

1. **Call to Order and Existence of Quorum:** April Blum (President) called the meeting to order at 8:04pm. Nine additional Board members were present, constituting a quorum: Molly Hickman (VP), Jerry Stein (Treasurer), Jen Furlong (Membership), Kim Gandy (Secretary), Ingrid Gorman (Publicity), Mike Livingston (Programs), Tim Livengood (At Large), Ken Mayer (At Large), and Steve Kaufman (At Large). Absent were Heather Livingston (Publications) and Steve Roth (Dance). Also present was Charlie Blum, past vice president.
2. **Approval of Previous Minutes:** Draft September Minutes were distributed by email and print copies were provided. They were adopted unanimously with a minor correction.
3. **Action Item Reports:**
 - a. **Independent audit/Combined Federal Campaign** (Jerry)
 - b. **Pat McGee archival materials retrieval. (April)** No change this month.
 - c. **Hope and a Home.** (Tim).
 - i. The Grapevine presented Noa Baum and Arif Choudhury on September 13 in a joint performance on "In the Heart of the Other: a Muslim and a Jew sharing stories" (we have started to give a title and tagline). There were 88 audience and \$960 in donations. The treasurer has sent the performers the FSGW contribution of \$150 each. October will be Robin Bady and Angela Lloyd with "Ordinary Magic: Encounters with the strange"
 - ii. The outreach program for Hope and a Home presented Devin Walker's "Uncle Devin Show" on September 25. Devin's program is an interactive music show for children. There were 20 children, roughly 3-17 years old, plus two adults. The treasurer has sent Devin a check for \$200.
 - d. **Washington Folk Festival Manual.** No change this month.
 - e. **Musical Theater adaptation** No change this month.
 - f. **Distribution of Donated 78s and Books.** (April). Betsy Platt is still working on this.
 - g. **WFFL.** See Old Business.
 - h. **Recruitment of additional Concert Committee members.** No report this month, except to agree with April's suggestion that it be announced at some of the dances that those who volunteer for concerts can attend free.
 - i. **Training Sound Techs.** May be part of WFF and Mini-Fest..
 - j. **Problem Attendee.** No report this month
 - k. **Combined Calendar.** No change.
 - l. **Logo.** Still need lawn signs and new banners.
4. **Wish List for Bylaw Revision:** A list of what needs to be changed, so we get to all of it. .
 - a. Easier method to amend Bylaws.
 - b. **Membership:**
 - i. Change to membership structure – one person, one member. All members' dependents get the membership rate (the old rationale for "Family").
 - ii. Address "corporate" issues (Revels). They can't vote, and therefore need a different type of membership, such as "affiliation."
 - c. **Board position issues:**
 - i. Change one At Large Board position to IT Liaison
 - ii. Eliminate the differentiation between "Programs" and "Concerts" which is no longer reflected in the Board personnel.
 - d. **Elections:**
 - i. Can we handle a completely unopposed slate by acclamation? Doesn't allow for write-ins?
 - ii. Elect only HALF of the Board each year?

- iii. Elect Board for two-year terms – elections held only every other year instead of every year. This will also require rethinking "five-year" limit.

e. **Meetings:**

- i. Should there be a way to deputize a committee member to represent a Board member at a meeting?
- ii. Should we be required to meet monthly?
- f. Are we required by the bylaws to have a non-calendar fiscal year (currently September 1 to August 31)?

5. **Old Business**

a. **WFF / GEPPAC**

- i. Katey has sent a copy of the 2016 National Park Service permit (20 pages), but the first step is to negotiate with GEPPAC regarding responsibilities and flow of funds. See the 2017 Memorandum of Agreement between FSGW and GEPPAC (Handout).
- ii. Site map (handout). We can eliminate most of the tents by using available space and reallocating use of existing structures. This will also significantly reduce the set up time required, both in terms of absolute hours and in the number of weekends in advance.
- iii. Need a small group to work with GEPPAC and reach a written understanding with them about who will do what. There is also a 20-page permit with the National Park Service, which April will review. Katey had suggested that we write a letter to NPS telling them that the "interface" for WFF has changed, so perhaps the rules will not be enforced in such a draconian fashion. Volunteers are: Molly, Jerry, Charlie, Heather, and April.
- iv. A follow up meeting with GEPPAC needs to be scheduled to work out the parameters of the agreement and move forward with planning.
- b. **Redistribution of Responsibilities.** Both Ingrid and Heather have issues with the amount of work required by their board positions (in particular the newsletter and the weekly e-blast) and the need to reallocate some of it. Molly has some suggestions for people who could help.

6. **New Business:**

- a. **Lithuanian Embassy Meeting.** FSGW received an outreach email from the Lithuanian Embassy. Ken Mayer went to a meeting at the Embassy and will report on that meeting. They don't have experience finding venues, and we do, so it looks like potentially good synergy. They'd like to reach a wider audience (concert violinist with a vocal ensemble, which will also be dancing) for traditional Lithuanian songs. Many are call-and-response so there will be audience involvement. There are some other activities that would create some synergy with us, including events involving other Balkan countries. They will stay in touch.
- b. **Getaway Report.** Charlie Baum provided a written report, inserted below.
 - i. Attendance:
 - (1) 137 people attended, including ~10 day-trippers and 9 invited guests (who come free of charge)
 - (2) 23 attendees got scholarships, ranging from student rate to almost full-fare, based on need
 - ii. Income::
 - (1) Payment from attendees (according to myorgnet) \$19,992
 - (2) Scholarship donations (allocated from Lieberman/Olive fund) \$1,054
 - (3) Total income \$21,046
 - iii. Expenses:
 - (1) West River Conference center total 20,024
 - (a) West River Conference Center—deposit 3,700
 - (b) West River Conference Center balance paid 16,324
 - (2) Reimbursements

- (a) Janet Stollnitz 115.11
 - (b) Judy O Myers 290.23
 - (c) Dean Clamons 300.78
 - (3) Refunds
 - (a) Saull Goldberg 205
 - (b) Colleen Cleveland 30
 - (4) Total expenses 20965.12
 - iv. Surplus, \$80.88
 - v. Question regarding FSGW mugs:
 - (1) Judy O created them, and originally envisioned them as favors for Getaway attendees, but they morphed into a general FSGW premium. Only about 20 mugs were sold for \$5 each at the Getaway, and the remaining 50 or so are available for future sale. Should we take this off of the Getaway accounting and move it to general accounts?
- c. **Mini-Fest Sign Up with Montgomery County**
- i. April tried at the end of August to sign up for Mini-Fest 2018, and thought that she had successfully done so, and that the approval process was underway. Not having heard from Montgomery County, she asked Jerry Stein to follow up.
 - ii. The Montgomery County staff person April spoke with apparently did not complete the paperwork and submit the request for approval, as April thought. Jerry Stein is now following up.
 - iii. Just to get this on the record – The Takoma Park Middle School isn't on the drop down list on Montgomery County's form, and MiniFest uses two classrooms which are not ordinarily rented out; the invoice requires some "fiction" in order to make the numbers right. This may require a more "hands-on" approval process and will need to be monitored carefully.
- d. **Claude Martin Lifetime Award.**
- i. Beginning in October 2018, the Folklore Society of Greater Washington will make an annual selection of an accomplished yet rising traditional artist under age 30. The award will consist of an honorary life membership in FSGW. In addition, recipients of the Claude Martin Memorial Honorary Life Membership will constitute a young folk artists' "Hall of Fame" whose members derive well-earned prestige from association with each other and with Claude's memory.
 - ii. Mike Livingston previously distributed (by email) further background on this new award. Discussed and agreed as above.
- e. **Change in Membership Format for Web Migration.**
- i. As previously discussed at several Board meetings, to facilitate data migration and amplify the database, the Web Migration Committee has requested that all memberships be converted to an Individual Member format.
 - ii. At some point in the future, the Bylaws will need to be amended, but the Board is authorized, without Bylaw change, to determine membership fees.
 - iii. Background: When the Newsletter was print only, "Family" memberships were cost-saving for FSGW, because only one paper copy of the Newsletter was sent to a family. Now that the Newsletter is online, and those who request a paper copy pay an additional fee to partially cover mailing costs, this rationale no longer exists.
 - iv. There are issues with putting information about minor family members in a database; in the new system, minor dependents will not be named as members. However ALL minor dependents of ALL members will be entitled to FSGW discounts.
 - v. Once the transfer to the new system is complete, each member will receive an invoice. The "Family" membership will not exist in the new system.
 - vi. New amounts:

- (1) Individual – \$25? \$30?
 - (2) Individual plus paper Newsletter – \$25 + 6? \$30 + 6?
 - (3) There will be no “family” rate per se. Two individuals will pay twice the single individual rate.
 - (4) Lifetime – \$500?
 - (5) Do we want a student rate? What age bracket does this cover? 18-24? Would students be permitted to pay the extra amount and get a paper Newsletter? Do we want to require proof, such as student ID?
- vii. When should this be effective? November 1? December 1?
 - viii. Permit multiple year memberships, but with no discount? This may need to be tabled until the IT team has a chance to get used to the system.
 - ix. For election purposes, one member gets one vote. This should cut the cost of printed ballots.
 - x. Jen advocated that new memberships be prorated upon joining, and that all of the memberships end at the same time, which would make a renewal series much easier. Mike suggested that the initial join be for one year, and then do the proration when they renew. Discussed whether they are able to handle this function at Wild Apricot. Also discussed how to handle the "coupons" for free events that we are giving out to new members. Charlie suggested that the amount be divisible by 12 if we are going to ask folks staffing a table to calculate prorated dues amounts.
 - xi. Discussed that having the year be June 1 through May 31 makes sense, since a lot of people join at WFF.
 - xii. Jen also suggested that dependents be covered to age 18, and that there be a separate student rate for students of any age, but this was not discussed.
 - xiii. Jen also described her intention about what would be included in a Teacher or School membership. Mike points out that this is likely to come out of the teacher's pocket, and suggests that the price should be the same as a regular membership but with additional benefits if they include their classroom. This would include a free performance for the classroom. Charlie noted that other organizations already do this, and also that if structured properly, grants are available to cover the cost of classroom performances. Ken asked about the need to be bonded/insured to perform in public schools.
 - xiv. Jen reported that Cythian (a band) wants to know if we want to partner with them to promote their School of Heritage Arts. Jen will get more information.
 - xv. Resolution to be considered at a future meeting: I move that FSGW membership fees, as of _____, 2017, be changed as follows: Individual rate shall be \$_____ per year. An additional fee of \$___ shall be charged if the member wishes to receive mailed copy of the FSGW Newsletter. Student rate shall be \$_____. Paper copy option? Lifetime membership rate shall be \$_____. Lifetime members will receive a paper copy of the Newsletter at no additional charge?

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

- a. The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, November 7, 2017.
- b. Ken moved to adjourn the Board meeting, Jen seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm