

FOLKLORE SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON
Minutes of Executive Board Meeting
Wednesday, ~~April~~ ^{May} 7, 1980

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Julie Ball, Mary Cliff, Jonathan Eberhart, Mia Gardiner, Nan Goland, Lars Hanslin, Kathy Hickerson, Tom McHenry, Don Nichols, Nancy Schatz, Susan Schwelling

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Bill Day, Lisa Kornberg, Linda Lieberman

OTHERS PRESENT: Dolores Nichols

The meeting was called to order by Lars Hanslin. Manny Greenhill's last name was added to the minutes and the minutes were accepted.

MEMBERSHIP - Don Nichols: In April we had 34 new members, 27 renewals, 118 expirations, for a net loss of 57 and a total of 1069 paid memberships. The Membership Committee spent \$10 for a table to represent us at the Celtic Festival.

Kathy Hickerson:

PROGRAM: ^ Bai Konte needs 10 mikes according to his agent, Mark Pivar. We think we can round up 8 and that will have to do. Mary, Don, and Dolores will coordinate the transporting of the sound system and operating it. Julie suggested that next year we have a committee to handle the sound system. It is too big a burden (literally and figuratively!) for any one person. Sandy and Caroline Paton will be the June Program. On the following Sunday they will do a Children's concert at 2:00 at the Ethical Society. They will be in town the whole week before the program and will be at the WFF. Kathy is considering Paddy Tunney for the September or March program next year.

PUBLICATIONS - Nancy Schatz: Newsletters and ballots were mailed out - no complications. Nancy repeated her last month's plea: If a board member tells anyone to submit anything to the Newsletter, please tell them to submit it to Nancy in writing (a paragraph or two); do not call her. We discussed whether to have one or two summer newsletters - tabled until after Special Events report.

SPECIAL EVENTS - Mary Cliff: The Bert Lloyd concert took in \$457. He got \$373 and after expenses our share of the profits will be \$24. We wish the Smithsonian had done more publicity (in their magazine) for this event. The Joe and Antoinette McKenna concert was cancelled due to the illness of Joe's mother. There was a misunderstanding about the contract between Mary and Malcolm Dalglish and Grey Lawson. (April 18 concert) They expected a % of the Gate; We expected to pay them a % of net (above their guarantee.) We ended up paying them \$539 (\$75 more than we had planned) and made \$20 on the concert. Paddy Tunney took in and received \$48 for his house concert. The Pierre Bensusan concert is going ahead as discussed in last month's minutes. We are risking nothing. A ¼ page ad will appear in Unicorn Times. Mary has sent promotional material to area guitar shops. The Jack Elliott concert on May 23 is off. Art Thieme will perform on May 30 at the Ethical Society. We will firm up a date for Jean Sprung and Sara Grey this week.

The Tannahill Weavers would like a gig on June 20 or 21. It would be at Glen Echo like the High Level Ranters concert was last summer. Belle Stewart has cancelled her whole tour. The agent Sharon Davis wants us to book Martin Carthy on June 27 for a guarantee of \$350. Mary has a travel agent friend who wants to underwrite some British music. The comment was made that lately our programming has been very heavy on British, Scottish, and Irish music, and that we should aim for more variety. Tom Anderson, a Shetland fiddler, will be here in October. Blackthorn Stick would like him to play at their regular Keilly (dance) on the 3rd Saturday night in October. There is also the possibility of co-sponsoring a master class with Blackthorn Stick. Bob Zence would like to come in July for a \$100 guarantee. We have been asked to co-sponsor a Planksty (Irish band) concert at Lisner on Sat., Sept. 13. Lisner costs \$1050. Planksty wants \$2500. The consensus of the board was that this type of concert is not appropriate for Fsgw, that our time and resources are better spent elsewhere, promoting some lesser known performers (who are similarly good) ~~and not British~~. John Molineaux and Madeline MacNeill want to do a house concert in July. The FSGW picnic will be held jointly with Baltimore on July 26 at the McCulloughs. The Open Sing on the 4th of July will go on as scheduled. We will try to find someone to lead it. The Ethical Society may want to discontinue the Open Sings (which have been happening in some form for 12 years) so they can rent their hall for more money. We will have someone go talk to their new board and let them know that we would be willing to raise the prices for the Sing if that becomes necessary to insure their continuation. Walk Kramer, the coordinator of Arts at Georgetown would like to co-sponsor some things with us next year. From now on we will have to pay extra to use the piano in Gaston Hall.

PUBLICATIONS (continued): Hopefully, we will know by the May 15 deadline for the June newsletter everything that is scheduled through the 3rd week in July. Then we could mail out only 1 newsletter on July 17 (deadline July 1) which would cover the rest of the summer. This can be reconsidered if necessary at the next board meeting. We must remember that an extra newsletter will cost alot of money (over \$500) which would have to be brought in at summer special events, so if we can get by with just 1, it is ^{best}

PUBLICITY - Mia Gardiner: The Paton's concerts will be publicized in the Washingtonian and Forecase. Mia recommends that next year the publicity chairman have one helper who does nothing but flyers. The letter to radio stations is almost out. The return postcard is at the printers. The NCTA Festivals Calendar has our ad in it. Special publicity for Bai Konte was sent out to African Arts organizations and a letter was sent inviting the Ambassador of Gambia. Someone suggested that Howard U. should be on our regular mailing list. Someone suggested that we may be able to send flyers to a central library location to be distributed to all libraries in one system.

TREASURER - Nan Goland: April income \$1265 (less Bert Lloyd); expenses \$1650

OLD BUSINESS: The next WFF staff meeting is May 14. Mia submitted a proposal to feed staff and performers with funds from FSGW. We are about \$3000 ahead of schedule and can afford to do it, but to some board members food seemed a low priority item. Others suggested we think in terms of "performer hospitality" instead of food and consider this money a cost of programming the festival, an FSGW contribution to the entire community. Based on the assumption that we will not be setting any precedent, and that other sources for food money can be found next year for this "no budget" event, a motion to put in up to \$1000 for food was passed. Jonathan gave us some WFF highlights: 26 workshops, (4 workshops on basic instruments), 3 childrens concerts, Black music including Gospel music, music from Southeast Asia (Laos, Viet Nam, and Cambodia), A shadow puppet play, a 12 piece bag pipe band, a 20 piece Ukranian group, the New Sunshine Skiffle Band (will play the middle third of the Saturday night dance), and a Native American group. Mia passed around copies of the schedule. We have 6 performers on call for half hour mini-concerts in case of no shows. We will put the ~~schedule~~ in the newsletter and use it for publicity with the disclaimer that it is subject to change.

Nan reported on the April 30 Getaway meeting and passed around data on organization, schedule, menu, and guest list. This year we will let people come for the day even if they don't pre-register and collect their money later. We will pre-assign work assignments as much as possible. We will have 3 Saturday workshops oriented toward preparing performances for the Saturday night concert, a Jug band, puppet show (children) and Dance creation. On the registration form we will ask people if they need or can provide a ride.

Nancy commented on the frivolous way nominations from the floor were handled. We need to be careful to present the board in a positive light and watch the "next victim" type jokes. Mia suggested that in the future we keep trying to get 2 people for each position. We should also keep a list of those people who considered running but didn't want to run against an incumbent. This would be a good source of future condidates and volunteers.

Jonathan wondered whether the National Folk Festival would give us a free ad in their program if we include publicity for them in our newsletter. Mia will look into it.

Tom thanked the board, on behalf the the Georgetown Shanty Singers, for the use of the sound system.

We now have only 4 tapes left. Mary will get some.

Julie has been able to get the mail only once a month. Some packages too big for the box have been returned. Julie will continue to pick up mail through June, then Lars and Wally will take over.

NEW BUSINESS: Julie will take the minutes in June since Susan will be away. So far only 115 election ballots have been received. There have been 20 write in votes.

Furry Lewis, an 86 year old musician from Memphis, may need financial help (he had to hock his guitar). Mary will look into the situation.

The next meeting will be on June 4 at Tom's.