

## **AFM Local 1000 Minutes of General Membership Meeting**

**Date:** 13 February 2019

**Location:** Folk Alliance International, The Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

**Time:** 4:00 PM EST

**Members in Attendance:** Eve Goldberg, President; Aaron Fowler, Vice President from the United States; Kev Corbett, Vice President from Canada; Vi Wickam, Secretary-Treasurer; Gary Paul Hermus, Western Executive Committee Member; Scott Berwick, Designated Recorder of Minutes for this Meeting; Michael Browne; John Dillon; Cathy Fink; Terry Irons; Si Kahn; Marcy Marxer; Joe Jencks; Mara Levine; Kathy Peters; Sonia Rutstein. (16)

**Also in Attendance:** Colin Dean, Local 1000 Administrative Director.

**Members Observing via Zoom:** Rosalyn Dennett, Eastern Executive Committee Member; Sharon Abreu; Steve Eulberg; Judith Kate; Rob McClain; John O'Connor; Charlie Pilzer; Dan Senie; Faith Senie. (9)

**Also Observing via Zoom:** Richard Coombs, Local 1000 Administrative Director.

**Opening Song:** Cathy Fink led us in singing “There’s A Bright Side Somewhere”.

**Call To Order:** A quorum being present, President Goldberg called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM EST. (16 members present plus 9 online via Zoom.)

**Land Acknowledgement:** President Goldberg read the following statement: “As we gather here, to do the work of our union, I want to acknowledge the land on which we gather is the traditional and unceded territory of the Kanien’kehá:ka (Mohawk) of Kahnawà:ke, a place that has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst nations. We are grateful to the Kanien’kehá:ka Indigenous nation and its peoples, who have welcomed generations of settler folks and guests to these lands to share in its gifts. As we set our minds to our work here, we should also be mindful of our relationship to the land we are on, and the First Peoples of that land, and remember that it is all our responsibility to uphold our collective stewardship as we move forward. It’s my hope that this gathering of Local 1000, and this gathering of Folk Alliance, will further our path to reconciliation and right relationships with the land and between all the people that inhabit it.”

**Introductions:** President Goldberg welcomed us and asked each of us present and on Zoom to introduce ourselves in turn.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the 9 November 2018 Membership Meeting were accepted as submitted by unanimous vote on a motion by Joe Jencks and second by Gary Hermus.

**President's Report:** President Goldberg began by introducing Rosalyn Dennett and welcoming her as the new Eastern Executive Committee Member.

She noted that we have 4 active committees: Communication; Fair Trade Music; Finance; and Financial Sustainability.

She reported that she attended a union Organizing Training Workshop at The Tommy Douglas Center in Silver Spring, MD and found the experience really valuable. She hopes this will lead to some real organizing efforts for Local 1000.

She noted that there will be elections for Secretary-Treasurer and Western Executive Committee member at our next election for officers' terms beginning January 1, 2020. She asked for members to step up to serve their union or to help us find good candidates. Elections should be held in October or November 2019.

**Fair Trade Music Committee Report:** President Goldberg reported that Debra Cowan and John McCutcheon have been on monthly calls to work with FTM program leaders from other locals on growing this program. Local 1000 has been a leader in this program. Joe Jencks noted that FTM started out in Portland, OR, and that the FTM program really helps musicians. John O'Connor noted that FTM has been Local 1000's main organizing effort in recent years.

*4:29 PM: Marcy Marxer left the meeting. (15 members now present plus 9 on Zoom.)*

**Financial Sustainability Committee Report:** John O'Connor reported for the Financial Sustainability Committee. We have done just about as much as we can to cut costs, so the future sustainability of the union depends on growing our membership and getting more members to pay work dues (which would allow them to make pension contributions) or at least make work dues equivalency contributions. Suggestions for dealing with the challenge included: Work Shops at Folk Alliance on Pensions and other union benefits; creating more union activities to attract new members; developing a FAQ pamphlet and web site FAQ for the union pension plan. Additional suggestions included: members reaching out on a one-to-one basis to help new members through the process of filling out and filing contracts; telling members and non-members how Local 1000 is addressing issues important to musicians; creating an Honorary Board to add status to Local 1000 image; promoting "solidarity" as an important union ideal; promoting the mentoring of newer members by more established members; holding retreats and other

events where newer members can “hang out” with other members; growing our now 150 venue strong Fair Trade Music program.

*5:08 PM: Sonia Rutstein left the meeting (14 members now present plus 9 on Zoom.)*

**Secretary-Treasurer’s Report:** Secretary-Treasurer Wickam reviewed the financial reports for the Fiscal Year ending 12/31/2018. The Financial Reports were accepted on a motion by Kathy Peters and second by Kev Corbett, and unanimous vote. (Reports attached.)

**2019 Budget:** Secretary-Treasurer Wickham reviewed the proposed budget for 2019. After some brief discussion the 2019 Budget was unanimously approved on a motion by Si Kahn and second by Terry Irons. (2019 Budget attached.)

**New Business:**

**Proposed By-laws Changes:** President Goldberg reviewed the proposed By-laws changes that will be presented for a vote at a later date. The proposed changes will permit members who join a meeting by internet access to actively participate in the meeting, to be counted toward a quorum, and to have their votes counted. Where a secret ballot is required, they will be able to vote on-line following the meeting.

**2019 AFM National Convention Delegates:** Eve Goldberg, John O’Connor, and Vi Wickam were elected at the 9 November 2018 Local 1000 General Membership meeting to represent Local 1000 at the national convention. Vi Wickam will not be able to attend, but we will still be able to vote our delegate number should the need arise.

**Quarterly Dues Fee Increase:** Local 1000 plans to increase the extra fee for paying dues quarterly instead of annually.

**FAI Events:** President Goldberg reminded us that Local 1000 has a table in the Exhibit Hall and that we are hosting our Showcase-Free Zone each night in room 524.

**Next Meetings:** There will be Membership Meetings at NERFA, November 7 – 10 in Stamford, CT and at FARM, October 24 – 27, 2019 in Grand Rapids, MI.

**Folk DJ Charts:** Mara Levine brought us up to date on the Folk DJ charts.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM on a motion by Vi Wickam and second by Cathy Fink.

Respectfully submitted, Scott Berwick, Designated Recorder