

**Don't miss the
64th New England
Folk Festival
coming soon to
Mansfield, Mass.
April 25-27**



**Remembering Patrick
Stevens
Hours of Minutes
Festival News!**

From the President's Desk

Robert Golder



This winter will pass by quickly for me, no matter how many snowstorms blanket New England. As president of NEFFA, I look at the calendar and think to myself, "Here's January, then comes February and March – and then it's April, and time for the Festival!"

Looking too closely at the calendar can make me worry. Sometimes it seems as though there's very little time in which to make the necessary arrangements for NEFFA. But the truth is that many dedicated volunteers work well in advance of the Festival on preparations for their particular areas of interest and responsibility. Occasionally the president's role is to just watch and admire how this community of dedicated people fits together all the puzzle pieces of preparation that result in a successful, annual Festival.

The volunteers on the Program Committee have already processed all performer applications received for 2008. The basic schedule of events for the weekend is now in place, and promises to offer an exciting variety of traditional folk music and dance. All of the performers are, of course, volunteers too.

Meanwhile, other volunteers continue their preparations, assuring that the underlying foundations of logistical support for the Festival are secure. Parking, busing, housing, food services, sound amplification, the crafts room, performer sales, safety, indoor signs, outdoor signs, the folk bazaar, hospitality services... the list goes on and on.

The volunteers that I've been telling you about work on NEFFA projects throughout the calendar year. But other volunteers are needed on a short-term basis, just during the Festival weekend. At the Festival these volunteers may contribute a few hours of time to staff the Membership booth, or sell tickets at the entrance door, or clean tables in the cafeteria, or perform any one of a hundred other tasks that keep the Festival running smoothly and make it a fun, community-based, family-friendly event.

Volunteers can receive immediate benefits for their labor, such as free entrance to a session or even to the entire Festival, depending upon the amount of time you donate. As a long-lasting benefit of volunteerism, you help to assure that NEFFA remains a vital resource for preserving and displaying the very best of New England's traditional music, dance, arts, and crafts.

If your name is on the address label of this newsletter, then I'm probably "preaching to the choir" about volunteering at NEFFA. But if this is a new idea for you, or if you have volunteered in the past but are looking for a new way to do so (anything from supervisory positions to simple,

(Continued on page 2)

but still valuable, jobs during the Festival), then you'll want to get in touch with Bill Cowie.

Bill Cowie recently joined NEFFA's executive board, and is in the midst of his first year as Volunteer Coordinator. In February 2008, Bill will activate a volunteers page on the NEFFA web site - <http://www.neffa.org/volunteering/> - that will help you to get involved. Bill has also created an e-mail account - neffavolunteers@yahoo.com - which he uses to field your inquiries. You can contact Bill right now via e-mail, and I hope you will!

NEFFA is an all-volunteer festival. We're proud of that tradition and we thank those of you who by your efforts will help make the 2008 New England Folk Festival a resounding

success.

Please visit www.neffa.org often for the latest updates on the April 25-27, 2008 Festival, plus our other programs such as the annual Ralph Page Dance Legacy Weekend in Durham, NH (January 18-20, 2008), and the Family Dance Series and Thursday Night Contra Dance Series in Concord, MA. As always, thank you for helping NEFFA to create joyful celebrations for the New England folk community.

Bob Golder
President
New England Folk Festival Association
Cambridge, MA

San Francisco Contra Weekend

**Fri May 9 to
Sun May 11, 2008**

featuring

Carol Ormand

calling to the music of

Lift Ticket

(C.W. Abbott, Rex Blazer,
Seth Houston, Russell Shumsky)

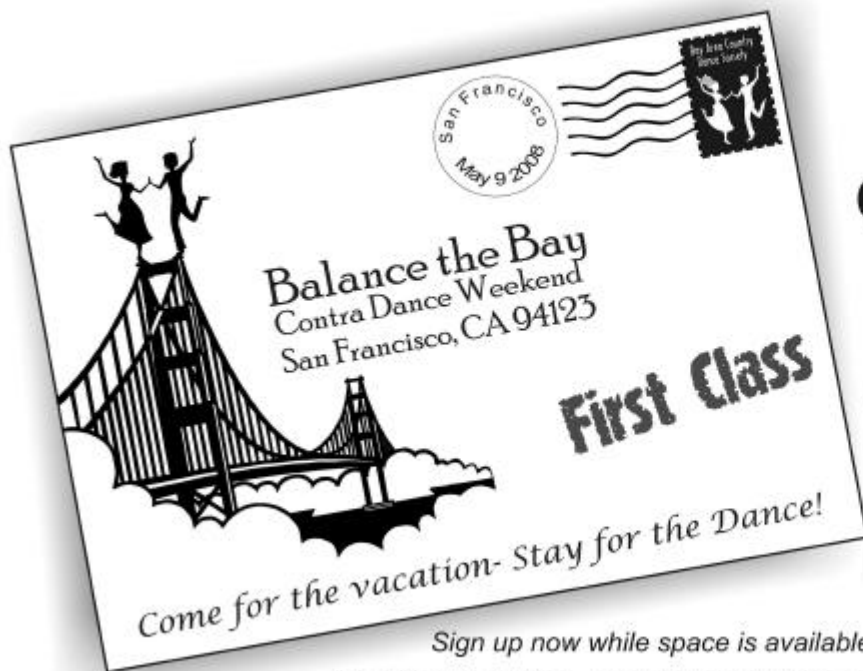
with local favorites

Lynn Ackerson

and

The Crabapples

(Norm Cotton, Marta Lynch,
Bob Silberstein, Sarah Springer)



Sign up now while space is available:

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Editor: **Dan Pearl** Mailing: **Dayle Watts**

Editorial Review: **Robert Golder, Shelagh Ellman-Pearl,
Lisa Greenleaf, Robert Johnson**

The NEFFA News, a publication of the New England Folk Festival Association, Inc., is published four times a year to communicate with its membership and other interested persons. **Please send all**

editorial submissions to Dan Pearl, 15 Buffalo Run, Southborough, MA 01772, or to neffa@neffa.org. Opinions of individuals are not necessarily the opinion of the NEFFA Executive Board.

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<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Spring	Feb. 1
Summer	May 15
Fall	Aug. 15
Winter	Nov. 1

FAREWELL

Patrick Stevens 1953-2007

It was a shock to us in NEFFA that our friend Patrick Stevens, died suddenly on December 19th. Patrick was a prime mover and shaker of the Ralph Page Memorial Committee for years. We will miss him terribly.

Nowadays, this sort of news travels quickly over the Internet. Here are some contributions.



Only a few of us know that [in the evening of December 19th], and with each of us in his thoughts and indeed in his heart, my brother Patrick died of a fourth heart attack. He had gone to bed and was reading when he felt the fourth and final heart attack begin. He asked Penny to call 911 and when EMS arrived he was in serious trouble. After 25 minutes of life-saving effort, they said there was no more they could do. Our beautiful and extraordinary husband, father, brother, uncle, cousin, friend, brother-in-law and son-in-law is gone. It will be unspeakably hard for us all to face this morning and hundreds more to come.

I am so very sorry to send this in an email but I can't face making all these calls when and if the sun finally rises. And though Penny is a mighty soul, and she may find her strength to call some of you, she will need time to find her way. I am, of course, devastated, in shock, and cannot sleep. I find some odd comfort in coming to know this new future by saying/typing it out loud - here, now.

The love of his life, Penny, is in the arms and home of her mother and sister, Carol and Wendy. His daughter Anita will arrive in Portsmouth today to offer and take comfort with her brother Clark and Penny. Patrick and Penny have a large and loving community of friends, Unitarians, dancers, colleagues, and, most of all, family. It is very hard to be so far away from them now, but I am comforted by knowing that their web there in NH is wide and strong and that his wonderful wife, children and family will know much love and support in the coming weeks and months and years.

We here in Austin had spoken to Patrick every day since his heart attack on Saturday. He sounded remarkably strong, cheerful, and resigned to the now familiar routine of recovery. Now all of our hearts are broken for a long while to come. I wish I could be with each of you today. I know you share, and in that way lighten our pain. My own family has held tight to me these past hours with fierce love and determination. My children offer great comfort though their grief is great and unfamiliar. Patrick did not want a funeral and wished to be cremated and have his ashes spread at Beaver Lake. There will be a memorial service sometime in the early New Year. We will all gather to celebrate this most remarkable man and a life that was lived with greater intention and purpose than anyone I have known.

— Molly Stevens [Patrick's Sister]

“Patrick was an architect with the firm Oak Point Associates. He lived his life with enormous passion, purpose and intention. There was rarely a minute that had not been both anticipated and planned for and his three-ring binders on each of his many interests were often the source of needling from family and friends. He was a loving husband, wonderful father, a talented and award-winning photographer, accomplished swimmer, a passionate sailor, graceful dancer (that's how Penny fell for him), a smooth skier, an active outdoorsman, an advocate for social justice, a celebrant of art and music, and someone who practiced generosity in his everyday life.”

— from the Death Notice in the Portsmouth Herald

If people want to help, they can save their fondest memories of digital photos and stories can be sent to preynolds21@comcast.net, fishinnixon4@comcast.net and film photos can be sent to Wendy Nixon, 10 Old Mill Road, Lee, NH 03861.

We are all in shock and in a haze of grief and will take a long time to recover. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

— Wendy Nixon (Patrick's Sister-in-Law)

Call For Nominees



*The Nominating Committee:
Steve Moore and Beth Parkes*

NEFFA is a non-profit organization run by volunteers. In addition to producing an annual Folk Festival, NEFFA runs a weekly contra dance, the Ralph Page Dance Legacy Weekend, and a series of family dances. NEFFA also supports various folk-related activities through its grants program.

Our traditions and bylaws encourage member participation in a number of ways. While, many of you are no doubt familiar with the role of volunteering at the Festival, you may also know that NEFFA's goals of preserving folk traditions are actually overseen by an Executive Board, composed of elected and appointed members. Under NEFFA's bylaws, elected Directors are expected to chair or serve as a member of a committee or to take on another responsibility.

Each year, the Nominating Committee prepares a ballot listing the nominees for the open positions for the Board and for Officers. We welcome all **suggestions** and volunteers from the NEFFA membership. Our bylaws also encourage **direct nomination** by members: the name of any eligible person suggested by twenty-five or more members is included on the ballot, if he or she consents.

Please send all suggestions and direct nominations to Nominating Committee Chair, Stephen A. Moore,, by mail (3 Dennett Rd., Winchester, MA 01890) or by email (moore01890@comcast.net). The deadline for nominations is February 15, 2008. Feel free to contact any board member with an inquiry regarding the roles and responsibilities of the various positions.

The current Elected Board members are listed below. Those positions marked with a dot (·) are to be filled in the April election. Directors and Officers serve terms of two years and may be re-elected for one additional term (the Secretary and the Treasurer are always eligible for re-election). Members of the Nominating Committee serve for a single three-year term.

In recent years, Nominating Committees have recognized that NEFFA is a large organization with a geographically dispersed membership and that most members do not know each other or the candidates.

Thus, there is little point to an actual contested election. In addition, the preference is to reward those who step forward and wish to become involved. Most ballots, therefore, have presented uncontested slates. We anticipate continuing this practice.

Office	Name	Term Expires	Eligible for re-election
President	Robert Golder	2009	✓
Vice President	Robert Johnson	2008	
Secretary	Laura Leibensperger	2009	always
Treasurer	Ralph Jones	2008	always
Nominating Committee	· Steve Moore	2008	
	(vacant)	2009	
	Beth Parkes	2010	
Directors	· Nancy Hanssen	2008	
	· (vacant)	2008	
	· Angela Taylor	2008	
	· Koren Wake	2008	✓
	Bill Cowie	2009	✓
	Gene Fry	2009	✓
	Tony Parkes	2009	✓
	(vacant)	2009	

Summaries of the Minutes of the NEFFA Executive Board

19 May 2007 Evaluation Meeting

President's Report (Maureen Carey)

We should take seriously the evaluations and ideas in them, but first acknowledge the great job we did. It was nothing like running the Festival at Natick. We had to grind through issues that came up over and over again. The custodians and kitchen people were watching us (appropriately) and we came through.

Treasurer's Report (Ralph Jones)

The NEFFA account is down about \$20,000 right now. Ticket sales were down \$10,000 from 2006. This is the first year we've been down this much. **Bob S:** We were hoping to reduce our expenses at Mansfield because we wouldn't need a tent. **Shelagh:** We should compare expenses to last years numbers. The tent was about \$12,000. Which of this year's expenses were one time costs related to moving? **Ann:** The electrician who did the wiring said the cost would be about ¼ in future years. **Linda:** Access to schools was confusing – did we miss revenue because people got in without buying tickets?

Activity Room (communicated by Maureen Carey)

I spoke to Linda after the Festival was over, and she was grinning from ear to ear - people had fun. Linda is looking for a replacement. I asked her to speak to the people who work with her. **Shelagh:** It was too close to rest area. **Seth:** Many kids had large projects completely wrapped in tape – it seems like a big use of resources. **Jean:** That's a good point about environmental responsibility.

Crafts (Ann Schunior)

There were almost no problems. This is the first year that we got all of our info on the web. We did most of our jurying, acceptance, room layout via the web. The room worked really well – it was big enough, lighting was gorgeous, we also had natural light. There were many more people walking through the room. For the first time, people selling quiet instruments

felt like they could be heard. A couple of problems: there was a misunderstanding Sat. AM about who could come in early; the custodial staff was not clear on opening up at 8:30. Another problem at night is that people sit down so craftspeople have trouble closing up. At this point, nobody's buying. We need to direct the flow of traffic.

Folk Bazaar (Angela Taylor)

We had problems – the fire dept apparently looked at our floor plan and OK'd it, but 2 hours before we opened they told me we had to take out 3 booths. I talked to three sets of firemen and they all had a different idea of what was supposed to be there. **Bob S.:** Alan Finkelstein (Safety) was the person who fixed this. **Ann:** Did you mark out the spaces? **Angela:** One woman left because she said she didn't have enough space. **Dan:** The room was not consistent because people brought their own furniture, they did all kinds of things that were not consistent with the plan. We need to have a sketch from each of the booth people: where are the clothing racks etc. **Ann:** You have to put blue tape on the floor and enforce rules about 'this is your space.' **Angela:** Are there big rooms that were not used? Shoes and clothing could use big rooms with a changing space and a mirror.

Food (Maureen Carey)

Adapting to conditions at Mansfield was a challenge. During the festival things were OK – things were under control by Friday night but the weeks leading up to that were unbelievable. Again, we are no longer NEFFA at Natick. We might have to make food available in a different way.

Evaluations chastised us for not having the old stalwarts, but we didn't fire them, we wanted them.

People in the kitchen were remarkable – they helped wash down tables etc. **Dan:** I would like to see more booths featuring healthy food, not a lot of sugary foods. Instead of two booths with Italian ices I'd like more real food. I was

The New England Folk Festival Association, Inc. is a non-profit educational and cultural organization, incorporated under the general laws of Massachusetts to preserve folk traditions in New England and elsewhere; to encourage the development of a living folk culture; and to encourage high standards of quality and performance in the folk arts.

Membership entitles one to voting privileges, publications, and to reduced admission to selected NEFFA-sponsored activities. It is open to interested persons who support our objectives.

Annual Dues are \$20/individual, \$38/family (up to 2 people over 18). Contributions beyond these basic amounts are welcome and tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Send check, payable to NEFFA, to the office. Occasionally, NEFFA shares its mailing list for a one-time use by like-minded folk organizations. If you do not want your name and address shared in this way, tell us with your membership. **Please direct all inquiries** to the NEFFA office: PMB 282, 1770 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140 or (781) 662-6710, or via email: neffa@neffa.org

Interested persons may get on NEFFA's mailing list for one year at no charge. Send request with full name and address to the office.

wondering why the Italian ices weren't near the morris dancers. **Beth:** They only had one set of workers. Tony: I'm seeing more and more mobile booths with healthy food – it's doable. (?) Many people said the French fries were 'finally something my kid will eat'. **Shelagh:** There was a request for some kind of food in the HS. **Ann:** There was one booth run by HS kids that had only packaged food – why can't there be something like that in the HS?

Maureen: The idea of outside shelter for food makes sense. Last year Pinewoods paid \$9000 for a canopy. At this point it's half price. It's 60 x 30, it's high enough that morris dancers could dance under it in the rain. **Beth:** It could be a walkway between the buildings. **Dan:** I think it's better to rent so upkeep and storage is somebody else's problem.

Hospitality and Access (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl)

The table was somewhat crowded. There were complaints about not having a visible Hospitality presence in the HS. Cell phones were sometimes iffy. There were a lot of complaints that Hospitality didn't know what was going on. It's a new place, there were new volunteers. **Lee:** People didn't know where to get tickets. **Shelagh:** The Hospitality sign kept falling down. There were comments about Instrument Check, practice rooms being in both buildings – there's a whole issue around covering both schools. It's probably too much for me to do both Access and Hospitality. Access interfaces with so many other things. Diane had a really good report about access difficulties in this setting. There were comments that there weren't enough seats in the Auditorium for handicapped participation as well as seating. The elevator isn't useful because you have to get a key from the custodian to use it.

Inside Signs (Michael Resnick)

Things went up really quickly with the new signs. Even when people complained, they all said 'you did a good job'. Many people asked for arrow signs to the nearest bathrooms, water fountains also came up. People wanted to see a site map, so I'll put an outline of both buildings on the map. Cafeteria: The signs said you couldn't take it out, but actually you can go out by the stairs.

Outside Signs (Dayle Watts)

I spent \$600 – about the same as I spent at Natick when I started re-doing signs. The main entrance sign wasn't obvious – people didn't know where to go. I'll have a sign outside saying how to get to specific areas like Hospitality etc. HP signage: do we need signs about "official" designations?

Parking (Jean Krogh)

I won't repeat information included in my report. The big

issues facing next year's new parking chair will be coordinating with Dayle about official town-sanctioned signs for HP parking; maybe adding some HP spaces; dealing with the satellite parking lot issue. Parking volunteers might benefit from a walking-around manager at all times, or walkie talkies to send people to available spaces. One comment was that the lot was marked closed when spaces were opening up. We need to keep up with moving cones when the lot is not full.

Performer Sales (Nancy Hanssen)

We were very happy with our space. Custodians used the kitchen for cooking, but it worked out. The people were very nice and friendly, helpful. They know what we need for space now. We had 28 performers. I made a list of the top sellers so we'll know who was popular: David Millstone, (new DVD), Sol Weber, (he brings in a lot of titles, but they sell). One issue to address is that some performers were selling their own stuff at performances. I thought the reason we had performer sales was to prevent that – to keep people from staying in the rooms etc. **Linda:** It's in their performer package, but I think they get overwhelmed with information.

Printed Materials and Program (Janet Yeracaris, Linda Leslie)

Janet: Mansfield was in many ways superior to Natick: everything was contained in one area, logistics were much easier. The custodians were fabulous – they moved the spring musical stage set. Auditorium seating was never above 80% full. Our rough counts from Natick would have filled every seat – if attendance goes up it may be a problem. Katy would like to stay on but not do all of the shows. I am resigning my post though I will still be around to help and will stay on the Program Committee. Quality of the groups was really good this year.

Linda: Highlights had to do with balance among American, Couple and International Line dance. We were able to dedicate one stage to participatory dance – we oriented this toward family events. We have a bimodal approach to attendees: FM&S song people are unhappy, participatory dance people are very happy with the two gyms. The MS Auditorium stage was a good space except for some very popular events such as Scandinavian dance, waltz. We might have beginner dancing followed by open dancing – the band can stay put and beginners can keep dancing. Peripheral issues: I love our lobby space, we have a holding area for performers in bad weather, we had dedicated volunteers. We had only one cancellation, which we were able to fill. We gave out 1500 performer tickets. Dan: You said it's hard to get performers Friday night – would it help to give hot groups longer sets, maybe 2 hours? Linda: It's a

hard time to fill, after the workday and with people looking ahead to the weekend. Printed Materials: There weren't as many books left as usual, there were few maps left over (from 3000). We could add some things to the Program Book such as maps of the Craft Room and Folk Bazaar.

Room Capacity (Bob Solosko)

The fire department was happy, but the impact of limiting room capacities was worse than we expected. More rooms filled than we expected particularly on Saturday.

Auditoriums were not a problem, contras were acceptable.

Bob: Alan and I put together a draft letter to the Fire Dept. requesting increases in room capacities by 25%. This is well within state law. A classroom with desks requires 20 sq. ft. per person; an assembly with movable chairs needs only 7 sq. ft. per person.

Sound (Peter Olszowka)

It was hard to hear callers at the end of the lines. I'm not sure why or what to do – we need to talk to the sound contractor. The gym just may be more reverberant. Were the engineers paying enough attention to callers? The small concert halls were fine in general. Set-up and strike was hectic, there were more issues, some of which couldn't be resolved in advance. Next year I need more senior volunteers, not just people who put in their four hours – people who can take responsibilities, supervise putting up curtains etc.

Tickets (Robert Johnson)

Caroline's big concern was that tickets people needed to have a Hospitality satellite booth there. Someone reacted badly when they were told that Hospitality was in the other building. **Beth:** Performer sales was supposed to be the back-up – were people told to go to Performer Sales.

Volunteers (communicated by Seth Seeger)

We had about 50 more volunteers this year than last year. The number at the Festival was doubled from last year. This was mostly due to Safety who needed double the number of volunteers, some other groups also needed volunteers at the last minute.

For next year, Bethany would like to resign as full coordinator – Susan Crocker would like to work with her again and maybe they could do some kind of job sharing. Bethany would like to stay on with Sound and Lighting volunteers. She wanted to raise the idea of increasing the number of volunteer hours – most festivals require six hours.

Other Festival Comments:

Robert J.: We could use a porta-pottie near the main entrance, especially for use before the festival opens. **Dan:**

There was one, near the performer check-in. **Robert J.:** There should be at least one EMT at each First Aid Station all of the time. **Bob Golder:** It might be possible to get American Medical Response to donate paramedics. **Steve:** Check that out with the fire dept. also in case there are jurisdiction issues.

The question of whether to stay in Mansfield

A long discussion took place about whether to go again with Mansfield. We didn't want to go through the change process again. No site is perfect, and Mansfield is enthusiastic about having us back.

9 September 2007

President's Remarks

I want to increase awareness of the Festival in general, but particularly in Mansfield. To this end, there will be a lot more emphasis on looking outward to new community supports, etc.

Accomplishments so far:

1) After Festival, packets sent to various folks in Mansfield: fire department, school officials, etc. The packet included a letter of thanks, and photos

2) Capacity update: I the Fire Department official and they agreed to reconsider the numbers. Last year, we were limited to 20 square feet per person; we requested a doubling of this capacity to 40 square feet per person. We are awaiting a response to the proposal.

3) I spoke with the head of the Chamber of Commerce. Their major focus is to try and talk us into becoming a Non-profit member. Cost would be \$265 per year, for which we would get listed on their website, and a 2-5 minute presentation at their annual meeting.

Treasurer's Report, Ralph Jones

There were questions about various details on the financial reports: EMTs, parking, police details, food service, extra school costs, etc. Overall impression is that Mansfield is not significantly more expensive than Natick. Rather, there were one time costs (electrical costs, site search), and the loss of income because ticket prices stayed the same.

Michael R. suggested putting a pie chart in the lobby to show attendees how the money for NEFFA is spent. All agreed this would be a great idea. Perhaps put a "Donation Box" near the poster.

Suggestions for how to increase revenue or save money will be discussed in the future.

Robert J. thinks we need to work harder on Membership renewals, as well as developing new memberships. **Koren W.:** We need to rethink our Memberships. What do folks get? Should the newsletter go out by email? This would save mailing costs. Are we better off doing fund raisers? We need to have members because of non-profit status, but maybe we need to do some different things for our members. **Beth P:** I like getting the hard copy to hang on the refrigerator!

Bob moves to accept Treasurer's Report, second Maureen. Passed voice vote.

Membership

Maureen has some volunteers who will help at the desk. Ralph would like to have some idea from Membership about what it will be doing to promote Members for this next year. Beth is interested in trying to determine what the reasons should be for folks to become members, and figuring out if there are others that we can promote. Report to follow at the next meeting.

Publicity

Bob G. has a new view and goals for this committee. We need to do more. We need to reach out to a larger potential NEFFA audience, as well as letting folks know that the Thursday night dance is a part of NEFFA. Maureen C would work on program book ads.

Harold: How do we market the image? NEFFA newsletter. Bob G. will help with the print media as well as radio and TV, and would help Dan on the web; Koren for blogs, Corey Boniface, if willing, to help out with print media.

Dan suggests that Performers be enlisted to do some publicity for us, promote NEFFA at other performances, or book a performer to do a performance at the Mansfield Schools, for example.

Bob will create the committee and report back, and let everyone know the make-up of the committee, so that other Board members can feed information/ideas to committee members.

Tickets

Ron and Carolyn have resigned. Michael Carey will take on Ticket Table at the Festival; Carolyn will co-chair. Maureen will be the third person.

Maureen proposes Pre-festival sales and will invite the person who would do this for us to present how it would work at the next meeting. Do we want to consider this? General positive response from those present.

Sound

Sound Committee will need more help, so suggestions should go to Peter Olszowka.

Program

Diane Gonzales will be doing Couple programming. Suzanne Mrozak, with three others, will be doing FMS. These three are Isobel Abelson, Deb O'Hanlon, and Neal McMillan.

Dance Performances still needs a chair. An article about this will be included in the next Newsletter. Janet and Katy will continue on as Stage Managers at the Festival. If we do not have a designated DP Chair, then the worst case scenario would be that there would be no DP at NEFFA this year. We fervently hope to avoid that happening.

We will maintain the 10 minute turn over time for this festival year. We did a walk through in July, and will be changing a few of the Folk Music rooms. We will not use 101 and 103 in the High School; instead we will use rooms 187 and 188 in the HS. All other FMS rooms will remain the same.

Clocks

We need to have a person do this. It is a needed function. Harold suggests that it be a part of Festival arrangements, and pre-festival prep. Perhaps ask the two couples who used to do it.

Parking

Bob is talking with various folks about this, no one definite yet. We do need to find someone soon.

Volunteers

Bill Cowie will become the new Chair.

14 October 2007

Proposal from "Ticket Stage" pre-event ticket sales service; Charles Cornell

Mr. Cornell presented the services his company could provide for pre-Festival ticket sales. A lively, but inconclusive discussion ensued. People will have a month to think about it.

President's Report (Bob Golder)

I have scheduled a meeting tomorrow with F.J. Barrows, the State Representative for the Mansfield area. I'm looking forward to let him know more about our festival.

Secretary's Report (Laura Leibensperger)

Peter: The Minutes aren't distributed until the pre-meeting package goes out. If there is information that needs to be

distributed earlier, that should be done separately from the pre-meeting package, (for example: info about budget deadlines). The decision was made to have a separate "Action Item" e-mailing when necessary. Laura and Bob G. will have a quick review at the end of the meeting of "Action Items" to end out, and Laura will email out the information to NEFFA Exec.

Sound Committee Report (Peter Olszowka)

A quick recap: We had three committee openings. Performer Sound Liaison has been filled by Robin. Sound Volunteer Coordinator and Logistics Coordinator are still open.

Budget: Budget was in the pre-meeting package. One big issue is that I had originally planned to put sound contract out to bid last year – we like to do this every 5 or 10 years to make sure we're getting a good price and remove any sense of "incumbency" – keep the quality up. What with the new arrangements, our sound contractor had some problems. **Laura:** Do you think they might do better this year having had experience? **Peter:** Probably. Our overall cost will go up regardless because we're using more speakers so the cost of rigging will go up. **Dan:** What about rigging vs. scaffolding. **Peter:** Switching to scaffolding in both gyms could save us \$1000.

Ticket Price Proposal (Michael Carey)

Ticket prices were discussed extensively, then finally approved. There will be a "Young Adult" rate.

Parking (Gene Fry)

I am now Chair of the Parking Committee. **Dan:** Shuttle buses depend on our parking situation; if we have a larger lot, we won't need to run shuttle buses to hotels. That would save us \$1000. We may have shuttles to the Commuter Rail.

4 November 2007

President's Report (Linda Leslie)

Linda and Bob had a good meeting with State Representative Fred Jay Barrows (R-1st Bristol). Once he learned that we were an all-volunteer organization, he became very enthusiastic about our Festival. He wants to help NEFFA with parking, and he is encouraging us to use the commuter rail lot in Mansfield for our satellite parking. Rep. Barrows recommended that we join the Chamber of Commerce; Bob is wondering if the Board has any objection to a \$235 (annual) expense. Bob will request a Chamber presentation, which may help us in the future. Bob wrote a letter of congratulations to Lt. Neal Boldrighini on the occasion of his promotion to Chief.

Bob, Maureen, and Steve met with Bob LaConte and the new Mansfield school Director of Finance and Operations, Mr. Edward J. Vozzella, who learned about the Festival and was enthusiastic. They were mainly concerned with food service. We are planning to have cold food available in the High School home economics rooms. We want to have some "hang out" rooms near the Middle School cafeteria in an effort to provide more space for active diners. Other rooms were examined that would better serve Instrument Check and performance space. The custodians want certain areas to shut down earlier than last year (cafeteria, crafts room). They were *very* happy about how our crowd kept the school clean. Other custodians who didn't get Festival duty want it for 2008!

Treasurer (Ralph Jones)

The Treasurer had nothing new to report.

Pre-Festival Ticket Sales (Maureen Carey)

Thanks to the people who contributed thoughtful e-mails. Despite the fact that I am extremely in favor of this, I think deferring it a year or two is the right thing to do because it would take an enormous amount of time. We have more important things to work on.

Perhaps it should be on the agenda for September 2008.

Koren: We could add a question to the evaluation form assessing interest in pre-Festival sales...

Linda: ...along with a question whether they would be willing to pay a \$5 convenience fee.

Food (Maureen Carey)

I met with the new food service people at Mansfield, who were welcoming to us. The Home Economics rooms are very big. Bob LaConte agreed to have the connecting corridor to be open (to provide additional egress, and keep food in the two-room complex). We want two vendors in the space that can work unsupervised. We cannot use stoves. We probably can use microwaves and coffee machines. I am hoping for nice desserts, soups/chili, and sandwiches. (No regular snack food.)

Irene Howard is trying to resurrect the Scottish Booth, perhaps in concert with Chris Ricciotti's booth because of a shortage of people certified with the Serve-Safe program. We are hoping to get truck-based vendors to fill the gap between the schools.

Membership

It might be useful if Beth brought a membership list with her next meeting so we can check to see if we are up to date with our own memberships.

Outside Facilities (Dan Pearl)

Haskell Bus Company is raising their rates a modest amount. I hope to get rid of the hotel shuttles if we have a big enough satellite lot.

Miscellaneous Remarks

It was mentioned that Crafts Demos were hard to see and hear in the Crafts Room. A classroom would be better.

Linda: If we run out of space, there are those schools across the street.

Inside Facilities (Harold Henry)

During our tour, we saw rooms that were more than adequate. We are planning for jamming to occur in certain rooms, in an unprogrammed way. We need outside signs near performance rooms to discourage jamming outside the windows. **Tony:** Jamming signs should point to where jamming *is* available. We need to consider what to do if we have inclement weather. Tents and canopies are expensive. We could deploy umbrella buckets at each door. **Koren:** Get big, ugly umbrellas. **Bill:** With the New York Yankees logo on it. **Dan:** "Colorado Rockies, World Champions 2007"; we can get them for a song! Cheap umbrellas are about \$5 each in quantity.

Printed Materials (Linda)

It is not traditional, but we could charge for the program book. It could be a benefit of membership. The book costs us \$3000. We could put up a sign suggesting a \$1 donation, a "Where does the money go?" poster, a collection bucket, and a volunteer to answer questions, this might help defray expenses and provide an opportunity to provide information. **Dan:** Why not put out a water-cooler glass jug, and a sign saying "Our Festival lost \$20000 last year. Your donation helps."? **Linda:** I am willing to set this up, but it would be necessary to have Board members staff the area. **Tony:** As long as it is clear that the monitor is not there as a watchdog.

Inside Signs (Michael Resnick)

Michael was interested in the handout maps. If the walls were plastered with maps, then we don't need the handouts. Michael will look for more places to put the maps. (**Koren:** I don't have pockets. **Dan:** The wall maps have a YOU ARE HERE). Bill was not sure we need more wall maps. Linda suggested to not go big on the wall maps until the room assignments stabilize and the big maps can be reused. Dan asked if the maps have to be so big you can see them from 20 feet away. He suggested 11"x17", but plentiful (so that you can see a map wherever you are) wall maps with the expectation that they are going to be thrown out. As you go down the hall, the YOU ARE HERE dot will travel along with you. Linda thought that the wall grids need to be big; but the maps, no.

Program (Linda Leslie)

The draft program is being worked on. We had tons of applications this year. It is a great program. Katy's deadline is now – earlier than ever. That will help us with scheduling.

The Program Committee (Mari Young, Lisa Greenleaf, and Diane Gonzales) will assist Linda with Dance Performances. We would love a Chair. We'll work with Janet on the schedule. We have identified the stage managers.

Harold wondered if we could get the school community involved. The school radio station? The local public access cable TV station? Perhaps there could be some academic tie-ins. Are there any copyright and or licensing issues? Linda thought that it is too late and too much to handle. Harold expressed interest in looking into this area.



N·E·F·F·A

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