



## Board Meeting Minutes (Approved by the FSGW Board of Directors on 11/4/25)

### BOARD MEETING – October 7, 2025

Lucia Schaefer called the meeting to order at 8:05 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*  
Ingrid Gorman, *Publicity*  
Betsy Platt, *Program*  
Liz Donaldson, *At-Large*  
Tim Livengood, *At-Large*  
Ayan Kishore, *At-Large*

Paul Lieberman, *Publications*  
Aristhide Nobanza, *Dance Chair*  
Sherry Lynn Smith, *Membership*

#### Guests:

Milo Pierick (office staff)  
Mo Brachfeld (office staff)  
Charlie Baum  
Charlie Pilzer  
Donna Rogall  
Jane Gorbaty  
Dan Kahn  
Timothy Foley

#### Absent:

Jackie Hoglund, *Past Treasurer*

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#### Approval of Minutes:

- MOTION: To approve Minutes from the September 2, 2025, Board Meeting.
  - Vote: Tim Livengood moved; Joel Bluestein seconded. Approved unanimously.
  - Resolved: The minutes of the September 2, 2025, meeting are approved and entered into the Society records.

#### Open Forum:

- Dan Kahn requested permission to dispose of old sound equipment that is no longer needed and is taking up space in people's homes. Permission granted.
- Dan Kahn explained that the keyboard stool and pedal associated with the FSGW-owned keyboard stored at Glen Echo have disappeared. Dan would like to replace one or both items. Charlie Pilzer may have an extra pedal that is compatible. If he doesn't, Dan will work with Joel Bluestein to purchase one (about \$60). Dan will check with GEPPAC to see if they can provide a stool. Otherwise, Jamie Platt offered to loan a stool occasionally.

## REPORTS:

### President's Report:

- FSGW had a busy September- Takoma Park Folk Festival, barn dance, Contraststock.
- The annual picnic is coming up this Sunday. Many board members will be there.
- Lucia tentatively reserved Brown Academy's campus on March 7<sup>th</sup> for a spring festival.

### Treasurer's Report:

- Current account balances:

<b>Fund Name</b>	<b>9/30/25</b>	<b>8/31/25</b>
Wells Fargo	\$50,287	\$38,946
Fidelity	\$62,715	\$61,334
Vanguard	\$198,314	\$193,048
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$311,316</b>	<b>\$293,328</b>

- Joel now has access to all financial accounts.
- We have 1 main account and 4 sub accounts for zoom which cost over \$600 per year. Joel suggests we can consolidate this.
- We are starting to use Zelle for staff pay and debit card for direct payments instead of reimbursements.
- We received a donation of \$9,500 from a long-time member who wishes to remain anonymous.
- Donations and support for the Washington Folk Festival have been strong. Bills are starting to come in.

### Dance Report:

- September Dances:
  - Barn dance: September 14<sup>th</sup> Lucia Schaefer called to Jim Morrison and Charlie Pilzer.
  - Silver Spring Contra: September 11<sup>th</sup> Greg Frock called to Jim Morrison & Charlie Pilzer in the Great Hall. 49 Registered, 47 Checked in, 29 FSGW Members, 4 Performers, and 3 Volunteers.
  - Contraststock 13: September 7<sup>th</sup>. 281 registered, 270 checked in. 85 FSGW members, 13 performers, 26 volunteers. Very successful event. People seemed happy to be back in the ballroom. All of the performers were paid above their guarantee.
  - Wednesday ECD as per usual
- Upcoming Dances:
  - Barn dance: October 12<sup>th</sup> Janine Smith calling to Old Time Cobras.
  - Silver Spring contra: October 9<sup>th</sup> April Blum calling to Trio Con Brio---Elke Baker, Paul Oorts, Jonathan Jensen in the Great Hall.
- Hashdance registration is open. It will be in the ballroom at Glen Echo.

### **Program/Concert Report:**

- The September 12<sup>th</sup> concert had about 30 attendees and lost about \$200.
- Betsy needs more help with admin at concerts.
- Upcoming:
  - October 22: House concert: Jeff Kaufman
  - November 10: House concert with Flur.
  - November 22: House concert: Pat Egan and Seamus Wade.
  - December 13: House concert: Kaleidescope.
- Betsy is focusing on house concerts and pausing on public venue concerts:
  - Staffing issue: We need a regular committee who can come out to help run the events. Ideally 4 workers per event.
  - Promotion: Betsy is looking for more support on promotion
  - Venues: Betsy is looking for ideas for additional venues
- Lucia is putting together a list of folks who offered to volunteer

### **Office Report:**

- Mo requested board members help sharing social media posts about the Washington Folk Festival.
- Milo looked into delivery issues for manual emails and is working on archiving accounts with undeliverable emails.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **2026 Getaway Deposit:**

- ***Motion:** Joel Bluestein moved, Alyssa Hemler seconded, to approve a deposit for the 2026 FSGW Getaway, not to exceed \$5,500.*
- Discussion:
  - About 90 people attended this year. A few people have offered to cover any revenue shortfall.
  - Dean Clamons and Charlie Baum will finalize the accounting after the Washington Folk Festival.
  - The Getaway committee is looking to reduce the total capacity to 116 which will mean a cheaper venue expense.
  - Attendance has been going down slightly the past few years since covid.
  - Tentative 2026 date is the first weekend of October.
- *Approved unanimously.*

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

#### **Washington Folk Festival:**

- There has been a big publicity push with radio ads, online calendars, and the daily antidote of song.
- Volunteer recruitment is underway. More volunteers are needed.
- The program guide is complete including a few paid ads. We have stage sponsors for 4 of the 5 stages.

- We did not receive the Maryland State Arts Council grant. It will be important to maximize donation opportunities and membership signup opportunities at the festival.
- A decision about a 2026 festival will largely depend on how this year goes.

**Update to FSGW Safety Policy:**

- Lucia shared the current draft of the public-facing policy for the board to review.

**Support for Board Members-Volunteers:**

- Lucia has compiled a spreadsheet of people who have expressed interest in volunteering to help at FSGW events. We will continue to advertise for volunteers and add names to the spreadsheet.

**New Series: Queer-affirming social dance in Arlington**

- This is on pause until after the picnic and folk festival.

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:46pm**

- Betsy Platt moved, Ayan Kishore seconded.

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