

FOLKLORE SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON

Minutes of Executive Board Meeting - September 1, 1982

BOARD PRESENT: Cliff, Fink, Fitterer, Hickerson, Hutton, Nichols, Shapiro, Turner, Winters
Woods, Day

BOARD ABSENT: Mc Cracken, Olive

OTHERS PRESENT: Dolores Nichols, Bob Clayton, Andrea Gershenow, Dave Shapiro.

The meeting was called to order at 8:11 p.m. The minutes were approved.

MEMBERSHIP: 49 new + 49 renewals = 98 -16 expired = =34 for total of 1811.

NEWSLETTER: September 15 deadline is absolutely essential and earlier would be very helpful to the editor. Mailouts for this year will be on. Wed. Sept 22, Thurs. Oct 21, and then Wednesdays Nov. 24, Dec. 22, Jan. 27, Feb. 23, Mar. 24, April 28, and May 26. The Kroy typesetter has been bought and is great.

DANCE: no report

TREASURER: no report

SPECIAL EVENTS: We are set for fall and winter, but need help with suggestions for the spring.

Oct. 15 is Nordic Fiddlers; the end of Oct., Heather and Royston Wood. There will be a Sampler in December, probably the 18th. Tom McHenry is in charge. Ray Bookbinder wants November; November is full. Dick Rogers is doing the mini-festival because he volunteered first. He is looking for a site for the end of January. Metro access is important. The Archive benefit: would like it to become part of Special Events; it needs 4 months lead time; Lisner, Constitution, Gaston are possibilities. Speed is important since the American Folklife Center Board of Trustees meet the end of September and we should have a proposal before then. Use big names + some of our own performers. We could do a big thing in February. Alternatives were discussed. Gaston costs \$400 and seats 700; Lisner 1500 and seats 1502; Departmental 425 + promotion + Sound and seats 1325. There is a good auditorium in Arlington, Thomas Jefferson near Metro, and good acoustics and parking; it seats 1000. Board decided we should try for Feb. 25 or 26 and should try for 1000 seats minimum. The Archives committee will go under Spec. Events. Chair will come up with proposal for Trustees before end of Sept. meeting. Spec. Events chair will present to the Board the end of Sept.

CAROLING: Hickerson will not do it this year; has done it for 3 years. Cody retires this month and we were dependent on him. No successor has been appointed. Ellen Maske will be willing to lead it. As a present to Cody, the Board would like to give him a set of photographs. Jennifer Woods will get them printed.

PUBLICITY: NO report.

GET-A-WAY: deadline for signup was today and as of last night there were 180; some are still in the box. Menu looks good; has vegetarian options; schedule is together; map done; letters will go out next week. Very few invitees have accepted. Should we extend deadline to get more people? YES

WFF: no report

PROGRAM: Armenian Ensemble for February.

OLD BUSINESS: Nichols brought up the performance agreement. it was discussed and approved. Volunteer Chairperson: Winters moved " to table volunteer chairperson until next meeting" Fitterer 2nd; PASSED. The "Diplomat" fund raiser is dead for this year.

NEW BUSINESS: We should strive to inform Embassies, Senators and MC's when performers from their countries or area of the U.S. are performing. We need a list of halls by name, by capacity and by cost. Dance needs space. Acoustics, access and parking are important as well as whether we can sell food, drink and alcohol is permitted or not. Also smoking.

FUTURES COMMITTEE: The committee has had two meetings, talked through some of the issues, and is now preparing them for Board discussion. The committee recommended that the Board meet in "retreat" style for a minimum of one day. This was approved and Oct. 11 picked as best possible day. The committee also recommended that the Board use a "facilitator and a recorder for this special meeting. The Board approved Claudia Kravets as facilitator. The reported a number of non-policy issues, some of which have already been started by the

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committee chairmen. Some are:

- that directions for reaching the sites of our events be published in the newsletter along with the event. (this is being done)
- that a volunteer be sought to organize carpools for those who need transportation to our events. (this is being done)
- that signers interpret for the deaf at concerts where appropriate (this is being done for a 6 months trial by Mia Gardner)
- that PR materials go out to the deaf community (being implemented by Mia and PR chair Winters)
- that when performers are from another country we contact the Embassy of that country and invite them to the concert (to be done by Spec. Events or Prog. chairs or their designees)
- that we take into consideration when siting concerts the access for the physically handicapped, recognizing that cost, suitability of the hall, and size needed for the performance are also trade-offs that must be considered. When we are able to use a facility which is suitable for the physically handicapped, notice of this fact should be made in our publicity.
- that we need a list of halls and information about them. In particular, we should contact the government's "living buildings" program. (Turner will work on this)
- that earlier sound checks are needed and that people able to get to the hall earlier will have to help with sound. (Fink will work on this)
- that we need a form to record the number of members and non-members who attend each function. It should also record the gross and split, the cost of the house, publicity history such as "Did it make the WEEKEND calendar". (Olive will do)
- that we need information on who comes to which functions. A questionnaire was suggested. (Winters will work on it)

The Board agreed that these suggestions could begin to be implemented without further deliberation.

The committee also presented some problems we have with SOUND. Major problems identified were: 1) No one is in charge of sound; 2) we need more people who can competently handle sound at concerts; 3) People who learn to do sound must know both the technical aspects of running the system and the esthetical needs for putting together the different voices and instruments (ie. have an "ear"). Three recommendations were presented to the Board.

- 1) Designate a sound coordinator who would set up workshops for training.
- 2) Start workshops to train persons to be capable sound workers. This would be done in two stages: first, a workshop to learn how to set up the system; and then a second workshop to put together the sound elements into the correct sound for audience and taping.

The committee recommended utilizing the talents of different FSGW members for these workshops. They also recommended the use of special training sessions with a live band and an apprentice system in which trainees would work with the old-timers who are skilled in sound work. The committee also recommended a document which would list the procedures in doing the job of sound. It should include improved sound checks, and better records and statistics on programs.

The Board generally agreed with the committee report and suggested a number of people as possible sound coordinators, keeping in mind that the person need not, and probably should not be one of the people we would use to teach the workshops. Julie B... was agreed upon to ask first.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m. The next meeting will be at Hutton's.