



# **The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.**

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

NABO Convention Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Los Banos, California, May 19, 2023

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The meeting began at 8:11 am. Philippe thanked the Los Banos Basque Club for the great venue, great breakfast, and gifts. There are close to 40 clubs represented, which is the largest number since COVID. He thanked delegates for coming from near and far. He also thanked Pedro Oiarzabal for coming from the Basque Country as well as our friends from the Basque Government. He remarked that the Los Banos Basque Club has been working hard to prepare for this event and had to readjust due to the passing of Jean Arambel. We also learned that Juliet Campos had passed away the day before. Philippe extended our condolences to both the Arambel and Campus families and there was a moment of silence.

Philippe introduced club president, Mikel Zabalbeascoa, who gave a rundown of the weekend's activities. He also thanked everyone for coming.

Philippe continued letting us know that the first NABO meeting took place on March 9, 1973, that was attended by Pierre Etcharren, who was part of the original organization and continues to be involved 50 years later. He also recognized Bob Echeverria who has also been involved for 47 years. Both men have served as NABO president too.

He thanks Gorka, Unai, Benan and Kinku for making the effort to attend in person from the Basque Government.

## **ROLL CALL**

### **NABO Officers**

President – Philippe Acheritogaray

Vice-President – Annie Gavica

Treasurer – Mayi Petracek

Secretary – Kate Camino

### **NABO Administrators**

Euskara Coordinator – Edurne Arostegui

Facilitator – Kate Camino

Webmaster – Lisa Corcostegui

### **Program Directors & Committee Chairpersons**

Finance Committee – Mayi Petracek

Investment Committee – Mayi Petracek



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Calendars – Mary Lou Urrutia

Education – John Ysursa - excused

Euskara –Ziortza Gandarias

Mus – Pierre Etcharren

Pilota – Tony Huarte

Txerriki Contest Organizer – Valerie Arrechea

Udaleku – Valerie Arrechea & Kate Camino

Euskal Kantari Eguna – Becky Sarratea & Noel Goyhenetche

## **Board of Directors (delegates) Representing 42 NABO Member Organizations**

### **British Columbia**

Zazpiak Bat: Vancouver

Julia Etchart

Matteo Etchart

### **Quebec**

Euskaldunak: Quebec

Noël Fagoaga

Arik Loinaz

### **California**

Bakersfield

Kern County Basque Club

Louis Iturriria

Louis Iturriria proxy

Chino

Chino Basque Club

Marianna Echeverria

Denis Petrissans

Fresno

Fresno Basque Club

Jean Pierre Etchechury

Jean Pierre Etchechury  
proxy

Los Angeles

Oberena

Jose Luis Urrutia

Maria Urrutia

Los Banos

Los Banos Basque Club

Christopher Bengochea

Christopher Bengochea  
proxy



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Marin-Sonoma

Marin-Sonoma

Basque Association

Valerie Arrechea

Pierre Etcharren

Ontario

Southern California

Basque Club

Gina Espinal Aguirre

Gina Espinal Aguirre proxy

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

Marisa Espinal proxy

San Francisco Basque

Cultural Center

Valerie Arrechea

Pierre Etcharren

Susanville

Susanville Eskualdun Inc.

Enrike Corcostegui

Enrike Corcostegui proxy

Ventura County

Ventura County Basque Club

Jose Luis Urrutia

Maria Urrutia

## Colorado

Denver Euskal Etxea

Mayi Petracek

Mayi Petracek proxy

## Saint Pierre et Miquelon

Euskal Etxea SPM

Absent



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### Idaho

Boise

Basque Museum &  
Cultural Center

Annie Gavica

Annie Gavica proxy

Basque Studies at  
Boise State University

Nere Lete

Ziortza Gandarias

Cenarrusa Foundation

Gloria Totoricagüena

Gloria Totoricagüena proxy

Euzkaldunak: Boise Basque  
Center

Argia Beristain

Argia Beristain proxy

Oinkari Basque Dancers

Alex Wray

Conner Bawden

Gooding

Gooding Basque Association

Lisa Luzar

Peter Leguineche

Homedale

Txoko Ona Basque Club

Annie Gavica

Annie Gavica proxy

Mountain Home

Euskal Lagunak

Goisalde Jausoro

Goisalde Jausoro proxy

### Nevada

Battle Mountain

Battle Mountain Oberenak

Annie Gavica

Annie Gavica proxy

Elko

Elko Euzkaldunak Club

Bob Echeverria

Mercedes Mendive

Gardnerville

Mendiko Euskaldun Cluba

Teresa Cox

Becky Sarratea-Murphy

Las Vegas

Lagun Onak

Amaya Beristain

Amaya Beristain proxy



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## Paradise Valley

Santa Rosa Basque Club

Annie Gavica

Annie Gavica proxy

## Reno

Center for Basque Studies

Kate Camino

Kate Camino proxy

## Zazpiak Bat

Reno Basque Club

Enrike Corcostegui

Enrike Corcostegui proxy

## Winnemucca

Euskaldunak Danak Bat

Absent

## New York

Euzko Etxea

Elisa Vidasolo Ancona

Elisa Vidasolo Ancona  
proxy

## Oregon

Ontario, Oregon Basque Club

Frank Yraguen

Lisa Corcostegui

## Rhode Island

Portsmouth

New England Basque Club

Absent

## Utah

Basque Club of Utah

Cristina Sangroniz

Jean Flesher

## District of Columbia

Washington D.C.

Euskal Etxea

Markel Bilbao

Markel Bilbao proxy

## Washington

Seattle Euskal Etxea

Toni Sabarots

Toni Sabarots proxy

## Wyoming

Alkartasuna Basque Club

Martin Goicoechea

Ronnie Goicoechea



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Big Horn Basque Club

Mick Camino

Mick Camino proxy

**Clubs not attending** – New England Basque Club, Saint Pierre et Miquelon, and Euskaldunak Danak Bat – Winnemucca Basque Club.

**Basque Government Representatives in attendance**– Gorka Alvarez, Director of the Directorate for the Basque Community Abroad, Benan Oregi, Technician from the 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.

**Quorum** - 39 out of 42 attending, simple majority is 40 or 80 delegates, and 2/3s is 52.

**Approval of the Minutes** - Mayi comments on changes to Salt Lake City minutes. Correct attendance of Iparreko Ibarra at Salt Lake meeting and make them absent. Mayi has other minor edits that she'll get to Kate afterwards.

Benan – would like Benan's comments on page 10 be removed from Salt Lake City minutes.

Philippe then asks for the minutes of the Salt Lake City meeting be approved. Mayi moved to approve the minutes with amendments, seconded by Christopher. All in favor - Motion carries.

Bob Echeverria - way back in the day, we didn't have details like this. These ladies deserve a round of applause.

Philippe then turns the floor over to Gorka.

**Basque Government Report** - Gorka begins his presentation by thanking everyone for the warm welcome, and said it was a pleasure to attend in person, the first time since the pandemic. He then updates us on what they have been doing lately for Basque clubs around the world. He brought everyone's attention to the panels that were reproduced from Diaspora Day, along with some panels about Basque WWII veterans from California, created by Pedro Oiarzabal.



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He continued to inform us that the 2022 grant budget was increased by 10% for a total of 1,054,727 million Euros granted 71 clubs in 13 countries. This is good news and indicates that clubs are now getting back to normal after the pandemic. For US clubs, total granted was 150,810 Euros, or 50% of the entire budget, placing us second behind Argentina. They are now working on the 2023 grants that will be available in the summer. They are also working on Gaztemundu, and hope to see more youth from the US participating. He told us about the Dantza Munduan program organized during the pandemic that provided dance lessons virtually to over 200 people in 13 different countries from 65 Basque clubs. This program is now paused, since most groups are now back to normal. They held the 2022 Diaspora Day in Iparralde celebrating with the Basque Government as well as the commonwealth of Iparralde. In all there were over 100 events held around the world in 16 different countries. In both 2021 and 2022 the course on the Basque Diaspora ran in collaboration with the University of the Basque Country. The first year 21 students enrolled with 19 students enrolled this year. The Basque Diaspora Archive is also growing. It began in 2018 and is growing daily now with 11, 131 objects there. They receive many visits there too. They are currently working on HanHemen, a project to connect Basque communities not necessarily tied to Basque clubs. Many youth are traveling to places where there aren't established clubs or communities. Their hope is to create a digital community to connect these new migrants. Last weekend they held a workshop with nine women in the US Equality in the Basque Clubs. Participants will share their thought to determine the future of this activity. They've also provided videos of the Bertsolari Txapelketa subtitled in English. They believe that bertsolaritza is a great tool to bring folks to clubs and learn Basque. They have an agreement with the Bertso Elkarte who has provided the translations into English and Spanish to be used in classes, clubs etc.

They continue to work on the new law that allows them to work with Basques abroad. The original was created 30 years ago, but it no longer works with the new realities around the world. They are asking for input on what folks would like to see incorporated. The 8<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Basque Collectivities will take place December 18-21, 2023 in Donostia. It will be a very interesting congress and opportunity for the new Diasporas to see the new realities. They also welcome on how to make the congress more successful.

Philippe asks if there are any questions for Gorka?



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Unai has a few words – He introduces himself as the delegate of the Basque Government in the US. He is very honored to be here on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NABO and Los Banos' 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He realizes that the Basque community in the US is very vibrant, and he is working hard to support the programs that Gorka has mentioned. "Let's move together in this journey and keep our heritage alive for the next generations."

**Treasurer's Report** – All documents are in the delegate packets. She also included a profit and loss report by class for each program. Mayi reports that we have received 2 grants - Etxepare and the Basque Government grant. By March, only 14 clubs had paid dues, so Mayi had to chase some clubs for payment. Dues must be paid prior to convention, or your club cannot vote in the elections. She summarized some of the payments made to date, and let us know that taxes were filed, and we have gained some on our investments. If your club has had a Mus tournament, those dues must be paid by June 15<sup>th</sup> in order to participate in the NABO National Tournament.

Philippe thanks Mayi - any questions for her?

Bob moves to approve the treasurer's report, and JP Elissetche seconds - all in favor - Motion carries

### **Program and Committee reports - please refer to reports in packet -**

**Calendar** - 14 clubs have been featured, going forward 2024 will include 8-9 more clubs. The 2024 edition will include a pull out that will have Mus Tournament dates on one side, and festival dates on the other. Calendars will be done by mid-end July. There is now a form for submitting dates, thanks to Valerie. Seventeen clubs have already turned in dates, so many are still outstanding. Even if these events are not public, please submit them anyway to show the diversity of what our clubs do.

Philippe - we will go with what we have even if not 100% complete - questions for Mary Lou thank you for your work!

**Financial committee report** – the biggest change was that the role of the committee was expanded. If something were to happen to Mayi, she felt that more NABO members should understand what is going on in NABO. From now on, she will share what is going on with the entire committee so they have a better idea of all NABO finances. The goal of the new





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profit and loss report by class to identify program progress. We increased our value by \$5k so not a lot but doing better than what the market is doing. See report - we are doing well considering how the market is performing

Mayi made a motion to approve the report - Teresa Cox seconds - motion passes.

**Education** - John Ysursa is excused, but his report is in the packet

**Euskara Report** - Ziortza and Edurne and Kinku

Kinku was presented the Bizi Emankorra during the teacher workshop in Boise.

Ziortza says a few words - she said there was a doubt about the future of the program and she thanks NABO and Kinku/Etxepare for continued support and thanks to Edurne working by her side and Mayi for her help. They will present what they have been doing and everything that teachers and students have been doing to promote the Basque language in the US.

Kinku will do a short presentation - in Basque. He presents a video on Etxepare - together with Culture but Euskara has its own area. Euskara has two branches - one is in universities - lecturers etc. and then the other branch is in Basque clubs. There are 1,400 enrollments in 2021-22, plus eight chairs and 33 lectureships, but this is not his area.

His area is Euskara Munduan and their job is to perfect those tools to provide different levels in various clubs. Each Basque club has a different history and needs. They work at various levels, they update tools to help both teachers and students. There are three sections - learning, teaching and using.

Learning - there are materials already created from zero to advanced levels so they won't create any more new materials. These materials are translated into Spanish, French and English to use all over the world.

Edurne - hopes after hearing this may motivate you to learn Basque – student numbers are in report, which continue to increase. They would like to provide face-to-face classes in every community but that is not a possibility so they provide online courses. She taught one this semester and she felt it was a great experience and students got a lot out of it.



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Classes have started, and they have had a hard time to get people to pay. Scholarships are available and she will make sure the \$50 discount is applied. This summer, Anita Anacabe is teaching Basque to the Elko Indar players before they go to Donostia. Edurne will provide you with what you need to learn Euskara if you want.

Kinku - materials for both teachers and students. They are prepared with the idea that students do not know a lot about Basque culture and customs and so provides a lot of information there. Covers many areas, gastronomy, customs, etc. Thanks to that, they have materials for in person, zoom and self-learning. So there is no excuse for anyone to say that he/she cannot learn/teach Basque. Teachers are not professionals, but they teach as volunteers or some are paid. Those that want to learn will learn whatever their motivation is. They give teachers outlines to use to teach class. In the US right now, in Kinku's opinion is that there are too few teachers. In March, there are 12 teachers and the most of those are not staying here, and so we are always teaching a new group. They want to create a teacher base that is stable.

There has been more participation in the US thanks to Ziortza and Edurne - now at using the language

The Euskaraldia video is shown - There has been an increase in US involvement in those kinds of activities and in the uninterrupted classic reading as well.

They have just created a guide on how to play Mus in Basque and English. They made 2,000 in December and they are already gone. They are doing four guides. They did mus last year, dance this year, then pilota and sukaldaritza. Kinku encourages everyone to use Basque as much as possible. He points out that when teaching dance it is the same for a child to count in English or in Basque. Ask Edurne for other materials she may have on hand. Everything is also available on pdf.

Prior to the pandemic there were many more in person classes, but now, besides Homedale, all is online. The problem with that is those students do not pass through the clubs.

Any questions?



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**Report on the Soka Exhibit** - Noel and Arik - refer to packet - There is an exhibition that was part of a much bigger project - created for Euskal Astea. The exhibit was adapted to fit into a box so it could be used in different set ups and could travel. Sponsored by EKE (Euskal Kultur Erakundea/Institut Culturel Basque) and Etxepare. They displayed it in 50 square meters and so it does not take too much space. They were very happy and the events have been very successful. There are not many clubs in the surrounding area, and so they are hoping that NABO clubs will take advantage of the adapted exhibit to show at their events. They are proposing to ship the exhibit here with the logistics, and everything is included to display it. Could cost around \$5k to ship the whole exhibit. Think it would be an asset for the US Basque community

Arik - very happy to be part of the meeting and they would love to share it with you.

Mayi - is the cost \$5k per club. No \$5k would be the sale cost of the exhibit, and then shipping would be separate. Arik - includes 12 professional banners etc. and the photos are very high quality as well.

Philippe - we will discuss it further under new business today and we will be in touch. They are reachable too for more information. Contacts will be included in the chat.

Coffee Break - 15 minute break - reconvene at 10:20am  
Meeting resumes at 10:30am

**Facilitator report** – Kate reports that since the last meeting she has justified the 2022 grant and we received funding totaling 48,215.00 Euros or just over \$50,000.00.

Lisa reported that she has transitioned the email from GoDaddy to Qwebs for much less money and she was able to secure a 100% refund for GoDaddy. She would like to phase out GoDaddy all together.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** - Philippe sums up the honor ceremony on Saturday at 3pm. Philippe thanks everyone for efforts.

**Kantari Eguna** - held in Rocklin and so now will be in Gardnerville - August 12th 2023. They will have a sign up sheet for participants and will present Anita Izoco the Bizi Emankorra award at that event at her home club.



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Philippe thanks Rocklin and Gardnerville for hosting

**Mus** - Pierre goes back 50 years, and International Mus started in 1979, and until then, there were 2 unions who hosted Mus, the Union Artesana - Euskadi and Union Basque - France and they did that for a few years. Pierre became chair in 1978, and he knew the president and asked if winners could be hosted here, and Pierre proposed that the US participate in the international tournament. That year, Bakersfield won so they went to Ascaín to play four teams from Euskadi and four from France and one from the US. They then asked permission to do something bigger, and they were already organizing Fort Mason, (NABO convention) so eight countries gathered there. The number of countries in international Mus go up and down, but they average 10 countries. In 2021, there was no tournament because of COVID, but in 2022, it was held with eight countries and Pierre again thanked everyone in Boise and surrounding communities for their help. This year, International Mus will be in Chile October 21-28.

To date there have been 444 teams participating in local tournaments not everyone since some tournaments still have to take place. NABO Nationals will be on June 17th in Gardnerville. The fee is \$15 per person that will bring in about \$15,000 to pay collective dues etc. They are expecting 40-45 teams there, so close to 100 people. The good news is that participation is going up every year. They have created a Mus Committee, Jose Urrutia is co-chair then regional heads, Valerie Arrechea, JP Etchechury, Anita Izoco, Mayi Petracek, and Tyler Smith.

Jr. Mus is also taking place with host flash tournaments at picnic events. Nice to see multi-generational teams. Pierre - Thanks Kinku for the Mus guides to alleviate folks speaking other languages than Basque at international mus.

Eduarne - will print the guide and distribute it to all the clubs.

Pierre - he would like to suggest that we change the ages for juniors to 16 so 16-18 could compete at adult tournaments. NABO rule is that you have to be 18 to participate in NABO finals. Pierre moves to change the age to 18 for national mus.

Denis P. what is the age for International Mus? 18 so not a problem. You would have to choose a partner who is at least 18 to participate.



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Pierre would like to propose this in Chile to change age at International meeting in Chile.

If clubs do the same thing, 16 year olds can participate in your tournament etc.

Motion by Pierre and seconded by Bob Echeverria to lower age to 16 to participate in NABO tournament.

All in favor - motion carries.

Pierre - Udaleku and Mus are our most important activities in his opinion.

Mayi - Mus committee says we have to meet to talk about how we spend money on this event, Each country decides how much they want to spend.

Annie - would like to be part of the Mus meeting

Philippe - Before 1979, the convention consisted solely of a meeting. In 1979, at Fort Mason, they began bringing groups to convention and this has been the model ever since. There were something like 11,000 people through the gates in two days.

**Pilota** - Tony Huarte - refer to report - shares his powerpoint

Quite a few events since our last meeting. Had players from the Basque Country at San Fran anniversary including 4 women players. There was handball, and joko garbi. Basque Federation of pilota also donates a lot of materials that Tony does his best to share. Also included a shipment to Grand Junction. Fresno Basque club – thanks to Tony Campos and the Etchechury family's great hospitality, they brought pilota back to Fresno, on May 6<sup>th</sup>. He likes to go to new places that haven't had pilota for a while. Will have games in Bakersfield next weekend. Players from Euskadi in Bakersfield and again in San Francisco in June. Refers to the agenda, hope to have handball in Elko and at Southern California picnic on the same weekend. Thanks to Denis P. for organizing that with Daniel Camou. Boise is having Udaleku and Pilota camp in July. Will also have female players in Boise and San Francisco. Mountain Home picnic end of August, and NABO pilota finals are TBD and so would like to do different disciplines at different places. Todor also coordinates in Boise and Mountain Home.



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Working on SPM but they will not be able to attend this year, on the 40th anniversary of their court. Everyone really wants to be there, but they are really busy, so we will have to postpone that trip for next year. Will also be following up with Jordan Valley and the Pan Am Games in October.

Edurne – there will be pilota camp hosted by Basque Museum. Two camps actually with 1 for local kids and the other for Udaleku participants the week before Udaleku. They are working with hosting families to take kids for extra days. Hopes it will be \$50 per child. Kids will train with pilotaris from the Basque Pilota Federation. Could come just for the pilota camp, or for Udaleku too.

August 5th is Mountain Home picnic

Bob will be Elko contact for festival.

Mayi - State of Colorado is trying to get Plaza Urrutia on the register for historic places. May be first Basque structure registered as an historic site. Hope to submit to state review board in September and if approved she hopes that there will be a celebration in Colorado.

Grand Junction was one of the charter NABO clubs.

**Txerriki** - Will take place tomorrow at the fairgrounds in the BBQ area. This year is in memory of Jean Pierre Izoco who participated in every edition. First Gateau Basque contest on Sunday. Valerie has created a judging rubric so judging all the same thing. Gateaus will be put in a silent auction, with proceeds to go to Udaleku. Bidding opens tomorrow.

**Udaleku** - Boise is doing a great job coordinating camp, instructors are all ready to go. Collaborating with the museum and the World Pilota Council - housing is done and 112 kids are participating. Thanks to Gardnerville and Benan for helping with poxpolins and now we have 300 in stock. This year, we will be using 60 out of the 300 but many reuse them year after year.

Mayi - last year, due to the timing, the Grace Mainvil Scholarship will be awarded after the fact.



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The Grace Mainvil Scholarship is awarded to a participant in his/her last year of Udaleku. It is based on an essay, and presented at Udaleku normally, with Udaleku tuition being reimbursed.

Mayi - thanks to Rocklin for continued support of the Grace Mainvil scholarship.

Annie – Boise is adding a fundraiser before Udaleku that could be put in place in future years. They are creating t-shirts with logos and other shirts that they will be selling through Bonfire. More information will be provided as the date nears.

2024 Udaleku will be in San Francisco, planning to go back to full 2-week program. Going back to business as usual. San Francisco dates are usually the last two weeks of June.

**Online txistu classes** – Valerie may have been a little ambitious. She realized after teaching that we have been letting music go by the way side. Do a performance and then forget about it, looking to do something so that it will be more visible in clubs etc. They are now creating a more unified group of the West Coast Txistularis. She is still missing people, so if there is someone in your community that would be interested, she would like to create a roving Txistu Banda hoping to show younger people, this can be kind of fun. The hope would be to play at different picnics, and eventually branch out into larger bandas. Please share contact information with Valerie.

**Bertsolaritza** = Martin and Todor -

Todor - Almost a year ago, we proposed this new program to keep bertsolaritza alive. Two legs - school for new bertsolaris, and the second leg is events. There are two types of events. - 1 international bertsolari event, and other periodic events including picnics and other events. The Bertsotzale Elkarte has approved their school. Todor reviewed what events they have been attending. He shared the names of bertsolaris that came from the Basque Country to Los Banos. He also wants to take advantage of the videos provided by the Basque Government with bertsolaris working with the Museum to organize events around those. Please contact them when organizing events so that they can be included. Students participating are doing very well.

Martin - thanks Todor - a lot has happened in a year. He also thanks the Basque Government for the videos. They are hoping to have an event next March in San Francisco





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maybe around March 9<sup>th</sup>, along with another event in 2024 that will bring bertsolaris from the Basque Country again.

Martin would like to pay Todor \$1,000 for his work. - He moves to pay \$1,000 to Todor for work done, and Martin would donate those funds.

Mayi - we approved \$500 at the last meeting. Mayi his number of students is not equivalent to numbers of students that Basque teachers teach for \$1,000 per year. We cannot have a request every meeting

Martin the \$1,000 would be for this year.

Philippe - it would be nice to have something structured.

Marisa seconds the motion made by Martin about paying Todor but feels like it needs more exposure and explained better to all including more pictures from events.

Todor is pained by the loss of art form and language and so is working hard to continue it. He has provided an email so any questions can be sent to him. He feels we should be supporting this 100%.

Mayi – It was decided last meeting that all donations were designated to Aita Tillous Fund.

Teresa – It is ok if Martin wants to donate to this specifically, but instead of having a budget to earmark payments every quarter etc. but paying piece meal, it does not come across well.

Table until after lunch - break for lunch at noon reconvene at 2pm.

Martin motioned to pay Todor \$1,000 for his work, and Marisa seconded it.

Jean Flesher - what other expenses do you have?

Todor - The initiative has to continue whether he is there or not. We need bertso events organized etc. so travel will be a big expense, hotel etc.





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NABO Convention Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Los Banos, California, May 19, 2023

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Much discussion ensues

Jean - I am for the program, but if we were to make a budget, what would be included?

Jean - Martin what do you see as a fair budget for this to exist for 20 years, without you donating every year.

Martin - hard to say, Todor's help has made the difference. If we do not have him, we do not have anyone else to do the job.

Jean - can you come up with an idea for the next meeting?

Martin- yes, but not for today.

Teresa - what is the motion?

Denis - why is bertsolari is a priority when I feel like it is a graduate course on Basque culture. Many have donated time and effort for years, klika, pilota, dance etc.

Valerie - we are doing this conversation a disservice by focusing on Todor. The question is should the chair of this committee, or the teacher, should be treated differently than other committees etc. Question is how they should be compensated, should it be treated differently than chairs of other committees. Remove the individuals from the discussion and find out how the program should continue.

Martin - simple solution I will just pay Todor directly. Today is the only issue we have is his letter.

Jean let's vote but Martin should come with a plan to the next meeting.

Philippe calls for a roll call vote – Result 60 yays, 14 nays and 6 abstentions – motion carries.

Mayi - As treasurer my fiduciary responsibility is for all our clubs. If I ask a question, this is not a personal affront to anybody. I am hoping to protect everybody.



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**Ateak Ireki** - refer to report in packet

Received 60 applications, and 53 were accepted, but some dropped out due to cost of airfare. Maybe local clubs and/or NABO could consider sponsorships for potential participants.

We have now confirmed 37 participants and we now have 35 families. Families met with organizers and everyone is thrilled. Thanks the Basque Government, Nafarroa, Bizkaia, and Gipuzkoa and the Baztan Foundation as well as the Bidart Family Foundation. Argia will be going along with some of the participants so if that is helpful, please let her know. Mikaela Goikoetxea, Ana Marie Chiramberro will be helping as well. The hope is that participants will return to their communities and reinvigorate their communities.

Mayi - in Aita Tillous we have \$8,200 I think \$2,600 is earmarked for Bertsolari, but next year we can brainstorm to find uses for this for Ateak Ireki.

Denis Petrissans - Is this just for US citizens?

Argia - Yes, the idea was for Basque American youth, but club membership is not required.

Cristina Sangroniz - when does the application open for next year.

Argia – Applications will open in February or so. She hopes to report on program at the fall meeting in Boise.

### **Old Business -**

Memoria Bizia - Mayi's presentation. Refer to PowerPoint in the packet.

Mayi said it was a very emotional moment to hear Euskera on the floor of the state house in Texas. Representative Anchia's dad was a jai alai player and came to the US to play. His staff told her they did not know what a Basque was before working for him. Very moving experience. Many veterans from Mexico are also Basque. Pedro has put together a list of California WWII veterans. Mayi feels we need to consider supporting bringing this effort to conclusion and create a memorial to recognize the number of veterans who put their lives on the line for our freedoms.

Philippe we are choked up and thank you for representing us so well.



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Bob glad there was a NABO person there.

Unai - not easy to express in words. It was incredible to be there for two days. He is very grateful for the opportunity to be there. Hearing Basque on the floor was amazing.

Pedro - I would just like to thank you for your support, thank you for supporting me and Unai, and Mayi. It was a historic day and great day to honor our veterans and a beautiful day for all of us.

Philippe - Is this something that NABO wants to explore? What are the possibilities for a physical monument? Should we create a special committee?

Mayi moves to create the committee and seconded by JP Etchechury - motion passes.

Let Mayi know if you would like to be on the committee.

**New Business** - Sharing delegate emails. From time to time Philippe is asked for individual emails, but never shares the group emails. Wanted to see if it is ok to share the group emails with NABO members.

Valerie - better to funnel through the NABO secretary so we know that it is legit and really NABO business.

Soka Exhibit - put a special committee together to evaluate the contents of exhibit and see if there are other clubs interested in purchasing it?

Valerie moves to create a special committee to evaluate the Soka exhibit, Mayi seconded. - Motion passes

New Business - Jexux Larrea wants to come back and teach dance at various clubs. He also is teaching a dance group and if anyone is interested in something different, he would like them to come. Jean can contact Jexux if anyone is interested in him or his new dance group.

A couple has been looking for an Au Pair, but their friends are also interested in having an Au Pair. It would be through the international Au Pair organization. If anyone is interested contact Jean. Looking for English in exchange for Basque.



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Edurne - NABO has not bought a second Zoom account yet. I will go ahead and buy it.

Benan – Makes a comment: The future of the Basque culture in the US is in our hands, and he thinks we should organize a strategic plan.

**Upcoming Meetings** - Reno fall 2025, Elko fall 2027

**World Congress Delegates** - 8th World Congress of Basque Collectivities - each federation gets 3 voting delegates so Mayi Petrcek and Gloria Totoricagüena have put their names in the hat - Jean Pierre would like to put his name in for the third position. Edurne would also like to be considered as a representative too.

Benan - Gaztemundu participants are also going to participate in the congress too.

Philippe - would like to split this into 2 categories, those who submitted nominations formally, and the 2 who nominated themselves from the floor. As the chair I would advise the delegates to approve the two who applied in time.

Jean moves to accept Mayi and Gloria seconded by Bob.  
All in favor? Motion passes

Jean moves for Jean Pierre and Edurne to submit their resumes for consideration. Teresa seconded.

Jean withdraws his motion and Teresa her second

Philippe - Euskera coordinator has represented before, Aitor and Izaskun, and so Edurne could go

Jean moves and Jean Pierre E seconds to send Edurne as the 3rd delegate  
All in favor - motion passes.

**Officer Elections** – Officer elections for president and treasurer always take place at the convention meeting. This year Jean Flesher is the only individual who presented himself for the presidential nomination, and Mayi Petrcek was also the only candidate for the treasurer's office. This being the case, Bob Echeverria moved to approve unanimous ballot,



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seconded by Chris Bengoetxea. All were in favor and so NABO's officers are now President – Jean Flesher, Vice-President – Philippe Acheritogaray, Treasurer – Mayi Petracek and Jean also reappointed Kate Camino to continue as NABO secretary.

**Philippe says a few closing words** - thank you to Los Banos and to the delegates for working with him, RSVPs quorums etc. Great attendance delegates really stepped up. Thank you to the Basque Government for your support over the years. You are part of the family.

Philippe, NABO only works because of you guys. Thanks to our veterans, Mary Lou Urrutia, John Y. etc. now excited for the youth Ziortza and Edurne.

Lisa Corcostegui has been involved for years and right before the meeting I send her 100 emails a day. Is this working? Etc. you see what the result is.

Euskal Kantari Eguna - also Los Banos a few years ago, you guys make it happen. Pierre Etcharren been here since 1973 just keep going, we owe you so much!

One person I recruited is Tony Huarte, born in the Bay Area and lived in Navarre and decided he needed to be involved. Tony thank you!

Everyone in San Francisco thanks you all. I can blame Valerie and Pierre for bringing me into NABO in 2002. Thank you so much I've learned so much from you and your dad.

Started with Euskera with Martin and Kinku - thank you both for all you have done over the years. The Basques it is our life story, there are always obstacles, pitfalls, we always have a tough time. Martin knows because he puts his money where his mouth is too all the time.

Thanks you Argia - brings much energy to what she does.

It is easy to be the chair because of the amazing officers - Annie is always ready to help, mila esker to her.

Mayi - so lucky to have a professional doing these reports, a lot of work, a lot going on there. She is in charge of oversight, and we are very fortunate to have her with us.



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The secretary is also my partner, thank you Kate.

It has been a huge honor that I probably do not deserve. It is an amazing organization, it has brought the US Basque community and Canada together in a very special way along with SPM. Here we are all Basque. As Bill Douglass says, “the NABO affect.”

All in favor

Meeting adjourns at 3:47pm.