



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Winter Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Salt Lake City, Utah

January 28, 2023

Philippe called the meeting to order at 9am MST - He welcomed everyone to Salt Lake City and told us about the wonderful tradition of coming here especially now in our 50th year. He introduced Shamar Lejardi the club's newly elected president. She thanked everyone for coming and gave us the rundown of the day's events, which includes their annual dinner dance.

Philippe told everyone about how we honored Al Erquiaga and Miren Artiach in Boise. He introduced Pierre Etcharren, founding member from San Francisco who has been part of the organization for 50 years, and Bob Echeverria, former president as well. He talked about Mary Gaztambide and told us how fondly he remembers her.

He thanked everyone for sending proxies so that we would have a quorum and are able to conduct business. He recognized Benan and Pedro Oiarzabal from the Basque Country, and talked about NABO's relationship with the Basque Government over the years, and thanked them for years of collaboration.

ROLL CALL

NABO Officers

President – Philippe Acheritogaray

Vice-President – Annie Gavica

Treasurer – Mayi Petrcek

Secretary – Kate Camino

NABO Administrators

Euskara Coordinator – Edurne Arostegui

Facilitator – Kate Camino

Webmaster – Lisa Corcostegui

Program Directors & Committee Chairpersons

Finance Committee – Mayi Petrcek

Investment Committee – Mayi Petrcek

Calendars – Mary Lou Urrutia - excused

Education – John Ysursa

Euskara – Ziortza Gandarias

Mus – Pierre Etcharren

Pilota – Tony Huarte

Txerriki Contest Organizer – Valerie Arrechea



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Udaleku – Valerie Arrechea & Kate Camino

Euskal Kantari Eguna – Anita Izoco & Noel Goyhenetche

Board of Directors (delegates) Representing 42 NABO Member Organizations

British Columbia

Zazpiak Bat: Vancouver Absent

Quebec

Euskaldunak: Quebec Noël Fagoaga Noël Fagoaga proxy

California

Bakersfield

Kern County Basque Club Louis Iturriria Maria Toretta

Chino

Chino Basque Club Denis Petrissans Denis Petrissans proxy

Fresno

Fresno Basque Club Jean Pierre Etchechury Jean Pierre Etchechury proxy

Los Angeles

Oberená Pello Urrutia Pello Urrutia proxy

Los Banos

Los Banos Basque Club Christopher Bengochea Christopher Bengochea proxy

Marin-Sonoma

Marin-Sonoma

Basque Association Valerie Arrechea Pierre Etcharren

Ontario

Southern California

Basque Club Anne Marie Gariador Anne Marie Gariador proxy



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Rocklin

Iparreko Ibarra/Northern

Valley Basque Club

Noel Goyhenetche

Noel Goyhenetche proxy

San Francisco

Anaitasuna Basque Club

Marisa Espinal

Marisa Espinal proxy

San Francisco Basque Club

Valerie Arrechea

Valerie Arrechea proxy

Basque Educational

Organization

Marisa Espinal

Aline Elicagaray proxy

San Francisco Basque

Cultural Center

Valerie Arrechea

Pierre Etcharren

Susanville

Susanville Eskualdun Inc.

Dominica Zubillaga

Dominica Zubillaga proxy

Ventura County

Ventura County Basque Club

Pello Urrutia

Pello Urrutia proxy

Colorado

Denver Euskal Etxea

Mayi Petrcek

Jone Brunelle

Saint Pierre et Miquelon

Euskal Etxea SPM

Absent

Idaho

Boise

Basque Museum &

Cultural Center

Annie Gavica

Cindy Shaffeld

Basque Studies at

Boise State University

John Ysursa

Ziortza Gandarias proxy

Cenarrusa Foundation

Gloria Totoricagüena

Gloria Totoricagüena proxy



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Euzkaldunak: Boise Basque
Center

Ricardo Yanci

Ricardo Yanci proxy

Oinkari Basque Dancers

Alex Wray

Ruth Wray

Gooding

Gooding Basque Association

Asun Bedialauneta

Asun Bedialauneta proxy

Homedale

Txoko Ona Basque Club

Gloria Lejardi

John Lejardi

Mountain Home

Euskal Lagunak

Cindy Shaffeld

Cindy Shaffeld proxy

Nevada

Battle Mountain

Battle Mountain Oberenak

Cindy Shaffeld

Cindy Shaffeld

Elko

Elko Euzkaldunak Club

Bob Echeverria

Mercedes Mendive

Gardnerville

Mendiko Euskaldun Cluba

Teresa Cox

Becky Sarratea-Murphy

Las Vegas

Lagun Onak

Paradise Valley

Santa Rosa Basque Club

Amaya Beristain

Amaya Beristain proxy

Susan Gavica

Annie Gavica

Reno

Center for Basque Studies

Kate Camino

Kate Camino proxy

Zazpiak Bat

Reno Basque Club

Enrike Corcostegui

Jennifer Etcheberry



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Winnemucca

Euskaldunak Danak Bat

Maureen Macdonald

Maureen Macdonald

New York

Euzko Etxea

Absent

Oregon

Ontario, Oregon Basque Club

Maria Barinaga Tipton

Lisa Corcostegui

Rhode Island

Portsmouth

New England Basque Club

Absent

Utah

Basque Club of Utah

Cristina Sangroniz

Cristina Sangroniz proxy

District of Columbia

Washington D.C.

Euskal Etxea

Absent

Washington

Seattle Euskal Etxea

Toni Sabarots

Toni Sabarots proxy

Wyoming

Alkartasuna Basque Club

Martin Goicoechea

Mikaela Goicoechea

Big Horn Basque Club

Mick Camino

Mick Camino proxy

Clubs not attending – Iparreko Ibarra, Zazpiak Bat Vancouver, Euskal Etxea SPM, New York Euzko Etxea, New England Basque Club, Washington DC Euskal Etxea

Basque Government Representatives in attendance– Benan Oregi from the Basque Government's Directorate for the Basque Community Abroad, and Delegate of Euskadi in the US, Unai Telleria.

Guests – Pedro Oiarzabal, Joseba Etxarri and Iñaki Arrieta, Jon Bilbao Basque Library



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Quorum - 36 out of 42 attending, simple majority is 37 or 74 delegates, and 2/3s is 49.

Mayi moved to approve minutes seconded by Bob. All in favor - passes unanimously

Benan – gave the Basque Government report. The order to pay the first installment of the 2022 Basque Government grants was given a few days ago, and he explained that with the new internet process, they (the Basque Government) were asked to provide different paperwork this year. They are going ahead with the internet process but they are now required to provide more detailed information. He expects the first wire transfers will be received in a week or so. The Justification platform depends on the exact amount of funds awarded, and until that is determined, justifications cannot be carried out. As soon as these amounts are determined, then it will be updated so we can then justify the expenses to get the second installment of 75%. First payment will be 25%.

This year is different because it is a Congress year, making it the 8th World Congress. It will probably take place in December in Gipuzkoa. They change venues every 4 years and this year they hope to return to Gipuzkoa. Venue and dates are TBD but they hope to hold it in later December. This also means that Gaztemundu will take place one week before the Congress so those participants can attend the Congress as guests as they have been doing at prior editions. The Directorate for the Basque Community Abroad will be asking for the participation of communities to organize it, and are preparing some communications to federations and institutions who are registered with them to in turn send their ideas to present in the congress. They are talking about updating the law from 1994 - Law 8, which has allowed them to run all these programs over the years. They are updating the law but the proposal hasn't been sent to the Parliament yet, but the Basque Government will to be discusses, and where the final approval will take place by 75 members of the Parliament. After the law is passed, they will send it to everyone for feedback and will create a law that will hopefully serve for the next 25 years. Changing a law if not easy, it takes a long time. This will establish the relationship with the Diaspora for the next 25 years and so it is imperative that they do it right. Things are changing very quickly and so they have to make sure to include the historical immigration, and associations as well as the individuals, who live abroad now, establishing themselves as individuals and not with entities. This is a new way of immigrating and a new reality that the Basque Government needs to provide services for, and so the new umbrella will serve both old and new immigration. If you would like more information, or if you would like to take part in this process, please let Benan know and they will be able to share their thoughts with you.

Philippe thanks Benan



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The congress should end around December 20th if it is held in December. They are considering different venues and possibilities in Gipuzkoa.

Is there a tentative date for next grant cycle?

Benan - good question. We have to close the 2022 cycle before they can open the next call. Deadline to justify is March 31st. If there are any extra monies not justified they have to know that information before March 31st. The new call will not be published until late May at least.

Any other questions for Benan? Thank you Benan very much!

Philippe, Unai would you like to share anything?

Unai, thank you but I do not have anything to add.

Pedro Oiarzabal - update on Memoria Bizia Project. If you have had a chance to read the report included in the packet, he had an update on an event with the Texas representative to honor the Basque veterans from Texas. There will be an academic portion talking about those veterans with a small exhibit with artifacts from family members of those veterans. Probably one of the major public events to honor Basque veterans from the Greatest Generation. They are thrilled to organize this event since the Legislature is already in session. The exhibit will run for a week and they heard from the Heritage office that the exhibit will be displayed at the Austin Library, or maybe at U of Texas who is also collaborating with the project. Organizers in Texas are looking to hear from NABO about any questions or concerns, and Pedro is asking for economic support to go to Austin in March. Pedro's research group does not have money for these kind of expenses. These funds would not affect NABO member dues. All money raised prior has been committed to the research projects. This project, The Fighting Basques, has been going since 2015, and has completed research in 44 states including DC and Puerto Rico. They are still working on Idaho, and NY, and have written over 1,000 biographies. The majority of those veterans are the children of the immigrants. There is a Facebook Page and have written stories about those individuals to bring light to them. Those are also on the blog on Buber.net and EuskaraKultura.eus.

Thank you on behalf of the research team and Sancho de Beurko Association

Mayi - how much are you requesting?

Pedro - The flight is the most expensive - roughly \$5,000 Austin hotels are pretty expensive. Talking four nights in the hotel. There are no surviving Texas veterans, but there are other family members. This is a community they don't know very much about, but it has historical ties with the Basque community.



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Benan - have you talked to the Texas Basque Club?

Pedro - not directly but the representative's office has reached out to them. They are working with many organizations looking for support. Rafael Anchia's office will also cover some expenses.

Benan is the University of the Basque Country involved?

Pedro they are part of the scientific committee but not part of the association.

Bob - shouldn't someone from NABO attend instead of someone from the Basque Country?

Pedro - maybe something you should decide among yourselves. They need to participate in the academic panel as one of the exhibit creators; this will benefit all veterans as well as the Basques. This would be one of the most important events to honor veterans. Someone from the research team attending would facilitate discussing the research as well as who the Basques are. They only have a few families to accept the honor presented by the state of Texas. This is one of the first events that could be replicated in other places.

Bob - I'm opposed to sending NABO funds for something that doesn't represent NABO.

Pedro - I think it is 100% aligned with NABO's principles.

Bob - your representative could do more for the Basques, instead of the Hispanic community.

Annie Gavica - as part of the museum exhibit Basques in the military project. There is an intern in military history who is doing similar things and wondered if he had spoken to Patty about further information.

Edurne - has given John information from Fighting Basques and she is sure he would be willing to collaborate and she thinks it would make sense for him to attend the event as well.

Pedro - has been collaborating with the military exhibit and have done 15 biographies used by them. He has been in touch sharing various materials. Regarding the intern, that is a fantastic idea since Pedro has been at this since 2015, starting in Nevada, and then have included more states.



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Annie – suggests contacting Patty again.

Pedro - I will reach out to Patty.

Kate moves to pay \$5,000 with a second from Teresa Cox

Lisa - anything that brings visibility to Basques in the US is a worthy cause. It is part of our mission to bring awareness of the Basque culture

Christina Sangroniz - most Hispanics do not know that they are Basque.

Teresa - that is our mission

Philippe -reads article 2 - to promote preserve protect etc. and activities of the Basque people. That is in our articles of incorporation. This is part of the Memoria Bizia project that NABO, UNR, Etxepare and others were initial collaborators on.

Bob thinks there should also be NABO representation

Marisa - I understand Bob, but Pedro has worked with us many times and Memoria Bizia has been working with us for years. We have had such loss in our communities and Pedro keeps reminding us of the importance of getting these stories. She feels BEO would also support the project, but will need to check with the board.

Aline agrees.

Valerie - this does not have to be exclusive, does not need to be one or the other, both items could take place.

Teresa - NABO is clearly noted as an official partner and he says in his letter that we will be represented.

Cindy - She would like to say this is a great project. It think the museum is already doing this with John who is doing military work with the museum right now. John came on the Global .

Edurne - the museum is doing similar things and so she feels that Jon should also go to this event.



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Mayi - would like to amend Kate's motion. NABO put \$5,000 max and the Basque Museum could send their Museum to the event and represent NABO in person. Jon is here on the Basque Government's Global Training program, and could be the NABO representative.

Teresa - can we make a motion to make the Museum put up funds?

Philippe - we will do two different motions. Call to vote on Kate's original motion to provide up to \$5,000 for Pedro's travel to Texas. Vote was conducted orally and a roll call took place of all clubs represented. Motion passed with the following results:

All in favor - 48

Opposed - 10

Abstentions - 6

Benan says it involves a resolution with the state of Texas, he feels the Basque Government should have been informed because at the end of the day, this is part of our foreign affairs too. It is not every day that a resolution is passed with a state. He is uncomfortable

Pedro - It was up to the Anchia's office to let the Basque Government know about it, it was not up to Pedro.

Unai - do you know about the secretary of Foreign Affairs in the past?

Pedro - yes but the event came together very quickly and if not everyone had be notified, he is sorry but it was all done by Rafeal Anchia's staff. Maybe they are in the process of doing it.

Unai - will let Gorka and Marian Elorza know about the event.

Coffee Break - 10:19 reconvene in 10 minutes - Meeting resumes at 10:30am

Cindy has a question - She has the hard time with the sound, but if we fund Pedro's proposal does that affect NABO's ability for NABO's grants? Wanting to know from Benan and Unai. Wants to make sure everyone is on the same page.

Philippe will answer the question - We are a non-profit organization with 501c3 tax exempt status, and as the chairman here, the way i see it, it is the state of Texas is making the resolution and NABO's activity is



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a continuation of the Memoria Bizia project and Pedro is going to Texas to educate the people there on this project specifically regarding citizens of Basque ancestry in WWII. I see our financial support as continuing a cultural/historical project that we started many years ago and I don't see that as a political activity. The political activity is at the legislature and Pedro is going as part of the academic exercise.

Enrike - he is going on an educational capacity and has nothing to do with politics.

Philippe anyone on Zoom seeing it differently? Good to make sure that we are A-political non-profit corporation.

Toni - Not political but could include political entities. The universities are some unknown entities.

Teresa - governments make a resolution to honor Basque people on any day it is just like that.

Valerie – reads the article of incorporation that says - nothing here in contained etc. political ideology etc. The TX legislature - it is not one party or the other; it is the state of Texas. Does not apply.

Philippe - Cindy are you ok with the response?

Cindy - I wanted to get the discussion out there, we want to make sure we are doing everything right. Not sure if Benan or Unai have anything to say?

Committee Reports - please refer to committee reports

Philippe - we will move on to the Treasurer's report -

Mayi - missing her PowerPoint for this meeting so will send it to Kate to disperse. She reported that we lost about \$100k on International Mus. She also presented Joseba Etxarri with his annual check. She continued to let us know that Amazon is discontinuing the Smile program. As of February of 2023, they will not contribute to specific charities. We will get a one-time donation of about \$135 and that will discontinue. She explained program balances that is missing in the report. She hopes to include this report annually from now on. We are losing money on calendars and so are discussing ways to reduce these expenses. Many clubs did not order calendars because; they were not ready in time. If you have any questions, let Mayi know.

Bob moves to accept the Treasurer's report, Christopher seconds.



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Any questions -

Annie - how did the budgets go that you had requested.

Mayi - she only heard from Euskera, and Pilota and Kantari indicated that it will not require funds this year. Better than prior years, but not as good expected.

Valerie - only budget for Mus is for trophies.

All in favor - motion carries

Philippe - winter meeting is when we accept nominations for Bizi Emankorra.

Gardnerville - Teresa reads Anita Izoco's nomination -

Chris moves to accept nomination and Bob seconds

All in favor - motion passes

CBS - Kate - reads nomination for Lisa Corcostegui

Anne Marie moves to accept nomination and Mayi seconds -

Jennifer - on a personal note thanks Lisa and Enrike because she was her first dance instructor and she wouldn't be involved now had it not been for her.

Mercedes - she thanks Lisa for finding her family all the way back to the 1600s.

All in favor - Motion passes unanimously

Kinku Zinkunegi - nomination from our special committee for the 50th anniversary who wants to recognize his contributions to NABO over the years. He has been involved with NABO Euskera for over 25 years. When Philippe got involved, it was through Euskera and so wants to present Kinku with the award this year.

Bob moves to accept nomination, seconded by Teresa

All in favor - motion carries.



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Program Reports -

Music - Mikaela reports from Zarautz - Foku Musikala is slower because it takes time to put resources together. She is working on a stockpile with an installment coming very soon. All of the previous postings are still available on the website. Same with the NABO Spotify, no new playlists since last meeting but some are forthcoming. Always open to ideas, or comments questions concerns. You can email or whatever is easiest.

Calendar - calendar continues to showcase clubs and will be ready in July.

Valerie - tried to make the form as easy as possible, and emphasized that it is up to each club to input their dates. Just saying, "the second Tuesday of the month," will no longer fly. Burden is on the club.

Lisa - please share the document with me and I will include it in the online calendar.

Finance/Investment report - value of investments has gone down, but not a loss, as we have not taken any money out. The finance committee meets quarterly, and right now, our investments are in cash and bonds. Our value as of yesterday is \$246,000, which indicates that we are slowly making money

Enrike - this is much better than had we left it in a bank.

Education - John Ysursa - Apologies for not coming to Salt Lake, I lament missing the great lunch. He then introduced two individuals who are leading educational project. First, Edurne -

Edurne/Basque Museum- She is considering a Basque certificate program for the public that would include monthly lectures and maybe more social in nature. Calling on different experts covering a basic Basque culture/history class. Students could present a project at the end to receive a certificate, or for others, anyone wishing to could attend. Many people can attend in person or virtually. She has realized that many want to learn more about culture too not just language. She hopes to fill in a gap that she found while working with the Basque program at the Museum. She hopes to launch this fall of 2023.

John then introduces Alex Wray – Alex will host a dance workshop to bring in two dance masters to do a workshop. They will come to Boise for 5 days and will include public events, including a lecture on the history of Basque dance etc. In conjunction with the Basque Museum. Azoka, Ezpata, Fandango / Arin Arin workshop



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Euskera - Ziortza talks about the Etxepare Grant and funds have been received.

Edurne – my report is in the delegate packet – She has received good feedback. Most classes started last week, and some this week. Jon from Global Training will start with elementary Basque. Edurne is co-teaching with two interns. Okine is a new teacher and will be offering a class to East Coast students. There are a limited number of students, but it is important to reach out to them. She will also talk to Eli Etxetxikia who would like to start some virtual mintzo praktika. On the 3rd weekend in March will be bringing everyone to Boise just for a get together, not a training. She hopes that Kinku will be attending. This will include current and past teachers hoping some of them will come back. She is also hoping for a Barnetegi in the fall. She continues to train and recruit teachers, and has requested a dedicated NABO Euskera website that will include registration etc. She has started that on WordPress, but hopes to bring it all together, and will work with Lisa. She is also starting a PenPal program beginning with Algorta hoping to connect students here with students there for a Basque/English exchange. Remember that Basque is an international language. Maite, with Global Training, is hoping to work the first month or so on NABO Euskera. Maite and Edurne will come up with the lesson plans, put it into practice, and see what works or not, then pass what they did on to Jon. She is excited to create these resources for teachers. Barnetegi project - get a group of students together and have them come to Boise for a week for intensive instruction. The hope is that these students eventually can go to Maizpide. Edurne will start teaching training with the Argentina program. Please let her know if you have anyone who wants to learn Euskera in your community. She would love to have one person in each club as a contact person. We are Euskaldunak!

Mercedes - needs to be on our time, need a Rosetta Stone, or DuoLingo

Edurne - there are some online programs out there. It would be an amazing project, but if we did pressure different companies, maybe something could happen.

Todor - What is the average age of NABO students?

Edurne - doesn't ask, probably in their 40s or 50s

Todor - we are teaching to adults. We need to aim our teaching to younger generations - got a WhatsApp from Jean Jules in Euskera. Looking for youth who can speak our language. Language contributes to identity awakening. Need to teach them the importance of the language as a key to identity so we continue being Euskaldun.



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Edurne - Itxaso and Izaskun came up with a kid's book and she would like to share it with the dance groups – maybe do Euskera 45 minutes before dance. Learn Basque through activities.

Facilitator - Webmaster - Lisa included dates in online calendar. GoDaddy is changing how they do email. All are changing to Microsoft - We have a few real emails, but several pass through emails. She can't see those anymore but hopes to reach out to them to see what is going on.

Euskal Kantari Eguna - in Gardnerville on August 12th.
Philippe thanks Gardnerville for hosting over the years.

Philippe - reminds everyone that we will have to stop at 11:45am for lunch.

Mus – NABO clubs were broken into regions for Mus, each area headed by the following individuals: Valerie Arrechea, Pello Urrutia, Tyler Smith, Anita Izoco and Mayi Petracek all serve on the Mus committee representing their respective regions.

In 2022 there were 534 teams participating in local tournaments. International Mus in Boise was a lot of work but was a success. It was expensive but it was worth it.

2023 has started out great, with some tournaments already taking place. Last weekend, for example, the SFBCC had 32 teams participating. All tournaments have to take place by the day before Father's Day - June 17th for the NABO tournament. The day before Father's Day is now the fixed date for the NABO Tournament from now on. This year's national will be in Gardnerville, more information will be provided as it becomes available.

International Mus will be in Chile October 21-28, 2023. More information to come. We have agreed to send two players and one delegate. NABO expense is travel for these individuals, and a gift for each country. The cost per player is \$2,100.00 and companions will pay \$1,500.00.

Mus is very important culturally and is a great activity for the older generation. Please continue to teach Mus to your youth.

Meeting breaks for lunch 12:45pm – Meeting resumes at 2:45pm



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Philippe praises the lunch and says that the bar is raised in SLC each time. He says that he has a surprise to get us back to business...the surprise are bertsos sung by Martin and Todor to start the second half of the meeting off.

Bertsolaritza report - Todor - the school is doing well, with five students singing puntuka eta koplaka. Please refer to his report. He is looking forward to opportunities to sing and share with the community. Thanks Philippe for the opportunity. The next event will be at UNR in March at the Robert Laxalt Conference organized, in part, by the Center for Basque Studies. Local Bertsolaris will participate along with Xabier Euzkitze from the Basque Country. They are considering doing something at Los Banos. They would like to include longer events at the picnics and Euskal Jaiak. Contact Todor or Martin to figure out availabilities.

Martin - Mike Bidart contacted him to see if they could do a short event at lunch at the SFBCC for a performance there. As far as Los Banos, he contacted Chris and expressed the importance of having bertsolaris there too. This can be discussed further in San Francisco.

Chris - absolutely a possibility especially because they now have a better idea of the convention parameters too.

Martin - Asks John Ysursa to translate the bertsos they just sang.

Philippe back tracks a bit and thanks Idaho again for their support of the International Mus Tournament. He also asks if there are further questions for Pierre.

Asun - Gooding Mus tournament is March 25th it is not correct in the calendar.

Pierre – club tournaments have to fall between Father's Day to Father's Day to qualify for National Mus.

Valerie if your dates are incorrect, please let Kate know.

Gloria Lejardi - When will we discuss raising Mus Dues?

Valerie is very sorry for dropping the ball so will discuss at a later date

Pilota Report - Tony Huarte – There have been a lot of events since the last meeting and so he is sharing his PowerPoint. Team USA did great at Worlds. Several slides about Team USA. Before, 1978 NABO was



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Team USA and represented at Worlds. Then in 1982, the US Federation of Pilota was created. The US Federation is undergoing reconstruction, a lot of new faces getting involved, so Tony would like to see how we can help the federation with materials etc. A lot of overlap with NABO and the US Federation of Pilota. He shared pictures of some of the courts they played on. He also reported that the Basque Country might be able to represent themselves at the next worlds. Currently they can only compete as Spain or France. He also shared pictures of the Pan Am games in Argentina with Maite Kvarna representing.

Thanks everyone in Boise for organizing the 2022 Pilota finals and everyone who came to support the event. Had a great time ending with the Oinkari's Sagardotegi event. Thanks to Denis Petrissans for all of his help.

Tony shared the 2023 Pilota Agenda - there will be pilotaris from the Basque Country at the SFBCC anniversary in February. Disciplines will include eskuz, joko garbi and also women players. He is excited to talk to Fresno and is happy to bring handball back to Fresno for their picnic. On Saturday, May 6th, there will be pilota there.

La Puente has a handball club. Thanks Gloria and John Lejardi for help with contacts in Jordan Valley etc. Some courts have certain times of year that they are available.

He contacted Saint Pierre et Miquelon and will reach out again, and will try to include that in the pilota budget.

Pan-American games are also sweet to compete in, and the Plaza Urrutia is set to be included on the historical register of Historic Places.

Mayi - the plaza was going to be knocked down. Jean Urrutia donated the land where the court was, but Ramona Dyer and her mom petitioned the city not to knock it down and got non-Basques to support them. The city passed an ordinance to keep the fronton, but someone got the article written after last summer's event to include it on the registry of Historical Monuments for the state of Colorado. It is an honor for the Colorado club to have been the impetus to get this going. If it is designated as a monument, the state will be required to put some funds towards it to keep it in good working condition for the future.

Mayi - reached out to Tony, we have \$800 a year from four clubs - Chino, Boise, San Francisco and Bakersfield, and according to Tony's report, Elko was also participating in tournaments, and she wants to know why Elko isn't contributing.



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Bob - they have not paid for about 10 years because for some time there had not been any games there. He says they will take care of it.

Mayi - Tony is not putting forward any other expenses for pilota except for trophies. We need to invest more money into Pilota to encourage more youth programs. We could contribute a stipend for pilota players for travel. She feels like we need to examine how interested we are in continuing this program.

Valerie - the SFBCC does contribute to some pilotari travel, and so many other clubs are doing the same. Before there used to be two camps - Udaleku and Pilota camp. Maybe the coaches coming for Udaleku, could travel to other communities for workshops. Or, do pilota camp after Udaleku?

Edurne organized a pilota camp last summer and is hoping to do one this year. They are paying the way for pilota coaches to stay and teach the camp.

Valerie - Thanks to the world pilota council and Basque pilota federation for their support.

Valerie - you need a workshop to train pilota instructors to go back into the communities. Bring pilota instructors together at a Gaztemundu to teach them how to teach, for example.

Tony - fantastic great to hear so much support. Please send him any questions, concerns and ideas. World Council and Basque Federation donates a lot of handballs and material and so we don't have invoices.

Mayi - if there is a pilota camp in Boise after Udaleku, maybe piggyback it with Grand Junction for dance and pilota.

Edurne would like to have pilota camp the week before of Udaleku, hosting participants with families and begin July 10th-14th

Valerie maybe begin on the Saturday before to Thursday when camp begins.

Mercedes - could pilotaris come a day before Elko picnic and do a workshop that they would charge for?

Teresa - is there any way for us that do not have pilota courts but like to watch, is there any way to get advance notice as to when the events take place?



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Tony of course.

Chris, there is an old wall at the Wool Growers

Txerriki - update - will take place at 1pm at Los Banos, and this year will be done in memory of Jean Pierre Izoco who participated annually. The Gateau Basque contest will take place on Sunday state fair style.

Udaleku - We are in the process of getting a new batch of poxpolins, thank you Benan for your help. Also taking advantage of shipping 300 poxpolins to ship 3 txistus along with them. Those are discounted as well. Do I need a motion?

Teresa moves to purchase those and Mayi seconded,

Valerie - we are purchasing them, and now kids will purchase them at Udaleku. Hopes paying for it will encourage taking better care of it. Total cost for these is \$6,300.00

All in favor - motion carries.

Valerie thanks the Gardnerville club who has volunteered to donate to shipping these in memory of Jean Pierre Izoco.

Tuition cost for Udaleku. They are still waiting to meet on the budget with the Boise crew. Bakersfield did a great job and were in the red by \$1,000 only. Were able to do this because they were able to secure several donations. There is considerable cost in attending the camp, travel, hotels etc. Valerie would like to raise the tuition to \$480 that would include a cost of living increase for last year. An increase of \$30 per person to still include a sibling discount.

Mayi – Please remind your clubs that if any student needs financial assistance, the Aita Tillous fund is available for that. This is a totally anonymous process, and nobody should not be left out.

Valerie – recipients are chosen depending on financial need and the process includes reporting tax returns, etc. The committee has been very generous in the past.

Anne Marie made a motion to accept the new tuition,



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Annie Gavica - Boise does not feel it is necessary to raise the tuition from \$450

Chris - how long has \$450 been the tuition rate? It is such an old number but he would move it to \$500. I am going to Mus finals thanks to my son who taught me the game he learned at Udaleku.

Teresa - if we were to raise the tuition and make a profit, would it roll into the next year's budget?

Mayi - yes

Valerie – It cost \$500 per week when she ran two two-week camp. At NABO our dues get stuck at a certain amount and then it is not fair when you have to deal with food price increases, travel etc.

Mayi - Annie you are in a great environment where you have a lot of potential and resources. San Francisco is pretty much in the same boat. In 2025, Elko is not in the same boat, will need housing etc. so we will need excess funds to help future camps to make it sustainable.

Valerie - we need to create a cushion. We have traditionally relied on the larger clubs with the resources to host creating extra funds.

Annie – I am ok with raising the tuition, but Boise would be ok if we left it alone.

Toni – we have to be sensitive to areas that don't have the high wages etc. outside of the smaller places

Anne Marie moves we raise to \$480 seconded by Teresa.

Lisa - Salary for instructors is \$1,200 and these are professionals who leave their jobs and use vacation time to attend.

Much discussion ensues.

Teresa - good to know that the Tillous Fund exists to help with travel, if needed. She feels travel is more exclusionary than the tuition.

Mayi - clubs are encouraged to donate \$50 at least annually for the Udaleku.

Christina – the Basque Club of Utah actually donates per child towards camp.



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Philippe, calls to a vote – all in favor? Any against?

Cindy Schaffeld – votes no for her clubs

Mountain Home – 2

Battle Mountain – 2

Basque Museum – 1

Two from Cenarrusa as well as Gloria T. gave her, her proxy

Total of seven nos

Txoko Ona - Gloria Lejardi – two nos

Oinkaris abstaining - 2

Motion carries with 61 in favor, nine against and two abstentions.

Christina - Utah would like Udaleku in 2026

Valerie - thank you for increasing tuition. Valerie encourages other clubs who are not directly involved in any club to donate what they can towards Udaleku.

Ateak Ireki - Philippe reads Argia's report

50th anniversary committee -

Annie provided the link for folks to upload photos with captions. She has 22 days left before giving birth.

Chris - They are also working on their website and updating everything to include the entire program May 18-May 21st - including dancers, bertsolaris, and invitations to the Basque Government and Lehendakari Urkullu. They are doing their best right now to put everything together, and want to make this something amazing, with as many people attending as possible. Mus will be on Saturday morning.

Philippe - the committee will be meeting more frequently as the date approaches. Let Kate know if you would like to become involved.

BEO - invitation to collaborate. Thanks to the Basque Museum in Boise, they will be exhibiting the Basques in CA exhibit on anniversary weekend. If you would like to display it, contact them.



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The BEO is working hard to become a resource for everyone. They know there are many talented people in various areas. They started a scholarship program for young artists now in its second year. They would like a representative from your club to attend the meeting in the next couple of months. Will send more information out through Kate. They also want to have a conversation on how to support the arts in our communities.

Old Business - Gloria L. has a message from Joni Krakau who asked her to thank Kate and Lisa for getting information out about information Artzai Ona in Astero and Philippe for his work on the Omenaldi mass

New Business – we need to secure a second Zoom

Teresa moves to get a second account for Zoom and Valerie seconds - all in favor motion passes

Martin – I would like to request to give Todor \$500 for all that he is doing.

Mayi - we are getting some donations for the Bertsolari program and many work for nothing already, so I do not think it fair to pay \$500 to someone as part of their volunteer effort. If approved it would come out of the \$3,200 that has already been collected.

Todor - thank you Martin for your request. It would be nice if our travel could be financed to events so we are not paying everything out of pocket. I am doing it to ensure the future of bertsolaritza. If it is based on our love for this, it will not last.

Mayi - if the money Martin is requesting is a salary for teaching Bertsolaritza, but if it is just giving him \$500 because someone is spending a lot of time.

Martin he is using Zoom and Skype - not different from teaching Euskera at the Basque clubs. \$500 is very little for all he is doing. He would like to recognize the work done with donated funds.

Valerie - do they have as the chair leeway to spend these monies as they see fit up to a certain dollar amount?

Philippe - in this case, I would make a motion at the meeting as Martin did. It has been explained.

Martin moves to give Todor \$500 seconded by Marisa. Funds will come from the Bertsolari account.

Marisa - Can't rely on volunteers to keep things going and we need to put our money where our mouth is.



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Valerie - could this be included with Euskera teachers

Edurne – we could talk to Etxepare about including it in teacher salaries.

Benan is tasked with convincing people about the importance of the Basque Diaspora – he is now talking personally, as he has worked with us for 25 years. He believes in the Basque Diaspora, we spent 3 hours talking about the programs that are most successful at NABO and how to prepare for the future. In 2003, 8 members of Gaztemundu at that time are now present at this meeting. We have to take advantage of these opportunities. He was made uncomfortable by talking about Pedro's travel to Texas. This was not the important thing, but the important thing is the creation of the resolution in Texas. This is not politics, this is about our culture, and Todor has made comments about our culture. Marisa talks about exporting the arts, across the US. We have to get out of our comfort zone, we have possibilities to go to Texas and talk to the Basque delegate and try to put something together that is bigger like the Smithsonian etc. He heard that the dance instructors are coming; why not take them to Texas too? He would like to say Zorionak to each of you. There are many programs going on and you are producing new programs, and I see you with a certain distance and we need to look more at the bigger picture, not just at our own programs. I am asking you to help me convince the administration of the importance of the Basque Diaspora today.

Philippe motion to pay Todor \$500 requested from the director of that program. All in favor - motion passes

Valerie online txistu is coming and she would like permission to give away used poxpolins.

Philippe convention meeting Saturday on May 19th, fall back in Boise on November 4th, calendar of other meetings are on the website

Los Banos wants 2026 fall meeting, and 2028 winter is at the SFBCC, 2027 winter is back in SLC

Winter meeting at the SFBCC is always President Day weekend

Asun - fall meeting in Gooding next year does club choose the date?

Philippe - yes

Philippe – The convention is when the president and treasurer are elected. Nominations have to be done before; I wanted to let you know that nominations are due to Kate by March 13th so they can be



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communicated to delegates within 60 days of the next meeting. I have had a great 5 year run, so I am not running again, and so we will be electing a new president. He expects Jean Flesher to run for president and Mayi will run again.

Philippe thanks Utah for everything, the venue and great meal!

He appreciates everyone sticking it out on Zoom. Thanks to all of the chair people, facilitator, webmaster.

Meeting adjourns at 5pm.