



Board Meeting Minutes (Approved by the FSGW Board of Directors on 3/3/26)

BOARD MEETING – February 3, 2026

Lucia Schaefer called the meeting to order at 8:01 PM as an online Zoom meeting. Quorum (at least 8) was established.

Attendees Present:

Lucia Schaefer, *President*
Jamie Platt, *Vice President*
Jackie Hogle, *Past Treasurer*
Alyssa Hemler, *Secretary*
Betsy Platt, *Program*
Aristhide Nobanza, *Dance Chair*
Paul Lieberman, *Publications (until 9:25)*
Liz Donaldson, *At-Large*
Ayan Kishore, *At-Large*
Tim Livengood, *At-Large*

Absent:

Sherry Lynn Smith, *Membership*
Joel Bluestein, *Treasurer*
Ingrid Gorman, *Publicity*

Guests:

Milo Pierick (office staff)
Mo Brachfeld (office staff)
Linda Marshall
Peggy Edwards
Bruce Edwards
Timothy Foley
Charlie Baum
Donna Rogall

Approval of Minutes:

- MOTION: To approve Minutes from the January 6, 2026, Board Meeting.
 - Vote: Jackie Hogle moved; Betsy Platt seconded. Approved unanimously with one abstention (Tim Livengood).
 - Resolved: The minutes of the January 6, 2026, meeting are approved and entered into the Society records.

Open Forum:

- None

REPORTS:

President's Report:

- Lucia has been working on programming for the MiniFest in March.
- David Shewmaker, the Election Committee chair has been working to fill out this year's candidate slate. Lucia emphasized the importance of long-term planning for the future.

The board brainstormed possible board candidates and avenues for finding additional candidates, including writing and publicizing position descriptions.

Treasurer’s Report:

- Account balances:

| Fund Name | 12/31/23 | 12/31/24 | 12/31/25 | 1/31/26 |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Vanguard | \$150,702 | \$176,973 | \$202,918 | \$205,470 |
| Fidelity | \$123,897 | \$80,864 | \$64,571 | \$66,161 |
| Wells Fargo | \$54,327 | \$32,667 | \$25,057 | \$29,447 |
| TOTAL | \$328,926 | \$290,503 | \$292, 546 | \$301,078 |

- Final WFF numbers are still being calculated.

Dance Report:

- January Dances:
 - Barn dance: January 11 Katie Stahl called to The Magnolia House Band (Sarah, Sargon, & Leuna).
 - Silver Spring contra: January 8: Chloe Levine calling to Raven & Goose (Corwin Zekley and Grace Fellows) California duo. 74 attended.
 - Weekly ECD as per usual

| Date | Registered | Attended |
|----------|------------|----------|
| 1/7/2026 | 46 | 44 |
| 1/14/26 | 32 | 30 |
| 1/21/26 | 28 | 27 |

- February Dances:
 - Barn dance: February 8: Kappy Laning calling to Pinky Pickers
 - Silver Spring contra: Marshall Bradshaw and Luke Schoppert calling to Katie Stahl and William Brauneis. The Silver Spring dance will be a nominations meeting and is free for members.
- Upcoming:
 - 60 registered for Hashdance so far.

Program/Concert Report:

- The Flurut concert is being rescheduled again. Date TBD.
- The Magpie concert is confirmed for February 21st.
- Betsy is talking with the Vox Hunters and Béla Fleck and trying to get concerts scheduled.

Office Report:

- Milo is working with Ayan, Joel, and Jackie on fundraising for the Washington Folk Festival. Also working to enable the ability to unsubscribe from annual event emails without unsubscribing from the weekly eblast.
- Mo is working to support and publicize many FSGW events.

ACTION ITEMS:**English Spring Ball:**

- The committee still has not heard a determination about or award amount for the Maryland CAP grant, making this year's budget unclear. Historically this grant has covered about 2/3 of the venue fee; there's a chance it will be less this year and may not be available next year.
- To account for the uncertainty in the CAP grant this year, the committee has raised ticket prices. There's also an opportunity for folks to make donations when they register for the event.
- For next year, the committee would like to pay the deposit to reserve the venue.
- MOTION: *Moved by Jackie Hoglund, seconded by Liz Donaldson to approve a payment of \$4,120 for the Silver Spring Civic Center for the 2027 English Spring Ball. Approved unanimously with one abstention (Jamie Platt).*

Budget Amendment:

- FSGW owns and uses three ipads for event check-ins. One of them is practically dead and should be replaced before MiniFest and Hashdance weekend in March.
- It doesn't need to be new; refurbished is sufficient. Lucia will pick a good option and purchase it.
- MOTION: *Moved by Lucia Schaefer seconded by Alyssa Hemler to amend the FY26 budget to allocate up to \$450 in the FSGW Admin: Technical Support line item to purchase an ipad and necessary accessories. Approved unanimously.*

DISCUSSION ITEMS:**Internal-Facing FSGW Safety Policy Guidance:**

- The board reviewed the current draft of the policy. One item missing from it is an outline of the process for continuity of knowledge of any issues or offenders when board makeup changes or event organizers turn over. This process needs to be determined and documented.

Meetup:

- FSGW has a meetup account that past board member Jim McRea pays for (about \$175 per year). Last month, the board decided to transfer the bill from Jim to FSGW and record it as an admin/subscription expense.
- Paul Lieberman and Joel Bluestein (who has info on the FSGW credit card) will work with Jim to get the payment changed over.

Washington Folk Festival:

- The 2026 festival will be in August. The WFF committee is waiting for final confirmation from GEPPAC so we can pay the deposit.
- The committee is working to submit 3-4 grant applications. Most of the deadlines are in the next month. Lucia will connect Ayan with someone we might be able to hire to help with the applications.

MiniFest:

- Lucia provided an update on MiniFest planning. There will be five program spaces and the schedule is almost full.
- The only event expenses are meals for the volunteers and performers, and snacks for the green room.
- Lucia is beginning to coordinate volunteers and publicity is in full swing.

Maryland CAP grants:

- The current procedure for CAP grants is to apply for funds, not to ask for a specific amount.
- A broader conversation needs to happen around the fact that the CAP grant seems to be giving out less money than in the past, and may not be guaranteed in the future. Multiple FSGW events are subsidized by this grant so it will have a decent-sized impact on our overall budget.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:54pm

- Betsy Platt moved, Jamie Platt seconded.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 3, at 8pm on Zoom.