

Folk Dance Federation of CA, South Council Meeting, January 23, 2022

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 by Diane Baker

In attendance were:

Officers

President: Diane Baker

Vice-President: Leslie Halberg

Secretary (acting): Sandra Helperin

Treasurer: Mindy Belli

Sergeant-at-Arms: Terry Gucwa

Parliamentarian: Marshall Cates

Standing Committee Chairs

Fall Camp Co-Chair: Marc Rayman

Finance: Marshall Cates

Folk Dance Scene: Jay Michtom

Insurance: Julith Neff

Scholarship: Shana Winokur

Past Presidents

Marshall Cates

Valerie Daley

Associate Members

Steve Himel

Club Delegates

Cabrillo: Jody Stern

Conejo Valley: Marilyn Ludwig

International Folk Dancers (Laguna Woods): Sophia Chen

Laguna International: Greg Solloway

Narodni: Julith Neff

Pasadena Co-op: Leslie Halberg

Ventura: Carol Smith

Veselo Selo: Shana Winokur

Vintage Israeli: Jim Rothman

West Side Folk Dancers: sSandy Helperin

West Valley: Monica Zordich

Minutes were presented from the council meeting Sept. 26, 2021. Motion to approve made by Julith, seconded by Greg. Motion passed.

President's Report (attached below): Diane noted that Mindy and Dick carefully investigated expanding Pay Pal link on website to include payment for membership & Scene subscriptions as well as Donations. Mindy noted that establishing a commercial pay pal account requires

increased financial disclosure from Federation and extra work for the Webmaster and Treasurer. We all concluded at this time not worthwhile. Diane reported that 18 member clubs have renewed. Westwood merged with Tuesday Gypsies and is re-named Westside Folk Dancers. 3 clubs do not have venues and have determined not to re-new until they have a location in which to dance. Diane appealed to council for volunteers to assist with March 20 event. She noted the huge success of Fall Camp and the Federation's debt to Marc & Jan, as well as the good will shared at Ojai event. Events bring us together for shared joy. Shana and Leslie replied by chat that they would volunteer.

Diane announced that a waiver form has been researched and created by Mindy Belli for use at International Folk Dance at LW. You can request it from Mindy for use by your clubs. Mindy explained that the waiver covers the points currently included in waivers, the critical factor being negligence. She noted that waivers needed to be examined & updated about every 5 years to include current legal cases.

Vice President's Report (attached below) noted that Laguna Fest will now be a one day virtual event on March 5th, 2022, with the possibility of an in-person event later in the spring. The Lunar NY Festival at Cerritos Folkdancers has been cancelled. The Federation sponsored event in LA with Tom Bozigian & Sheree King has been re-scheduled to March 20, 2022. Cerritos anniversary fest is scheduled for May 14, 2022.

The Treasurer's Report (attached below) noted that the Ojai event resulted in a positive balance thanks to ticket revenue of \$650, income from membership renewals for 2022 has declined and that the treasurer's records match those of Wells Fargo. The Scholarship Memorial Fund is now below \$11,000. Donations always appreciated. One club has made use of the Pandemic Relief Fund. She will mail check for \$850 to NFO for insurance this week. Mindy suggests publicizing relief fund and Visiting Master Teacher Program.

Insurance Report Formation of committee to advise and make decisions about Federation insurance policy will be discussed at next Council meeting

Sergeant at Arms Terry reported that we have a quorum.

Adoption of revised Standing Rules Marshall noted that bylaws, the constitution of Federation, were amended a few months ago so Standing Rules, the day to day operating rules also needed to be revised to be consistent with Bylaws and to reflect reality. Stagnant committees were eliminated, Fall Camp name updated, conflicts cleaned up, unnecessary details in Statewide section dropped, and reference to UCLA special collections and Memorial Scholarships deleted. He explained that the fiscal committee has a role to fund scholarships and that has not changed. A different process was applied on an ad-hoc basis for the previous 3 years. Marshall moved to adopt the Standing Rules as modified. Carol Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Fall Camp Report (attached below) Marc read positive feedback from 4 participants to illustrate how satisfied & gratified were attendees and teachers at the event November 12-14, 2021. Due to Covid 19 Marc & Jan encountered numerous problems. Brandeis Bardeen

recognized the difficulties and a reduction in price was negotiated. Plus folks made contributions (\$2,752.00 from 29 people.) Net effect is that Fall Camp yielded a surplus of \$2,696.78!) Camp is reserved for 2022 and 2023, but no contracts are signed. Roberto Bagnoli and Steve Kotansky have agreed to teach in 2022. Marc noted that some expenses were actually covered by he and Jan—Sonia & Cristian's travel expenses, for example, that future camp budgets will have to fund.

Finance/ Fiscal Committee Report The committee will meet before the April council meeting and will present a 2022 budget that includes scholarship funding at that time. A report will be forthcoming after meeting.

Scene Report Jay announced that Jan Rayman has taken over all of the business affairs of Scene formerly handled by Gerda and has improved operations. Scene is extremely thankful for her being an outstanding contributing member of the Scene committee. Diane added that the Scene committee has suggested that Folk Dance leaders and organizers can thank volunteers for their services by subscribing those folks to a Scene subscription. Digital subscriptions are encouraged as mailed issues are a negative expense. Since the pandemic began ad revenue has not made up for losses on mailed subscriptions. Ads are increased for upcoming issue.

Scholarship Committee Report Shana will invite all committee members from 2021 to serve again. She notes the uncertainty about summer camps actually occurring and wonders if the deadline should be extended into September as in 2021. The council advised her to prepare for in person camps and revise the application for a due date in April or May. Publicity to apply for scholarships needed. Israeli camps and festivals as well as international qualify.

Old Business unfilled offices need volunteers—secretary, membership publicity, and now, with Pauline moving out of state, Statewide Chair and respondent to info inquiry on website.

New business

Scholarships The fiscal committee can determine a fixed amount available for scholarships in a given year and the scholarship committee decide who best qualifies, or the scholarship committee can give a ranked list with the cost of each scholarship and the Fiscal committee decide how many scholarships to fund. A 3rd means to award scholarships could be developed and sent to the fiscal committee for action. Marshall noted that the rules state that a person cannot apply for a scholarship in the next 2 years after receiving one because the Fund is limited and not growing. The Fiscal Committee will address funding scholarships at their upcoming meeting so item was tabled with a motion by Shana and second by Marc. Motion passed.

Statewide 2023 Response to inquiry by teachers Maurits & Tineke Van Geel. They inquired to be master teachers at event to be held May 12 – 14, 2023. Council rejected offer due to conflict with Mother's Day. Diane announced that Bata Marcetic is available May 19-21, 2023 and the venue, Dalmatian Hall, the weekend that Statewide Committee had desired. Marshall supported holding festival at that location, which features a hotel a block away that could serve as headquarters hotel. Contact Diane for Pauline's new email address in Minnesota.

Next meeting virtual April 24 9:30 a.m. Date could be adjusted if there is a conflict with in person event.

Meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.
Sandy Helperin

Reports

Fall Camp 2021 Summary

This report covers the time since the Federation council meeting on Sept. 26, 2021. This is the final report for Fall Camp 2021.

Fall Camp was conducted Nov. 12-14, 2021. About 20 members of the folk dance community contributed varying amounts of time and effort to make the camp successful.

There were many very strong, positive reviews. Solely for the purpose of illustration, here are some examples (but we have not obtained permission, so names are excluded):

"There are not enough superlatives to describe how thrilling Fall Camp felt for participants-- locals and guests from afar!"

"Thank you so much for all you did to make Fall Camp a fantastic experience. [X] and I had such a fine time and have wonderful memories."

"We have run camps for many years and been to even more, but this was the best organized, most fun camp -- and you did it all in the face of problems I can't imagine dealing with."

"Fall Camp 2021 was amazing!! Thank you for organizing a wonderful weekend in a time of many obstacles!!"

In addition, teachers Aaron Alpert, Sonia, and Cristian each said that they were treated much better than at other festivals and camps. This matches feedback from both Erica Goldman and Caspar Bik after Fall Camp 2019. We hope this helps establish the reputation of Fall Camp and bolsters the reputation of the Federation among master teachers.

On Nov. 8, Roberto Bagnoli tested positive for COVID-19 and so was not able to travel to the US. Fall Camp had arranged several months earlier for Aaron to substitute for either teacher in the event COVID-19 prevented their attendance. By coincidence, Aaron actually had planned to attend as a paying participant anyway. When we changed him from a paying participant to a teacher, we refunded his registration and covered his room and board and paid him the same fee we had contracted to pay Roberto.

Because of COVID-19, a number of people who would otherwise have attended informed us

they would not register this year. Others who had registered canceled when it became clear that masks would be required for all indoor activities, and Fall Camp provided full refunds. Brandeis-Bardin also disallowed three people from different households occupying one (motel-style) room. We offered people who had registered for a triple room the options to upgrade to a single or double, to stay in a nearby hotel (for which Fall Camp made reservations with no change in price for the participant), to attend as a commuter, or to cancel. Each option was selected by participants.

After all that, 59 people attended (including Aaron, Sonia, and Cristian).

As reported on Sept. 26, a significant financial loss was projected for Fall Camp 2021 because of the low number of participants. We analyzed several scenarios and reported to the president and the Fiscal Committee a range of credible losses from \$3700 to more than \$9420. We asked for guidance on the maximum acceptable loss and were told \$7500. That figured strongly in our decision whether to cancel and in our final planning.

At the end, because we had developed such a good relationship with Brandeis-Bardin, and they appreciated the extremely difficult position we were in, we managed to negotiate a reduction in their price of \$4055.00. It should be noted that such a significant reduction will not happen in 2022.

Camp also received donations totaling \$2752.00 from 29 people (including four people who had registered but canceled before camp). However, those donations were solicited with the understanding that registrations would not cover the costs. After camp, when we had finalized Brandeis-Bardin's reduced price, that condition was no longer accurate. Therefore, we offered to each donor that we would return their donation. No one accepted the offer. All donors also were offered tax letters from the Federation, and the Federation treasurer agreed to send letters to the 15 who wanted them.

Fall Camp also took the initiative to make a very attractive cost-sharing offer to Kolo Festival for Sonia & Cristian's travel and required COVID-19 testing. That arrangement provided a significant reduction in cost and complexity for Kolo Festival and yielded a small reduction in Fall Camp's costs (at the acceptable expense of increased complexity).

The net effect is that Fall Camp 2021 yielded a surplus of \$2,696.78. A financial summary follows. It includes some expenses **not** charged to Fall Camp as a reminder that future camp registration prices may need to increase for reasons that would not be apparent from a thoughtful consideration only of the breakdown of the income and expenses. The summary here does not separate each expense, but details for every expenditure are retained by the Fall Camp committee.

Brandeis-Bardin is reserved (with no deposits yet) for camp Nov. 11-13, 2022 and Nov. 10-12, 2023. Roberto Bagnoli agreed to teach. This will be his third attempt to attend Fall Camp, following the cancellation of camp in 2020 and his COVID-19 test in 2021. Steve Kotansky has agreed to be the other teacher in 2022

This report concludes the responsibilities and work for Fall Camp 2021.

- Marc Rayman and Jan Rayman, Fall Camp co-chairs

President's Report for quarterly council meeting 1-23-22

1. Insurance forms have been updated on website
2. Much investigation of Pay Pal link for payment of renewal, Scene subscription, as well as donations, took place. Kudos to Mindy for exhaustive investigation into the possibility of having a business pay pal account for the Federation. At this time we all concluded that disclosure requirements for commercial Pay Pal account and the increased cost make it not worthwhile. Mindy suggested improvements to improve the donation link on website. Webmaster Dick Oakes implemented the changes.
3. The Standing Rules Committee met under guidance from Parliamentarian Marshall Cates. Revisions are on agenda to be adopted
4. Membership Report 18 clubs have renewed for 2022, 1 club (Westwood) merged, 3 (Scandia South, Rainbow and Kypseli) have ceased to meet for dancing and will join later if they decide to resume dancing in person.
5. Fall Camp was awesome! The Federation sponsored event with Tom Bozigian and Sheree King has been rescheduled to Sunday, March 20, 2022 12:45 p.m. Goal is a continuation of the joy we shared at Ojai event & Fall Camp. I hope every SoCal dancer will attend. The event has something for everyone—a little review instruction, lively dancing to Armenian and Greek festival tunes, a segment for international dance favorites (your requests welcomed) and opportunity for “on the spot” requests. I encourage council members to attend, and also volunteer to help out at the door or during set up.
6. Pauline & Ed Klak moved to Minnesota. Contact me to receive their new email address.
7. Mindy Belli & Terri Gucwa created a waiver for participants of the International Folkdance Club of Laguna Beach. Other clubs may be interested in reviewing the clear, concise and well researched waiver.

1/23/22- Leslie Halberg, VicePresident Report

The following is a list from email, Facebook and our socialfolkdance website on what clubs are doing.

I hope we can get back to dancing soon!!

Saturday February 26, Lunar new year in Cerritos is cancelled.

Laguna Fest will be a one day virtual event on Saturday March 5.

Federation winter event is now scheduled for March 20—same location, cost, time, schedule.

Federation Event:

Sunday, March 20, 2022—— **NOTE DATE CHANGE AGAIN**——

PARTY WITH TOM BOZIGIAN AND SHEREE KING

LA Dancefit Studio, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025

TIME: 12:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

COST: \$12.00

INFORMATION: Celebrate Tom's 84th birthday (**bring an appropriate card**) with your So Cal friends. Participants are required to show proof of Covid vaccination, sign waiver (at right), and wear masks.

Save time at the door by submitting the waiver (at right) in advance and pre-registering — mail with a copy of your Vaccination record and a check for \$12.00 payable to "Folk Dance

Federation of CA, South" to

Registrar, Mindy Belli, 321 S. Vista del Cañon, Anaheim, CA 92807 - [Email](#).

(You may also print the waiver, sign it, and bring it to the event.)

Please send the names of dances for which you would like Tom & Sheree to refresh your knowledge,

and the names of dances you wish to be on the program to: president@socalfolkdance.org.

SPONSORED BY: **Folk Dance Federation of California, South, Inc.**

SCHEDULE:

- 12:45 p.m. Registration opens, warm up dancing
- 1:15 - 2:15 Instruction by Tom & Sheree
- 2:15 - 3:00 Set of traditional Armenian, Greek, Lebanese dances.
- 3:00 - 3:15 Opportunity to video record Tom & Sheree demonstrating dances taught earlier. (Tom will collect a small fee for video recording.)
- 3:15 - 4:30 Set of international dances (suggestions sent in advance)
- 4:30 - 5:10 On the spot dance requests by folks in attendance

Wen writes that **Cerritos anniversary fest is scheduled for Saturday, May 14, 2022**

Statewide is in Petaluma in May 20 – 22, 2022

Next weekend by Zoom.

Friday-Sunday, January 28-30, 2022

STOCKTON WINTER WEEKEND (ZOOM)

TIME: 7:00 p.m. (Pacific Time)

INFORMATION: 20 hours of all new programming with 4 parties, a game show, and replays. warm, wonderful weekend of folk dance fun! TEACHERS: Roberto Bagnoli, Polly Tapia

Ferber, Jaap Leegwater, Jan Wolring, Željko Jergan, Steve Kotansky, Andy Taylor Blenis, and Richard Powers. MUSIC: Orkestar Unbound.

REGISTRATION: Registration is now open at <http://www.folkdancecamp.org/>

SPONSORED BY: [Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc.](#)

Friday-Sunday, November 11-13, 2022

FALL CAMP

[Brandeis-Bardin Campus](#), 1101 Peppertree Ln., Brandeis, CA 93064

INFORMATION: TEACHERS: To be announced!.

CONTACT: [Jan & Marc Rayman](#) OR go to the camp's [Website](#)

SPONSORED BY: [The Folk Dance Federation of California, South, Inc.](#)

Folk Dance Scene

Report 1/23/2022

Jan Rayman has taken on the responsibilities that Gerda Ben-Zeev had - in addition to what she already is doing. This has worked out extremely well, and we are very appreciate of her.

With some easing of activities, we are starting to get more ads, which should help us reduce or eliminate out previous monthly shortfall.

Jay