



Board Meeting Minutes (Approved by the FSGW Board of Directors on 12/2/25)

BOARD MEETING – November 4, 2025

Lucia Schaefer called the meeting to order at 8:03 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*
Betsy Platt, *Program*
Paul Lieberman, *Publications*
Liz Donaldson, *At-Large*
Tim Livengood, *At-Large*
Ayan Kishore, *At-Large*

Absent:

Ingrid Gorman, *Publicity*
Aristhide Nobanza, *Dance Chair*
Sherry Lynn Smith, *Membership*

Guests:

Milo Pierick (office staff)
Mo Brachfeld (office staff)
Charlie Baum
Timothy Foley
Linda Zebooker
Donna Rogall
Fred Stollnitz

Approval of Minutes:

- MOTION: To approve Minutes from the October 7, 2025, Board Meeting.
 - Vote: Joel Bluestein moved; Betsy Platt seconded. Approved unanimously with one abstention (Jackie Hoglund).
 - Resolved: The minutes of the October 7, 2025, meeting are approved and entered into the Society records.

Open Forum:

- Paul Lieberman announced that, for the first time since he became the publications chair, someone has requested to place a display ad in the newsletter. A check has been mailed to the FSGW PO box.

REPORTS:

President's Report:

- The Washington Folk Festival was a huge success. Lucia congratulated the organizers.
- March 7th, 2026 is the mini-fest. Lucia asked for programming input from the WFF program committee.

Treasurer's Report:

- Current account balances:

Fund Name	10/31/25	9/30/25	8/31/25
Wells Fargo	\$20,772	\$50,287	\$38,946
Fidelity	\$63,641	\$62,715	\$61,334
Vanguard	\$201,340	\$198,314	\$193,048
TOTAL	\$285,453	\$311,316	\$293,328

- The Getaway expenses came in at a loss of \$2,000 but are expected to break even because of anticipated donations.
- The Washington Folk Festival financials are still preliminary. There were some unanticipated costs. There will likely be a net loss of about \$3,500.

Dance Report:

- October Dances:
 - Barn Dance: October 12 (FSGW picnic) Janine Smith called to Old Time Cobras.
 - Silver Spring Contra: October 9 April Blum called to Trio Con Brio---Elke Baker, Paul Oorts, Jonathan Jensen in the Great Hall.

Date & Time	Registered	Attended
2025-10-09 07:00PM	53	51

- Weekly ECD as per usual

Date & Time	Registered	Attended
2025-10-29 08:00PM	33	33
2025-10-22 08:00PM	53	53
2025-10-15 08:00PM	33	33
2025-10-08 08:00PM	35	34
2025-10-01 08:00PM	19	18
Total	173	171

- November Dances:
 - Barn Dance: November 9 Greg Frock calling to Robin Wilson flute, Emily Aubrey fiddle.
 - Silver Spring Contra: November 13 Anna Rain calling to Petrichord: Sophie Chang, Bobby LaRose, Colleen Holroyd in the Great Hall.

Program/Concert Report:

- The November 10th house concert with Flur has been cancelled.
- Upcoming:
 - November 22: House concert: Pat Egan and Seamus Wade.
 - December 13: House concert: Kaleidoscope.

Office Report:

- Mo and Milo are cleaning up email recipient lists in Wild Apricot. Milo is continuing to clean up undeliverable emails

ACTION ITEMS:

2026 Getaway:

- *Motion: Joel Bluestein moved, Betsy Platt seconded, to approve an additional \$6,670.34 to pay the second installment to West River Conference Center for the 2026 Getaway event.*
- Discussion:
 - The 2026 Getaway will take place next fiscal year so while this payment will occur in July 2026, it will be applied to the FY2026 budget.
 - The Getaway committee is reserving fewer cabins for the 2026 Getaway which will reduce expenses.
- *Approved unanimously.*

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

GEPPAC Central Box Office Proposal:

- Emily Crews with Glen Echo sent an updated Central Box Office Proposal. The Proposal states that all presenters will need to share participant names and emails with GEPPAC. The board reviewed the FSGW Privacy Policy and discussed repercussions of sharing our participant email addresses with GEPPAC.
- FSGW doesn't currently have any events that the new proposal applies to. The only FSGW events at the park are Contraststock, Hashdance, the barn dance, and the WFF. These are all unique events and will operate under separate agreements. Lucia and Alyssa will meet with GEPPAC to discuss specifics.

Washington Folk Festival:

- Ayan thanked everyone who participated in organizing and volunteering at the festival.
- The event was extremely successful and is close to breaking even financially.
- GEPPAC offered some August dates for a 2026 festival. August 23, 2026 is tentatively reserved.
- Ayan is meeting with GEPPAC this week to debrief about the festival.
- Ayan is hosting an internal debriefing session. The committee is working to collect feedback from as many sources as possible. Aya requests all feedback to be emailed to him.
- Based on the debriefings, Ayan will report back to the board at the next meeting about the plan for 2026.
- Currently, the general sense of the board is to do a WFF in August 2026. This will require an amendment to the FY26 budget.

Update to FSGW Safety Policy:

- Lucia shared the current draft of the public-facing policy for the board to review. The intent is that this policy will apply to all FSGW events. Lucia requested comments before the next board meeting with the goal of voting to adopt it at the December meeting.
- Lucia shared a draft internal-facing policy to guide board members. This includes a draft script of an example on how to handle complaints from our event attendees.

Support for Board Members:

- Lucia has compiled a spreadsheet of people who have expressed interest in volunteering to help at FSGW events. We will continue to advertise for volunteers and add names to the spreadsheet. The request will be included in the newsletter and eblast, announced at events, and a sign-up will be available at events.

IT Admin Role and IT Tracker Spreadsheet:

- Last month's newsletter included a request for IT support volunteers.
- Jackie created a central spreadsheet with all of FSGW's IT tasks. These tasks have been previously compiled in other documents, but a spreadsheet may be easier to use and to track. The spreadsheet still needs to be fully populated.
- We also need a better job description. This can be written once we have a better handle on the tasks needing attention.

Ticket Pricing:

- The board discussed ideas for removing financial barriers for folks attending FSGW events and providing financial incentives for new folks to return.
- Many financial accessibility practices are already in place including some events that have a suggested donation rather than a ticket price, some that have a self-select limited-income rate, and the ECDC that is free for first time attendees.
- Starting in November, the Silver Spring contra dance will provide a physical coupon to first time attendees to get in to their second dance for free.

Check-in Table for Events:

- The board discussed ideas for improving the efficiency of the check-in table at the Silver Spring contra dance. Starting with a trial at the November dance, non-member attendees paying cash will not need to be registered in Wild Apricot and non-member attendees paying with a credit card will be able to pay using Square instead of WA. Members will still need to be registered in WA in order to verify membership status.

Jackie Hoglund moved, Betsy Platt seconded to enter executive session at 9:57pm

Jackie Hoglund moved, Betsy Platt seconded to exit executive session at 10:10pm

Meeting Adjourned at 10:11pm

- Tim Livengood moved, Alyssa Hemler seconded.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, December 2, at 8pm on Zoom.