



Board Meeting Minutes (Approved 5/6/25 by the FSGW Board of Directors)

BOARD MEETING – April 1, 2025

Lucia Schaefer called the meeting to order at 8:03 PM as an online Zoom meeting. Quorum (at least 8) was established.

Attendees Present:

Lucia Schaefer, *President*
Charlie Pilzer, *Past President (9pm on)*
Jamie Platt, *Vice President*
Alyssa Hemler, *Secretary*
Jackie Hoglund, *Treasurer*
Ingrid Gorman, *Publicity*
Paul Lieberman, *Publications*
David Shewmaker, *Membership (9pm on)*
Betsy Platt, *Program*
Tim Livengood, *At-Large*
Lynn Bayer, *At-Large*

Absent:

Laura Robertson, *Dance*
Ayan Kishore, *At-Large*

Guests:

Mo Brachfeld (office staff)
Milo Pierick (office staff)
Will Strang
Timothy Foley
Fred Stollnitz
Linda Zebooker
Liz Donaldson

Approval of Minutes:

- MOTION: To approve Minutes from the March 4, 2025, Board Meeting.
 - Vote: Jamie Platt moved; Lynn Bayer seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - Resolved: The minutes of the March 4, 2025, meeting are approved and entered into the Society records.

Open Forum:

- FSGW has advertisement rates listed in the newsletter for display ads. The language is geared for printed newsletters. Lucia will work with Paul to update the language to reflect the board's intent and the rates so they're relevant to online viewing and more concise.

REPORTS:

President's Report:

- Mid-winter festival: This was the first time in a new location and there is always room for growth. Lucia already has some ideas for improvements. We had \$1800 in expenses, mostly feeding the talent.

- The FSGW picnic is October 12th. Unfortunately, this is the same day as the BFMS picnic, but there's likely not significant overlap in attendees. Lucia will start with advertising and programming.

Treasurer's Report:

- Current account balances:
 - Wells Fargo:
 - Main: \$37,843*
 - Dance: \$16,266
 - River: \$4,382
 - WFF: \$2,000
 - Total: \$60,491
 - Securities:
 - Fidelity: \$55,864
 - Vanguard: \$179,729
 - Total: \$235,593
- Total: \$296,000*
- * Amended report to show the \$25,000 transfer from Fidelity that had not yet appeared in Main.
- To date this fiscal year, \$79,660 in income. \$92,306 in expenses for a net loss of \$12,646. The approved budget was for a loss of \$29,174.
- The tax return for 2023 was filed.
- The \$25,000 transfer approved at the September 2024 board meeting from our securities accounts to our checking accounts was made.
- The second Getaway deposit, \$8,100, will be due June 1; the WA Annual Fee, approx. \$5,000 will be due June 30; CDSS/insurance, approximately \$1,200, will be due in May; and the GEPPAC Gala payment, \$3,000, was just made.
- Jackie is out of town and off grid for all of May
- Jackie will work on adding new signatories to our checking accounts, specifically getting Bruce of ECDC check-writing abilities.

Dance Report:

- PAST EVENTS
 - March barn dance and Silver Spring Contra went well.
 - ECD Wednesday per usual.
 - Midwinter Festival: Dance program at the minifest included beginner workshops in clogging, hungarian, swedish and balfolk. Also, demonstrations from three morris teams and a sword team, mostly outside due to nice weather. Maypole for audience participation also! One hour family dance and evening community dance well curated by Kappy Laning.
 - Library of Congress: sold out event on March 27 with one hour of intro ECD. Lots of out-of-town dancers attended and many barn dance flyers were handed out. FSGW made \$1,145 and paid the performers more than the guaranteed minimums.
- APRIL EVENTS
 - Barn dance planned April 13 in the BCP. Kappy Laning is calling with a duo from Baltimore.

- Silver Spring contra is April 10. Penelope Weinburger is calling with Tina Eck, Keith Carr and Joe DeZarn in the Great Hall.
- OTHER FUTURE EVENTS
 - Spring ECD Ball is May 17. Registrations are very good so far, more than 70, which was close to the final total last year.
 - Dancing Planet contra: May 4.

Program/Concert Report:

- April 4 Miriam Hacksaw and Mira Lazuli house concert
- April 27 Brian Bowers at Glen Echo Town Hall
- May 10 Trio Sefardi at Washington Ethical Society
- May 17 cosponsorship: Slaveya and Lyuti Chushki at the Old Parish House in College Park
- May 30 Janie Meneely and Rob van Sante house concert
- Sept 6 - cosponsorship: Alex Cummings and Audrey Jaber house concert

Office Report:

- Mo has been working on event publicity. Milo is continuing to clean up and archive contacts in our Wild Apricot database.
- Mo and Milo are both helping with fundraising for the Washington Folk Festival.

ACTION ITEMS:

Moving money from reserve account:

- MOTION: *Jackie Hoglund moves, Paul Lieberman seconds to move up to \$20,000 from reserves to our checking account to cover fiscal year 2025 expenses and a deposit for the October 2025 Getaway. Motion approved unanimously.*

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

NYE contra 2025:

- An email was sent to past event attendees asking for help with organizing. There were no responses and there is still no one to lead a 2025 event. Lucia will reach out to FND to see if they are interested in cosponsoring an event.
- The venue has not been cancelled yet. We need to give them 6 months' notice if we want our deposit back.

Future FSGW Webmaster:

- Will Strang will be stepping down from the role. Charlie Pilzer can fill many of Will's duties until the position is fully filled.
- The board brainstormed how to find a replacement for the role. Perhaps a role with simplified duties will suffice since Will has built such a strong base. Maybe we can separate event management/ticketing from website and database management and use a simpler ticketing system that doesn't require so much specialized knowledge. A committee which includes Will could work together to come up with other options/ways to simplify.
- We'll put ads in the eblast and newsletter saying we're looking for a webmaster (and we'll rename the position).

Board elections 2025:

- David needs personal statements from the candidates in the next week.
- The only unfilled position is dance chair. David doesn't just want anyone to fill the position; the candidate should have organizational history and the necessary skills.
- This will be Lucia's last year as president.

Safety and conduct committee:

- Potential project for an at-large board member.
- FSGW has a policy on Dancers who Exhibit Inappropriate Behavior. It only addresses dancers and it's lacking some communication pieces. It needs to be revised.
- We need to do a better job to make sure our event organizers and our attendees are aware of our policies.
- There are many other organizations that have good policies in place and other resources on crafting policies.
- We will put out language soliciting volunteers for a new safety and conduct committee. Volunteers will be vetted and appointed.
- Action and implementation of the policy needs to be at the board level, not left to volunteer committee members.

Jackie Hoglund moves, Lynn Bayer seconds, to move to executive session at 10:05pm.

Jackie Hoglund moves, Lynn Bayer seconds, to leave executive session at 10:51pm

Meeting Adjourned at 10:54pm

- Betsy Platt moved; Lynn Bayer seconded.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 6, at 8pm on Zoom.