



MINUTES OF THE FOLKDANCE FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA, SOUTH COUNCIL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m.

In Attendance:

OFFICERS - President: Greg Solloway; Vice President: Chin Yu; Treasurer: Mindy Belli; Secretary: Margaret Lange; Historian: Wen-Li Chiang; Sergeant-at-Arms: Terry Gucwa; Parliamentarian: Marshall Cates.

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS - Budget & Finance: Marshall Cates; Fall Camp: Terry Gucwa. Membership: Amy Dale; Scholarship: Carol Smith.

PAST PRESIDENTS- Marshall Cates.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS - Steve Himel

CLUB DELEGATES - Bay Osos Dancers: Margaret Lange; Cerritos Folk Dancers: Sue Chen; International Folk Dancers of Laguna Woods: Terry Gucwa; Laguna International Dancers: Greg Solloway; Pasadena Co-op: Marshall Cates; San Diego Folk Dance Center: Mary Marshall; Ventura International Folk Dancers: Carol Smith; Vintage Israel: Jim Rothman; Westside Folkdancers: Sandy Helperin

Approval of minutes from June 22, 2025. Mindy Belli moved that the minutes be approved as corrected. Carol Smith seconded. The motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICER REPORTS

President Greg Solloway

No report.

Vice President Chin Yu

Upcoming federation-sponsored events. All are approved except for Conejo Valley Folk Dance workshop, Pasadena Winter Festival, and Laguna Festival.

1. Ojai Day of Dance – September 27, 2025, Bruce Hamilton, English Country Dances
2. Fall Camp – October 31-November 2, 2025
3. Irvine Multicultural Association – November 5, 2025, Folkdance presentation and band
4. Conejo Valley Folk Dance (CVFD) hosting an Armenian workshop – November 16, 2025 with Naomi Eshoo
5. Pasadena Winter Festival – January 24, 2026, St. James Episcopal Church, \$10
6. Cerritos Lunar New Year Party – February 21, 2026
7. Laguna Festival – March 6-8, 2026, Daniel Sandu & Anna Angelkova teachers
8. Cerritos Anniversary Fest – May 16, 2026

Marshall Cates moved that the Federation sponsor the three events needing approval. Mary Marshall seconded. None were opposed. The motion carried.

Discussion: procedure for requesting sponsorships. A form on website is to be completed and submitted to the Vice President. For recurring events, the Vice President might consider communicating with event producers if forms have not been submitted.



Treasurer Mindy Belli

First period of the fiscal year and there was very little activity. There will soon be a lot of activity with expenses and revenue for Ojai Day of Dance. One scholarship applicant needs to be reimbursed. The newsletter needs an immediate infusion of money to avoid bank fees, monthly or annually. The savings account received the revenue and return of seed money from Statewide Festival. An advertisement in Let's Dance for Fall Camp was purchased. The treasurer asked if there any questions; none were noted, and she officially submitted the Treasurer's report into the record. (Report attached).

Discussion: Note that the online ticket sellers system makes record keeping difficult. Suggestion was made to research other systems to find one that would work well.

APPOINTED OFFICERS' REPORTS

Insurance Chairperson, Julith Neff

Not present. President Solloway read from her submitted report as follows: all insurance certificates are current at this time. The insurance contract year differs from our membership renewal date and begins November 9th each year. I will be requesting new certificates from all current federation clubs as soon as I am notified that the new contract is finalized. I'm very relieved that fall camp occurs well before this date as it has created problems in the past. Currently it is taking only a week to turn around a certificate request.

Membership Chairperson, Amy Dale

The updated forms were sent out to everybody. Amy thanked Greg Solloway and Diane Baker for their help. She acknowledged the contribution of Treasury Belli related to good ideas for changes. Amy noted there are two kinds of membership: clubs and associate members. Forms are due November 15th. The membership forms determine which clubs are in the federation and which clubs need insurance. She will follow up on those that don't return the forms. Membership information goes to update our website and the information in Scene. (Membership forms are attached.)

Sergeant-at-Arms, Terry Gucwa

A quorum was met.

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Fall Camp, Terry Gucwa

Fall Camp will take place from October 31 – November 2, 2025 at the Brandeis University Campus near Simi Valley.

In addition to one master teacher, Catherine Rudin, there will be four additional teachers who will share ten dances learned from summer camps. The certificate of insurance is being prepared. Attendance so far is light. Terry will send a reminder email. Amy Dale offered to post the Fall Camp flyer on the Facebook pages for various dance clubs. Advertisements have been placed in *Let's Dance* and *Scene*. The Fall Camp website will be updated soon. Paula Davis offered to assist with onsite preparation.

Finance, Marshall Cates

Budget for 2025-2026 Fiscal Year

The budget has an \$11,000 deficit. We've had large donations recently. We are trying to push the programs we enjoy such as *Scene*, the Visiting Master Teachers, and festivals. We are okay for a couple years more, but we should be aware we can't keep up operating on the deficit. Treasurer Belli discussed



expenses for festivals, master teachers, workshops, scholarships, and tax preparation. (Budget is attached.)

Marshall moved that the budget submitted by the fiscal committee be approved. Solloway seconded. None opposed. The budget was approved.

Scholarships. Carol Smith

Discussion regarding qualification for scholarship. The candidate should have to be a member of a Federation club, have a recommendation by a member club that is a Southern Federation club in good standing, dance regularly in Southern California, and should be a member of FDFS. Treasurer Belli expressed concern that an associate member who dances in a distant club would receive a scholarship.

Scene. Michael Wright

Not present. Solloway noted that Michael is doing a good job on the publication and he is glad to have him in the editor role.

Note: photographs, articles, and events may be sent to Michael Wright, *Scene* Editor, michael@theresultsgroup.com, 707-484-4022.

Visiting Master Teachers. Jay Michtom

Not present. No new activity per Solloway.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach Committee. Diane Baker:

Not present.

Solloway noted that we are looking for a new Outreach Committee Chair.

Solloway presented report as submitted by Baker.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes, at Cal State University, Long Beach

The OLLI class sponsored by CSULB is thriving. OLLI continues to offer it with no class fee and with no requirement the participants be OLLI members. (membership encouraged for those who find the class worthwhile). Attendance is growing each quarter. The Fall session begins Wednesday Oct. 1st 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Women's Club of Bellflower, [9402 Oak St., Bellflower 90706](http://www.bellflower.org)

Fifth Friday International Folk Band in Eagle Rock

In the month of August, the Fifth Friday International Folk Band played a selection of songs and tunes for the Eagle Rock Historical Society, in occasion of their annual Ice Cream Social event. This is a recurrent gig. Each year, Fifth Friday invites local folk dancers to attend, as well as members of the Occidental College Folk and Historical Dance Troupe to lead some of the dances. This year, Dr. Alan Knoerr led a Syrto and a choice of other dances. He was able to briefly but effectively demonstrate them to the audience, and - like always - many "non dancers" happily joined.

Later in August, the Fifth Friday Band played a one-hour concert for the Eagle Rock Public Library. The concert was devoted to the Bulgarian and Macedonian musical traditions. It consisted of 12 songs, and a script providing pertinent and significant information about the musical and cultural background of the pieces performed. The concert was very well attended, and extremely well received. The Library director enthusiastically asked the band to return anytime, for as many concerts as wished, and the band has presented request for 3 more installments of the series, each dedicated to a different folk-music tradition.



Before, during and after the events, Fifth Friday has advertised and illustrated (as we always do) the activities of the Folk Dance Federation and the Pasadena Co-op, distributed a large amount of informative material and especially, warmly, invited the audience to come and dance with us.

Irvine Multicultural Assembly, November 5, 2025, 5 -7 p.m.

Event will be held at Lakeview Senior Center in Irvine. They host an event that is focused on a single country once a month. Interfolk will provide live music for dancing. We'll give a brief presentation about recreational folk dancing, including information on the Federation South and groups people can visit or join. We plan to do some representational demonstration dances and a few audience participation dances. We will have some costumes to show, and Marge Gajicki has offered to bring some of her doll collection (all in costume!). Snacks and food will be provided by us and the City of Irvine.

Irvine Health Fair not available

We will not be eligible for a booth because the Health Fair has expanded their focus.

Other outreach related discussion: Paula Davis added that her group produced a family-friendly folk dance event. She is looking into participating in her local Wellness Fest 2026. She can apply but they can't do anything interaction, so is thinking of presenting a video at a booth.

Mary Marshall asked if we share average attendance of folk dance clubs, to get an idea of the health of groups. Greg said it is good to know the ways different groups are set up, how they receive payment, etc., and share flyers of groups. Recruiting methods suggested: Visibility such as signs, personal engagement, short beginning dance classes sticking to the basics with time for visiting.

Paula Davis noted that she has been a floating member of the Outreach Committee for the past year. She is considering chairing the committee but has questions: how it flows into the organization structure overall, how membership is structured, what constitutes voting especially if money is spent. Solloway: stated that it started as ad hoc committee. Mindy Belli stated it was her understanding that Jan Rayman initially recognized the need for concerted outreach. She proposed outreach with good beginner groups and working in schools. Diane Baker may have developed initiatives for outreach. Marshall Cates noted that the Outreach Committee is a temporary ad hoc committee. That needs to be reappointed each year. He suggested a by-law change to add the outreach committee in its structure. Paula suggested that the discussion be tabled until the next council meeting. She moved that the council consider establishing Outreach as standing committee at that time. Marshall agreed; so moved. Greg seconded. Greg and Paula will meet to develop a presentation for next council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Sans Frontieres played Laguna International Summer Party on July 9th. There were 60 attendees.

Bob & Michelle's Anniversary Party – There were four bands, a potluck, and dance party on August 3rd with approximately 50 attendees.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Marshall: Statewide 2027 in San Diego. Vice President Chin Yu is helping to secure the location and narrow down the date.

Carol Smith: Ojai Day of Dance, dance teachers will be Marc Rayman and Joan Hantman, or Toti O'Brien if Joan is not available. She is hoping for attendance from clubs that are within the two-hour drive range. She will place ads in local papers. It is \$23 at the door, \$20 in advance. Twenty-five people are needed to make up the rent on the Ojai Art Center and we are covered under their insurance.

MEETING DETAILS

The next meeting was set for Sunday, December 14, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., virtual via Zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Margaret Lange

November 24, 2025

Secretary
Folkdance Federation of California, South

Date Submitted

December 14, 2025

Date of Approval



Club Application or Renewal (2025)

Club name: _____

Membership Dues & Acknowledgement

Membership type: Recreational club Exhibition group

Annual membership dues = \$ 15.00

Plus \$1.00 per member (_____ x \$ 1.00) = \$ _____

Additional meetings per week (_____ x \$ 7.50) = \$ _____

Insurance (if needed) (_____ \$ 60.00) = \$ _____

We'd like to make a tax-deductible donation to help support the Federation. (Optional) = \$ _____

Total enclosed = \$ _____

I acknowledge that

1. We meet and accept the conditions for membership as set forth in the attached Club Criteria.
2. A club delegate will attend Federation Council meetings if we wish to maintain participating status.
3. The membership year is 1 January through 31 December.

Club officer (name & title)

Date

Deadline is November 15, 2025.

You are encouraged to submit all the "paperwork" via email. Of course, you can also print out forms and mail them in if you wish.

Please send **check payable to Folk Dance Federation**, and completed forms (if not e-mailed) to:

Amy Dale
24751 Castle HI.
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677
amydale@cox.net

If you have questions, please contact:

Julith Neff, Insurance Chair
julithilona@gmail.com
(562) 881-9504

Amy Dale (membership questions)
amydale@cox.net
(949) 606-3287

Club Information

Club name: _____

Website (if any): _____

Club Contact and Delegate Info

Club Contact:

This person receives Federation renewal packages, ballots, minutes, etc.

Name: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip _____

Club Delegate:

(Yes, you can leave the contact info blank if it's the same as above)

Name: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip _____

Alternate Delegate (if any):

Name: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____

Send our insurance certificate to:

Name: _____
Email: _____

Club Meeting Info

If nothing has changed since last year, please just write "No changes".

Day: _____ Time: _____ Cost: \$ _____

Level: Beginning Intermediate Advanced
 Children ok Senior only Live music Singing

Type: Open Closed Exhibition

Type of dancing: _____

Location: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Contact person for *this event** _____ Phone/email: _____

Teacher or leader: _____ Phone/email: _____

Other info (if any): _____

* This is information about this event. Only enter a contact person if different from the club contact (above).

Club Information (continued)

Club name: _____

If nothing has changed since last year, please just write "No changes".

Additional Meeting (for multi-night clubs)

Day: _____ Time: _____ Cost: \$ _____

Level: Beginning Intermediate Advanced
 Children ok Senior only Live music Singing

Type: Open Closed Exhibition

Type of dancing: _____

Location: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Contact person for *this event** _____ Phone/email: _____

Teacher or leader: _____ Phone/email: _____

Other info (if any): _____

* This is information about this event. Only enter a contact person if different from the club contact.

Additional Meeting (for multi-night clubs)

Day: _____ Time: _____ Cost: \$ _____

Level: Beginning Intermediate Advanced
 Children ok Senior only Live music Singing

Type: Open Closed Exhibition

Type of dancing: _____

Location: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Contact person for *this event** _____ Phone/email: _____

Teacher or leader: _____ Phone/email: _____

Other info (if any): _____

* This is information about this event. Only enter a contact person if different from the club contact.

Membership Roster

Club name: _____

You can use this form if you wish or attach your own roster. Please write legibly. Optimally, do it on the computer and email it or send a print-out.

Club members:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
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Associate Membership

Name: _____ Date: _____

I would like to be an Associate Member in the Folk Dance Federation of California, South, Inc.

Check one: Individual Organization

Individual or Contact Person for Organization

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Organization Information (if this is an organization membership)

Organization: _____

Exhibition group: Yes No

Organization Name: _____

Website (if any): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Club Meeting Info

If nothing has changed since last year, please just write "No changes".

Day: _____ Time: _____ Cost: \$ _____

Level: Beginning Intermediate Advanced
 Children ok Senior only Live music Singing

Type: Open Closed Exhibition

Type of dancing: _____

Location: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Contact person for this event* _____ Phone/email: _____

Teacher or leader: _____ Phone/email: _____

Other info (if any): _____

* This is information about this event. Only enter a contact person if different from the club contact (above).

Payment

Annual Membership Dues	\$ <u>10.00</u>
Here is my tax-deductible donation to the Federation	\$ _____
Total enclosed	\$ _____

Please send this form & a check payable to **Folk Dance Federation of California, South**, to:

Amy Dale
24751 Castle HI.
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

Questions: Amy Dale amydale@cox.net or (949) 606-3287

As an Associate Member you will be receiving a free electronic subscription of the Folk Dance Scene.