



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Winter Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** –

San Francisco, CA February 17, 2024

ROLL CALL

NABO Officers

President – Jean Flesher

Vice-President – Philippe Acheritogaray

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

WWII Veterans Memorial Committee – Mayi Petracek

Calendars – Mary Lou Urrutia

Education – John Ysursa

Euskara – Ziortza Gandarias

Mus – Pierre Etcharren

Pilota – Tony Huarte

Txerriki Contest Organizer – Valerie Arrechea

Udaleku – Valerie Arrechea & Kate Camino

Music – Mikaela Goicoechea

Euskal Kantari Eguna – Becky Sarratea & Noel Goyhenetche

Board of Directors (delegates) Representing 42 NABO Member Organizations

British Columbia

Zazpiak Bat: Vancouver

Julia Etchart

Julia Etchart proxy

Quebec

Euskaldunak: Quebec

Arik Loinaz

Arik Loinaz proxy

California

Bakersfield



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Kern County Basque Club	Louis Iturriria	Maria Toretta
Chino		
Chino Basque Club	Denis Petrissans	Marianna Etcheverria
Fresno		
Fresno Basque Club	Jean Pierre Etchechury	Jean Pierre Etchechury proxy
Los Angeles		
Oberena	Jose Urrutia	Pello Urrutia
Los Banos		
Los Banos Basque Club	Christopher Bengochea	Christopher Bengochea proxy
Ontario		
Southern California Basque Club	Mike Aguerre	Anne Marie Gariador
Rocklin		
Iparreko Ibarra/Northern Valley Basque Club	Noel Goyhenetche	Noel Goyhenetche proxy
San Francisco		
Anaitasuna Basque Club	Marisa Espinal	Gina Aguerre
San Francisco Basque Club	Jean Pierre Elissetche	Joana Arrechea
Basque Educational Organization	Philippe Acheritogaray	Marisa Espinal
San Francisco Basque Cultural Center	Valerie Arrechea	Pierre Etcharren
Susanville		
Susanville Eskualdun Inc.	Jeanette Goñi	Jeanette Goñi proxy
Ventura County		
Ventura County Basque Club	Jose Urrutia	Pello Urrutia



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Colorado

Denver Euskal Etxea	Mayi Petracek	Mayi Petracek proxy
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Saint Pierre et Miquelon

Euskal Etxea SPM	Absent	
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Idaho

Boise

Basque Museum &
Cultural Center

Miren Maguregui	Annie Gavica
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Basque Studies at
Boise State University

Nere Lete	Nere Lete proxy
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Cenarrusa Foundation

Gloria Totoricagüena	Gloria Totoricagüena proxy
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Euzkaldunak: Boise Basque
Center

Mark Bieter	Mark Bieter proxy
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Oinkari Basque Dancers

Josie Wray	Jaclyn Lasuen
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Gooding

Gooding Basque Association

Absent	
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Homedale

Txoko Ona Basque Club

Gloria Lejardi	Gloria Lejardi proxy
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Mountain Home

Euskal Lagunak

Goisalde Jausoro	Goisalde Jausoro proxy
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Nevada

Battle Mountain

Battle Mountain Oberenak

Annie Gavica proxy	Annie Gavica proxy
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Elko

Elko Euzkaldunak Club

Bob Echeverria	Bob Echeverria proxy
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Gardnerville

Mendiko Euskaldun Cluba

Teresa Cox

Becky Sarratea-Murphy

Las Vegas

Lagun Onak

Amaya Beristain

Amaya Beristain proxy

Paradise Valley

Santa Rosa Basque Club

Susan Gavica

Annie Gavica

Reno

Center for Basque Studies

Kate Camino

Kate Camino proxy

Zazpiak Bat

Reno Basque Club

Enrike Corcostegui

Erinn Zubillaga

Winnemucca

Euskaldunak Danak Bat

Maureen Macdonald

Maureen Macdonald proxy

New York

Euzko Etxea

Absent

Oregon

Ontario, Oregon Basque Club

Frank Yraguen

Lisa Corcostegui

Rhode Island

Portsmouth

New England Basque Club

Roberto Guerenabarrena

Mary Guerenabarrena

Utah

Basque Club of Utah

Cristina Sangroniz

Sonia Castañon

District of Columbia

Washington D.C.

Euskal Etxea

Sam Zengotitabengoa

Sam Zengotitabengoa proxy



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Washington

Seattle Euskal Etxea

Patti Aramburu

Eduarne Arostegui

Wyoming

Alkartasuna Basque Club

Martin Goicoechea

Mikaela Goicoechea

Big Horn Basque Club

Mick Camino

Mick Camino proxy

Clubs not attending – Euskal Etxea SPM, Gooding Basque Association, Euzko Etxea New York

Basque Government Representatives in attendance– Benan Oregi from the Basque Government's Directorate for the Basque Community Abroad, Unai Telleria Basque Delegation

Guests – Anna Marie Etcheverria, JP Iriart, John Bieter, Joey Iturriria, Kathie Goyeneche, Iñaki Arrieta, Pedro Oiarzabal, and Joseba Etxarri

Quorum - 38 out of 41 attending, simple majority is 39 or 78 delegates, and 2/3s is 50.

The meeting began at 8am with President Jean Flesher welcoming everybody present. The hope for this meeting is that committee reports could go quickly so we could have more time for voting matters. He thanked the Basque Cultural Center for everything and commended everyone on a very nice WWII fundraising launch the night before. He encouraged everyone to support the Cultural Center over the weekend.

Jean pointed out that at the fall meeting, Zoom attendance was problematic. It is imperative that we know who is present, and so he asked all Zoom attendees to turn on their video during the meeting.

Cards were passed around for everyone to sign for Lisa and Enrike Corcostegui on the loss of Lisa's father, as well as for Ziortza and Josu on the birth of their second child.

Approval of Fall Meeting Minutes – Mayi moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Chris Bengochea, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Mayi reported that an anonymous stock donation of 81 shares of Apple Stock had been received for the Grace Mainvil Scholarship, Udaleku and WWII Memorial fund.

We received the first 25% of the Basque Government Grant for 2023 in the amount of \$7, 219. Since salary payments are made quarterly, she let us know that we will be short somewhere. She is working



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hard to tighten up the budget.

The stock portfolio continues to do well, and the investments have been split into two pots, one for NABO and one for the education account. We are not gaining a lot but still doing pretty well.

Mayi moved to approve the treasurer's report and Bob Echeverria seconds - all in favor - passed unanimously.

Basque Government Report - Jean reads letter from Gorka that is included in the delegate packets. They would really like kids from the US to participate in Gaztemundu. They will also work on the reasons why we think nobody is going. He also talked about the World Congress held in December, that many from NABO attended. There are elections in the Basque Country this year, and a new Lehendakari will be elected. There may be more changes in the cabinet as well. The Directorate for the Basque Community Abroad will continue to work on the Ellis Island and Jaialdi projects regardless. Gorka stresses that the conclusions from the World Congress serve as a guideline for his office, and we need to communicate what we need from them.

Jean then turns it over to Benan and Unai – Benan said he is available to answer any questions after Gorka's letter.

Unai added that they had all wanted to attend in person but that the elections prohibited that. He stressed that they are also there to support us in any way they can.

World Congress Presentation - Jean has asked the three official delegates to explain what the Congress was and how it went.

Gloria T. explains that the president calls the date for the elections, so they really don't know when it will happen. The law that allows the Basque Government to collaborate with Basque communities abroad is very important because it affects everything we do with the Basque Government. It is now 30 years old. Bob Echeverria, John Ysursa and Gloria were the first three representatives to the World Congress. They promote us and we are also supposed to promote today's Basque Country. The law includes the Lehendakari council that includes three representatives from the Diaspora that can suggest changes to how business is done. Besides electing our advisors, we were also given the chance to weigh in on what we need from the Basque Government, and they ask in turn what we can do for them. They want the law to be general so that it can apply to more people.

Edurne - outlines the day-to-day activities of the conference.

Mayi - also talks about the NABO presentation on our activities. For Mayi, the biggest shock was a Japanese person that not only spoke Basque, but also did a Bertso.

Edurne explains the roundtable activities. The law includes many things including the right to learn



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Euskara. We need to be involved and tell our memberships about what we did at the congress and that it does really involve them. They want to include Diaspora Day in the K-12 calendar in the Basque Country. We also talked about citizenship and mobility.

Gloria – points out that they talked about mobility along with the Spanish Government and European Governments having a labor problem. They are developing programs to bring people from abroad to work in the Basque Country like Bizkaia Talent since they are looking for people to move there.

The four-year plan was approved on the last day of the congress and elections also took place for the representatives to the Lehendakari's Advisory Board. Jean will serve another four years as the representative of North America. Mayi told us about the various presentations. Edurne - reminded folks about sending stuff to the Basque Diaspora Archive and Mayi talked about the cultural activities, Kalakan concert and dance performances.

Jean lets everyone know that he is the representative so please let him know if you need anything. They are also working hard on relationships with Iparralde and other areas including all provincial councils and working with Navarre too.

Committee Reports – Please refer to committee reports in packet

WWII committee - Mayi presented this report. She explains how the committee was created etc. and that to date we have received over \$9,000 in donations that do not include the Apple stock donated. She asks clubs to disseminate information about the project, potential donors as well as other veterans.

Jean Pierre Etchechury moves to nominate Mark Etcheverry from Fresno Basque Club as a new committee member. He explains his involvement in the Basque Club as well as the community and his father was also a WWII vet.

JP moves - Chris seconds and all in favor. Mark is accepted to the committee.

Pedro - has prepared a packet for clubs to share with members. It includes ways that folks can help us with the project.

Bob Echeverria - when can we see the names to see if everyone is there? Bob, seems like it is a secret thing, but if you want us to put money where our mouth is, why isn't it public information? Why can't we see the list.

Pedro - we can't share it until the research is complete. I'm not able to say that we can share it. He'll have to go back to the association to see if it can be shared. These are intellectual property questions.

Jean - could you ask the association to see if sharing it is possible?



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Philippe - there are some intellectual property concerns because of the money donated prior. Gloria L - Txoko ona has the same question. So, people would like to know.

Pedro - has to get approval from Sancho Beurko. You can always send the names of individuals to him to check. There are also some privacy issues to be considered. He will explore the legalities of sharing names.

Noel - There should be a way to see if a friend/family member is there or not. Maybe create a website so people can type in a name and see if it is included in the database. This may potentially increase donations as well.

Gloria T. what is the relationship between NABO and the Sancho Beurko Association?

Pedro explains the history of the association. It is a very well-known association that realized that WWII stories were being lost and so changed their focus. Had been funded for eight years and are now asking for help. All this work is being done for us, and the hope is to recover the memories for the benefit of future generations.

Arik - what about Canadian WWII vets?

Pedro - we are aware of them but right now concentrating on the US. But have also researched Basques in other areas.

Arik - will not share with his members.

Teresa - this program predates the NABO partnership and so the data belongs to the Sancho Beurko so we need to respect that. We are partners and not owners yet.

Anna Marie Etcheverria - any time you ask for money you are asking folks to join the journey and so we need to make it as easy as possible.

Pedro - of course we will try to do our best to make sure everyone is included.

Valerie - you need to trust your committee

Calendar Report - included in packet. Mary Lou ordered 1,000 calendars and we sold over 800. This year they will be available by July. She thanks Annie G and John Y for the content they provided. The cost will go down this year, and so we should be able to keep them at \$5 and still make a profit. Valerie set up the spreadsheet for clubs to input dates. Kate will send the Google Drive link to delegates. Jean would also like to see NABO meeting dates included.

Jean commented that enough calendars were taken to the World Congress so that the three voting



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delegates from each country (3 x 18) got one. They were a big hit!

Mary Lou reminds us that the deadline for dates is June 1st.

Education Report - John Ysursa - report in the packet. John has spoken to Jean about the possibility of rotating the education chair to allow other entities to take a turn. This would be a great way to get more people involved.

Jean - John will take it for one more year because of a project that is coming up with the 50th anniversary of the Oñati exchange program.

Anna Marie E. - What is the purpose of this program?

Jean – this program covers activities that aren't usually covered in other programs.

Bob moves to rotate the Education Chair, seconded by Teresa - all in favor - approved.

Euskara Committee - report in the packet – There will be a Topaketa in April in Boise and 11 teachers are confirmed to attend. Kinku will be there, and teachers have requested more speaking activities.

Korrika is coming up and so let Edurne know if you are organizing anything in your club. Or at least share pictures of your event.

Facilitator report – Kate reported on the 2023 grant, and Lisa reported that she has started the process to get a Google Workspace for NABO emails. She is not sure what will happen to the .eus suffix.

Jean – the emails are still working but not working well.

Mus Report - Report in packet - Pierre shared the calendar insert for Mus. Vegas is missing, but 21 clubs are included. NABO Mus Finals will be in Gardnerville June 15th so please send your winners to them. The eligible age to participate is now 16 but he/she must play with an adult for international Mus only. NABO allows two 16-year-olds to compete, but they wouldn't be allowed to compete internationally. This year's International Mus will be in Cuzco, Peru in October. Donations have been received and put into a CD that will mature in October. These funds will be saved for when we host internationals again in 2028.

Jean – We discussed the format for Mus finals at the last meeting in Boise. You can contact Valerie if you need to know more about that.

Valerie – we decided that the second round is an elimination round to save time. Please include phone



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and emails with winners so they can be easily contacted.

Julia - Could Zazpiak Bat collaborate with NABO to host the tournament in Canada?

Jean - We'll have to talk about it but remember there is also the CARL loan, and we can see what would be involved.

Pilota - report in packet - the city of Grand Junction will dedicate Plaza Urrutia in May. May 18th is Colorado History Day. He is still trying to get to Saint Pierre et Miquelon.

Annie - The museum got a donation to do an annual pelota camp, and so they will have four camps for different age groups. Hopefully out-of-town participants can be hosted with local families. More information will be available in March, and she will also keep in touch with Tony.

Tony - please let him know how he can help.

Coffee Break - 15 minutes - 10:15am

The President of the Basque Cultural Center, Jaime Narvaiz, gave us the rundown of the day's events. These include a film, WWII project presentation, pilota, dinner and dance. Sunday's events begin with mass, lunch, pilota, and concludes with mozkor salda.

San Francisco Basque Club president, Joana Arrechea thanks us all for coming.

Jean - Let's thank all the local Basque organizations by supporting their activities this weekend.

Txerriki - Valerie - see report - You may enter multiple cakes in the Gateaux Basque contest. Last year's winner is the judge for the next year.

Udaleku - Will take place in San Francisco, June 16-June 18th. This year's theme is Iparralde & Music. Registration will be on March 1st. Remember this is a two-step process, the intent to participate and then you will receive the complete application once accepted. The numbers of participants is determined by housing availability. The Larraldes are coming and can teach dance and music. She also encourages people who play instruments to come with instruments in tow. Patrick can also give Triki lessons to kids that already have them.

The Grace Mainvil scholarship will be awarded this year. It will be part of the original full application. Aita Tillous funds are also available for those needing financial help with Udaleku. Historically full tuition has been awarded but this is not a guarantee. She thanks all the clubs that make donations to Udaleku. The goal is to keep growing Udaleku and get as many kids involved as possible.

Cost of Udaleku tuition - We didn't make money off of Udaleku, but Boise didn't go into the red. We



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absolutely appreciate how hard that is. The current tuition, \$480 and a 10% sibling discount doesn't quite cover two weeks, and so donations are tremendously important. NABO tends to stick with historical numbers, and never looks at COLA. Valerie tries to increase tuition little by little. The COLA from 2022-2023 was 4.9% but would like to increase tuition to \$500 per camper continuing the 10% sibling discount. Valerie moves to increase tuition by \$20 to total \$500, seconded by Bob. All in favor – approved.

Marisa – will you include Bertsolaritza in the program?

Valerie – this will depend on what instructors she has.

Mayi - I'm glad to see the scholarship come back. Please encourage attendees to apply for this scholarship. Secondly, I really want to encourage clubs who can't attend because of financial need to take advantage of the Aita Tillous fund.

Valerie - Aita Tillous is not just for Udaleku, but can be used for conventions, Smithsonian, different exchange programs. Pilota camps etc.

Anna Marie Etcheverria – we should have a website page with all of the non-profits so anyone can go and pick their organization to donate to.

Valerie – that would be great to also create a group that looks at grants, seeking other grants that are available to NABO.

Jean – We should include a page on the website with a charitable navigator.

Music Report - included in the packet – Idea of a Eurovision competition so kids could compete with whatever group to promote Basque music on whatever instruments is discussed.

Kantari Eguna - Becky talks a little bit about last year. She was very frank in her concerns about Kantari Eguna. This year's event was very sad. They served over 350 people lunch and at the end only a handful stayed for the singing portion of the day. We need to regenerate interest in the event because it can't keep going the way it is going.

Noel - echoes her sentiment. There are very few older Basque people in the audience. It's not what it used to be.

Jean - Some funds had been set aside to bring artists and, in the past, this generated good turn outs.

Annie - maybe a new platform for Mikaela's project?



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Teresa - we not only need people to sing, but we also need people to listen to these performances.

Chris – maybe we need to rethink when the singing takes place?

Mayi - Maybe shut down the bar?

Teresa – We have tried that but then folks are moving to the corner bar.

Valerie - Maybe we should make it more interactive and have a sign along.

Noel - bringing someone well-known could help, but it is probably cost prohibitive. Their goal is to at least break even. As the generations change, participation is dropping off.

Valerie - Maybe increase the NABO budget that would at least cover 2 airfares for the event.

Jean - if we did that, and then maybe share with other clubs.

Valerie moves to increase the budget to \$5,000 for 2024 and see how it works. The club can use it or not.

Mayi - my concern is for this year we are really tight.

Valerie - If we don't help now, it may not be around in the future. If someone comes, then they could easily tour other clubs.

Benan - Cultural Tours may come back to bring groups from the Basque Country. Maybe not in 2024, but probably in 2025.

Jean – I'll meet with Rocklin and we can decide on something in May in Bakersfield?

Noel - we will talk about it and will be in touch.

Mayi seconds Valerie's motion.

Jean - motion and seconded to increase Kantari budget to \$5,000 - all in favor - approved

Marisa - kids draw a lot of people, maybe get a group from Udaleku to perform?

Valerie - most kids go to Gardnerville, theoretically it is a possibility, but could be done.

Maria - kids attract folks and attracts audience.



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Jean – Let's bring some more ideas to Bakersfield

Dance - reported by Jaclyn, she has worked with the list that was on the NABO website.

Bertsolari Report - Martin and Todor –This year's main bertso event is in San Francisco - Oier Pastor will replace Jexux Goni at the March event.

Philippe - please promote this event in your communities. We want to show the impact of women in this art form. This is accessible to everyone because Xabi Paya will be doing in time translation again.

Todor – The Bertso school now has intermediate and advanced groups but is not accepting any more beginners. If interested in Bertsolaris at your event, please email them.

Martin - will go from Boise to Chino and San Francisco

Denis Petrissans, how does the translation work?

Philippe explains that Xabi tells Valerie what to type and that's how it works.

Marisa - will it be livestreamed?

Philippe – we have to look at the legalities of that.

End of committee reports

Dues discussion – Jean - We won't make any decisions today because we need to get input from clubs. We will vote on this in Bakersfield. Dues have not been raised since 2010, according to the inflation calendar, that amounts to \$1.41. Everything is getting more expensive, and we are creating more programs. One way to support our activities is to increase the dues. Maybe there are other ideas to bring money into NABO? Dues are not the only mechanism to raise money.

Mayi - 40 clubs, 6,000 members - currently \$100 to \$1 per member, if we were to increase it to \$3 per person, at is an additional \$12,000 and that is her proposal. \$100 plus \$3 per person. We should have maybe been increasing dues along the way. We need to come together and increase per member dues.

Teresa - it is reasonable to increase dues.

Denis - if the hat is passed at a pilota game, those funds need to go to the pilota program.

Teresa - passing the hat is not a fixed income and dues would be easier to plan for.

Valerie – Would it be reasonable to increase the \$100 for smaller clubs, in addition to \$3 per person.



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Mayi - go back to your clubs and ask them what they would be comfortable with

Goisalde - is there just one proposal to take back to the clubs?

Jean - Not a proposal yet but we will create one in Bakersfield.

Mayi - This would go into effect in 2025.

Jean – The question is whether to raise the dues to \$2 per person total or to \$3 and if your club feels increasing the \$100 is a good idea, we will make this decision in Bakersfield. Maybe tiered dues? NABO has grown its programs that now benefit almost every member, so we don't want to stop that.

Mayi – Many ask, “you have a lot of money in the bank why don't we spend that?” We can't use education funds to fund other programs. They are separate, because one is a 501c3 and the other a 501c4. We have to be careful about that.

Annie - Why aren't we a 501c3?

Mayi – Because only educational programs can be qualified as a 501c3, so pilota and mus aren't qualified as educational. That is a federal IRS regulation.

Sam Z – Could we consider smaller clubs paying a lesser fee?

Mayi – That's a good question and could be addressed in Bakersfield. Our by-laws specify two different memberships. There was an associate membership, but I think we got rid of that so more clubs could participate.

Louis I - The educational fund is not where the problem is, is it the investment for the c4 or the c3?

Mayi - both are included in the investment account.

Eduarne - please think about small clubs when you go back to your clubs.

Proxy discussion, zoom etc. – Jean - Delegates have come to meetings with a lot of proxies in the past and many votes have taken place with many proxies. This is now being questioned. With zoom it is easier to get to a meeting and should facilitate attending at least one meeting in person annually. Proxies used to be made within a club if both delegates couldn't attend. It was rarely used between clubs. Now, though there are some questions regarding passing proxies between clubs. Does the proxy really know the club represented well enough to vote? Is this a problem?

Marisa - do you have to be a member of a club to be a proxy for that club?

Mayi - reads the by-laws regarding proxies. No, you don't have to be a member to be a proxy.



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Teresa - Delegate duties are written into the club's bylaws, so maybe the proxy is determined at club level and not at the NABO level.

Jean - That depends on each club's by-laws.

Gloria - could you let us know what the problem is?

Jean - The problem is if you have 10 votes do you really know each club represented?

Susan - if you give a proxy to someone, then that is up to the club.

Philippe - some clubs may give proxies to make quorum and not for voting rights. Maybe limit the number of proxies or lower the threshold of quorum and get rid of proxies all together. I'm in favor of proxies, but in a contentious vote, so many proxies may sway the result.

Jean Pierre Etchechury - It also indicates how much interaction that club is having with NABO. Maybe that proxy is using that number of proxies to move an agenda one way or another. This could be an unfair advantage.

Jean Pierre Elissetche - can we limit the number of proxies a club can send?

Valerie - It was different when there wasn't Zoom. By-laws have to be a living document. Virtual meetings are now the norm, and they won't be going anywhere. Should we start taking attendance? Now, anyone can join from their phone.

Ann M Gariador - Many clubs are only involved for Mus.

Meeting resumes at 2:05 after lunch -

Ateak Ireki - Report in Packet provided by Inaki Goirizelaia. It includes guidelines for this year's program. They are planning a meeting before participants go so, they have an idea about some cultural norms, as well as what is to be expected from them. Thirty-three registered, twenty-four of which are NABO members and nine are not. Do we require NABO membership? This also includes three repeat participants. There are some rules and some commandments that if violated, means they can be sent home.

Argia is overwhelmed and has to step down as chair of the committee. She would like to stay on the committee, but not as chair. Miren Maguregi is willing to chair and is asking that Monique also be part of the committee to help.

Mayi moves to accept Miren and Monique, and JP Elissetche seconded.



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Gloria - Three generations of NABO delegates here.

Pierre - Fifty years ago clubs were starting everywhere, and they met fifty years ago in Reno from the San Francisco Basque Club. That's when NABO started with Al Erquiaga as president and Miren Artiach as secretary. He started the 1st International Mus tournament and had several dance groups present at the Fort Mason event. For Pierre the best thing that we have done is Udaleku and we need to keep that up.

Report from the Arborglyph Collaborative presented by Iñaki Arrieta and John Bieter -

They are trying to preserve the tree carvings as part of our heritage. A partnership with BSU, UNR, and UC Bakersfield along with several community partners. They also work with the BLM and Forest Service. They started this project just over two years ago and so now they feel comfortable sharing what they've been doing till now, and how they plan to move forward.

Video shown

One of the partners is the Delamare Library at UNR that specializes in 3D models of tree carvings. The trees are going to die, but at least this way 3D models could be created for preservation. This video was made through funding from the National Archives, now writing an implementation grant for phase two of the project. They are here to share the information with us and would like to have an ongoing conversation with NABO and the clubs where the carvings are found, or who may have a personal contact to talk about them. Went to Elko with Jess Lopategui and others, and there are thousands of carvings there. They wanted to make us aware of the project.

John Bieter - remembered that San Francisco event in 1980 was transformative for Oinkaris. We are trying to build a collaborative and make it broader, the more the merrier. Hats off to Joxe Mallea who gathered nearly 20,000 of these. It's a race against time to archive as many as they can as well as interview as many herders as they can.

Gloria - Do you have a short explanation also with a QR code so that people can send information about carvings and where they are?

John - trying to develop an app so that if you come across one while hiking etc. you can send information directly to the project.

Old Business -

Denis asked more about Ateak Ireki -

Jean explains some of the issues that took place last year. More Basque instruction from feedback from



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both hosts and the participants. Host families wanted the kids to have more interaction with the kids, and not be treated as a hotel.

Bizi Emankorra Awards -

Louis will read the nominations from Kern County Basque Club - Steve Bass, Lourdes Iturriria, Marianne Laxague, Jenny Maitia Poncetta, Joxe Recondo. Bios provided.

Basque Cultural Center nomination - Mayi Petracek

JP Etchechury moves and Philippe seconds that all nominees be accepted and honored.
Motion passes

Future Meetings -

Convention in Bakersfield - 2024 Maria explains the weekend's events. Refer to booklet Teresa thanks so much for compiling all of the information in one place.

Fall 2024 - Grand Junction, Colorado September 21, 2024 Meeting on Friday September 20th and picnic on the 21st at the Plaza Urrutia. Meeting at Mesa University - Hoping to do a later afternoon event on Saturday afternoon, mass dedication, handball, dancing and a BBQ dinner. Probably no evening dance. Could potentially do their Mus tournament in the morning.

2025 Winter SLC, Convention Jaialdi, Fall Reno.

Fresno would like a meeting like a meeting - Fresno Fall 2028

New Business - Soka project - Valerie talked to Noel and they, Quebec Basque Association, wants to sell the exhibit for about \$5,000. Boise has had a part of it, and it includes some interactive parts to it. Noel thinks it would take an additional \$1,000 for shipping. This would be a permanent US exhibit. Is there interest in it?

Benan suggests that maybe it could be part of the 2025 Ellis Island exhibit?

Jean - Josie Wray - please ask folks if they may be interested in it.

Annie - the videos are the coolest part of it, and that is what they displayed in Boise.

Iñaki - is there a document of its contents?

Valerie - Yes, they will send it to him. This is not pressing, so please take this back to your community to see if there may be interest. She will ask Noel for a video link to see what it looked like when it was put together.



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Iñaki - if we have a list of partners, we could potentially exhibit it over a period of time so we don't have to store it right away.

Philippe – Please promote the Basque rock and roll band Zea Mays who will be in San Francisco March 22nd along with two other dates in Boise.

Move to adjourn at 3:14pm