

FOLKLORE SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON
Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 3, 1979

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Julie Ball, Mary Cliff, Bill Day, Jonathan Eberhart, Mia Gardiner, Nan Geland, Lars Hanslin, Lisa Kornberg, Tom McHenry, Don Nichols, Nancy Schatz, Susan Schwelling, Kathy Westra-Hickerson.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Linda Lieberman

OTHERS PRESENT: Debbie Hutton, Dolores Nichols

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 by President Lars Hanslin. The minutes were accepted as submitted.

MEMBERSHIP - Don Nichols: Membership figures for September are: 15 new members, 22 renewals, and 64 expirations, for a net loss of 27 members, and a total of 1081 paid members. The Directory is at the printer's. We hope to have it available for sale by the Anniversary Party.

PROGRAM * Kathy Westra-Hickerson: Kathy needs help for the October program since she will be out of town. Charlie Camp, a friend of the DeBusk-Weaver family, will introduce them. Nan will take money at the door. Don and Dolores will also be there. We will discuss the problem of who will handle sound, get equipment, etc. under new business.

PUBLICATIONS - Nancy Schatz: 1300 Newsletters were mailed out this month. Nancy's biggest problem is that contributors don't get material in to her on time. The next deadline is Oct. 15. Debbie volunteered to make phone calls to remind people of the deadline if Nancy would call and remind her. Nancy is also concerned that she has gotten mail only once this month. This will be discussed again in old business.

SPECIAL EVENTS - Mary Cliff: The Peter Bellamy concert took in \$219. So far we have paid out \$200 to Peter Bellamy, and \$50 for the hall, for a net loss of \$31. Debbie sent him to the station in a cab so this will be an additional expense.

The Tundra concert took in \$98. With \$100 to them and \$50 for the hall we have a loss of \$52.

The question was raised, who pays for publicity for special events? Traditionally the publicity budget has been for regular programs only. Special events should pay its own publicity costs before we figure the profits for an event (when performers are being paid a % of the profits). Sometimes publicity costs may have to be estimated for this purpose.

The Bok, Muir, Trickett concert is set for Oct. 9. We have guaranteed them \$600 plus 50% of the profits. The hall will cost \$150 or \$70 if we rent it in Lars' name. Insurance will cost \$63. Our sound system is o.k. to use in Gasten Hall. Mary wants to have ~~one~~ kind of tickets to use.

Jonathan reported on plans for the anniversary party. Steve Hickman and friends will play for the dance, but ~~since~~ since

there is a dance at Glen Echo earlier that evening our dance demonstration will not be able to begin until 12:00. We decided to fill up the "hole" in our previously planned schedule by stretching out the program with 2 intermissions and lots of sing-alongs. The Anniversary committee needs a key for the kitchen and the coffee deers. They need a clean-up committee. The feed committee is doing o.k. They want to get first choice of any leftover Getaway feed before anything is auctioned off. Waffles have been made and are frozen. There was another round of discussion about how to fill up the program "hole." The final decision was to add another person to the concert and start late. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ We may be able to have Rapiers (two handed sword dance) come for a demonstration.

The Rick and Lorraine Lee concert will be on Oct. 29 at the Schwellings'; the dulcimer workshop the next night at Helen's. We have not given any guarantee on the dulcimer workshop.

Phil and Gay Johnson will be in this area Oct. 25, 28, and 29 and would like a gig. We cannot fit them in now. Perhaps they will come back in the spring.

Jody Stecher and Krishna Bhatt (a sitar player), Indian musicians, would like to do a house concert on the 25th or 27th of Oct. for \$50 minimum. We will try to set it up for Sat. night and will publicize it at our coming events.

We are still holding on a Sampler for Nov. or Dec.

Daffyd Ewen, the best known Welsh folk singer, wants to do a house concert on Nov. 6 or 7. We will try to set this up.

Jonathan said he thought we should have house concerts whenever possible. Lars made the point that ~~if we all do~~ a house concert we should try to make it successful.

Mary has heard from 2 other traditional singers who would like gigs in Nov., Fred Helstein from Chicago (wants \$150 on Nov. 17, 18, 20, or 21) and Don Lange from Iowa (wants \$100 on November 23, 24, or 25). Fred is not too well known, and Don's dates are too close to Thanksgiving. Mary will try to ~~him~~ book them into clubs.

Michael Cooney is out of the hospital and available to perform after Nov. 1. He is planning a tour of this area in March. Though he is receptive to having a benefit for him, the Beard decided they would rather offer him a concert himself since he is looking for ^{for} work. We will try for Sat. Nov 3 or Sat. Nov. 10 and offer him a guarantee of \$250 plus all profits.

Bruce Philips wants \$500 to do a concert. We told him no.

Alan Freeman from West Virginia is looking for an opportunity to perform.

The Hungarian group cancelled because of visa problems, but they will be back in the Spring for a combination dance and demonstration. We will try to schedule them for a program.

The John Roberts - Tony Barrand concert is still up in the air. We would like to schedule them for Dec. 12, but they still want more than we are willing to guarantee.

Bob Zence is still on hold.

PUBLICITY * Mia Gardiner: Costs so far have been \$17.50 for Tundra, \$29.77 for Debusk-Weaver, and \$34.17 for Garden Bok. Addresses which

Mia mails to often are going onto labels. Next month's cover letter that goes out with the PSAs will include a questionnaire to get feedback from radio stations, e.g. which ones play folk. We have had no luck with TV coverage of Gordon Bok, but the Post will cover Bok and possibly DeBusk Weaver with reviews. A program on WGMS may interview some of our performers coming through. Mia wants to know where the card file is that used to exist for publicity. Does Dick Rogers have it? Mia suggested that mail hasn't been picked up enough. She should probably use her own return address on publicity mail. Kathy said she had picked up mail twice since the last meeting, but there hasn't been anything urgent to distribute this month. Are we getting all of our mail? Mia is sending out PSAs for anniversary publicity. The suggestion was made that publicity refer to the anniversary year, the "birthday" party being only one event of that year.

Mia is investigating the possibility of a combined concert with the Washington Choral Arts Society. They were also celebrating their 15th anniversary this year.

Debbie spoke to John Beam about designing a new FSGW logo. He would be happy to give us some ideas. It was decided to postpone discussion of this until old business.

DANCE - Lisa Kornberg: The first two Sunday night dances have been very successful, with 142 at the first dance and 140 at the second. Hall rental is \$25. Lisa requested \$125 to put into her dance checking account for expenses. The board agreed. Allistar Anderson, who will call the dance on Oct. 14, charges \$150 so we will charge more for the dance that night. He would like to do a house concert on Oct. 15 or 15. The family dance in Oct. was cancelled because we ran out of weekends. Lisa will call the dance on Nov. 4. The first family dance will be Nov. 17 at BCC High School in the Girls Gym from 4:00 to 9:00. The cost of the hall is \$49 which has to be paid Mon., Oct. 8. Lisa will not guarantee callers more than \$100. In answer to a question about dance publicity, the consensus of the board was that dance is to pay its own publicity costs. The question was raised as to whether we should have a Christmas Family Dance for the Christmas party. No decision was made. Lars' band would like to play for the Dec. 15 dance. He will turn back to the society whatever he makes.

OLD BUSINESS: In a discussion about graphics volunteers, Jonathan said he felt very strongly about keeping the present logo. The sense of the board was to agree with Jonathan though 5 people were opposed.

Nancy has ordered new stationary. It cost \$60 to reset the type. Jonathan wanted to make some FSGW T shirts, using the present logo. We discussed whether we should just make a few at first as a sample and/or whether we should use the T shirts as a money maker. The sense of the Board was that if we make T shirts at all we should make enough for those members desiring them, and that the T shirt project should be undertaken by the organization, not by an individual. We asked Jonathan to bring specific ideas to the next meeting. Jonathan would like to do something quite ~~xxxxxx~~ "tasteful", whereas some other board members would prefer something more "blatant."

The cost of permanent liability insurance would be about \$3000, so there is no point considering it. If we incorporate then no FSGW board member would ~~xxx~~ have liability. Lars will look into the possibility of incorporating FSGW.

A letter was written to the promoters of the Jacques Brel concert saying that we do not want to participate if it involves any liability on our part. Lars thinks that participation in such an ~~xxxxxx~~ unrelated event is selling the FSGW name; he would have voted against it. We are (without our specific knowledge) sponsoring the Chieftans, a Stanley Williams presentation. At one time we had a standing agreement with them and they have continued to use our name. Lars will get in touch with them and tell them not to put our name on anything anymore without our prior permission.

The Getaway is fully booked; there are waiting lists for group placements. We do have one single vacancy. We have unlimited day space. Helen does not want to lead the Friday night open sing because she has to get up early Sat. morning. We will ask her to start it at 9:00 and then replace her at 10:00 if she wants to leave. Lisa wants people to bring rhythm instruments for a children's workshop. Mia wants people to bring branches for a Sukoh.

FSGW will go Christmas caroling on Metro on Dec. 16. We can do it in the stations or in the cars. We will all have to pay \$.50 to get in. This will not replace singing at people's houses.

We considered and rejected the idea of applying to do one of the Kennedy Center free Christmas concerts.

Stephanie is restarting the sacred harp group.

The mail pick up situation was discussed again. Kathy will carry on every 2 weeks. Mia will use her home address on publicity mail.

Jonathan reported that he had written thankyou letters to the Park Service about the Washington Folk Festival. He read us an answer from the acting regional director.

There is a problem about the sound system. Lars will store it but cannot take it to every event. Whoever is in charge of an event must arrange for someone to pick up the sound system, if they find, after checking with Lars, that he will not be coming. Tom will donate a folding dolly to help us transport heavy equipment.

Mary is putting together a list of clubs, etc. that hire folk musicians. She would appreciate any suggestions.

~~NEW BUSINESS~~ NEW BUSINESS: Mary will look into the possibility of having the Mini-festival at UDC. Though we've never had to guarantee Friend's anything (helpful in case of a blizzard), we have had to give them a large % of our profits. If we could find another good location at a low fixed cost, it would pay us to take a chance on the possibility of bad weather.