



Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEETING – August 8, 2026

Charlie Pilzer called the meeting to order at 8:02 PM as an online Zoom meeting. Quorum (at least 8 board members) was established.

Attendees Present:

Charlie Pilzer, *President*
Ayan Kishore, *Vice President*
Joel Bluestein, *Treasurer*
David Nicholson, *Secretary*
Stephan Rochefort-Dych, *Dance Chair*
Betsy Platt, *Program Chair*
Sherry Lynn Smith, *Membership Chair*
Ingrid Gorman, *Publicity*
Paul Lieberman, *Publications*
Lucia Schaefer, *Past President*
Tim Livengood, *At-Large*
Daniel Greenstein, *At-Large*

Absent:

Liz Donaldson, *At-Large*
Jackie Hoglund, *Past Treasurer*

Guests:

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

Approval of Minutes:

- *MOTION: The approval of the July 7, 2026 meeting minutes be deferred to the September 1, 2026 meeting. Tim Livengood moves, Joel Bluestein second. Approved unanimously.*

Open Forum:

- None.

REPORTS:

President's Report:

- The president will form the nominations committee before the September meeting.
- Lucia submitted the ad reservation for the Fall CDSS issue. Ad copy has been provided by each group (Hashdance, Contrastock, Getaway). The next deadline is August 14th for Art and Payment.

- The board discussed who will design the advertisement. Joel volunteers for payment, Paul will help with content, and Office staff and Lucia will help design.

Treasurer's Report:

- Account balances:

Fund Name	12/31/23	12/31/24	12/31/25	7/31/26
Vanguard	\$150,702	\$176,973	\$202,918	\$217,384
Fidelity	\$123,897	\$80,864	\$64,571	\$59,344
Wells Fargo	\$54,327	\$32,667	\$25,057	\$27,762
TOTAL	\$328,926	\$290,503	\$292,546	\$304,490

- The board discussed approving Joel Bluestein to move funds from Charles Schwab managed investment account to Charles Schwab retail account. Joel reports that no resolution is needed now but may be required later.
- The signature authorities established in the previous meeting's corporate resolution need to visit a Wells Fargo branch to complete the transfer of authority. Joel will determine who specifically needs to go. The board decided to defer action on this until September.
- Joel reports that he has started work on the budget, including requests from board members. Joel will have a draft of the budget by the September meeting.

Dance Report:

- Stephan requested access to the shared Google Drive. The president will provide access.
- **Silver Spring Contra**
 - Lucia provided information on expenses and attendance for the past year for Carpe Diem Arts' grant application.
 - The Silver Spring dance operated at a slight net positive for FY 2026, unlike in previous years.
 - Diane Dowling is the new contact to replace Busy.
- **Recent Dances**
 - Second Sunday Barn Dance
 - July: Kappy Lanning called to Liz Donaldson and Emily Aubrey.
 - August: No Barn Dance.
 - September: Lucia Schaefer will call.
 - July Silver Spring Contra
 - Attendance: 55
 - Evan DeSmitt called to Elke Baker and Liz Donaldson at Seekers Church.
 - Profit share: \$22.61
 - FSGW Net Income: \$15.08
- **Annual Events**
 - Contrastock 2026: 47 people registered.
 - Contrastock 2027:

- Confirmed for September 12th in the ballroom.
- Callers are booked: Will Mentor, Gaye Fifer, Caroline Barnes.
- Band booking is underway: Handspring confirmed.
- Hashdance: Goal to open registration in September, before Contraststock.
- Annual Picnic
 - The Picnic is on October 11th alongside the Barn Dance.
 - The jam is expected to run 1.5–2 hours from 3:15 to 5:00 pm.

Program/Concert Report:

- Upcoming events
 - September 19: VODA Trio at Seekers Church.
 - October 1: Syncopaths house concert, co-sponsored.
 - Nov 14: Windborne at Seekers Church.
 - Nov 15: Workshop with Windborne.
 - Dec 19: Karen Ashbrook holiday concert at Ascension With Eileen Estes, Andrea Hoag, Paul Oorts.
 - April 30 or May 1. Trio Mandili, tentative.
- The president asked whether a calendar could be prepared to distribute during the WFF. It was agreed that a calendar could be prepared, but the group would like to add another October event first.

Office Report:

- Mo has been adding upcoming events to the website.
- Mo inquired on the budget for a paid WFF social media push.
 - Ingrid suggested \$50 and will provide Mo with a firm number after reviewing social media statistics.
- Milo reviewed duplicates email contacts (cleaned ~400 duplicate contacts)
- Milo reported a website issue in which anyone can choose to set up recurring payments on membership. A bug fix request was submitted to Wild Apricot support.
- Hashdance and Contraststock ticket pricing
 - Last year, the price of a non-member ticket was less than FSGW membership plus a membership ticket, which was intentionally done to increase membership. However, this did cause issues for the website.
 - Milo asked the board whether this policy should stay the same.
 - Milo, Joel, Jackie, and Mo will discuss the matter further in consultation with the Dance Committee.

ACTION ITEMS:

All Folks Waltz Proposal

- Katherine Anderson presented a proposal for a monthly inclusive waltz event, “All Folks Waltz”, to begin in FY 2027.
- Proposal outline
 - Monthly dance held Mondays at [Lyon Village Community House](#) (1920 N. Highland Street, Arlington, VA 22201).
 - **Venue total:** \$150 (3 hour minimum at \$50/hr)
 - One live musician (keyboardist) \$150 plus profit sharing if applicable

- Instructor/Dance Facilitator - \$150 plus profit sharing if applicable
 - **Talent total:** \$300
 - **Event Total:** \$450
- *MOTION: Stephan Rochefort-Dych moved that FSGW sponsor the “All Folks Waltz” starting in FY 2027. Betsy Platt seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.*
- Discussion
 - The board discussed the starting date. Because venue availability, approval, and musician arrangements remain to be determined, no specific starting date was established; October was identified as the earliest likely start date.
 - The president instructed Katherine to submit the proposed budget to Joel, working with Stephan and Lucia to incorporate publicity and insurance.
 - The president suggested increasing the talent to 2 musicians.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Washington Folk Festival:

- Ingrid reported that the print deadline for the program book was met and that publicity invoices will be sent to Joel.
- Satellite parking and bus service will follow the same model as last year.
- Ayan reported that funding and publicity are in good shape.
- Volunteers are particularly needed for setup and teardown.
- The Board will discuss the 2027 WFF date at its September meeting following a post-WFF debrief. The deadline for submitting 2027 dates to GEPPAC is September 12.
- The President encouraged earlier planning for next year's WFF, including the early involvement of new organizers.

GEPPAC Request for 2027 Dates:

- FSGW must provide Emily Crews with its requested dates, times, and venues for ongoing 2027 events by September 12
- Stephan will review and confirm the list of events and requested locations and submit the request to Emily, copying Charlie on the correspondence.
- The request will include already-reserved events, including Hash Dance and Contraststock, as well as the Second Sunday Barn Dance schedule and other ongoing events.

Getaway:

- Charlie Baum reports that registration is currently approximately 40 participants, with additional registrations expected closer to the event.
- The President asked the Getaway Committee to explore additional publicity opportunities, including Trad MaD, Pinewoods events, and Harmony Week.
- Charlie and Betsy will discuss these possibilities offline.

Grapevine:

- Tim reported that 10 nights are scheduled and 17 of 20 speakers have been confirmed.
- Tim will prepare a promotional budget proposal and submit it to Joel.
- Promotional materials may include merchandise and a commissioned design incorporating the official FSGW logo.

- A just-in-time approach to merchandise was suggested, with a small initial quantity produced and additional items ordered as needed.

Publicity:

- Dan will replace Paul in publicity duties during September.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:11pm

- Lucia Schaefer moved, and Liz Donaldson seconded.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at 8pm online via Zoom.