



**Board Meeting Minutes** (Approved 5/7/24 by the FSGW Board of Directors)

**BOARD MEETING – April 2, 2024**

Charlie Pilzer called the meeting to order at 8:07 PM as an online Zoom meeting. Quorum (at least 8) was established.

**Attendees Present:**

Charlie Pilzer, *President*  
Jamie Platt, *Vice President* (until 10:10)  
Alyssa Hemler, *Secretary*  
Jackie Hogle, *Treasurer*  
Will Strang, *Past Treasurer*  
Lucia Schaefer, *At-Large*  
David Shewmaker, *Membership*  
Jim McRea, *Publications*

**Guests:**

Maya Pierick (office staff)  
Mo Brachfeld (office staff)  
Peter Maier  
Jane Gorbaty  
Charlie Baum  
Fred Stollnitz  
Lo Shiner  
Robin Stearn  
Liz Donaldson

**Absent:**

Lynn Baumeister, *At-Large*  
Caroline Barnes, *Dance*  
Lynn Bayer, *At-Large*  
Chris Lindsay, *Programs*

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**Approval of Minutes:**

- MOTION: To approve Minutes from the March 5, 2024 Board Meeting as corrected.
  - Vote: Will Strang moved; Jamie Platt seconded.
  - Resolved: The minutes of the March 5, 2024 meeting are approved as corrected and entered into the Society records.

**REPORTS:**

**President's Report and State of FSGW:**

- Charlie welcomed many guests to the meeting.
- A recent FSGW event was a spreader for covid; an updated covid policy is on the agenda.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- So far this year, FSGW is running a budget deficit of \$15,509 which tracks pretty closely with the approved budget.

- The approved budget does not include the monthly old-time jam in Takoma Park which is a well-attended event with about 40-50 people regularly. FSGW currently pays \$150 per month for a jam leader.
  - **MOTION:** *Moved by Jackie Hoglund, seconded by Lucia Schaefer to amend the 2024 FSGW budget to include \$1,800 for the open jam under section 13C: Other Events. Approved unanimously.*
- Jackie has renewed FSGW's license with the Washington, DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs.
- FSGW's Folk Alliance International membership is up for renewal for \$150. FSGW has not taken full advantage of the membership in recent years, but Charlie believes it is valuable and directed Jackie to pay the renewal fee.
- Charlie has formally solicited a bid from a Pennsylvania-based organization for the tape digitization project. Charlie will submit a bid and will solicit a third bid.
- Performers no longer need to sign their W9's. Jackie will be working with FSGW's bookkeeper Leslie Barkley to update our language to reflect this.
- It is time to renew FSGW's CDSS affiliate membership, which is a budgeted expense. Insurance rates have increased by 15%. Jackie will pay the bill and inform the board what the difference in price is.

#### **Office Report:**

- Office staff are cleaning up registrations from past events and membership renewal dates in Wild Apricot.
- Publicity is underway for the Potomac River Shape Note Convention and the ECD Spring Ball events this month.

#### **Webmaster Report:**

- Will has been handling a lot of technical support for the Friday Night Dancers. Those tasks will be handed over to FND personnel.
- Will has added helpful instructions to the FSGW wiki.
- Will is working to update the event count tool and clarify user messages.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **Nomination/Election Committee:**

- There are no board candidates for Program Chair or Membership Chair.
- Committee Chair David Shewmaker has made productive connections with many people, including many who are not able to serve on the board at this time.
- The deadline for nominations from FSGW members has passed; the committee has until April 15<sup>th</sup> to nominate a slate which will be published in the newsletter.

##### **Concerts:**

- In April, Windborne will be performing as another Library of Congress cosponsored show. On April 13<sup>th</sup> Judy Cook will be doing a house concert.

### **COVID Review:**

- There were at least 6 official notifications of covid cases following Hashdance Weekend. There may have been more than were reported.
- The current FSGW COVID policy is outdated. Before the meeting, Charlie circulated a proposed new Policy based on current CDC guidelines. During the meeting, the board worked to simplify the policy and make it directly applicable to FSGW events.
  - **MOTION:** *Moved by Lucia Schaefer, seconded by Jim McRea to rescind the current FSGW policy regarding COVID-19 and participation at in-person events and adopt the FSGW Policy Regarding Respiratory Viruses and In-Person Event Participation. Approved unanimously.*

### **GEPPAC gala:**

- The GEPPAC Gala is Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> at Glen Echo Park. Charlie has reserved an 8-person table for \$3,000.
  - **MOTION:** *Moved by David Shewmaker, seconded by Jackie Hoglund, to amend the 2024 budget from \$2,400 to \$3,000 for the GEPPAC gala on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Approved unanimously.*

### **FSGW Picnic:**

- The FSGW Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at Glen Echo Park. The BCP and cuddle-up are reserved 11am-5pm.

### **Dances:**

- Hashdance Weekend was April 9-10 and was a successful event. Some spreadsheet errors resulted in less income than originally anticipated but we still made a profit.
- Planning for Contrastock in October is underway.
- The English Country Dance Spring Ball is in April.
- The FND board has voted to end the co-sponsorship of the weekly Friday night dance as of June 28<sup>th</sup>. FND will take charge of all aspects of the Friday Night Dance including publicity. FSGW will publish a statement about the end of the co-sponsorship. FSGW will provide a document to FND outlining the tasks that FSGW has been responsible for.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Mary Cliff Tribute Lunch Sponsorship:**

- FSGW member Peter Maier has proposed a tribute luncheon for Mary Cliff to recognize all of the things she has done for the greater Washington folk community. The proposed date is Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Peter is working to reserve a venue.
- Peter has asked FSGW to sponsor the event to help with publicity, but there is no anticipated financial responsibility for FSGW.
  - **MOTION:** *Moved by Charlie Pilzer, seconded by David Shewmaker, that FSGW sponsor a Mary Cliff tribute lunch with a tentative date of September 15<sup>th</sup> 2024. Approved unanimously.*

### **Takoma Park Folk Festival Cosponsorship:**

- Charlie has been talking with Robin Stearn of the Takoma Park Folk Festival about increasing and deepening the relationship and partnership between TPF and FSGW. FSGW has been a stage sponsor of the festival for many years.

### **Ad in DC Labor Chorus Concert Program:**

- FSGE member Fred Stollnitz asked if FSGW is interested in buying an ad in the program for an upcoming DC Labor Chorus concert on May 1st. Prices range from \$125-\$500. Expected attendance for the event is about 200 people.
  - **MOTION:** *Moved by David Shewmake, seconded by Lucia Schaefer, that FSGW purchase a quarter-page ad in the concert program for the DC Labor Chorus's annual concert on May 1<sup>st</sup>. 7 yes. 1 abstention. Motion passes.*

### **FSGW Newsletter discussion recap and next steps:**

- **MOTION:** *Moved by Jim McRea, seconded by Lucia Schaefer, that FSGW move to an electronic-only format for the newsletter starting September 1<sup>st</sup> 2024.*
  - Discussion: The structure of the newsletter will not change; the graphic design and submission deadlines will remain the same. This change will save FSGW printing and mailing costs.
- Motion tabled until the next meeting due to lack of quorum.

### **Meeting Adjourned at 10:16 pm**

- Will Strang moved, Jim McRea seconded.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 8pm on Zoom.

## Folklore Society of Greater Washington (FSGW) Policy Regarding Respiratory Viruses and In-Person Event Participation

FSGW's goal is to keep in-person event participants\* healthy and safe. FSGW requests that participants approach attendance at in-person events from a “community care” perspective, including respecting the personal choice to mask/not mask. Each of us plays an essential role in keeping the community healthy so thank you for your collaboration!

1) FSGW recommends following the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to prevent the spread of Respiratory Viruses.](#)

If you are experiencing symptoms of infection, which include fever, chills, fatigue, cough, runny nose, and headache, among others, please refrain from attending an in-person FSGW event until your symptoms have resolved.

2) FSGW requests participants who test positive for a Respiratory Virus, including but not limited to COVID-19 and all variants, RSV, and Flu, in the 4 days after an attended event to contact the event organizer or the president of FSGW.

3) FSGW will follow the health directives issued by the Federal Government, the State of Maryland, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and local jurisdictions within the states of Maryland and Virginia.

4) FSGW will follow the rules established by the venue. Events held in private residences are subject to the rules established by the event host. FSGW reserves the right to alter this policy, including canceling an event, as necessary.

\*Participants: Any person registered for or at an event. This includes audience members, dancers, singers, volunteers, performers and staff.

Adopted April 2, 2024