

N.A.B.O. Meeting Minutes  
July 31, 2015  
Boise, Idaho

The President called the meeting to order at 8:05 am.

Welcome by Tyler Smith, the Vice-President of the Boise Euzkaldunak. He welcomed the N.A.B.O. delegates and he informed them about the weekend's events.

Introductions and Roll Call

**Officers**

President – Valerie Etcharren Arrechea  
Vice-President – Mary Gaztambide,  
Treasurer – Grace Mainvil  
Secretary – Marisa Espinal  
Facilitator – Kate Camino  
Webmaster – Lisa Corcostegui  
Euskara Coordinator – Aitor Inarra (excused) & Itxaso Cayero

**Committee Chairperson**

Calendars – Mary Lou Urrutia (excused)  
Education – John Ysursa  
Euskara – Martin Goicoechea  
Udaleku – Valerie Etcharren Arrechea, Kate Camino  
Mus – Pierre Etcharren (excused)  
Junior Mus – Gina Espinal-Aguerre  
Music/Dance – Caroline Chiramberro (excused)  
Pilota – Teresa Iparraguirre (excused)  
History – Patty Miller (excused) & Steve Bass  
Txerriki – Gratien Etchebehere (excused)  
Kantari Eguna – Noel Goyhenetche & Becky Sarratea-Murphy

**Club Delegates**

Alkartasuna (Rock Springs)	Martin Goicoechea
Anaitasuna Basque Club (SF)	Gina Espinal Aguerre Marisa Espinal
Basque Educational Organization (BEO)	Philippe Acheritogaray Marisa Espinal
Basque Museum & Cultural Center	Cindy Schaffield + proxy
Basque Club of Utah	Danny Gaztambide Jean Flesher
Big Horn Basque Club (Buffalo)	Kate Camino (proxies)
Boise Euzkaldunak, Inc.	Steve Achabal

Boise State Basque Studies Program

Center for Basque Studies, Reno  
Cennarusa Foundation

Chino

Colorado Euskal Etxea  
Elko Euskaldunak

Euskal Lagunak-Mountain Home B. C.  
Fresno  
Gooding  
Iparreko Ibarra (Rocklin)

Kern County Basque Club

Las Vegas Basque Club

Los Banos

Marin Sonoma Basque Club  
Mendiko Euskalduna (Gardnerville)  
New England Basque Club

New Mexico  
New York

Oinkari Dancers  
Ontario Basque Club

Quebec

Reno Basque Club

San Francisco Basque Club  
proxy  
San Francisco Basque Cultural Center  
Santa Rosa Basque Club

Southern California Basque Club  
Seattle  
Susanville Basque Club  
Txoko Ono (Homedale)  
Washington D.C. Euskal Etxea

Joe Lasuen  
John Ysursa  
Argia Beristain (proxy)  
Kate Camino + proxy  
Gloria Tortoricaguena  
Cindy Schaffield (proxy)  
John Ysursa (proxy)  
Jeanette Duhart  
Mayi Petracek + proxy  
Anita Anacabe Franzoia  
Bob Echeverria  
Goisalde Jausoro + proxy  
Gina Espinal Aguerre (proxy)  
Phil Sarasqueta + proxy  
Michael Uro  
Noel Goyenetché  
Maria Toretta  
Tess Antongiovanni  
Amaya Beristain  
Jose Mari Beristain  
Marc Etchepare  
Mark Erreca  
Jean Pierre Elissetche (proxies)  
Becky Sarratea-Murphy + proxy  
Ander Caballero  
Maidier Alonso  
Blas Uberuaga  
Iban Ubarrentxena  
Aitzol Azurtza  
Annie Gavica (proxies)  
Lisa Corcostegui  
Francisco Yraguen  
Armande Anin  
Hughes Lacroix  
Enrike Corcostegui  
Lorenzo Trimble  
Jean Pierre Elissetche +  
Philippe Acheritogaray + proxy  
Annie Gavica  
Susan Gavica  
Mike Aguerre + proxy  
Francisco Michelena  
Gina Espinal Aguerre (proxies)  
Gloria Lejardi + proxy  
Argia Beristain

Winnemucca

Zazpiak Bat (Vancouver)

Nagore Goitiandia  
Mandy Chaffin  
Louis Mendiola  
Elena Sommer  
John Ugalde

### **Guests**

Benan Oregi, Basque Government, Officer for the Basque Community Abroad  
Asier Vallejo Itsaso, Basque Government, Director of the Basque Community Abroad

Jon Garcia Gerenabarrena, Basque Government, Delegation to Boise  
Marian Elorza, Basque Government, Secretary General of Foreign Affairs  
Cristina Uriarte, Basque Government, Minister of Culture  
Joseba Etxarri, Euskalkultura.com

Pedro Oiarzabal, University of Duesto, Memoria Bizia Project  
Manny Villanueva, Reno

Xabier Azkorra Apraiz, Iparreko Ibarra

Cirbie Sangroniz, Salt Lake City

Xabier Zubillaga, Necochea Basque Club, FEVA, Argentina

Inaki Bizkara, Chino

Joseba Eresti, Euskaleria Betu

Johnny Errico, Congressman, Euskaleria Betu

### **On-line Guests**

Technical Difficulties

### **Basque Government**

Greeting from Lehendakari Inigo Urkullo, President of the Basque Country. Lehendakari Urkullo addressed the delegates in Basque, English and Spanish. He spoke of the importance of the Diaspora and the achievements of NABO, in particular, Udaleku. He described two important projects; the first, eLiburutegia, an on-line lending library with books in Basque and Spanish and soon to be added, books in English. The second, the signing of the Agreement with the Basque Studies Program at Boise State University, which will create a new faculty position.

### **Approval of the January 2015 Minutes**

Marisa Espinal submitted the January 2015 minutes.

- Bob Echeverria motioned to accept the January meeting minutes as submitted. Louis Mendiola seconded. Unanimously approved.

### **Treasurer's Report:** (Grace Mainvil)

Grace Mainvil gave a history of NABO. Before NABO was created in 1973 it was known as the Western States Basque Federation. She reviewed the past presidents of NABO:

1. Al Erquiaga 1973 – 1975
2. Jim Ithuralde 1975 – 1979
3. Frank Maitia 1979 – 1980
4. Jacque Unhassobiscay 1980 – 1982
5. Francois Pedeflous 1982 – 1983
6. David Eiguren 1983 – 1987
7. Jean Leon Irribarren 1987 – 1990
8. Steve Mendive 1990 – 1993
9. Bob Echeverria 1993 – 2001
10. Pierre Etcharren 2001 – 2004
11. Mary Gaztambide 2004 – 2009
12. Valerie Arrechea 2009 – present

The following clubs gave a minimum of \$100 seed money for NABO to become viable: San Francisco, Boise, Ely, Elko, Reno, Ontario, Emmett, Kern Co., and Western Slopes of Colorado. When Grace became Treasurer in 1987 there were 20 clubs and 4 bank accounts with a total of \$27,450.86. As Grace steps down as Treasurer due to health reasons there are currently 43 clubs and 8 checking accounts and multiple CD's worth \$295,413.22.

The president presented Grace with a clock and thanked her for her years of dedicated service to NABO. Grace received a standing ovation and much love from the delegates and guests present.

Delegates were given the 2015 balance sheet and the profit/loss statements to review. The statements reflect activity through July 29<sup>th</sup> only. Please see the Facilitator's packet for full details. There were no questions asked by the delegates.

- Bob Echeverria motioned to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted. 2nd by Philippe Acheritogaray. Unanimously approved.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS: (Please see submitted reports for full details.)**

**Euskara:** (Martin Goicoechea, Aitor Inarra, excused, & Itxaso Cayero)  
Itxaso Cayero reported on the euskal etxeas giving Basque classes. There are currently 17 teachers in 10 clubs offering Euskara classes. Each year a teacher's workshop is held in Boise, this year it was held in May, for on-going training for current Euskara teachers. There is also a Barnetegi for new teachers. This year it was in Boise from June 1 – 7. It is a weeklong immersion program taught by Kinku Zinkunegi of HABE and a teacher from the University of Mexico City. It was a seminar for the students participating in HABE's Euskera Munduan online.

Itxaso Cayero reported on their ongoing outreach efforts to expand Euskara classes in communities not currently offering classes. The Euskara committee feels there are at least 8 more clubs who could be offering Basque classes. She invited the instructor from the Boise Basque Museum, Annie Gavica, to describe the activities and processes of holding Euskara classes. Anita Anacabe Franzoia encouraged the delegates to have the youth study Euskara when students do a year abroad.

Martin Goicoechea thanked Itxaso Cayero and Aitor Inarra for all of their hardwork and he thanked HABE for all of their support.

**Calendars:** (Mary Lou Urrutia, excused)

The calendars may be available by the Gardnerville picnic and Kantari Eguna.

- Philippe Acheritogaray motioned to keep the cost of the calendars at \$5.00. 2nd by Joe Lasuen. Unanimously approved.

Please contact Mary Lou for calendars at her new email:

[calendar@nabasque.org](mailto:calendar@nabasque.org) or through [Marylou@gracegroup.com](mailto:Marylou@gracegroup.com)

**History** (Pedro Oiarzabal, Patty Miller, excused, Steve Bass)

**Memoria Bizia**

Pedro Oiarzabal reported on the oral history project. He encouraged the delegates to go back and make sure to interview the older members of their clubs. There are groups conducting interviews in Canada in Quebec, Ontario, Toronto, and maybe soon Vancouver. There are other groups conducting interviews in New York, Chino, Bakersfield, San Francisco, Reno, and Elko. They are hoping to get groups started in Wyoming in Buffalo and Rock Springs.

Please contact Pedro Oiarzabal or Kate Camino if you are interested in volunteering on this project. They can connect you to those who are already actively interviewing so you can have a better sense of what is involved with conducting interviews at your club.

Aitzol Azurtza suggested conducting interviews of older members is a great way to get younger members more involved in the club and to build a generational bridge in the clubs. The president reviewed some of the funds received from the Basque Government for the Memoria Bizia project.

You can send the names of the contact for your club or the interviewees to [info@nabasque.org](mailto:info@nabasque.org) or [President@nabasque.org](mailto:President@nabasque.org) because N.A.B.O. is keeping a spreadsheet of names to be interviewed.

## **California Historical Society**

Steve Bass reported on the digital exhibit being put together for the California Historical Society. Steve and Asun Garikano have been working on collecting information about historic sites that were created by Basques. The exhibit will tour California and the Basque Country and be held at the Boise Basque Museum. The digital exhibit will also be available on the NABO website. Inaki Bizkara is working on the website which will be in English, Spanish, French and Basque. They are looking for an American Basque to work on the website to make it more engaging, interactive and user friendly. They would like to have links to all of the euskal etxea. Does your club have an updated website?

Break 9:15 – 9:45

### **Pilota** (Teresa Iparraguirre, excused)

The 2015 Pilota Finals were held in Boise July 31<sup>st</sup> – August 1<sup>st</sup>. The men's included: Pala Goma, Handball Doubles, and Handball Singles. The women's included: Pala Goma and Baleen. Youth Handball Games were also held in Boise on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Udaleku:** (Kate Camino & Valerie Arrechea)

#### **Udaleku 2015**

Udaleku 2015 was held in San Francisco. There were 119 participants, almost 90 from outside San Francisco. A big thank you from Valerie Arrechea to the San Francisco Basque community for helping to provide housing for the participants. Another big thank you was given to the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center for donating almost all of the meals for the campers. The San Francisco Basque Club sponsored a picnic on Angel Island providing the ferry tickets, location rental, and meals for all participants, teachers, and host families. The theme of the camp was Iparralde, with the focus on Xiberoa, it was held June 21<sup>st</sup> – July 3. There was an emphasis on building a community between youth. The campers made cards for Katrina, a young girl from San Francisco who now lives in New Jersey and is battling Leukemia. Valerie also thanked the instructors: Eneko Espino for txistu, Tittika Recalt and Virginia Aramburu Hunter for language and culture, Ximun Destailac for Joko Garbi, Patrick Queheille and Elodie Arangaray for dance.

#### **Udaleku 2016**

Udaleku 2016 will be in Salt Lake City, Utah from July 10 – 22, 2016. More information will be available at the next meeting. The Txoko Ono club in Homedale would like to see every club be guaranteed two spots at Udaleku. Cindy Schaffeld suggested maybe a participant who has attended two years in a row be asked to sit it out so others could participate. The Udaleku committee will

discuss this. Please contact [president@nabasque.org](mailto:president@nabasque.org) if you would be interested in being part of this discussion.

**Mus:** (Pierre Etcharren, excused)

The president thanked the Txoko Ono in Homedale, Idaho for doing a great job hosting the 2015 NABO finals on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May. She also thanked the Boise Euzkaldunak for providing a bus for the participants from Boise to Homedale. The first place winners were Chris Bonson and Maurice Negueloua, representing Rocklin. Tony Espinal and Manuel Gamio came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place representing Los Banos. NABO Mus dues are due after your club holds your tournament. The dues are \$10 per person, \$20 per team, with a minimum of \$100.

**Junior Mus** (Gina Espinal)

The tournament was held on Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup> during Jaialdi at the Basque Center of Boise. It was held on Friday during the NABO meeting so there would be no conflict with mus players who are also club dancers performing during Jaialdi. Gina Espinal mentioned there were a record number teams playing. They are now allowing the reigning Mus champs from Udaleku to play during the Junior Mus Finals to defend their title. She encouraged the delegates to make sure their club holds a Junior Mus Tournament because some youth who attend the convention wanted to play and remarked they had not had an opportunity to play at their local club level. Only teams who have registered as their club's Junior Mus winners may play in the Tournament during the NABO Convention.

**International Mus 2015:**

The tournament will be held in Mar de Plata, Argentina from October 30<sup>th</sup> through the first week of November. Representing the U.S.A. will be Chris Bonson and Maurice Negueloua. If you have any questions or would like more information please contact Pierre Etcharren at [mus@nabasque.org](mailto:mus@nabasque.org).

**Future International Mus Dates:**

The 2016 International Mus Tournament will be in Donostia, Euskadi, and the 2017 International Mus Tournament will be in the United States. Plans have not been finalized yet, it may be held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

**Music and Dance** (Caroline Chiramberro, excused)

A txistu workshop was held by Eneko Espino for advanced txistularis in conjunction with Udaleku. Although the workshop went well, more work needs to be done to coordinate music between players and focus any workshops on particular skills.

**Txerriki Sukalde Txapeldun** (Gratien Etchebehere, excused)

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual sausage competition will be held this year in Gardnerville in conjunction with their picnic and Kantari Eguna Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. It has been held during the Convention in the past, but it was decided the crowd

is too large during Jaialdi and could present some liability issues. Gardnerville will provide the barbecues, but please bring your own cooking utensils.

**Kantari Eguna** (Noel Goyhenetche, Becky Sarratea-Murphy)

Becky Sarratea-Murphy reported Kantari Eguna will be held in Gardnerville on Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with their annual picnic. The Txerriki Sukalde Txapeldun will be held at this time. Martin Echamendi will be the MC.

**Education** (John Ysursa)

Celebrate + Educate = Perpetuate

As was voted on at a previous meeting there will be an educational component during each NABO Convention. This year during Jaialdi there was a symposium hosted by Boise State Basque Studies with collaboration from the Etxepare Institute, the Basque Government, and the Center for Basque Studies. The theme was Joan-Etorri: Going Forth & Going Back.

Philippe Acheritogaray mentioned an opportunity that was presented during the symposium by Inaki Goizelaia from the University of the Basque Country. Under the name "Basque Yourself Summer School Program" they may offer recreational activities as well as classes in the following topics: The Current Basque Country, a political, social, cultural and business perspective, Peace and coexistence, Introductory Basque language course, Linguistic policy, The Basque Country: science and culture, The Basque educational system, Basque network of science, technology and innovation, Basque culture: spontaneous sung poetry, dance, music, film, literature, Basque heritage, Basque sports, Basque cuisine, Amerikanuak, Joan-Etorri, History of the Basque Diaspora, Where is the Basque Country headed? What is the future of the Basque Country in Europe?

Please contact [education@nabasque.org](mailto:education@nabasque.org) and NABO will be able to help you with resources for the educational topic that your club is interested in showcasing.

**Basque Soccer Friendly**

Argia Beristain reported on the event. It was a soccer match between Athletic Bilbao from the Basque Country and Club Tijuana from Mexico held July 18<sup>th</sup> in Boise. Josu Urrutia, president of Athletic Bilbao, when asked why they don't recruit Basque soccer players from Venezuela or Argentina said just because you have a Basque last name doesn't mean you have Basque in your heart. He commented that after his first experience here in the United States, "You have Basque in your hearts."

**Bertsolaris**

The United States Bertsolaris: Martin Goicoechea, Johnny Curuchet, Jesus Goni, and Gratién Alfaro have been invited to visit Bertsolari schools and to participate in other events by Pantxo Irigoyen and the Institute Cultural Basque in Uztarriz. Martin Goicoechea and Johnny Curuchet have confirmed their attendance during



the events held October 12 -17. The President acknowledged Franxoa Bidaurreta for the initial contact with Pantxo Irigoyen and helping to facilitate the contact between these parties.

### **Start-Up Fund Committee** (Steve Achabal)

Steve Achabal, Mary Kay Aucutt, Mayi Petracek, and Argia Beristain are on the committee. Steve presented a draft proposal of CARL, Cultural Aide Revolving Loan to the delegates for review. These would be no interest loans. Eligibility criteria includes: a club having upfront funds of at least 20%, current with all dues, a club in good standing with all of the by-laws of NABO. Loans would only cover up to 80% of the event. Loans would be for events or cultural activities only. It would not cover loans for ongoing operations, or infrastructure. Collaboration with other NABO clubs is recommended. A club receiving a loan would have one year to pay back the loan. Failure to pay back the loan would result in loss of privileges in participating in NABO activities such as Mus and Udaleku. Bob Goicoechea, the NABO lawyer will have a final look at the proposal to ensure we are in accordance with Nevada law, where NABO is incorporated.

- Mayi Petracek motioned to accept the Start-up Fund Committee's proposal for CARL. 2nd by Cindy Schaffeld. Unanimously approved.
- Mayi Petracek motioned to fund CARL with \$5000 seed money from the Aita Tillous Fund. 2nd by Joe Lasuen. Unanimously approved.

If you are interested in being on this committee or would like more information please contact the chairman, Steve Achabal, at [steveachabal@netzero.com](mailto:steveachabal@netzero.com).

### **Facilitator's Report:** (Kate Camino)

#### **Basque Government Grants**

Kate Camino successfully submitted the 2015 grants to the Basque Government. Your club will be notified if your grant application has been accepted by the end of September. Grants will be received in 3 payments; 15% by September, 60% and then the final 25%. 85% of the 2015 grants will be received in 2016 in the form of reimbursements. If you have any questions about grants please contact Benan Oregi at [Benan-Oregi@euskadi.eus](mailto:Benan-Oregi@euskadi.eus) or Andoni Martin at [Andoni-Martin@euskadi.eus](mailto:Andoni-Martin@euskadi.eus)

#### **Astero**

Please notify Kate Camino of your club's events if you want it advertised in Astero. Please include a flyer or some information about the event you want advertised. There is a Google calendar on the N.A.B.O. website. Please let Lisa know at [webmaster@nabasque.org](mailto:webmaster@nabasque.org) who will be responsible for updating the NABO calendar with your club's important event dates. All you need to do is send Lisa your email to be added to the list of those who can update the Google calendar. The president thanked Kate Camino and Lisa Corcostegi for all of their hard work.

## **Basque Government**

Asier Vallejo informed the delegates there would be a reception with Lehendakari Urkullu at noon at the Convention Center on the Grove during the NABO meeting. Asier acknowledged Grace Mainvil and Mary Gaztambide for all of their hard work.

## **Gaztemundu**

This is a program designed to bring youth from 18 – 35 of the Basque Diaspora together in the Basque Country. Asier Vallejo reported this year the theme is leadership and 15 Basque youth will participate. Please encourage your club youth to apply. There has been very little participation from the United States.

## **World Congress**

Asier Vallejo reported the World Congress would be held the week of October 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> in Victoria-Gasteiz. Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> is for arrivals, Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> is a national holiday celebrating the first Basque President Aguirre so there will be a field trip to Gernica and Bilbao, and the Congress meetings will be held Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday the 9<sup>th</sup>. The leading authority on Diaspora, Kingsley Aikens who advises the Prime Minister in Dublin, will be the keynote speaker on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Each country sends 3 delegates. Proposals to speak need to be submitted by August 31<sup>st</sup>. Themes of the World Congress include the Diaspora: Role of women, the next generation in leadership, and new wave of immigrants – 1 in 3 young adults in the Basque Country are unemployed, this generation is moving all over the world. Are they joining the Basque clubs of the Diaspora? How to engage them?

Delegates selected by the World Congress Committee were: Marisa Espinal, Annie Gavica, and Aitor Inarra.

- Philippe Acheritogaray motioned to accept the delegates selected by the committee. 2nded by Jean Pierre Elissetche. Unanimously approved.

Topics brought up by the committee: Memoria Bizia project, Euskalkultura.com and social media, Euskara and children's classes, Udaleku, Education and film. Kate Camino mentioned the Basque Government has set the theme.

Some questions by New York delegates about how to include the new Diaspora who have left the Basque Country for political or social reasons, not only economic reasons. Our topics will need to be framed within the themes set by the Basque Government.

Pedro Oiarzabal mentioned that a survey in the Basque Country showed 70% of people know nothing of the Diaspora. He suggested information packets or links on the NABO website for how to become part of society, information on jobs, etc.

The 2016 World Congress will be the anniversary of the Basque President in exile.

### **Bizkaia Government**

The new President of the Bizkaia Government, Unai Rementeria, greeted the delegates. He announced that he had signed the agreement with the Smithsonian to showcase the Basque Culture at the Folklife Festival. It is an incredible opportunity to show the world who we are, our people, our culture, and our language.

### **Old Business**

#### **Smithsonian Folklife Festival 2016**

Basque culture will be highlighted at the 2016 Smithsonian Folk-life Festival. Sabrina Motley, Christina Diaz Herrera, Mary Lynn spoke briefly about the project. They would like a large Diaspora presence at the Festival.

The president thanked Argia Beristain and Mark Bieter for all of their efforts in planting the seeds and nurturing the idea that resulted in the Basque culture being showcased at the Smithsonian Folk-life Festival.

Lunch Break & Lehendakari Reception 12:00 – 1:30

Mary Gaztambide, NABO Vice-President, arrived during the lunch break and was received with much love by the delegates. She was forced to miss the first part of the meeting due to health reasons.

### **Bizi Emankorra**

This award is to recognize people who have helped promote Basque culture at the NABO level. The four Bizi Emankorra recipients for 2015 unanimously voted on by the NABO delegates were:

**Izaskun Kortazar** – The first NABO Euskara Coordinator. She had to create the job description as she went. As John Ysursa said, “She has Basque in her heart.”

**Joseba Itxarri:** The heart of Euskalkultura.com. He keeps the Basque Diaspora connected. He has taught at many Udaleku.

**Benan Oregi:** His passion and advocacy for the Basque Diaspora goes well beyond his job with the Basque Government.

**John Ysursa:** The first NABO Facilitator. He also created the job description with his passion and ideas for all things Basque; youth, dance, Udaleku, Mus, education, creating the website, memorable slogans and catchphrases, and collaborating with all of the euskal etxeak across states.

They were presented their awards at the NABO meeting during Jaialdi in Boise. Martin Goicoechea performed a Bertso for the Bizi Emankorra recipients.

## **Bone Marrow Registry**

John Philpott from Be the Match spoke to the delegates about the importance of being tested before the need arises. 70% of people who need a bone marrow transplant are not able to find a match within their family. It is more likely to find a match within genetic similarities. Basque people who need a bone marrow transplant are more likely to find a match within the Basque community. Please let your members know.

There will be a booth at the Jaialdi Expo. You can be tested with a simple cheek swab. Donors must be between 18 – 60 years old. There is no cost for donors between 18 – 45 years old. Donors between 45 – 60 years old are asked to make a tax-deductible donation to cover the cost of testing. People excluded from participating include those who have had back surgery or injury in the last five years. Your club could hold a bone marrow drive at the same time as they hold a blood drive. Be the Match loves to partner with local blood banks. If you want to hold an event at your club contact John Philpott from Be the Match at [john.philpott@nmdp.org](mailto:john.philpott@nmdp.org) or see the website for more information. [bethematch.org](http://bethematch.org) or [www.deletelbloodcancer.org](http://www.deletelbloodcancer.org)

## **New Business**

### **LGTB Affirmation**

Iban Ubarrentxena mentioned Aitzol Aizurtza's efforts in organizing the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New York Euskal Etxea. After Aitzol successfully negotiated some political conflicts during the Gala his personal life was made public fodder. Aitzol has come to realize that there are many ways to be Basque; some speak Basque, some play mus or pilota, and some cook traditional Basque food. Basques in the Diaspora have married people of other cultures. Are their spouses and children accepted into the Basque clubs? He thinks diversity should be celebrated in the Basque clubs. Diversity should include the LGTB community. Iban Ubarrentxena and the New York Basque Club would like NABO to include a statement that we include the LGBT community. Cirbie Sangroniz-Cendagorta spoke of her experiences coming out in a Mormon state and how the Basque community of Salt Lake City accepted her. She encouraged all delegates to act locally, model inclusion and put an end to bullying whenever they see it happening rather than make a statement of inclusion. There was some discussion that NABO is an apolitical organization. The clubs decide whom to accept in their membership. There are some clubs that have only recently allowed women as members. NABO has never instructed the individual clubs on who to include or exclude. Each club that has an LGBT event, such as "Gaialdi" is welcome to advertise these events in Astero. It is up to the clubs to let the Facilitator or webmaster know about their activities. Clubs are encouraged to be inclusive in their practices. Anita Anacabe Franzoia reminded the delegates that open communication between members and clubs is vital.

## **Letter to Navarre**

Philippe Acheritogaray would like to send a letter of congratulations to the new president of Navarre, and an invitation to a NABO meeting. This is the first time a president of Navarre is pro-Basque. Some delegates feel that is too political. If we invite the president of Navarre are we obligated to invite all elected presidents? There was some discussion that Navarre is an autonomous community at the same level as the Basque Government. This change in leadership in Navarre represents an increased awareness of Basque culture and the possibility of ikastolas and the spread of Euskara.

- Marc Etchepare motioned to table the discussion and move to vote whether to send the letter. 2nded by Mandy Chaffin. Unanimously approved.
- Philippe Acheritogaray made a motion to send a letter of congratulations to the new president of Navarre. 2nded by Enrike Corcostegi. 12 votes against, 2 abstentions, majority approved.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

Colorado Euskal Etxea will host the fall meeting on Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup> in Denver. There will be sightseeing activities planned for Friday, 10/23/15. Mayi Petracek took a survey of sights the delegates would like to see. There are rooms reserved at the Courtyard by Marriott Denver Cherry Creek for \$109.00 per night under the North American Basque Organization. You will need to make your reservations by October 1<sup>st</sup>. The hotel is about 30 miles from the Denver International Airport. You will need to take Uber, a cab, or a shuttle to get to the hotel. The weather varies bring layers. Mayi reminded the delegates that the altitude has 17% less oxygen than cities at sea level. Be sure to drink plenty of water, eat well, and get plenty of rest. If you have any questions you can contact Mayi at [mariepetracek@comcast.net](mailto:mariepetracek@comcast.net)

Mike Aguerre reported the Southern California Basque Club will host the NABO Convention and meeting in conjunction with their Picnic and 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The meeting will be Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Picnic. Hotel and other information will be available at the Fall meeting in October.

## **Questions or Announcements:**

The president thanked the Committee Chairmen for all of their hard work and dedication.

## **Elections**

Mary Gaztambide, the Vice President and Grace Mainvil, the Treasurer have been forced to step down from their offices due to health reasons.

- Philippe Acheritogaray motioned to nominate Mayi Petracek for Treasurer. Marc Etchepare 2nded. Unanimously approved. Mayi Petracek accepted the position.
- Bob Echeverria motioned to close Treasurer nominations. 2nded by Marc Etchepare. Unanimously approved.
- Philippe motioned to nominate Valerie Arrechea for President. 2nded by Bob Echeverria.
- Joe Lasuen motioned to nominate Steve Achabal for President. 2nded by Argia Beristain.
- Annie Gavica motioned to close nominations. 2nded by Marc Etchepare. Unanimously approved.

The president by majority vote remains Valerie Arrechea. Mayi Petacek collected the anonymous ballots as the Secretary checked delegates and proxies off the sign-in sheet. Mayi Petracek and Bob Echeverria counted the ballots.

Philippe Acheritogaray suggested the by-laws be changed and the Vice-president be elected

- Jean Pierre Elissetche motioned to have past president, Pierre Etcharren, be the 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president and Mary Gaztambide remain as the 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president. 2nded by Michael Uro. Unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

### **Future Meeting Schedule:**

2016

Fall: open  
 Summer Convention: Southern California 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary,  
 July 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting, July 3<sup>rd</sup> Picnic  
 Winter: San Francisco, usually February

2017

Fall: Tentatively Denver or Elko (100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary City of Elko)  
 Summer Convention: open  
 Winter: Salt Lake City, usually February

2018

Fall: Rocklin  
 Summer Convention: Winnemucca, NV  
 Winter: San Francisco, February President's Day weekend

2019

Fall: Rocklin  
 Summer: (see below)  
 Winter: Salt Lake City, usually February

### **Future Convention Dates:**

2016: Southern California

2017: open  
2018: Winnemucca  
2019: San Francisco, CA (Buffalo wanted 2019 and Kern Co for their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniv)  
2020: New England, 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
2021: Buffalo, Wyoming, July  
2024: Kern County, 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Respectfully submitted by Marisa Espinal, N.A.B.O. Secretary.