

**FOLKLORE SOCIETY
OF GREATER WASHINGTON**
P. O. BOX 19114 20TH ST. STATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

13 Jan 1984 131
65-316/550

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Wally Macnow \$ 5.00
Five and 00/100 DOLLARS

Equitable Equitable Bank, N.A.
Baltimore, Maryland

FOR Getaway refund Richard Hamlet

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January 13, 1984

Wally Macnow
10905 Trotting Ridge Way
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Dear Wally:

I am writing at the request of the FSGW Board in response to your letter of November 30. I'm sorry it's taken so long to respond. It arrived after our December meeting, and had to wait until January.

We're sorry that you were upset to read of the increase in Getaway day rates, but glad that you took the time to write.

First of all, you should not have been charged to come to Camp Letts to do your workshop. Performers coming specifically to do workshops were supposed to get in free. The Getaway Committee and/or the volunteer at the admissions table slipped up in not informing you. A \$5.00 check is enclosed as a refund of your admission.

The raise in day rates for next year's Getaway is the result of the extremely high cost of renting Camp Letts. The camp charges FSGW more than \$6000 for the weekend, not including food, which we purchased ourselves. This year, we kept day rates low--artificially low, as it turns out--and most of the increased cost was borne by weekend attendees, particularly those with children. Next year, the cost of the camp will be even higher, and the Board felt it was unfair to have the additional burden borne solely by weekend guests. After all, day people receive the same programming benefits as weekenders, including the use of the camp's facilities while they're there. We felt that if we raised weekend rates any higher, there might not be enough weekend participants to have a Getaway at all, and everyone would lose.

Unfortunately, Prince William Forest Park, which charged us only a few hundred dollars for the Getaway, is not available next year--or for several years to come--because of their massive renovation project. We'd be delighted to hear about any other Getaway facilities you might know about that would allow us to once again reduce both day and weekend rates.

In answer to your question about FSGW finances, I've enclosed a copy of Treasurer Dick Hamlet's interim report for the current fiscal year. I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have about it. If I don't know the answers, I'm sure Dick can help. Once again, thanks for writing. I hope this letter has answered your main questions.

Sincerely,

Kathy

Kathy Westra Hickerson, President

10905 Trotting Ridge Way
Columbia, MD 21044
November 30, 1983

President
Folklore Society of Greater Washington
Box 19114, 20th Street Station
Washington, DC 20036-0114

Dear Madame President:

I have just received the December newsletter and one of the items that jumped out at me, listed under BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS, was the day rate rise for the Getaway. My first reaction was one of outrage. Berta and I day tripped to Camp Letts. I did a harmony presentation with Rock Creek. We sat and talked to a few people for about an hour, ate our home packed lunch, and left \$10 poorer due to an admission fee. I will admit to being pretty disgruntled about paying to come and do a workshop.

I am writing however, not merely to complain, which I am, but also to ask for justification for this increase. If Camp Letts is more expensive than Prince William Forest Park, how much of that additional expense should be borne by the weekend attendees who have 24 hour use of the facilities and who have food provided.

I point out that FSGW was formed by people as a non-profit organization; that the purpose of doing this was to keep costs down for our members, some of whom I know cannot afford to attend an event of this kind. I would like to know what the FSGW financial status is. How much money do we have in the bank and how much have we spent on things other than performer payout and newsletter costs over the past couple of years?

It may also be helpful to insert an explanatory paragraph in the newsletter detailing the causes of a 60% increase in day rates for the Getaway.

Sincerely,

Wally Maenow

mc - day people's cost should go up proportionately