

FOLKLORE SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON

Minutes of Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, September 6, 1979

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Julie Ball, Mary Cliff, Bill Day, Mia Gardiner, Linda Lieberman, Tom McHenry, Don Nichols, Nancy Schatz, Susan Schwelling, Kathy Westra-Hickerson.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jonathan Eberhart, Nan Goland, Lars Hanslin, Lisa Kornberg
OTHERS PRESENT: Debbie Hutton, Dolores Nichols, Dave Olive

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 by Vice-President Tom McHenry. (The date of the meeting was rescheduled from Sept. 5 because of a bad storm.) Typing and spelling errors were noted and corrected in the minutes. It was also noted that Jonathan had not definitely volunteered to pick up the mail regularly, but only said that he would consider doing it. Kathy said that she would pick up the mail every two weeks from now on. The minutes were accepted with the noted changes.

MEMBERSHIP - Don Nichols: Membership figures for August are: 16 new members, 39 renewals, 52 expirations, and one death, for a net gain of 2 for the month, and a total of 1108 paid memberships. About 1/3 of these are families and about 5% are out of town. Mary suggested that this information be put in the newsletter next month.

We are still getting bids for the directory. Kathy said we can get it printed for \$150 on cheap paper or \$175 on heavier grade paper, plus \$20 to collate and staple. We will print 500 and sell them for cost.

PUBLICATIONS - Nancy Schatz: Last month 1350 newsletters were mailed out. Nancy asked for a clarification of the Newsletter policy on publicizing members' Gigs and classes they are teaching. We do publish this kind of information involving traditional kinds of music on a space available basis. A problem occurs when the editor is approached by someone she does not know. Chuck Sanders, who hosts a radio program called New Horizons on WYCB-AM1340, 12-2 on Sundays, has asked that we publicize this program of "poetry, music, and gospel." This is a difficult request to respond to because of possible religious or political implications. Julie volunteered to listen to the program to see if it would be appropriate for inclusion in our Newsletter.

We next considered the related issue of including paid or free classified ads in the Newsletter. How do we distinguish ads from news? Limits and prices were discussed. In the end we decided to accept ads from members only. Lost, found, and "stolen" items will be listed for free. We will charge for Buy-Sell ads and Jobs Wanted, etc. We will start a classified (paid) section with Buy-Sell only, 15 words for \$1, and see how it goes.

PROGRAM - Kathy Westra-Hickerson: We were unable to secure a Sept. program date from the Ethical Society, so the DeBusk Weaver Family will be our October program. In November Sam Rosetta is coming. He is bringing and will play along with Woody Simmons (fiddle and banjo) and Blacky Pool (guitar). Wade Mainer wants to do a program. Great. Dave Sermen from England wants to do a program, but we have had so much English music lately, we will stay away from this for a while. Eloise Schwartz would like us to have Tracy Schwartz and the Family Band for a program. Tom suggested the Burke Family for a gospel program.

SPECIAL EVENTS - Mary Cliff: The High Level Ranters concert took in \$639 at the gate. We paid \$525 to the Ranters and \$64 to the Park Assoc. Other costs were \$20 for Dennis Botzer who opened the show, \$15 for a cab, and \$4.50 for publicity. Our profit was \$10.50.

For future reference, the piano at Glen Echo is tuned every 4 months.

This Sat., Sept. 8, Peter Bellamy will perform alone because Dave Swarbrick broke his arm.. Because of this, our Guarantee is now \$200 instead of \$250.

Tundra, performing on Sept. 23, have been guaranteed \$100. Bok, Muir, and Trickett (Oct. 9) will be guaranteed \$600. When we offer a guarantee our policy is to also pay 50% of the profit after expenses (hall, etc.).

We discussed the possibility of having some sort of benefit for Michael Cooney. Kathy will call Sharon Davis to see what if anything we can do, Meanwhile we will put a "get better soon" note and his address in our newsletter.

Fifty or sixty people came to the picnic. They had a wonderful time in spite of the rain. The location was super.

Our 15th Anniversary party will be on Oct. 13. We will try to get some post-event publicity coverage in November. Plans for the evening include a concert at 8:30, a dance demonstration at 11:00, dance participation at 12:00, an open sing at 1:30, and breakfast at 2:30. The cost will be \$4 for adults and \$2 for children (12 and under).

We are waiting for Non Anglos to contact us. Bob Zentz is being considered as a possible special event.

We will probably have a special Christmas event.

Rick and Lorainne Lee may still want to come at the end of Oct. even without the Fox.

Debbie called the D.C. Arts Council about the grant for the Children's Concert. The grants have been delayed but when they do come out they will run a full calendar year from the time they are issued.

\$600 is too much for us to guarantee John Roberts and Tony Barrand. I.D. Stamper is under the weather. We have not heard any more from John McCutcheon.

PUBLICITY - Mia Gardiner: Mia asked all board members to fill out forms giving ideas for publicity and possible personal media contacts.

We need more stationary. Nancy will have the Newsletter printer print us 100 sheets with the new P.O. number, and then we can make more ourselves by xeroxing as needed. Mia will have a new return address stamp made up for envelopes.

There was some discussion about the need for a new logo for our stationary, etc. Debbie said she would like to ask John Beam to work on it. No decision was made on whether or how to solicit proposals for a new logo.

Publicity has already been mailed out for Peter Bellamy. Information on Peter Bok and Tundra will go out this weekend. Mia will get a Media Fact Book for \$8. Mia will send out press releases and contact TV stations about the 15th Anniversary. She is trying to make personal contact with as many media people as possible. She will contact TV evening news shows and morning talk shows.

DANCE - Debbie Hutton (for absent Lisa): The Sunday night dances will be held in a new location, the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church. The cost of the hall is \$25. They have a piano. We may be pre-empted (rarely because the church has 2 halls) for some special church event.

OLD BUSINESS: We need graphics volunteers to make publicity posters, etc. We will pay the cost of materials.

Invitation letters have gone out for the Getaway. We have a tentative list

of workshops. Meals have been planned and the food is being ordered. The Sat. night dance will be a "sock hop." A "kids cabin" was suggested and dropped.

A Hungarian zither group is available for a concert on Nov. 29. They want a \$200 guarantee. We will defer a decision on this until we have heard their tape.

Mary is investigating the cost of full time liability insurance and will also look into the cost of a floater for our sound system.

NEW BUSINESS: Mia suggested writing a proposal to METRO to have licensed street musicians performing in Metro Stations. Cody Pfantsteil, the public relations voice of Metro, is always faced with people who come into his office asking to perform. Currently performers are welcome above the surface, but there are to be no open cases or money changing hands underground because of security reasons. Another problem is that Metro involves 3 different jurisdictions each with their own laws. If someone performs for no money, this is o.k. (There was some discussion of the possibility of FSGW going caroling through the trains.) The real question is, what can FSGW do to make it easier for someone to get a street license? Mia will look into this.

Kathy has been called by Erwin Frankel, a concert promoter from N.Y., who has previously done Andean, Bluegrass, and greek music concerts, among others. He needs a non-profit group to co-sponsor a Jacques Brel concert at Lisner on Nov. 10 and 11. He would be willing to give FSGW a \$200 gift, reduce the price of tickets for our members, put a blurb in the program about how to join FSGW, use our name in publicity, or whatever else we want. There was a problem for some board members with getting involved in a commercial project. We have already "co-sponsored" a concert at which the living Jacques Brel was performing. Is the situation now different because this is just his music, but not him? A question was also raised about our legal obligation or possible liability in connection with such a concert. Also, could this promoter be a useful connection for us in the future? A major concern of most board members was that if we do go ahead with this, for whatever reasons, for the sake of tradition or expedience, that our visible connection should be limited. We might want to have a blurb about FSGW (or a free ad) in the program, but no mention of us in the publicity, etc. Kathy made a motion that FSGW serve as co-sponsor, with details to be worked out. The motion carried with 5 votes for and 3 abstentions. Kathy will contact Lars and discuss the details with him. We would like to use the words "in co-operation with" or "with the co-operation of" rather than "co-sponsored by."

The next board meeting will be on Oct. 3 at Kathy's. The Nov. meeting will be at Nancy's and December at Mia's.