



Minutes of Folkdance Federation of California, South, Council Meeting on February 16, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

In Attendance:

OFFICERS - President: Diane Baker; Vice President: Greg Solloway; Secretary: Margaret Lange; Treasurer: Mindy Belli; Insurance Chair: Julith Neff; Historian: Wen-Li Chiang; Sergeant-at-Arms: Terry Gucwa; Parliamentarian: Marshall Cates.

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS - Budget & Finance: Marshall Cates; Fall Camp: Lee Otterholt.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS - Steve Himal.

CLUB DELEGATES - Bay Osos Dancers: Margaret Lange and Billy Burke; Conejo Valley Folk Dancers: Paula Davis; International Folk Dancers of Laguna Woods: Terry Gucwa; Laguna International Dancers: Greg Solloway; Narodni International Folkdancers: Julith Neff; Pasadena Co-op: Marshall Cates; Ventura International Folk Dancers: Valerie Daley; Vintage Israel: Jim Rothman; Westside Folk-dancers: Sandy Helperin

Approval of minutes from August 18, 2024. Approved as written.

Approval of minutes from November 10, 2024. Approved as written.

ELECTED OFFICER REPORTS

President Diane Baker

Report appended. Additional pertinent discussion as follows:

Regarding the Pasadena Winter Fest, the event is cancelled due to the Southern California fires.

Regarding Fall Camp, the payment to hold our reservation is \$6000.00.

Vice President Greg Solloway

The Cerritos Festival was terrific. Vice President Solloway thanked Wen-Li and Sue Chiang.

The Laguna Festival: 75 to 80 registered, about 65 people have ordered the full passport.

Teacher training with Billy Burke is on March 15th.

Statewide is ongoing.

The Somis Festival is not happening this year. Valerie Daley will apply for 2026.

President Baker mentioned a planned collaboration with Nevenka chorus, the Pečurka band, and a dance party. The preferred date is May 10th. A venue has not been confirmed.

Treasurer Mindy Belli

See appended narrative report. Additional pertinent discussion as follows:

The bank balance is now \$127,000.00.

APPOINTED OFFICERS' REPORTS

Insurance Chairperson, Julith Neff

Insurance Chairperson Neff noted that she needs to update her phone number on scholarship forms, in the directory, and with NFO. President Baker said she will make the changes in those three places.



Sergeant-at-Arms, Terry Gucwa

A quorum was met.

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Fall Camp, Lee Otterholt

Lee Otterholt submitted a report regarding Fall Camp. He requested the council read this before the meeting. President Baker read Lee's submittal. Lee thanked the council for having confidence in him to be the chair of Fall Camp for the past two years. He noted that he would not be available to chair the camp in 2025. A cost overrun of \$3000.00 was discussed. Baker will mail the 2024 contracts to Lee, who agreed to follow up on the discrepancy. The council discussed the viability of holding the camp in 2025, considering that there is no current chairperson and the numerous challenges associated with producing the camp, such as cost, location, and meeting attendance quota. President Baker noted that we have a deadline to make a deposit to Brandeis University to hold the dates for the 2025 Fall Camp. Their cancellation policy is up to three months before, but ten percent will be retained. She asked for a motion to make the deposit. **Terry Gucwa motioned that the Federation make the deposit for Fall Camp 2025. Lee Otterholt seconded. The motion passed, and the deposit will be made.**

Finance, Marshall Cates

The committee hasn't met after approving the extra subsidy for Scene and reviewing the Fall Camp subsidy. We have a budget that was approved last time, and it has all the subsidies involved in that budget.

Scholarships, Carol Smith

Carol Smith was not in attendance. President Baker noted that Carol and Mindy Belli have updated the scholarship form. Applications are due on June 1st. She requested that the council send the form to club members to bring to meetings and announce the scholarship opportunity.

Scene and Visiting Master Teachers, Jay Michtom

Jay Michtom was not in attendance. President Baker noted that Jay Michtom is retiring from producing Scene and that a replacement has not been identified. Various aspects of producing Scene were discussed: electronic distribution only, redistributing labor, giving stipends to layout staff and an honorarium for the coordinator. The issues will be referred to the Scene committee with a request that they report back.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Statewide 2025, Co-Chairs Billy Burke and Margaret Lange

A draft schedule has been posted on the Statewide website. Fifty-one dancers have registered, about half by mail-in and half by online registration. With teachers, aids, band members, and performers, about 68 dancers will be on the floor. An announcement was sent to the Northern Cal Federation Google group of about 250 people and to those who previously attended Statewide 2023. The BayOsos dancers have curated a list of local attractions that will be posted to the website. Information on dining in the Arroyo Grande Village will be compiled and posted. The souvenir tote bag was discontinued due to lack of interest. The committee is considering a complementary souvenir token. The workforce looks good from the BayOsos host club and family. Request dances will be solicited from the Southern Cal dance groups and registrants. Volunteers are needed to MC recorded music sets. Insurance and liability were discussed. Regarding the



contract for the Hall rental, Lange expressed concern about the “applicant” being held *personally* responsible per the Hall contract. President Baker said she would ask for legal advice.

Historian, Wen-Li Chiang

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Elections. President Baker noted that elections will take place at the next council meeting. Vice President Solloway is standing for president. Amy Dale is coming on as membership chair. Bob Altman will assist her with digital distribution and context. Treasurer Belli and Secretary Lange are staying. President Baker asked for nominations for Vice President. None were given. She asked that the council ask their club members if they are interested in standing for vice president and send the names of nominees to her.

Outreach Committee, Diane Baker:

Report appended. Additional pertinent discussion as follows:

Regarding the March 14th event, Toti O’Brien wrote an application for a mini-grant and all expenses, including security, were covered by the grant. Regarding the March 15th event, Billy Burke is working to get salary credit for teachers who attend. Regarding the May 10th concert, the location is now Culver City, awaiting confirmation. Paula Davis noted that the event should be classified as Outreach because audience members will be invited to join and learn. **Marshal Cates motioned that the May 10th event be added to the calendar and that the costs come from the outreach funds. Terry Gucwa seconded the motion. None were opposed. The motion carried.**

Secretary Lange noted that Statewide will have an outreach component; on Sunday afternoon, a free community dance is scheduled.

Waivers. President Baker asked if both the liability and the COVID waivers were necessary for federation events. Treasurer Belli noted that the liability waiver includes text regarding diseases. **President Baker motioned to rescind the COVID waiver. Vice President Solloway seconded the motion. None were opposed. The motion carried.**

Health Fairs. President Baker asked for reports about health fair events near the various clubs. The outreach committee needs the information. The topic was tabled until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Insurance Certificates. The Conejo Valley club encountered a problem when applying for an insurance certificate that includes “additional insured” status for their venue. Paula Davis asked if other clubs are having this same issue. The exact sentence was: "Waiver of Transfer of Rights of Recovery Against Others to Us" CG 24 04 05 09. "Primary and Noncontributory- Other Insurance Condition" CG 20 01 04 13. The phrase relates to “additional insured” status. This wasn’t included in our NFO insurance policy. Paula noted that obtaining certificates with additional insured will most likely take longer than when that designation is not requested. The club resolved the problem by obtaining insurance from the Conejo Valley Arts Association.



Assistance after Fires. President Baker asked if anyone else needed assistance after the Southern California fires, other than those already known? None were mentioned. It was noted that Loui Tucker mentioned in an email that the Northern California group is willing to help out.

MEETING DETAILS

The next meeting was set for Sunday, June 22, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., virtual via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

APPENDICES

President's Report

Treasurer's Report

Outreach Committee Report

**President's Report
by President Baker
for February 16, 2025 Folk Dance Federation South Council Meeting**

Thrilling, heartbreaking, and hopeful...

Fall Camp was a joyful experience for all participants. Thanks to Lee Otterholt and the hardworking committee. The Lunar New Year East Meets West Workshop brought together colorfully dressed dancers, inspired instruction, festive décor and Taiwanese delicacies at the tea break. Thanks to Wen, Sue, and the Cerritos dancers.

Pasadena Winter Fest. The Pasadena Co-op's dance materials, hardware, and venue were obliterated by January fires. Several dancers also had their homes destroyed. Lynnanne Hanson Miller & Chris Miller suffered the loss of their art studio, paintings, and much more. Their home is standing but is likely too damaged to repair. To request a link for the GoFundMe page to assist, please contact me info@socalfolkdance.org.

Jay Michtom, consummate coordinator of Scene, is retiring and my efforts to find a replacement have not succeeded. Sandy Helperin, in charge of print distribution, is also retiring. Subscription changes are in the works. Likely, the policy will be to offer printed Scenes only to continuing subscribers. New subscribers may read Scene digitally or print it at home. Please send me names and contact information for dancers or former dancers who are qualified to coordinate Scene.

Lee Otterholt and most of the Fall Camp Committee are not available to produce Fall Camp next year. We must decide at this meeting whether to hold Fall Camp in 2025, as the payment to hold our reservation is due Feb. 28, 2025.

All 21 Federation Clubs renewed for 2025, but with the passing of Asako Oshiro, the West Side Dancers have dissolved. A celebration of Life for Asako is planned for Sunday, March 16, 3:00 p.m. at the Dance Fit Studio in West L.A. We will celebrate her beautiful life and selfless contributions to international folk dance with a selection of dances and the opportunity to express how Asako affected our lives. R.S.V.P. to Sherry Cochran worldance1@gmail.com. On a positive note, the daytime class taught by Sandy Helperin in Culver City is thriving!

Illiana and Todor will be on tour in the US in June 2025. Bart Carpenter is coordinating their schedule. To request a teaching session at your club, contact Bart Carpenter a.bart.carpenter@gmail.com. He is now seeking bookings for festivals and camps and then will reserve instruction at local clubs.

Statewide registrations are rolling in! The next due date for reduced registration cost is March 14. Details are at the Federation website. Also, please print flyers to share with dancers at your club.

Mindy Belli and Carol Smith rewrote the scholarship application to make it more user-friendly. The due date is June 1st. Please encourage dance club members to apply.

Webmaster Dick Oakes keeps the calendar current. He has recently added more syllabi from past Kolo Festivals and a variety of cultural articles (Csángó Communities, Greek Macedonia and Thrace, Kolos explained, and more).

Treasurer's Report - Narrative for Meeting of 2-16-2025

Expenditures

As agreed-upon during 2024, the Scene has received a subsidy to defray costs due to declining ad sales, and the Fall Camp account was boosted with a large subsidy due to rising costs of room and board at the facility (and to keep the weekend affordable for most dancers).

Future subsidies will be needed again, but the amounts are expected to be smaller.

Income

A very large donation was received from the estate of Henry Rasof: over \$40,000. You might recall that Mr. Rasof wanted to thank the San Pedro club because it had been important to his mother Beatrice and her partner, and its members had included her even after she was disabled. Pauline Klak convinced Mr. Rasof that he should donate to the Federation. If you can contact Pauline, please give the good news and tell her "thank you".

A few additional club renewals came in. Most of the income from clubs consisted of insurance premiums. Insurance is not truly an expense or income in that the clubs pay for their coverage.

A dancer who attended Fall Camp generously donated to Fall Camp to show her appreciation for a wonderful weekend. She would like her donation to be used to subsidize someone who wants to attend the next Fall Camp, but needs financial help (i.e. ineligible or not qualified for a scholarship).

Ticket sales for the Statewide Festival are nearly \$5700. It has yet to occur many expenses. The net income is at least \$4800 at this point. It will have more income, and much higher expenses, in the next few months.

Treasurer's Report for Folk Dance Federation South, Inc
Nov. 9, 2024 through Feb. 16, 2025

| Expenditures (from any account) | Amount | Notes |
|--|---------------|------------------------|
| Subsidy for the Scene, balance | 2,000 | (\$500 paid last fall) |
| Subsidy for Fall Camp | 6,000 | |
| Scholarship (4th of 4) | 495 | |
| Refund to club for insurance | 60 | Not yet processed |
| Insurance Premiums for clubs | 960 | |
| Total Expenditures | 9,515 | |

| Income & Transfers-in | Amount | Notes |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Associate Memberships | 10 | |
| Club renewals (dues only) | 228 | |
| <u>Donations</u> | | |
| Anonymous for Fall Camp | 250 | To subsidize a camper |
| Estate of Henry Rasof | 40,633 | In memory of Beatrice |
| Insurance fees received | 350 | Included in \$960 sent to NFO |
| Transfers-in from Savings | 9,000 | For Fall Camp, Scene, & gen'l |
| Total Income & Transfers | 41,471 | |
| Net Income | 31,956 | Thank you Mr. Rasoff |

| Savings Acct Balance | Amount | Notes |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Beginning Balance per bank | 77,650.73 | on 11/09/2024 |
| General Fund | 82,526 | |
| Special Projects Fund | 18,710 | |
| Memorial Fund | 10,050 | |
| Deposits | 40,633 | Donation from Henry Rasof |
| Interest earned | 2.01 | |
| Transfers to Checking | 9,000 | |
| Transfer from Checking | - | |
| Ending Balance per bank | 109,285.00 | Matches the journal. |
| | | |
| Sum of All Accounts | Amount | Notes |
| Checking (regular) balance | 2177 | |
| Statewide Festival Checking | 15630 | Includes seed money of \$10,000 |
| Savings balance | 109285 | |
| Total | 127,092.00 | |

| Statewide Festival Account | Amount | Notes |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Opening deposit | 10,000 | For future rent, catering, etc. |
| Statewide Fest'l sales | 5,692 | |
| Statewide Fest'l expenses | (800) | Room for Chubritza band |
| Statewide Fest'l expenses | (63) | |
| Statewide Fest'l expenses TBD | - | Rent, Catering, etc. |
| Net Income | 4,829 | |

**Outreach Committee Report
by President Baker
for February 16, 2025 Folk Dance Federation South Council Meeting**

On March 14, Toti O'Brien and six volunteers from Pasadena Co-op will define, demonstrate, and lead the audience in folk dances at the Red Hen Press as part of the Pasadena Art Night. The address is 1540 Lincoln Ave., Pasadena, CA 91103. If you live in the vicinity, support Toti and enjoy a free evening of art, music, and entertainment at Pasadena's most prominent arts and cultural institutions. Free shuttles are available. The event will take place from 6 until 10 p.m. [ArtNightPasadena.org](https://www.artnightpasadena.org).

A teacher training workshop, led by Billy Burke, is scheduled for Saturday, March 15, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Croatian Catholic Church in downtown Los Angeles. Free registration and free parking in the adjacent garage are included. One goal is to improve the instructional skills of folk dancers who may then teach classes for senior centers and city recreation programs, assist classroom teachers, and more effectively share dances learned at camps & festivals with their home clubs. Another goal is to acquaint classroom teachers with the benefits of recreational folk dancing and to provide them with tips & routines. Register now. Please print flyers to share with club members and encourage folks to take advantage of Billy's experience and expertise.

On May 10, a collaboration with Nevenka Chorus in La Canada and a concert with Pečurka band and singers, plus a dance party, will be held. A playlist is available. The venue is not yet confirmed.

On November 5, folk Dancing will be featured at the Irvine Multicultural Association Meeting. Live music will be provided. Dancers from Laguna International will demonstrate a variety of dances and lead the audience in participation after relating the history and significance of recreational folk dance. We will also provide "ethnic" snacks and display costumes and photos. Greg Solloway is coordinating the presentation.

We are seeking your help to find health fairs in the vicinity of Federation Dance clubs. Please send approximate dates and contact info of the organization sponsoring the health fair. The outreach committee will apply for a booth and space to demonstrate dances after we hear from YOU!

We welcome additional participants on the Outreach committee!