



Board Meeting Minutes (Approved by the FSGW Board of Directors on 5/5/26)

BOARD MEETING – April 7, 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*
Joel Bluestein, *Treasurer*
Jackie Hogle, *Past Treasurer*
Alyssa Hemler, *Secretary*
Paul Lieberman, *Publications*
Aristhide Nobanza, *Dance Chair*
Sherry Lynn Smith, *Membership*
Ingrid Gorman, *Publicity*
Betsy Platt, *Program*
Liz Donaldson, *At-Large*
Ayan Kishore, *At-Large*
Tim Livengood, *At-Large*

Absent:

None

Guests:

Milo Pierick (office staff)
Mo Brachfeld (office staff)
Charlie Baum
Donna Rogall
Timothy Foley
Jaye Evans
Amy O'Brien
Charlie Pilzer

Approval of Minutes:

- MOTION: To approve Minutes from the March 3, 2026 Board Meeting.
 - Vote: Joel Bluestein moved; Liz Donaldson seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - Resolved: The minutes of the March 3, 2026 meeting are approved and entered into the Society records.

Open Forum:

- None

REPORTS:

President's Report:

- MiniFest was on March 7th. Thanks to everyone who helped out. There were more attendees than last year and Lucia already has ideas for improvements for next year. A lot of attendees appreciated that FSGW hosted an event in Virginia.

Treasurer's Report:

- Account balances:

Fund Name	12/31/23	12/31/24	12/31/25	2/28/26	3/31/26
Vanguard	\$150,702	\$176,973	\$202,918	\$204,518	\$197,741
Fidelity	\$123,897	\$80,864	\$64,571	\$66,573	\$64,497
Wells Fargo	\$54,327	\$32,667	\$25,057	\$33,708	\$27,126
TOTAL	\$328,926	\$290,503	\$292, 546	\$304,799	\$289,364

- The CAP grant from Montgomery County came through. It is \$2000 for the English Spring Ball
- Last month we were notified that we were named as a beneficiary of a former member, Michael McGinn, who recently passed away. Joel has been working through the administrative elements of receiving the gift. A distant relative has challenged the gift which is slowing things down.

Dance Report:

- March Dances:

- Barn dance: March 08 Janine Smith called to Katie Stahl.
- Silver Spring Contra: March 12 Rebecca Anger called to Liz Donaldson (keyboard), Elke Baker (fiddle) and Ken Kolodner (fiddle and hammered dulcimer).
- Wednesday ECD as per usual.

Date	Registered	Attended
2026-03-04	32	32
2026-03-11	28	28
2026-03-18	48	47
2026-03-25	30	30

- April Dances:
 - Barn dance: April 12 Penelope Weinberger calling to Gina Faber & Kirk Evans.
 - Silver Spring Contra: April 09 Gabe Popkin calling to Sarah Collins, Marty Frye, and David McKindley-Ward.
- Annual Events:
 - Hashdance March 28-29
 - 245 attendees
 - 69 new FSGW members
 - FSGW netted about \$1,400 in revenue
 - English Spring Ball May 16: 93 registered so far
 - Contrastock October 3
 - The bands are the Syncopaths, Petrichord, and Supertrad. The callers are Janine Smith, Michael Karcher, and Chloe Levine.

Program/Concert Report:

- Trio Sefardi house concert on April 25th.
- Still working to reschedule the Flurut concert. It will likely be May 10th.
- Sky Consort scheduled for September 27th.

- Windborne schedule for October 23rd.
- Betsy is talking with Karen Ashbrook & friends about a holiday concert in December.

Membership Report:

- FSGW gained 69 new members thanks to Hashdance.
- We currently have about 900 members. In our history, we've had 2-3 times that. There are a lot of differences in the organization and our programming between then and now.
- Sherry wants to keep membership on the forefront because membership is important and cultivating this community is important.

Office Report:

- Milo spent many hours on grant applications for the Washington Folk Festival. Also updated memberships for Hashdance and worked on a comprehensive list of sponsored and cosponsored events.
- The board discussed the office job workload in general. The budget is for 60 hours of work per month total for Mo and Milo. Any special projects assigned to office staff need to go through Lucia (or the current President) so they don't go over budget and aren't asked to do more than their job description.

ACTION ITEMS:

NYE Contra:

- Amy O'Brien is committed to being the chair of the NYE dance and has put together a crew of volunteers to assist.
- Amy has contacted the Women's Club of Chevy Chase about reserving the hall. Their quote is high, but they gave us a deal last time and Amy is hopeful they may be open to that again. She's also looking into other venue options.
- Amy has begun outreach to musicians and Greg Frock is happy to call. Amy plans to reach out to Erik Ewald for sound.
- Amy has \$1,950 from organizing Almost Heaven dance weekend in the past. She wants to donate the money to FSGW for use for the NYE dance as seed money.
- Jamie Platt floated the idea of hosting a New Year's day dance instead of NYE to eliminate competition for venues and bands. Amy and the board agree that is an appealing idea.
 - MOTION: Jackie Heglund moved, Joel Bluestein seconded, to approve an FY27 budget item: 1. New Year's Eve Contra Dance for the 2026/2027 NYE/ NY Day dance in an amount equivalent to the 2024 event budget. Approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Internal-Facing FSGW Safety Policy Guidance:

- The draft policy has been updated to address continuity of knowledge across board generations.
- Milo created an additional membership type in WA called Banned Contact. There will be a note in the contact record with a link to a restricted spreadsheet with more information about what led to the banning. The spreadsheet maintenance/ownership will be managed by the President, Vice President, and office staff.

Washington Folk Festival:

- Milo put in a lot of hours to help submit a large grant proposal. Big thanks for their efforts.

GEPPAC Gala:

- Alyssa, Lucia, Tim and partners are confirmed seats at the FSGW table. The Friday Night Dancers have asked to buy 2 of our 8 seats. Consensus of the board that there's no issue with that.

Insured Spaces discussion:

- Our CDSS renewal (including insurance) will be up for renewal next month. Jackie, Milo, and Joel went through all of our venues to make sure we have the right venues on the list. This list includes cosponsored events. Board members reviewed the list during the meeting.
- The current understanding is that house concerts are not covered by CDSS insurance but are covered by individual's homeowners insurance.

2026 Election Slate:

- There is a full slate of candidates for the upcoming election and David Shewmaker is collecting candidate statements.
- Charlie Pilzer has agreed to one year as president. It is important to find a replacement before next year. The elections committee will start working immediately after the election.
- The election committee is working on getting ballots out and notification of the upcoming election publicized adequately.
- David is aware that a lot of board members are burning out. It is important to support those folks with committees, and start to train replacements, so they can step off the board and there will still be people who know how to do the jobs.

2026 Contrastock:

- The Contrastock committee is discussing the covid policy for the event. There is a chance they will want to require covid testing. There is no option for that in the current FSGW policy. The committee will make a recommendation at the next board meeting for how to adjust the policy to accommodate the desired requirement.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:34pm

- Joel Bluestein moved, Alyssa Hemler seconded.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 5 at 8pm on Zoom.