



Board Meeting Minutes (Approved 2/4/25 by the FSGW Board of Directors)

BOARD MEETING – January 7, 2024

Jamie Platt called the meeting to order at 8:09 PM as an online Zoom meeting. Quorum (at least 8) was established.

Attendees Present:

Alyssa Hemler, *Secretary*
Jackie Hoglund, *Treasurer*
Tim Livengood, *At-Large*
Laura Robertson, *Dance*
Ingrid Gorman, *Publicity*
Jamie Platt, *Vice President*
Paul Lieberman, *Publications*
David Shewmaker, *Membership*

Absent:

Lucia Schaefer, *President*
Betsy Platt, *Program*
Lynn Bayer, *At-Large*
Charlie Pilzer, *Past President*
Ayan Kishore, *At-Large*

Guests:

Mo Brachfeld (office staff)
Will Strang
Charlie Baum
Milo Pierick (office staff)
Fred Stollnitz

Approval of Minutes:

- MOTION: To approve Minutes from the December 3, 2024, Board Meeting.
 - Vote: David Shewmaker moved; Jackie Hoglund seconded. Approved unanimously with one abstention (David Shewmaker).
 - Resolved: The minutes of the December 3, 2024, meeting are approved and entered into the Society records as amended.

REPORTS:

President's Report and State of FSGW:

- None

Treasurer's Report:

- January account balances:
 - Wells Fargo:
 - Main: \$23,359
 - Dance: \$5,013

- Other: \$4,000
- Total: \$32,372
- Securities:
 - Fidelity: \$82,459 as of 9/30/24
 - Vanguard: \$172,949
- Total: \$255,408
- Total: \$287,780
- The \$10,000 transfer approved at the September board meeting has not yet been made as there are still currently enough funds in the checking account to cover expenses in the next month.
- Our bookkeeper Leslie Barkley has followed our standard procedure of filing for an extension on our taxes.

Dance Report:

- PAST EVENTS
 - Dec barn dance and Silver Spring Contra went well. Froghammer seems to be a consistent draw, and Busy has noted that she would like to book them every 6 months. The band cost in Dec was \$600 baseline, but the participant count was over 90 paid, so they covered that extra cost and then some.
 - ECD Wed per usual.
 - 2 special events: NYE Contra and ECD. Laura doesn't have a report on how the Contra went. The ECD was excellent with good attendance and spectacular party.
- JAN EVENTS
 - Silver Spring contra Jan 9. Gabe Popkin calling with David Knight, Ralph Gordon, Liz Donaldson.
 - Barn dance planned Jan 12, Annex. Kappy Lanning calling to Liz Donaldson and Emily Aubrey. Dancing Planet contra to start as that ends, and it's hoped there will be some overlap/cross pollination.
 - See discussion item below about future location of barn dance
 - Dancing Planet contra, Jan 12 in bumper car pavilion.
- FUTURE POSSIBLE EVENT
 - Janine Smith has asked for co-sponsorship for a dance on November 8, 2025. This would be a special challenging contras session in the ballroom backroom with Will Mentor calling. Janine would like financial backing and will take the lead in setting this up. Will is in town for contras on Thurs, Fri, and Sunday that weekend. Laura will ask Janine to fill out the co-sponsorship application.
- We are continuing to cosponsor the Silver Spring dance and need to continue to hold Busy accountable for booking only 2 musicians

Office Report:

- There's now an office phone number that Milo monitors.
- Mo will be out of office for about a week after 1/14
- Mo raised the idea of creating a code of conduct for expected behavior at FSGW events and having safety reps at each event. Enforcing a code of conduct is not an easy thing to do and people would need adequate training. The board discussed creating a small committee to take this on and brainstormed existing resources and examples from other organizations including CDSS.

Webmaster Report:

- Will continue to work on a tool to examine contacts. Milo is working with Lynn Baumeister on archiving some of our 12,000 contacts who no longer interact with FSGW.

ACTION ITEMS:**Sponsorship application process:**

- The board worked to clarify co-sponsorship tiers and the application for fiscal and non-fiscal event co-sponsorship. See Appendix I.
 - MOTION: *Laura Robertson moves, Jackie Hoglund seconds to approve the amended co-sponsorship levels and application form. Motion approved unanimously.*

Board elections 2025:

- MOTION: *Jackie Hoglund moves, Laura Robertson seconds to elect David Shewmaker as the chair of the nominating committee. Motion approved unanimously with one abstention (David Shewmaker)*
- Those serving on the election committee cannot run for a board position. David encouraged any board members rolling off the board to reach out to him to join the committee.
- Free membership meetings in Feb and March:
 - Doing the free membership meetings costs FSGW money but it's something we have to do
 - The February meeting will be at the Silver Spring contra dance on February 13th.
 - The March meeting will be decided at the February board meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:**Washington Folk Festival:**

- Ayan and Ingrid have been reaching out to Dwayne (past lead organizer) and past volunteers. There will be a more thorough update at the next board meeting.

Mid-Winter Festival:

- Lucia provided photos of the venue and event spaces which the board reviewed.
- The next step is to create a general schedule for the event that can be populated with talent

Charging for newsletter advertisements:

- FSGW has received minimal revenue from paid newsletter advertisement in the past few years.
- MOTION: *Jackie Hoglund moves, Paul Lieberman seconds, to table this item.*

Barn dance location:

- Glen Echo has rented out the bumper car pavilion and annex for other events on two different barn dance dates in 2025. This means the barn dance will be in a classroom. Sarah and Sargon are unhappy with the situation but there's nothing else we can do. Lucia feels strongly that it is important to keep the date (second Sunday) consistent.
- This is indicative of a bigger problem of GEPPAC bumping us out of spaces. We need to have a conversation with the park.

Glen Echo central box office:

- Glen Echo will require all event presenters to use their ticketing service beginning in July. They will be providing more details.

NYE contra 2025:

- Cat Tucker ran the event on her own the last 2 years and is stepping down. She is willing to help the next lead.
- There are a lot of other dance events locally on NYE.
- The 2024 event had 76 paid attendees, 5 performers, and 5 volunteers. Revenue was \$3,825 and the event had great energy but lost money because of the expensive venue cost.
- The current venue costs \$3,650 and needs to be reserved in January if we want to host a 2025 event in the same location. The board is interested in investigating cheaper venues for a 2025 event and will not put a deposit down at the existing venue. Board members brainstormed alternative locations.

FSGW picnic:

- Lucia talked with GEPPAC and proposed moving the FSGW picnic to October. The Board likes this idea.

Song Circle:

- Fred Stollnitz told the board the history of the song circle, its goals, and why it is an important FSGW event. He made a case for continued FSGW funding.
- The board told Fred that the song circle is a unique event in that it's the same leader every month.
- No motion was made but the board is still willing to cosponsor as non-fiscal cosponsor (see appendix I).

Meeting Adjourned at 10:17pm

- David Shewmaker moved; Tim Livengood seconded.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 4, at 8pm on Zoom.

FSGW Co-Sponsorship Tiers

Non-fiscal Co-sponsorship*:

- a) The organizing group handles all money related to the event.
- b) FSGW provides advertising in the newsletter, eblasts, social media, and on the website
- c) FSGW provides support as needed. Ex. sound system, directory of tech/talent, etc.
- d) FSGW can provide insurance if needed for approved venues

**To access this level, the primary contact must be an FSGW member and co-sponsorship application submitted.*

Submitted to the relevant Board representative (Dance, Storytelling, Concerts, etc.) for approval. Applications must be submitted 6 weeks prior to the event date.

Fiscal Co-Sponsorship*:

- a) FSGW handles all money related to the event.
- b) FSGW assumes financial responsibility if the event does not break even.
- c) Unless otherwise specified, FSGW receives 20% of the profit after all expenses (guaranteed minimum for talent, venue fee, etc.) have been paid.
- d) FSGW provides advertising in the newsletter, eblasts, social media and on the website
- e) FSGW provides support as needed. Ex. sound system, directory of tech/talent, etc.
- f) FSGW can provide insurance if needed for approved venues

**To access this level, the primary contact must be an FSGW member and co-sponsorship application submitted.*

Submitted to the Board for approval, at least 3 months prior to the event date. Submissions will not be accepted if the event date is sooner than 10 weeks away.

Appendix I

FSGW Co-sponsorship Application:

Applicant Information:

1. Name (Individual or Organization):
2. Primary Contact Person:
3. Email Address:
4. Phone Number:

Event Proposal:

5. Title of the Event for Sponsorship:
6. Describe your proposed event and how it aligns with the mission of the Folklore Society of Greater Washington. *(300 words max)*

Funding and Support:

7. What level of support are you seeking? Co-sponsorship or Fiscal Sponsorship?
8. What specific support are you seeking from the Folklore Society of Greater Washington.? *(e.g., funding, sound system, volunteers, advertising, venue, etc.)*
9. Budget Overview: *(Please provide a brief budget outline, including estimated costs)*

Additional Information:

10. Have you or your organization previously received sponsorship or support from the Folklore Society or similar organizations? *(If yes, please provide details.)*
11. Please provide links to youtube videos, social media pages, or any other internet presence that will help us get to know you better.