

FOLKLORE SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON  
Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting  
Wednesday, Nov. 7, 1979

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Julie Ball, Mary Cliff, Bill Day, Jonathan Eberhart, Mia Gardiner, Nan Geland, Lars Hanslin, Lisa Kernberg, Don Nichols, Nancy Schatz, Susan Schwelling, Kathy Westra-Hickersen.  
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Linda Lieberman, Tom McHenry  
OTHERS PRESENT: Dean Clamens, Dolores Nichols.

The meeting was called to order at 8:25 by President Lars Hanslin. The minutes of the last regular board meeting on Oct. 3 were accepted as submitted. The minutes of the meeting on Oct. 17 were accepted as a notation of events, rather than a special board meeting.

MEMBERSHIP- Don Nichols: Membership figures for November are: 55 new members, 19 renewals, and 72 expirations, for a net loss of 2 members, and a total of 1079 paid members. 57 membership directories have been sold.

PUBLICATIONS- Nancy Schatz: About 1300 November newsletters were mailed out. The deadline for the Dec. Newsletter is Nov. 14 (no leeway). Nancy has gotten several classified ads.

SPECIAL EVENTS - Mary Cliff: Jonathan reported on the Anniversary Party. He said that the scheduling worked out well, a good time was had by all, and he thanked all the helpers. We did lose some money on the event. Lisa reported on some gripes that she had heard. Some people were unable to hear because of too much noise in the lobby. There seemed to be some conflict between the social aspects of the event (it was billed as a "party") and an unusually long concert. Another complaint was that there was only one round of the open sing and that it was difficult to hear without amplification. Perhaps at the next event of this type we can alternate concert, feed, and sing, etc. The problem of noise in the lobby is evident at all concerts but was probably exaggerated at this one because of "beeze." Nancy stated that no cleanup committee had been appointed in advance and this was a big problem. The party lost money because not as many people came as we had expected, though, as Mia reminded us, the Board had specifically barred publicity for the party.

Mary reported that all 3 house concerts during the past month were successful. 42 people attended the Stecher-Bhatt concert, and \$117 was collected. We still owe \$25 for the hall, and there is some money due for poster costs. There is some problem with acoustics in the hall at Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, and no food or drink is allowed. 30 people attended the Rick and Lorraine Lee concert, and 10 were at the dulcimer workshop. 50 attended the Debbie McClatchy concert; \$110 was taken in. \$152 was collected at the Daffyd Ewen-Hefin Elis concert. Much of the audience was Welsh speaking, non-FSGW members.

Kathy Hickersen is chairman for the Metro Sing on Dec. 16 at 1:00.

Two alternate dates for the Christmas party are Fri. Dec. 21 and Sat. Dec. 22. Heather Wood would love to do the concert part of the party with remuneration to be decided later. We will have a concert, dessert, and open sing.

Newell, Sing We Clear, a program of song, lore, and a mummers play will be presented at Gaston Hall on Wed. Dec. 12. The performers (John Roberts, Tony Barrand, Fred Brunig, and Steve Woodruff) want a guarantee of \$500. Gaston Hall will cost \$70. The insurance may cost \$100 instead of \$63 because the company has a minimum of \$100 which they may charge us. The concert will be publicized in Forecast magazine with a picture. We will promote it at Georgetown. The cost will be \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members.

The Garden Bok concert was a success. 300 people came and \$1269.50 was taken in. Costs were \$823.25 for the performers, \$70 for the hall, \$63 for insurance, and \$30 for publicity. Richard Harrington wrote a very nice review.

The Harmony Sisters (Alice Gerrard, Irene Herman, and Jeannie MacCleary) would like to do a house concert on Dec. 14, 15, 16 or 20. The question was raised about letting FSGW members make a profit from an event in which we promote them. Consensus was that the By-laws say we can't pay a member unless we vote to. None of the above dates are good for us. It is too close to Christmas, there is too much going on, and the Harmony sisters already have other gigs scheduled in the area. We will publicize these instead of offering them a gig ourselves.

Linda Lieberman, Dave Olive, and Bill Day will co-chair the mini-festival which will probably take place the last Sat. in Jan. Other locations are being considered besides Sidwell Friend's. Lars suggested that the location not be changed without the Beard having a chance to think about the alternatives. Though we do have to split the profit with Friend's, we have had the Festival there for 5 years and the tradition is worth something.

Michael Cooney expects to be in this area in March so we will not have a benefit, but hire him to perform then, or earlier if he can.

We did not get the grant for the Children's Program. Bernice Ragan says that the committee may have assumed we had a suburban program for suburban kids and this worked to our disadvantage. Mia suggested that we try to find funding for this program someplace else. Mary will look into other possibilities. We should check with the International House in Philadelphia to see how they fund their program.

PROGRAM-Kathy Westra-Hickerson: December's program will be Cliff Haslam, British songs and sea shanties. Publicity will be appearing in Forecast. For January Kathy is working on a program with 6 black musicians from Mississippi: a blues singer, pan-pipe player, fife and drum players, etc. They are being brought here by Dave Evens and need \$600. Kathy has offered \$300 for the program and is trying to get them additional gigs in the area to make up the additional money needed. Kathy plans to ask Margaret MacArthur to do the Feb. program. She has written Archie Fisher asking him to do the March concert. No answer yet. Roger Nielsen and Jake Walton from England will probably be the April program. Kathy is working on details with Lorraine Lee who is booking them. Kathy's suggestions for future programs include Maggie Pierce (possibly to co-inside with a children's concert the next day), Wade Mainer, and the St. Regis string band (who would also be doing a dance for us.) A Beard member suggested the Critten Hall string band for May or June, and the comment was made that it is better to have more unusual things for our programs; we can book string bands for Sunday night dances.

PUBLICITY - Mia Gardiner: Mia would like to find the missing computer printout of names of places to send publicity to. She would like Lisa to do dance publicity and will give Lisa mailing labels. Mia attended a Community Communications Conference, sponsored by the National Capital Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. Six simultaneous workshops were repeated 3 times in one day. Out of 275-300 people attending, our organization was the only one who wanted continuous coverage, rather than for special (yearly, etc.) events only. Mia recommends that the newsletter and publicity chairmen attend these meetings each year. Mia requests that we save newspaper publicity that we see or jot down the name of radio stations if we hear anything. Our logo is being put on all our flyers. We are trying to get TV coverage of the carolling on Metro. Kathy said that the new general manager of Metro was a classmate of Joe. We can also contact Cety Pfansteil to help with publicity. Kathy go the Dec. program into Forecast and the Washingtonian will have a general listing of first Friday, Open Sing, Second Friday, Concert, etc. Both these magazines have very early deadlines. Mary said Richard Harrington will try to help us get publicity in the Post. Flyers for our house concerts are being posted at Universities. Relevant house concerts were publicized in the Indian and Welsh communities. We decided to defer further discussion of how to publicize house concerts. If we do want to publicize them the cost should come out of the Special Events budget. Mary can take publicity money for house concerts from the big concerts that make alot of money if she wants to. The publicity budget does not cover publicity for family dances. Mia would like to try a paid ad in the Post, in the Weekender. The cost would be \$69. The Board agreed to try it for Sing We Clear, with the proviso that Mia uses a well thought out description. If Mia doesn't get information by deadline time she can't get the publicity out.

TREASURERS REPORT \* Nan Geland: As of now we have had more income than expenses in Oct. -- \$7,490, income and \$4,716, expenses. The Getaway took in over \$5000, with a profit (tentative) of almost \$2800. The Anniversary party took in \$476.75 but after expenses will be short about \$140. We will make an advance to the Dance chairman of \$175 out of the miscellaneous category. The new letterhead and stationary cost \$89. The directories cost \$173. New Sacred Harp books cost \$36.50.

DANCE - Lisa Kernberg: Plans are set for the Nov. family dance at BCC. We have a band (Lars') and a caller (Bob Dalsemer) for the Dec. 15 family dance, but no hall as yet. Chevy Chase and Rosemary Hills Elementary schools were suggested as possible locations.

Lisa is having some problems with the Sunday night dance. The Bess Town Buzz Steps seem to feel that it is their dance and Lisa is having trouble putting some of her own and FSGW ideas into effect re callers, types of dancing, etc. Lisa asked about the history of the Sunday night dance. Have the Buzz Steps always played every one?

It was decided that we would try to arrange a meeting with The Buzz Steps, Lars, Wally, and Lisa attending in order to better define the relationship and responsibilities of everyone involved. Lisa says there is demand for a greater variety of dance. Kathy reported that the Nov. Washingtonian had a section on dance in Washington, including

a section on folk and ethnic dance. Kathy will write a letter to the magazine telling about FSGW dance events and sign Lars' name. The question was raised, do we want dance at the Christmas party?

OLD BUSINESS: We are a 501 C3 non-profit organization and do not have to pay income tax. Because of this we are probably entitled to a sales tax exemption number, but we don't have one now. Lisa will check into if and how we can get one.

Alan and Carley will lead next month's open sing; the topic is Gods and other beings of power.

The old sound equipment is missing since the Getaway. Mary has the old amp and mike stand. The FSGW sound systems are not insured.

Lars sent the promoter for the Jacques Brel concert a blurb about FSGW for him to put in the program.

We have received a letter from a person who claims that FSGW is acting illegally and immorally in its deal with Stanley Williams. Unless ~~we~~ we cease she says she will report us to the IRS. We are lending our name to Stanley Williams who, because we are a non-profit organization, is not paying admissions tax. Do we want to be involved with Stanley Williams? Always? Never? or on a case by case basis? Maybe we should ask more money for the use of our name if he is saving 7% sales tax. Jonathan said that if we are doing something illegal we should quit. If we are not we should continue the arrangement because if the programs are "folk" we still benefit. We just have to make it clear to Williams that we have to know in advance what the programs will be. One big problem is that we don't want people to associate us with big bucks concerts when we are trying to hire people for free. Lars said that we should not lend our name to other organization. Do we actually have a contract with Williams. Mia made a motion that we write him terminating any contract, real or imagined, but let him know that he can still contact us to be an Active participant for a particular event if we know in advance who, when, where, and what will be charged. Julie seconded the motion. Jonathan asked, "what does it mean to be an active participant?" The motion passed with one abstention and everyone else in favor. Jonathan suggested that Lars check out the legal implications.

Jonathan has not done anything yet about the T-shirts. He knows that some are available with only one color on one side for \$2.75-\$3.50.

Kathy will get the mail twice in Dec., then doesn't want to do it any more.

Debbie asked Julie to write to Lou Hollander and Ceil Levin who broke some rules at the Getaway. We will cash their check because they stayed overnight. They will not be allowed to come next year.

House concerts should be publicized in ethnic communities where appropriate.

In general we should not have concerts, etc. if they come up after a board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Mary has purchased new tapes for \$101.02. Don says we have 10 and 1/2 inch tapes for longer concerts.

On Nov. 17 there is an all day seminar in Baltimore on Festival planning. Nancy moved and Susan seconded a motion to send Mia, Debbie, and Jonathan to the seminar. A cost of \$60 will come out of miscellaneous funds.

Jonathan suggested making an arrangement with publishers so we could get relevant books for members at discount prices.

Mary has had some communication problems. She called off the Mae Clatchy concert because she didn't hear from her. Then Debbie M. wrote to Debbie Hutten and told her she was coming and Debbie Hutten went ahead and set up the concert. This really was Mary's job. In the future all requests for concerts should be turned over to Mary, or people should at the very least check with her before making arrangements.

Bill wants to do a non-technical sound system workshop. Bill has run the sound for the last seven events. Jonathan suggested putting some of the information about the sound system inside the top of the mixer.

Nancy reported on one other possible expense related to the Anniversary party. Unfortunately a borrowed microwave oven was accidentally broken. We will pay to have it repaired or buy a comparable new one.

Mary stated her opinion that the "Special board meeting" of Nov. 17 was improper because there wasn't a quorum. She feels that the Special Events Chairman has always set prices for special events. Lars did not think the special events chairman has this prerogative. If Mary wishes to make a policy change she must bring it up before the board. We will consider the remarks on Nov. 17 a consensus of opinion rather than a meeting. Julie suggested that we look for and examine the by-laws. She will make a copy for everyone if the by-laws can be found.