and there were no flyers. Dave has talked to Dick and told him that the Board feels we should do publicity flyers.

The Benefit made \$350 profit for the Hicks's. Mike & Alice Seeger sold records and donated \$50 profit to the Hicks's.

Norman Kennedy will be in New York City in March; Debbie will try to get him to come here.

There is no further information on the koto player.

Debbie raised the idea of holding a raffle of donated items (gift certificates, records, etc.) at the Mini-Festival. The Board says no.

Debbie asked if the Board approves paying the band and callers for the Mini, as they are members. The Board approved.

Rebecca Holmes will try to get Giant Food to donate food for performers at Glen Echo.

PROGRAM: Wally was absent; there was no report.

PUBLICATIONS - Mia Gardiner: Mia got a letter from a member who wanted a notice put in the newsletter. The Board feels this is OK, on a space-available basis.

Deadline for the January newsletter is Dec. 15, but Mia urges people to get material in before that--bring it to the program if possible.

DANCE - Nina Perkins: Nina has made up a form to use in gathering information on halls. A number of the dancers have volunteered to help with this project. All information should be written down.

The first Monthly Dance lost \$54. Nina feels this is mostly because the only publicity was the newsletter. Next month will have flyers available at various dances in the area. Nina feels the callers were not particularly good for beginners, and not many advanced dancers were there. Some people had trouble finding the hall. Next time will start at 8 p.m. instead of 8:30. The next dance will be Dec. 16, with Jim Morrison calling, and Steve Hickman's band, and the Footloose Cloggers. Fees are not definite, but will depend on the gate.

Nina explained the new membership structure of the Country Dance and Song Society: a group which offers a variety of events and has open memberships (such as FSGW) is a "center," Performers' groups are "associates." CDSS has asked for \$25/year membership fee. Linda will send a check. They also ask for a report of our activities. Arlene will do this.

Debbie called Bob Dalsemer to ask if he'd do a benefit dance for FSGW. There was some discussion about several points he made regarding FSGW's financial policies; in particular he felt that we should have an estimated budget for the Sunday dances. (We should do this be mid-February, when we have to reconsider the funding for the dances). In the end, however, he did indicate that he would be willing to do a benefit for FSGW.

TREASURER - Linda Lieberman: For the month of November, income was \$1202, and expenses \$1285.28; a net loss of \$83.28.

There has been some confusion about admission prices for children. Debbie moved that kids 13 or under be admitted at half-price for FSGW events, with babes-in-arms free, unless otherwise specified. The motion was seconded and passed.

Linda's books are closing for December; vouchers should be in by the 25th. She will try to have a 6-month report ready.

The Getaway post-mortem meeting will be Dec. 12 at Linda's.

Linda has some questions about the Batt Bates bill; there are inconsistencies in the charges. Mia says Linda should talk to their bookkeeper, not the production person.

PUBLICITY: There has been some question about who is officially the Publicity Chairman since Dave has returned from San Francisco. The Bylaws state that an officer may resign by submitting a written resignation; Dave didn't do this. They also state that the Board must vote on a replacement; this was not done. Dick would like to stay on for another month, at least, and this is OK with Dave, but Dave wants the vote when Dick is not there. The Board will go along with this informal arrangement provided someone does the job effectively. Debbie moved we table discussion of a formal solution to this problem until next month. The motion was seconded and passed.

OLD BUSINESS: Debbie wants to change her proposed amendment because some feel that the provision for members-at-large to be assigned to a particular job and eventually take it over would circumvent the election process. The proposed amendment should provide that a member-at-large may serve only one term, and may not have been on the Board in any elected capacity within the previous 3 years. There should also be a description of the member-at-large position, describing in non-specific terms that they are expected to assist where needed and learn how the Board works. It is not an honorary position. Lars will draft the amendment by the January Board meeting, so that it can be presented at the January meeting (program), and voted on by the membership in February.

Debbie also suggests moving the elections ~~back~~ to June, so that there is time to include the ballots with the May newsletter (previously there has been a special mailing in April) to save postage. This will be drafted as an amendment by Lars.

Dave suggests amending the provision in the Bylaws about not paying members for performing (since we have made a number of exceptions to this rule) to read that "no officer" shall be paid. The Board, after discussion, rejected this proposal.

There was a lengthy discussion of the membership directory and the format and financing thereof. Janice presented a plan which would reduce the number of pages from Don's original estimate of 100 pages to 25 or so. Most Board members feel this is still too much. The directory could be typed instead of computer-produced in order to condense it as far as possible. Nancy, Arlene and others volunteer to type. Dave suggests that Board members should get estimates based on 6-10 pages. Mia moved that only one phone number per membership be printed in the directory; this will be a home number unless otherwise specified. The motion was seconded and passed.

Dave moved that we raise the out-of-town newsletter subscription price to cover costs (\$4), effective Feb. 1. There was discussion, ~~and~~ the motion was seconded and passed.

NEW BUSINESS: Debbie moved we establish special membership categories for extra income. Amounts in addition to regular membership fees would be considered tax-deductible contributions. The suggested categories are Contributing: \$25 (1 year, family or individual); Sustaining: \$50 (ditto); and Lifetime (\$150 individual or \$225 family) memberships. This would be effective immediately. For Lifetime memberships, we have to specify the amounts to be considered as dues on order to compute the amount that is deductible. The Board agreed that \$50 for an individual, or \$75 for a family, would be considered as dues for a Lifetime membership; the rest is deductible. Each contributor will receive a letter of thanks which will specify the deductible amount. The motion was seconded and passed.

Mary will buy tapes.

The Board meetings will be held at Lars' home until further notice.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40.