



Board Meeting Minutes (Approved 10/7/25 by the FSGW Board of Directors)

BOARD MEETING – September 2, 2025

Lucia Schaefer called the meeting to order at 8:02 PM as an online Zoom meeting. Quorum (at least 8) was established.

Attendees Present:

Lucia Schaefer, *President*
Jamie Platt, *Vice President*
Joel Bluestein, *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*
Jackie Hoglund, *Past Treasurer*
Sherry Lynn Smith, *Membership*

Guests:

Milo Pierick (office staff)
Charlie Baum
Charlie Pilzer
Fred Stollnitz
Donna Rogall

Approval of Minutes:

- MOTION: To approve Minutes from the August 5, 2025, Board Meeting.
 - Vote: Betsy Platt moved; Ingrid Gorman seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - Resolved: The minutes of the August 5, 2025, meeting are approved and entered into the Society records.

Open Forum:

- Will Strang's resignation was effective as of yesterday. Technical questions can be directed to Charlie Pilzer. Lucia will be the point person for the Silver Spring contra.
- Betsy Platt could use volunteer help at the September 12th concert at Seeker's church.

REPORTS:

President's Report:

- The budget discussion is the primary item for this evening's meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

- Current account balances as of 8/31/25:
 - Wells Fargo: \$38,946
 - Fidelity: \$61,334

- Vanguard: \$193,048
- Total: \$293,328
- To date this fiscal year, there is a net loss of about 20k. The approved budget was for a loss of about \$29k.
- Joel has access to all the accounts now and is getting up to speed.
- Continuing to work on a dispute with the IRS. The latest response was sent today.

Dance Report:

- August Dances:
 - No barn dance
 - Silver Spring contra: August 14th: 66 Registered, 65 Checked in, 32 FSGW Members, 5 Performers, and 3 Volunteers
 - Wednesday ECD attendance:
 - August 6th, 27
 - August 13th, 36
 - August 20th, 27
 - August 27th, 32
- Upcoming Dances:
 - Barn dance: September 14th: Lucia Schaefer calling to Jim Morrison and Charlie Pizler.
 - Silver Spring contra: September 11th: Greg Frock calling to Jim Morrison & Charlie Pilzer in the Great Hall.
- Special events:
 - Contraststock registration is at 195.
 - Hashdance is March 28-29 in the ballroom at Glen Echo.

Program/Concert Report:

- Betsy is continuing to slot folks in for a second Friday series at Seekers Church.

Office Report:

- Mo is back from working at Pinewoods and is more available for meetings as needed. They are working on Washington Folk Festival action items (posting to various calendars, boosting on social media, etc) as well as publicity for Contraststock.
- Troubleshooting a bug with Facebook events.
- Milo has been looking into opt-in vs opt-out for receiving the weekly eblast. *Consensus of the board to switch to an opt-out system.*

ACTION ITEMS:

FY 26 Budget:

- Discussion:
 - Joel Bluestein outlined the draft budget which is based on input from various committees and organizers and last year's actuals. There are not a lot of big changes from last year. The draft shows a deficit of about \$32,000, which will come out of reserve accounts. The program items just about break even. Dues and donations are not enough to offset expenses, especially staffing.

- Adjusting membership pricing could significantly impact the budget. That is a potential discussion for the board to have in-depth in the future.
- **Motion:** Joel Bluestein moved, Alyssa Hemler seconded, to approve the V1 FY26 Budget as written. Approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Future FSGW Webmaster:

- Will Strang's last day in this role was September 1, 2025. Charlie Pilzer is the current point person.
- A notice went in the newsletter and it will go in future eblasts that we are looking for additional support.
- Office staff will work on learning how to process refunds.

Takoma Park Folk Festival:

- FSGW is sponsoring the Abbot Stage. Lucia will be there to welcome folks and hand out flyers about FSGW and for FSGW's Washington Folk Festival.

Washington Folk Festival:

- The schedule is complete. Ayan and Ingrid are working out the final logistics including volunteer coordination, food trucks, rentals, and staff.
- There is not enough space for all the performers to park at the festival. There will be a limited shuttle for satellite performer parking. This will be an addition to the original event budget.
- Publicity is in full swing including a newsletter article, print and radio ads, and articles in town/community papers.
- To date, we have received \$8,583 in donations and sponsor commitments. Mailings have been sent soliciting additional donations. We should hear the decision about a \$4,000 MSAC grant this week.

Update to FSGW Safety Policy:

- After two strong meetings, this item has lost momentum. Lucia will present the status at the next board meeting and solicit feedback on the new draft public-facing policy.

Support for Board Members:

- Many board members could use additional support in fulfilling their roles. A notice soliciting volunteers was included in the latest newsletter and will be in future eblasts.

New Series: Queer-affirming social dance in Alexandria

- Lucia has found a possible venue: Lyon Village Community House in Clarendon. It is metro accessible and affordable (\$60/hour) and has parking.
- Lucia will put together a more detailed proposal for the next board meeting.

FSGW Picnic:

- Lucia is working on programming finalizing the schedule.

*Jamie Platt moved, Tim Livengood seconded to move to Executive Session at 9:54pm.
Liz Donaldson moved, Tim Livengood seconded to exit Executive Session at 10:12pm*

Meeting Adjourned at 10:12pm

- Ayan Kishore moved, Paul Lieberman seconded.

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

		INCOME										EXPENSE																
		Admissions	Donations	Grants	Merch	Ads	Dues	Invstmt	Total	Internal		Venue	Artists	Sound	Travel	Supplies	Bank Fees	Rentl/Misc	Prnting	Graphics	Mailing	Staff	Ads	Misc	Total	Net		
ContraStock		\$11,000			\$650				\$11,650			\$3,025	\$3,000	\$500	\$700	\$80	\$319			\$130					\$7,754	\$3,896	\$3,896	
Hashdance Weekend		\$15,925			\$389				\$16,314			\$4,839	\$5,200	\$1,000	\$1,600	\$850	\$511								\$14,000	\$2,314	\$2,314	
Spring Ball English		\$4,800	\$40	\$2,502					\$7,342			\$3,600	\$1,320	\$380	\$500	\$300			\$200				325		\$6,625	\$717	\$717	
Weekly/ Monthly English		\$21,000	\$250						\$21,250			\$7,500	\$10,000	\$0	\$0		\$400								\$17,900	\$3,350	\$3,350	
Barn Dance			\$0						\$0			\$1,000	\$2,000	\$500											\$3,500	-\$3,500	-\$3,500	
Silver Spring Contra		\$9,600							\$9,600			\$0	\$6,000	\$1,500	\$0										\$7,500	\$2,100	\$2,100	
Other Dance Events		\$3,000							\$3,000			\$500	\$2,000	\$750	\$0										\$3,250	-\$250	-\$250	
Concerts		\$10,000							\$10,000			\$1,500	\$8,000	\$2,000	\$0										\$11,500	-\$1,500	-\$1,500	
StoryTelling		\$4,600							\$4,600			\$1,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$0										\$6,000	-\$1,400	-\$1,400	
Getaway Weekend		\$28,000	\$2,000						\$30,000			\$25,864			\$0	\$1,250	\$800	\$200							\$28,114	\$1,886	\$1,886	
Mid-Winter Festival		\$0							\$0			\$0	\$0	\$200	\$0	\$1,000									\$1,200	-\$1,200	-\$1,200	
Washington Folk Festival			\$11,500	\$4,000		\$6,000			\$21,500	\$10,000		\$13,500	\$0	\$0		\$3,500		\$6,000	\$1,500				\$4,500	\$1,250	\$30,250	-\$8,750	\$1,250	
Total Program		\$107,925	\$13,790	\$6,502	\$1,039	\$6,000			\$135,256	\$10,000		\$62,328	\$42,520	\$6,830	\$2,800	\$6,980	\$2,030	\$6,200	\$1,700	\$130	\$0	\$0	\$4,825	\$1,250	\$137,593	-\$2,337	\$7,663	
Membership							\$13,000		\$13,000																\$0	\$13,000	\$13,000	
Publications						\$65	\$100		\$165										\$3,840	\$8,400	\$660				\$12,900	-\$12,735	-\$12,735	
Publicity & Marketing									\$0																\$0	\$0	\$0	
FSGW Admin			\$8,000					\$1,880	\$9,880								\$1,150	\$2,651		\$200					\$4,001	\$5,879		
Accounting/Audit									\$0																\$0	\$0		
Administrative Services									\$0													\$20,880			\$20,880	-\$20,880		
Bookkeeping									\$0													\$8,400			\$8,400	-\$8,400		
Technical Support									\$0															\$1,008	\$1,008	-\$1,008		
Website Migration									\$0																\$0	\$0		
Charitable Donations to Others									\$0															\$3,000	\$3,000	-\$3,000		
Dues & Memberships to Others									\$0															\$500	\$500	-\$500		
Election Costs									\$0															\$180	\$180	-\$180		
Insurance									\$0															\$1,350	\$1,350	-\$1,350		
Outreach									\$0													\$1,000	\$375	\$1,375	-\$1,375			
Total Non-Program			\$8,000	\$0	\$0	\$65	\$13,100	\$1,880	\$23,045			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,150	\$2,651	\$3,840	\$8,400	\$860	\$29,280	\$1,000	\$6,413	\$53,594	-\$30,549		
Grand Total		\$107,925	\$21,790	\$6,502	\$1,039	\$6,065	\$13,100	\$1,880	\$158,301			\$62,328	\$42,520	\$6,830	\$2,800	\$6,980	\$3,180	\$8,851	\$5,540	\$8,530	\$860	\$29,280	\$5,825	\$7,663	\$191,186	-\$32,885		