



Board Meeting Minutes (Approved by the FSGW Board of Directors on 6/2/26)

BOARD MEETING – May 5, 2026

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*
Jackie Hoglund, *Past Treasurer*
Alyssa Hemler, *Secretary*
Sherry Lynn Smith, *Membership*
Ingrid Gorman, *Publicity*
Paul Lieberman, *Publications (joined at 9pm)*
Liz Donaldson, *At-Large*
Ayan Kishore, *At-Large*
Tim Livengood, *At-Large*

Absent:

Betsy Platt, *Program*
Aristhide Nobanza, *Dance Chair*

Guests:

Milo Pierick (office staff)
Mo Brachfeld (office staff)
Charlie Baum
Donna Rogall
Timothy Foley
Amy O'Brien
Charlie Pilzer
Linda Zeebooker
Ken Mayer
Daniel Greenstein

Approval of Minutes:

- MOTION: To approve Minutes from the April 7, 2026 Board Meeting as amended.
 - Vote: Tim Livengood moved; Joel Bluestein seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - Resolved: The minutes of the April 7, 2026 meeting are approved and entered into the Society records.

Open Forum:

- Alyssa noted that she will be updating and centralizing documentation on the secretary role before she cycles off the board. She encouraged other board members to do the same for their roles.

REPORTS:

President's Report:

- Dare to Be Square weekend is borrowing the FSGW button machine and sound system this weekend and will be making a donation to FSGW.

- Lucia has reserved the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo on October 11th for the FSGW picnic.

Treasurer's Report:

- Account balances:

Fund Name	12/31/23	12/31/24	12/31/25	2/28/26	4/30/26
Vanguard	\$150,702	\$176,973	\$202,918	\$204,518	\$211,623
Fidelity	\$123,897	\$80,864	\$64,571	\$66,573	\$67,982
Wells Fargo	\$54,327	\$32,667	\$25,057	\$33,708	\$19,461
TOTAL	\$328,926	\$290,503	\$292, 546	\$304,799	\$299,066

- Grant applications were submitted for Washington Folk Festival.
- CDSS affiliation/insurance has been renewed.
- Shewmaker scholarship for camp has been paid.
- Received CAP grant for Spring Ball.
- Joel continues to work on receiving the bequest from former member Michal McGinn. A long-lost relative is contesting the bequest. We are hopeful that will not be a problem but it is slowing things down. GEPPAC has engaged some legal support and we may need to contribute to that in the future.

Dance Report:

- April Dances:
 - Barn dance: April 12 Penelope Weinberger called to Gina Faber & Kirk Evans.
 - Silver Spring Contra: April 09 Gabe Popkin called to Sarah Collins, Marty Frye, and David McKindley-Ward. 71 registered, 69 attended.
 - Wednesday ECD as per usual.

Date	Registered	Attended
2026-04-01	34	32
2026-04-08	36	36
2026-04-15	39	39
2026-04-22	35	35
2026-04-29	34	34

- May Dances:
 - Barn dance: May 10: Kappy Laning calling to Liz Donaldson and Becky Ross.
 - Silver Spring Contra: May 14 Too Hot Mamas! Janine Smith and Susan Taylor calling to Dead Sea Squirrels: Cathy Mason, Craig Edwards, Henry Yoshimura.
- Annual Events:
 - English Spring Ball May 16: 103 registered so far

Membership Report:

- Sherry is interested in assessing the flyers that we have at events and dances to make sure they're cohesive.

Office Report:

- Milo did some work on subscription lists this past month.
- Mo continues to publicize events and coordinate with event organizers.

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

- MOTION: *Joel Bluestein moves, Jackie Hoglund seconds to adopt the FSGW Safety Policy Annotated for Board Members as written. Approved unanimously.*
- The document is an internal doc and will not be publicized but is filed for board reference.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:**2026 Contrastock:**

- Alyssa Hemler presented draft registration language for Contrastock which includes a question asking registrants to affirm they will not attend if they are feeling ill, and a question asking registrants to affirm they received a Covid-19 vaccine, or had Covid within the past 2 years.
- The board supports the first question and agrees that it is key for keeping the community safe. Publicity materials will make it clear that full refunds will be granted if someone needs to cancel due to illness.
- The board feels the second question is out of line with current FSGW and local event standards, and will not effectively protect the community. They do not support including that question in registration.

NYE Contra:

- January 1st is a Friday this year. Last month, the board liked the idea of pivoting to a New Year's Day dance. There's a clear partnership opportunity with the Friday Night Dancers. Ken Mayer from FND told the board that Glen Echo Park is closed on New Year's Day but they're willing to open the park for dancing.
- Amy O'Brien, Ken Mayer, and the board brainstormed about format and timing for a New Year's Day dance.
- General consensus to let FND put on a regular Friday night dance at the park at the usual time so there's no confusion.
- In the future, when New Year's Day isn't a Friday, FSGW will step up to host or co-host a special dance.

Washington Folk Festival:

- Ayan is working with Mo to man an Eventbrite event for folks to pre-register for the festival for free. The goal is to have a better idea of how many people plan to attend and get contact information for at least some of our attendees.
- Ingrid is working on getting volunteers including conducting outreach to local high schools.
- The staff for the Montgomery Arts and Humanity Council grant recommended our application for approval. The review panel meets this week for a final determination.

- We received a letter of commitment from the Maryland Governor's Office of Community Initiative to sponsor the festival. Currently waiting for the funds.

FSGW Elections:

- There is a full slate of board candidates. The election is open to members until May 14th.
- 110 people have voted electronically so far.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:26pm

- Jackie Hoglund moved, Jamie Platt seconded.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, June 2 at 8pm on Zoom. It will be a joint meeting between the current board and newly elected board members.