

1. **Call to Order and Existence of Quorum**

President April Blum called the meeting to order at 8:05pm. Present: Charlie Baum, Vice President; Jerry Stein, Treasurer; Richard Aigen, Past Treasurer; Kim Gandy, Secretary; Ingrid Gorman, Publicity; Judy Oppenheim, Membership; Steve Burnett, Dance; Tim Livengood, At-Large; and Steve Kaufman, At-Large. Absent were Jeanne Kaplan, Publications; Steve Winick, At-Large; and Janie Meneely, Programs.

2. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

- a. November Minutes.
  - i. Draft November Minutes were distributed electronically, and copies were also provided.
  - ii. Possible corrections to 3.a.vi – WFF expenses, and 4.c.ii.
  - iii. Changes, corrections? Approval.
- b. December Minutes.
  - i. Draft December Minutes were distributed electronically, and copies were also provided.
  - ii. Changes, corrections? Approval.

3. **Action Item Reports:**

- a. **Independent audit/Combined Federal Campaign** (Jerry)
  - i. A certified independent audit is necessary in order to join the CFC.
  - ii. One additional requirement is a telephone number that is dedicated to the organization and that a live human being picks up during the day.
    - (1) Could this be a cell phone, maintained by the Board?
- b. **Web Migration progress** (April)
  - i. April Blum and Jackie Hoglund spent several hours on member data.
  - ii. So much data is missing from the current data file, and so much of the data is bad, that the Web Migration Committee has opted to begin data migration without trying to contact members regarding missing emails; a "dummy" email will be set up so that migration can begin.
  - iii. Life members will be migrated first. Each life member will be entered individually, so that the death of one member of a family life membership will not cause disruption. Need to address the handling of family members who were children, since children do not stay on family membership past age 18.
  - iv. Change to how Life memberships are sold? May need to be only for a couple, with each one entered individually, so that if one dies, the other remains a member.
- c. **Pat McGee archival materials** retrieval (Charlie)

4. **Old Business**

- a. **Program Report** Janie Meneely provided the following report:
  - i. "We have the February calendar lined up and online.
  - ii. The **Magpie** show was successful, with a relatively full audience.
  - iii. We need to get Takoma Park programs posted on the downtown kiosks, possibly through Sara Daines at City Hall. This is on Ingrid's list of things to pursue.
  - iv. A planning meeting is coming up on the 14th to develop the Spring calendar.
  - v. Discussed how to publicize concerts to people who don't already receive our email.
- b. **Affiliate Criteria**
  - i. Need to develop language about this for the new website. Does FSGW need a written agreement with the affiliate? Should FSGW reach out to other organizations? Tabled for this month.
- c. **CDSS Scholarship**

- i. Camp registration for Pinewoods is open. How does FSGW plan to advertise the existence of scholarship money? Charlie suggested 1-2 lines mentioning this and linking to the CDSS website. April will write.

d. **Newsletter Discussion**

- i. How should the FSGW Newsletter publicize co-sponsored concerts? Agreed that they go up front, with the FSGW Programs, before the general listings/calendar.
- ii. Further discussion will be held on issues with regard to editorial vs. layout decisions at next meeting with Jeanne present.

5. **New Business:**

a. **Missing FSGW Button Machine** Charlie Baum

- i. The FSGW button machine was at the Getaway but has not been returned to Jennifer Woods. Charlie has checked with committee members and is waiting to hear back from the venue.
- ii. Note: In order to make buttons for the NY Eve dance, the Dance Committee borrowed the Friday Night Dancers machine, and supplies. FND needs to be reimbursed for 167 buttons. April will calculate the amount and submit the paperwork to Jerry Stein.

b. **Elections Committee**

- i. Jim Cole is willing to head the Election Committee again this year, but will be out of the country during much of February, so someone else will need to take nominations at the February concert and dance which also act as membership meetings.
- ii. Jackie Hogleund has agreed to serve as electronic voting coordinator.
- iii. The Bylaws specify at least 3 people. Suggestions? No one who is planning to run again may be on the Election Committee, but if anyone is NOT planning to return, please consider serving on the Election Committee.
- iv. Paper balloting is extremely expensive and wasteful, as only a tiny percentage of mailed ballots are returned.
- v. Who is not planning on running again, so we can start looking for candidates? Janie Meneely expects to mostly be out of the country, and Charlie may be willing to take over as Program Chair.

ADDITIONAL ITEM: **Contra Dance Problem with GEPPAC**

Steve Burnett outlined the problems with this special dance, which had to be moved from Bumper Car Pavilion to the very small Annex at the last minute, because Linseed oil had been applied to the Pavilion floor and it was not danceable. This move to tiny space caused many potential participants to be turned away. Some of them, probably 30, were allowed to participate in the WaltzTime next door, for which we are grateful, and we rotated in as many as we could. We will do a letter to GEPPAC asking why they treated the floor just before our event, and when it will again be usable.

c. **Mini-Fest Membership Push** -- Judy Oppenheim

- i. What do we need at the Mini-Fest membership table to promote membership in FSGW? Discussed business-card-sized information cards, need people to staff table, think about how to talk about what we do, because not everyone understands what "folklore" or "folkways" means.
- ii. This goes back to the original question – what are the advantages of membership? Access to the Directory, some free events (dances, concerts). What else? If an FSGW Member applies for and receives a CDSS Scholarship, can FSGW provide

matching funds? What about an annual "members only" event? Discussed whether we should talk about what we do, how we create joy, how we dance/sing/tell stories, and how people's membership helps spread that to others – talk about intangibles, rather than talking about what tangible things people get for their membership.

d. **Publicity** -- Ingrid Gorman

- i. Discussed need for publicity and impossibility of one person being able to manage what we'd like – Ingrid will consider whether she might seek out members for a committee. April noted that we have the ability pay people to do things.
- ii. FSGW cannot hire employees, but we can pay for specific tasks.
- iii. Would print ads make a difference? Ingrid noted that the Revels ad didn't increase the audience for Magpie.
- iv. Ingrid would also like to have help with the blast. Discussed having a committee member to do this, or perhaps moving to bi-weekly.

e. **FSGW Song Circle Pianist**

- i. The new daytime FSGW song circle works in significant part because a woman who plays piano came by the first time, and has attended each song circle so far.
- ii. What are the issues? If the Board agrees, do we write a check? Does this create issues with our insurance? If she cannot come for a session, does Fred look for a substitute?

f. **Group Rates** Agreed that we should look at reduced rates for groups of senior, students, scouts, etc.

g. **New Lights / Decorations for the FSGW New Year's Eve and English Spring Ball**

- i. April Blum has been using her own light strings and gossamer for FSGW events), and would like to replace them with LED rope lights and string lights, along with additional decorations that will be easier to pack and store and which will then belong to FSGW.
- ii. Burnett moved that FSGW purchase strings of lights, rope lights, snowflakes, and the like, for our two New Years' Eve dances and the Spring Ball, in an amount not to exceed \$500. Livengood seconded. Passed without objection.

6. **Other Items**

- a. **Grapevine report:** Cathy Fink and Tim Livengood did the December program, but the attendance wasn't what they had hoped for. Elizabeth Ellis, who is terrific, will do the next program.
- b. **Washington Folk Festival:** Program committee will start meeting next week

7. **Next Meeting and Motion to Adjourn.**

- a. The next regular Board meeting will be Tuesday, February 9, 2016. Charlie Baum moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:57pm without objection.