



Board Meeting Minutes (Approved 9/2/25 by the FSGW Board of Directors)

BOARD MEETING – August 5, 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*
Jamie Platt, *Vice President*
Joel Bluestein, *Treasurer*
Jackie Hoglund, *Past Treasurer*
Alyssa Hemler, *Secretary*
Paul Lieberman, *Publications*
Ingrid Gorman, *Publicity*
Betsy Platt, *Program*
Liz Donaldson, *At-Large*
Tim Livengood, *At-Large*
Ayan Kishore, *At-Large*

Absent:

Aristhide Nobanza, *Dance Chair*
Sherry Lynn Smith, *Membership*

Guests:

Milo Pierick (office staff)
Charlie Baum
Will Strang
Charlie Pilzer
Timothy Foley
Donna Rogall

Approval of Minutes:

- MOTION: To approve Minutes from the July 1, 2025, Board Meeting, as amended.
 - Vote: Jackie Hoglund moved; Jamie Platt seconded. Approved unanimously with Joel Bluestein and Ayan Kishore abstaining.
 - Resolved: The minutes of the July 1, 2025, meeting are approved and entered into the Society records.

Open Forum:

- Will Strang has transferred responsibility for FSGW's account management to Charlie Pilzer and Joel Bluestein. Currently Joel (treasurer), Lucia (president) and Charlie Pilzer have access. We can have up to 5 users with access.

REPORTS:

President's Report:

- The FSGW annual picnic is coming up on October 12th. Lucia is starting to work on programming.

Treasurer's Report:

- Current account balances:
 - Wells Fargo:
 - Main: \$15, 666
 - Dance: \$8,694
 - River: \$4,382
 - WFF and Grapevine: \$3,406
 - Total: \$32,148
 - Securities:
 - Fidelity: \$59,808 (as of 6/30/25)
 - Vanguard: \$186,677 (as of 6/30/25)
 - Total: \$246,486
- Total: \$278,634
- To date this fiscal year, there is a net loss of \$25,780. The approved budget was for a loss of \$28,974.
- This net loss includes the 2-year payment for WA as approved at the May board meeting.
- Joel Bluestein is taking over treasurer duties. He will be working on the 2026 budget in the coming weeks and will present it at the September board meeting. Please review any drafts that are sent between now and then. The draft budget will be based on 2025 actuals.
- Charlie Pilzer will be producing bids for the digitization project.

Dance Report:

- July Dances:
 - Barn dance, Silver Spring contra, weekly ECD as per usual.
- Upcoming Dances:
 - Barn dance: August no dance
 - Silver Spring Contra: August 14: Perry Shafran calling to Bobby La Rose and Colleen Holroyd in the Great Hall. Lucia is putting together a door committee for Silver Spring contras.
- Special events:
 - Contrastock registration at 51.
 - Hashdance registration just opened
- GEPPAC ticketing: No updates recently.

Program/Concert Report:

- September 6th Alex Cumming and Audrey Jaber are playing a house concert.
- September 12th Brian Dolphin & Eliz La Prella are playing at Seekers Church.
- Betsy is having many discussions and will be filling in specific dates with artists including Trio Trela, Andrew van Norstrand, Acoustic Nomads, Ustad Shafaat Khan, Pat Egan/Seamus Wade, Ash Grove Documentary, Eli Lev, Ali Tod, and Kaleidoscope.
- Betsy is working towards programming a regular Friday nights at Seekers Church to create a routine.

Office Report:

- Milo and others discussed the process of entering donations into Wild Apricot including details from checks. Milo will coordinate with FSGW's bookkeeper, Leslie, to make sure everything is entered properly.

ACTION ITEMS:

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS:**Newsletter Advertisement Policy:**

- No progress since the last meeting.

Future FSGW Webmaster:

- Will Strang's last day in this role is September 1, 2025.
- Charlie Pilzer will be taking on a fair amount of the Wild Apricot and Google tasks. Office staff will take on various other tasks.
- Will will pass along the physical items to Jackie this month.
- Lucia will draft something for the eblast announcing that we're looking for additional technical support.

Washington Folk Festival:

- Programming is going well with only 2 hours left of the schedule to fill.
- Total fundraising is \$4,140. A Maryland State Arts Council grant application has been submitted requesting an additional \$4,000.
- A mailer fundraising campaign is in the works. Ayan would like to connect with the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County.

Update to FSGW Safety Policy:

- The Safety Committee has met twice. There's a doodle poll for scheduling a third meeting.
- At the second meeting, an updated policy was created based on other models. It is pared down to be concise and applicable to all FSGW events.
- Next steps include creating a board guidance document for how to respond to issues and creating a reporting procedure. Charlie Pilzer will create a new email address for the purpose of reporting safety concerns: Safety@fsgw.org.

Support for Board Members:

- Many board members could use additional support in fulfilling their roles
- Lucia will put together a blurb for the newsletter and eblast to recruit volunteers and list the opportunities to get involved. One pressing need is a committee to support FSGW concerts.

Event attendance for members' minor children:

- We had conflicting verbiage regarding event attendance pricing for minors.
- Lucia talked to Busy Graham (Carpe Diem Arts) who is happy to allow into the Silver Spring contra for free. ECDC is also amenable to letting in minors for free.

- It will be tricky to handle when people age out of the free rate. We'll need to develop a process for how to handle that.
- Consensus of the board that the free rate will apply to member's kids, not all kids. Office staff will reconcile the verbiage between the online and printable form to make this clear.

New Series: Queer-affirming social dance in Alexandria

- The Durant Center in Alexandria is \$1,600 for a 6 hour rental which is too expensive. Milo and Lucia have been researching other possible venues.
- St. Lukes Episcopal Church is a reasonable rate and they are open to hosting but the venue is not metro accessible. Friday nights are available; other weeknights are not.
- Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church is also open to hosting but Lucia hasn't gotten a price yet.
- Arlington may have better metro-accessible venue options.
- The idea of a new series is a monthly square dance that is openly LGBTQ-affirming in all publicity.
- The board discussed the viability of a new series and the potential of partnering with existing organizations.

Re-visit of covid procedures:

- There was a recent possible covid exposure at an FSGW dance. Milo wanted to confirm the current procedures for notifying attendees.
- Our policy requests event attendees to notify organizers if they test positive within 4 days of an event. The policy doesn't specify whether an email will be sent.
- Consensus to send out a covid notification to event attendees when we are notified of a positive test. Consensus that FSGW will not include names in covid notifications.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:17pm

- Jamie Platt moved, Betsy Platt seconded.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 2, at 8pm on Zoom.