



# Meeting Minutes

## N.A.B.O. 2018 Winter Meeting

Saturday, February 17, 2018 | San Francisco, California

### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 AM. Annie Gavica, N.A.B.O. President, thanked delegates for attending, and thanked the San Francisco clubs for hosting the meeting at the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center.

### II. Introduction & Roll Call

#### A. OFFICERS

President - Annie Gavica  
Vice-President – Valerie Etcharren Arrechea  
Treasurer – Mayi Petracek  
Secretary – Lael Uberuaga  
Facilitator – Kate Camino  
Webmaster – Lisa Corcostegui  
Euskara Coordinator – Aitor Inarra

#### B. COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Calendars – Mary Lou Urrutia, excused  
Cultural Loan – Steve Achabal, excused  
Education & Dance – John Ysursa  
Euskara – Martin Goicoechea  
Udaleku – Valerie Etcharren Arrechea & Kate Camino  
Mus – Pierre Etcharren & Gina Espinal-Aguerre (Junior Mus)  
Pilota – Teresa Iparraguirre, excused  
History & Memoria Bizia – Patty Miller & Pedro Oiarzabal (both excused)  
Txerriki – vacant chair  
Kantari Eguna – Becky Sarratea-Murphy (excused) & Noel Goyhenetche

#### C. DELEGATE CLUBS

The following N.A.B.O. clubs were present, either with their regular delegate or via proxy representation.

<b>Alkartasuna Basque Club of Southwest Wyoming</b>	Martin	Goicoechea
<b>Anaitasuna Basque Club</b>	Gina	Espinal-Aguerre
	Marisa	Espinal
<b>Basque Club of Utah</b>	Cristina	Padjen
		Sangroniz
	Jean	Flesher

<b>Basque Educational Organization</b>	Marisa Philippe	Espinal Acheritogaray	
<b>Basque Museum &amp; Cultural Center</b>	Cindy	Schaffeld	
<b>Basque Studies at Boise State University</b>	John	Ysursa	
<b>Big Horn Basque Club</b>	Kate	Camino	<i>(2 proxies as per club president )</i>
<b>Cenarrusa Foundation</b>	Argia	Beristain	<i>(proxy votes for Gloria Totoricaguena)</i>
<b>Center for Basque Studies (Reno, NV)</b>	Kate	Camino	
<b>Chino Basque Club</b>	Denis Johnny	Petrissans Plaa	
<b>Colorado Euskal Etxea</b>	Mayi	Petracek	
<b>Elko Euzkaldunak Club</b>	Bob	Echeverria	
<b>Euskal Lagunak (Mountain Home, ID)</b>	Goisalde	Jausoro	
<b>Euskaldunak Danak Bat (Winnemucca, NV)</b>	Mike Paige	Errea Brooks	
<b>Euskaldunak: Quebec</b>	Noel Benat	Fagoaga Urrutia	
<b>Euzkaldunak (Boise)</b>	Argia	Beristain	
<b>Fresno Basque Club</b>	Jean Pierre	Etchechury	
<b>Gooding Basque Association</b>	Gloria	Lejardi	<i>(proxy votes for Asun Bedialauneta)</i>
<b>Iparreko Ibarra: Northern Valley Basque Club, Rocklin</b>	Mike Noel	Uro Goyhenetche	
<b>Kern County Basque Club</b>	Louis Maria	Iturriria Toretta	
<b>Lagun Onak Las Vegas</b>	Argia	Beristain	
<b>Los Banos Basque Club</b>	Jim Victor	Etchepare Olano	
<b>Marin-Sonoma Basque Association</b>	Valerie	Arrechea	
<b>Mendiko Euskaldun Cluba, Gardnerville</b>	Valerie	Arrechea	<i>(proxy votes for Anita Izoco and Noel Arraiz)</i>
<b>New England Basque Club</b>	Juan Mari	Aramendi	
<b>Oberena (Los Angeles)</b>	Manolo Maria	Villanueva Villanueva	
<b>Oinkari Basque Dancers</b>	Jaclyn Marie	Lasuen Monasterio	
<b>Ontario, Oregon Basque Club</b>	Lisa	Corcostegui	
<b>San Francisco Basque Club</b>	Jean Pierre Matthew	Elissetche Etchepare	
<b>San Francisco Basque Cultural Center</b>	Pierre Philippe	Etcharren Acheritogaray	
<b>Santa Rosa Basque Club</b>	Susan	Gavica	

	Richard	Gavica
<b>Southern California Basque Club</b>	Anne-Marie	Gariador
	Mike	Aguerre
<b>Susanville Eskualdun Inc.</b>	Maurice	Goni
<b>Txoko Ona Basque Club</b>	Gloria	Lejardi
<b>Ventura County Basque Club</b>	Anna Maria	Urrutia
	Jose Luis	Urrutia
<b>Washington D.C. Euskal Etxea</b>	Argia	Beristain
<b>Zazpiak Bat Reno Basque Club</b>	Dominika	Zubillaga
	Enrike	Corcostegui
<b>Zazpiak Bat: Vancouver</b>	Elena	Sommer

## D. GUESTS

The following guests were present:

Mike	Gortari	Reno, NV
Joe	Leonis	Reno, NV
Pello	Urrutia	Finance Committee Member
David	Lamoureux	Euskal Etxea Saint Pierre et Miquelon
Michel	Goicoechea	Euskal Etxea Saint Pierre et Miquelon
Kathy	Iturriria-Laverty	Kern County Basque Club
Keely	McClintock	Euskaldunak Danak Bat (Winnemucca, NV)
Gorka	Alvarez Aramburu	Basque Government
Benan	Oregi	Basque Government
Iñigo	Medina	Basque Government
Sandy	Ott	Center for Basque Studies, Reno
Lorea	Palacios	Mexico City World Congress delegate
Antonia	Sangroniz	Basque Club of Utah
Joseba	Etxarri	EuskalKultura.com
Jasone	Agirre	EH Bildu

## E. DELEGATE CLUBS ABSENT

The following NABO clubs had no representatives present, and did not send a proxy vote:

Battle Mountain Oberenak  
 Seattle Euskal Etxea  
 New Mexico Euskal Etxea  
 Euzko Etxea (Brooklyn, NY)  
 Euskal Etxea of Miami

### III. Approval of previous minutes

Corrections for the previous meeting (2017 Montreal Fall) minutes are listed below:

- Misspellings: Colorado “euskal” (not eusko) etxea in club name listing, Gina Aguerre, not Aguirre
- Lisa Etchepare designed the Int’l Mus scarves, not Lisa Corcostegui
- The .eus TLD migration for the website was finished already as of the meeting (not in progress)
- The Basque Government scheduled the mid-World Congress follow-up regional meeting; it was not scheduled by Valerie, Marisa, Annie and Aitor
- Memoria Bizi has always been a History Committee and not a separate committee
- 2017 Int’l Mus tour bus went to Fresno, not Bakersfield
- NABO does not charge \$20 per person for NABO tournaments; NABO charges \$10 person, and the clubs can charge whatever they want
- Lisa & Valerie did not organize and run the Int’l Mus tournament; they helped run the tournament, but it was organized by Pierre Etcharren
- Udaleku charges “tuition”, not “dues”
- Musicians at 2018 Winter Meeting will be Amerikanuak, not musicians from the Basque Country

***Bob Echeverria moved to approve the minutes with corrections above. JP Elissetche seconded. Approved unanimously.***

Philippe Acheritogaray requested that future minutes include not only the names of the proxies, but the name of the regular delegate whom the proxy is representing. He noted that typically, committee reports are not embedded within the minutes document, but sent as separate documents. He also requested that future meetings list delegates and committee chairs that were absent, so that they are still documented in the minutes.

### IV. Treasurer’s Report and Financial Snapshot

Mayi reviewed the Treasurer’s report that was sent out earlier in the week. It contained the income statement, and a comparative analysis of how we did in 2017 vs. 2016. She then shared some highlights regarding 2017 finances with the delegates:

- We have 44 clubs in the federation currently, and only 3 clubs haven’t paid dues.
- 16 clubs supported Udaleku with a monetary contribution.
- 3 out of the 4 pilota federations paid last year
- 23 clubs have purchased calendars from NABO
- 28 clubs held NABO qualifying mus tournaments
- 6 clubs have already submitted their 2018 dues
- 6,547 members total in all the clubs in NABO
- We changed signatories as a result of a change in President
- We redeemed 3 CD’s into our checking account
- We established the Grace Mainvil Scholarship Fund

NABO has also received a thank-you from Rene Caballero’s family. NABO made \$1,000 donations to each of his children in support of the childrens’ further education.

**Mayi Petracek moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Philippe Acheritogaray seconded. Approved unanimously.**

## V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. FINANCE: MAYI PETRACEK

Mayi introduced the other members of the Finance Committee: Valerie Arrechea, Peio Urrutia, and Victor Olano. She mentioned to delegates that the full report was in their packet, but there was one item to vote on.

In the past, NABO membership dues have been \$100 per club, plus \$1 per member. Of that \$1 per member, 75 cents went to NABO's General fund and 25 cents went to the Aita Tillous fund, which provides financial assistance for special projects, travel costs for performers, etc. The only time we've tapped in to the Aita Tillous fund is for travel costs for performers at the Smithsonian Festival in 2016, Udaleku tuitions and travel expenses to a NABO sponsored cultural exchange in Xiberoa.

The finance committee has proposed that instead of those 25 cents of each \$1 per-member fee going to the Aita Tillous fund, have the entire \$1 go to the general fund, and the general fund will replenish the Aita Tillous fund as needed. We will keep a minimum of \$5,000 in the Aita Tillous fund at all times (plus any memorial donations earmarked for the Aita Tillous fund) in case of emergencies. This will allow us to build up our general fund for future needs rather than trying to rely on grants.

**Mayi moved to vote on the above proposal of removing the automatic 25 cents of the \$1 permember dues to the Aita Tillous fund and instead have the full \$1 per-member go to the general NABO fund, with the Aita Tillous fund being replenished as needed from the general fund. Bob Echeverria seconded. Unanimously approved.**

There was a question about the difference between the Aita Tillous Memorial Fund and the Grace Mainvil scholarship. The biggest difference is that the Aita Tillous fund is based on financial need, and the Grace Mainvil scholarship is an essay-based award. Valerie Arrechea as Udaleku co-chair went on to explain the Grace Mainvil scholarship and how it has been designed. The scholarship proposal was sent to delegates by the Udaleku chairmen in November and is also in the delegate packet for this meeting.

After Grace's passing, the Mainvil family requested that donations made in Grace's name go to help fund Udaleku, so the Udaleku committee created an essay-based Grace Mainvil scholarship. The essay questions vary from year to year but will have something to do with how Udaleku has helped shape the person, and why other students should attend Udaleku.

Udaleku students in their final year of Udaleku can submit an essay (written or video) to apply for the scholarship. The scholarship provides for the full Udaleku tuition of one student per year. As of Feb 14, 2018, we have already received \$3,000 for the Grace Mainvil scholarship.

Cindy Schaffeld also recommended that one of Grace Mainvil's children be invited to be on the scholarship committee.

**Mayi moved to approve the Grace Mainvil scholarship fund as presented, with the suggestion that one of Grace's daughters be on the committee. Lisa Corcostegui seconded. Unanimously approved.**

## **B. CALENDAR: MARY LOU URRUTIA**

Mary Lou couldn't be here today, but she sends her best. She wanted to remind all delegates that photos and your club's event dates need to be sent to her by May 15 for publication in the 2019 calendar. A reminder will go out prior to May 15 to collect your club's dates.

The tentative print run will be 1500 calendars. If your club purchases them directly from Mary Lou at the NABO member price, the "club price" is \$5 per calendar including shipping. If you (or anyone) purchases a paper calendar from the NABO website, the "online price" is \$10.

Victor Olano asked about the expected delivery date for the calendar. Traditionally, the Calendar committee tries to get next year's calendars sent out by the end of summer, so clubs can distribute them at their events well before the end of the year. The sooner that clubs can submit their photos and dates, the sooner the calendar can go into production. It was also noted that for the most current dates (for example if your club's event dates change), you can always look at the online Google calendar of NABO events, and add your events there.

Gloria Lejardi asked who was on the calendar committee. Mary Lou Urrutia is the committee chair, but she has had help over the years from Valerie Arrechea, Annie Gavica, Lisa Corcostegui, Jean Flesher, and others. If anyone would like to help on producing the calendar—collecting dates from your club, submitting photos, etc.—Mary Lou welcomes participation.

Mary Lou as committee chair has recommended an increase in the cost of the "online price" (the price you can get by purchasing a paper calendar from the NABO website). They are currently available on the NABO website for \$7, but Mary Lou recommends that the price increase to \$10.

***Valerie Arrechea moved to change the online price of the paper calendars to \$10. Philippe Acheritogaray seconded. Unanimously approved.***

## **C. C.A.R.L.: STEVE ACHABAL**

No news to report, but Kate Camino gave a brief overview on what the C.A.R.L. (Cultural Aid Revolving Loan) is. The loan is available for smaller clubs to get seed money for an event, for example. It is then paid back to NABO (it is not a grant.) You can check the NABO website to get more information.

## **D. EDUCATION: JOHN YSURSA**

Please see the Education section of the Committee Reports document (Appendix A) for details.

**University Scholarships:** There are new scholarships available at the Boise State Basque Studies department. There is also a new one at University of Nevada Reno's Center for Basque Studies, the Carmelo Urza scholarship. We now have scholarships at the university level for Basque studies.

**Basque Diaspora Day:** Years ago, there was discussion of Basque Diaspora Day, and now the date of September 8 has been recommended as the official day, a day of celebration of Basques of the diaspora to tell their story. If clubs are interested in partnering with the Basque Diaspora Day (examples were Colorado's club and Chino's club having events on that day), please talk to John for details.

**Basque dance video project:** We were recently approached by dantzan.eus to preserve old VHS footage of Basque dance. They are reaching out to dance organizations in both the Basque Country and the Diaspora to get VHS footage so they can convert it to a digital format.

**Basque Film** (presentation by Philippe Acheritogaray): A few years ago NABO decided to make Basque films available in a filmategia. In this year's NABO calendars you'll see a featured film for each month to help promote Basque cinema.

The hallmark of Basque films is Euskara, the Basque language. Philippe mentioned award-winning Basque films like Aupa Echebeste, Amama, Dantzaz, Handia, Loreak. Loreak became the first Basque language film nominated for the Goya Award for Best Film, and was selected as the Spanish entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 88th Academy Awards, being the first film in Euskara to achieve that distinction. NABO organized a film tour for the Asier Altuna film Amama, and it was screened at five NABO clubs.

NABO has 48 films in the catalog which you can access on the NABO Filmategia page, where you can also watch trailers and get more information. Philippe then showed the delegates a video trailer for the Basque documentary, Xalbador.

#### **E. EUSKARA:**

Aitor Iñarra, Euskara Coordinator, gave the Euskara report via a powerpoint presentation regarding locations of Euskara classes, teacher changes, and student numbers. Please see the Euskara section of the Committee Reports document (Appendix A) for details.

Esther Ciganda, an Euskara teacher living in the Basque Country, logged in to the meeting remotely and spoke a bit about how she teaches Euskara long-distance to her students in Rocklin, CA. She holds the class online via video conferencing (first Skype, now Zoom) and uses Google Drive to store files and shared educational materials with students. They are in their third year of Euskara instruction with this method. Aitor suggested that this long-distance model could work for other clubs, and is planning to work with the Euskara tutor in Washington D.C., Samine Irigoyen, on this initiative.

Aitor thanked the Euskara instructors present at today's NABO meeting for their work, including Gloria Lejardi teaching in the Homedale area and Benat Urrutia teaching in Montreal.

Martin Goicoechea emphasized the potential of the AISA program, and repeated Kinku's phrase that with our online programs Euskara is available for everyone, anyone, unlimited. Delegates should know that is funding available for small clubs to start an Euskara program.

#### **F. FACILITATOR REPORT: KATE CAMINO (1:40)**

If your club is planning an event, please send the event information (with as much detail as possible, not just the date) to [info@nabasque.eus](mailto:info@nabasque.eus).

Bob Echeverria drew attention to the Genealogy section of the NABO website. Very interesting and some good resources on tracing your family history through names and surnames.

Since the last meeting, we now have .eus emails working ([webmaster@nabasque.eus](mailto:webmaster@nabasque.eus)) since the change from .org to .eus.

We also updated a new txistu resource page to the site. We now have the klika resource page, the txistu resource page, as well as the Txistuka instruction method for txistu. NABO has purchased the curriculum for the Txistuka method, so please let Valerie know ([udaleku@nabasque.eus](mailto:udaleku@nabasque.eus)) if you want those resources and we can provide you with sheet music in various keys.

#### **G. KANTARI EGUNA: NOEL GOYHENETCHE & BECKY SARRATEA-MURPHY**

Please see the Kantari Eguna section of the Committee Reports document (Appendix A) for full details. Noel Goyhenetche said that they've had conversation this year with the Los Banos Basque club. they have potential interest in hosting, but it's not finalized yet.

#### **H. HISTORY & MEMORIA BIZIA REPORT: PEDRO OIARZABAL & HISTORY: PATTY MILLER**

Please see the Memoria Bizia section of the Committee Reports document (Appendix A) for details.

#### **I. MUS: PIERRE ETCHARREN**

Annie received information from mus players about concerns with how NABO mus was being run, and made some changes, but we are now back where we are and ready to move forward. There was a question about where the complaints came from, why were people complaining about mus. Annie said she got information about individual players, not clubs.

There was discussion about whether individuals (not clubs) should bring items directly to a NABO officer. Marisa Espinal said that she believed the President was trying to be responsive to players that perhaps felt their voice wasn't being heard through traditional channels. It can be intimidating to bring an issue up in front of everyone. Issues sometimes get brought up at meetings, perhaps tabled and not given the discussion the submitter felt that they deserved. Delegates, especially new ones, may need a formal education about official processes, and how to bring an issue up, and how to get an item on the agenda for discussion.

Cindy Schaffeld said that if she had a complaint, she would expect that if she went to the President of NABO, something would get done.

Jean Pierre Etchechoury asked if there was in existence— and if not, requested that there be— written updates about the Mus committee. He also asked if there was a way to interact with NABO Mus in between meetings. Is [mus@nabasque.eus](mailto:mus@nabasque.eus) the best way?

Valerie Arrechea answered that the process for submitting grievances, new ideas, suggestions, improvements, etc. for any committee or any of NABO's initiatives need to go from the players to their club. The club gives the item to the delegate, who brings it to a meeting. Items then get discussed in person at NABO meetings. The most current information for any committee should be reflected on the NABO website.

Philippe Acheritogaray added that since Mus is such an important part of NABO, it is appropriate to bring questions to the NABO meetings for official deliberation (i.e. a Mus rule question or suggestion isn't too small of an item to bring forward.)

Pierre noted that although he is the chairman of the Mus committee, there are many people working on Mus that don't have a title but put in a lot of effort organizing tournaments for their clubs. Pierre has a contact list of Mus contacts for each club.

Pierre gave his perspective as Mus chair. Last year we had 603 teams who participating in NABO mus, and 41 teams at the finals. Pierre acknowledges that among 40 teams, there may be some who are disappointed because everyone wants to win. It took us many years to form these international rules. There will occasionally be disagreements about rules. Last year in Fresno we had no problem.

Valerie reminded delegates NABO does not dictate the rules of how clubs play Mus. Clubs can institute



their own individual rules. The rules on the website are only for NABO finals, which are based on the international Mus rules.

Mayi Petracek suggested that to Jean-Pierre's question about official processes, sending an email to the four officers (President, VP, Treasurer and Secretary) is a good way to communicate in between meetings. It is the officers' responsibility field those questions and process them.

Lisa Corcostegui noted that for some small clubs where Mus is their main activity, they may not know that they have a NABO delegate or representative to whom they can bring their grievances (who will then bring the item to a NABO meeting for official deliberation). She suggested that delegates remind their clubs of this in some way to reiterate that everyone that plays in a NABO Mus event does have some form of representation.

Mayi reminded everyone that if a club doesn't pay NABO dues, that club isn't eligible to play in NABO finals.

Gloria Lejardi from Txoko Ona club in Homedale, ID, noted to delegates that since Homedale players won the finals last year, Homedale is hosting the NABO Mus Finals for 2018. A flyer was supplied to delegates at the meeting with tournament and lodging information, and will also be on the NABO website. They have secured special rates at the Grove hotel in Boise for out-of-town players, and that a bus will shuttle players from Boise to Homedale on the day of the tournament. She apologized for the conflict with the San Francisco Basque Club picnic, but explained they had no other date available.

Pierre has spoken with Gorka from the Basque government about recognizing Mus as an important way to pass along Basque culture. Gorka said they are aware of the request and will work to add Mus as a cultural entity just like they have for bertsoaritza. He said it is a long process, but they agree that it is important to have a designation.

The International Mus tournament this year will be in Macachin Argentina on September 22, 2018. NABO will pay for 2 players and a rep, which will come out of the NABO budget. It will be about \$1600. If anyone else wants to attend the tournament that isn't an official NABO player, it will be about \$1500 per person, with an extra \$300 if they want a private room. More information will come soon and will be available via the website.

Pierre explained that at the NABO Finals, players keep track of the partidas, mantxas, and points. These are used to determine placement order. Over the past several decades they've never had a tie, but last week at the San Francisco tournament there was a tie. They resorted to the international mus rules, which says that a tie at the end of a tournament is broken by looking at the winner of the game where those two teams played each other. Whoever won that game is the winner.

***Pierre moved to amend the NABO official rules with the tie-breaking rule outlined in the international mus rules and described above. Jean Flesher seconded. Unanimously approved.***

Noel Goyeneche suggested that there be a place listed on the NABO website to know who the winners of each club are. Valerie said that as clubs send in their winners, that can certainly be added to the NABO website. Kate added that winners are also included in Astero periodically.

Valerie Arrechea brought up the topic of tournament scorekeeping templates. At the last tournament, some Boise players asked about self-calculating tables to keep score as the tournament was happening.

There is now an official NABO mus template in the form of an Excel spreadsheet, and we will list it on the NABO website. All clubs are welcome to use it if desired.

Maurice Goni had a question: if a player comes to the tournament having already won elsewhere, who do they play for in the Finals?. Pierre clarified that NABO doesn't dictate how a club chooses the teams that are sent, they just list the names as submitted by the club.

Jim Etchepare from Los Banos read a card aloud from one of his club's players, Amador Zabalbeascoa, whose team representing Los Banos took 2nd place at the 2017 finals, and NABO reimbursed mileage expenses. Amador sent a thank you card with the reimbursement check that he didn't cash. He wrote that he appreciated the efforts of the 2017 Mus National tournament organizers, and is returning a \$200 as a donation back to NABO.

Lastly, Mayi mentioned that if any club wants a "sure shot" at national tournament, come play in the the Denver club's tournament on March 10.

#### **J. JUNIOR MUS:**

The NABO Jr. Mus tournament will be held on June 8 at 1:00 PM, as part of the Winnemucca festival and NABO Convention. More details will come as the clubs send in the names of their participating teams. Gina reminded delegates that, Junior Mus is open committee, so if you are interested in participating or helping organize tournaments, please sign up when the committee sign-up sheet goes around. There are packets for clubs new to mus that outlines the rules, how to play, etc. and Gina would love help at any time working on those packets.

#### **K. PILOTA: TO BE APPOINTED**

Teresa Iparraguirre asked to step down as Pilota chair. Annie asked that if anyone is interested in participating as the Pilota chair, please let NABO know.

It was brought up that Boise Fronton Association is behind on their dues, and needs to pay in order to participate as a pilota organization. In the past, the dues have been paid through Boise Euskaldunak. Clubs can't play in NABO tournaments unless they're paid up.

The NABO Pilota Finals will be held in San Francisco on August 25, 2018 in conjunction with their festival.

Valerie brought up an item from previous meetings. There was a discussion of getting a joko garbi youth program going, and since then NABO has supplied Bakersfield and Chino with plastic cestas to encourage play. We know have xares and goggles for those clubs as well. They were paid for from NABO pilota funds which was approved at a previous meeting. Valerie has them in her garage and will get them to those clubs.

#### **L. TXERRIKI: TO BE APPOINTED (Report by Annie Gavica)**

There is currently no txerriki chairperson, so please let a NABO officer know if you are interested. We had also discussed in the past expanding the txerriki contest to include a pate competition. No decision had been made on either of those accounts, but we are coordinating with the Winnemucca club and are hoping to have a txerriki event at convention this year. More information to come.

#### **M. UDALEKU & MUSIC: VALERIE ARRECHEA & KATE CAMINO**

Music: The music committee is a follow-up of Udaleku. As we teach txistu during camp, we wanted to have a way to continue txistu after camp was over. There is music available for anyone interested, with

the idea that if we all learn the same music, we can play together at festivals.

We will have audio files as well that will be posted once they are ready, so txistu learners can play along with audio. We can also help you implement a txistu program at your club if you need some help starting it.

**Klika:** Not an official committee or program that falls under Udaleku, but Valerie Arrechea presented some updates. Aldudeko klika group is coming to the US in August/September 2018. They will be performing at the San Francisco and Chino picnics. Aldude will be performing with the California klika groups, and then inviting them back to the Basque Country to perform in the festival of the Aldude Valley towns (Banka, Aldude, Urepel) in October. Will be a type of informal klika exchange.

**Udaleku procedures:** Valerie gave a brief overview of the Udaleku program, which is a camp for youth designed to foster friendships among young Basques and teach them Basque culture. Udaleku has two co-chairs (Valerie Arrechea and Kate Camino), and the committee consists of the co-chairs, and whoever is in the hosting club for that year. The committee changes from year to year because the Udaleku location changes. When there is a major question about Udaleku (for example, a few years back we debated the fairest way to allow sign-ups), we call a general phone meeting and there is an open invitation for anyone to participate, with special priority to the clubs that host Udaleku since they have first-hand experience.

We have made sure to put in a succession plan for Udaleku and have trained others how to do it, just in case. A few people who have been trained are: Kristie Onaindia, Teresa Franzoia, Maite Maisterena, John Ysursa, and Lisa Corcostegui.

If you have any questions, concerns, etc., please bring it up to the Udaleku co-chairs, or bring it up at a NABO meeting. We are very happy to answer those questions. If we have questions that come up between meetings, we make sure to address those questions in a subsequent committee report.

**Soccer:** The Udaleku chairs were asked by the president to look into teaching soccer at Udaleku. Argia Beristain brought up the Athletic Bilbao potential partnership. She said there might be some miscommunication, because Athletic Bilbao isn't ready for that partnership right now. Valerie said from Udaleku's side, an official soccer "class" during Udaleku wouldn't happen for 2018 or 2019 anyway because of the logistic requirements.

There was some discussion of incorporating soccer in general in Udaleku moving forward. Not every club runs Udaleku exactly the same. Maria Toretta said that soccer as an Udaleku activity was very well-received at the Bakersfield Udaleku. Valerie added that there have also been pilota camp efforts in the past.

Athletic is interested in continuing to support the Diaspora. Perhaps involved with Udaleku, or perhaps a separate soccer camp with Athletic, or maybe a kiroleku. It could be an additional way to engage some youth that are into sports, but aren't into txistu and dance, for example. We could reach more youth that way. Argia asked all delegates to go back to their clubs to gauge interest in this idea, and report back with suggestions. If people are interested, please sign up on the sheet that Annie is passing around. They will coordinate that with Argia, and loop Kate and Valerie in on it.

There are also ways to run mini-Udaleku camps at your home club. A day, half-day, etc.

**Udaleku 2018:** 2018 Udaleku will be in Reno July 8-20. The 2018 theme is Bizkaia. Registration for intent to participate opens March 1 at 6 PM PST. At that time, a link will open on the NABO website, parents fill out the form (1 per family regardless of how many kids). Once we have available housing, we start at the top of the list and send out applications in the order that the forms were received, with priority being given to participants in the city of the host club.

Our goal is to accommodate 100 kids. The Friday night final performance will also be the kickoff for the Reno summer Basque festival. More information to come as it is available.

Since 2013, we have had 500 Udaleku participants. The majority of participants are from California. Strong showings by club over the last few years include: Kern County Basque Club (90), Chino (50), San Francisco (131), Boise (30), Homedale (14), Salt Lake City (5). Fortunately, we have not had to turn any applicants away in the last 5 years.

Future Udalekus: 2019 Udaleku will be in San Francisco in the last 2 weeks of June. 2020 moves to the “North” rotation of the Boise/Buffalo/Salt Lake/Rock Springs region. 2021 is the “South” region of Southern California/Las Vegas/New Mexico region.

Lael asked for clarification on the Udaleku regions and how they rotate. Udaleku locations rotate based on the NABO Regions (South, Central, West, North, and Eastern) This can be found in more detail on the NABO website at <http://nabasque.eus/regions.html>. Regions were created to account for travel costs.

Argia Beristain said that Boise can't host in 2020 because of Jaialdi, but Boise is willing to host in 2021, which is the “South” region. Kern County Basque Club is currently planning to host Udaleku 2021. There is plenty of time to coordinate with other clubs if someone wants to swap. Annie Gavica suggested that the 2020 region and the 2021 regions discuss this either informally before the next meeting, or we discuss it at the Winnemucca convention.

## VI. Committee Snapshot Session

Marie Monasterio had a suggestion to split work into committees for working committee meetings. The committees could do the work in a small-group session and bring back decisions to the main meeting. We could potentially get more done if we push ideas to a meeting, meet as a small group, and bring back ideas, proposals, or recommendations fully-formed for voting by the delegates.

Jean Flesher had a suggestion for delegates to get more involved and put in the effort at the meeting. Years ago, it seemed that we could make all of our decisions at these meetings. Nowadays, it seems that delegates aren't as eager to make decisions as a group so they push the decisions out to the committees. Since committees don't often meet outside the general meetings, it forces committee chairs to make the decisions on their own. Jean recommended to all delegates that since we are representatives to our clubs, we need to be ready to deliberate issues and give them the time they deserve. Or, perhaps we do committee meetings the evening before the general meeting, and come to the general meeting ready for proposals.

Philippe Acheritogaray mentioned that in the past, certain things need extra investigation or extra work. Committees have been put together as special task forces. For example, in 2003 several delegates had ideas around Gaztemundu, so a committee of about a dozen people formed. They had teleconferences between 2 NABO meetings, wrote minutes, and put together a 4-page report with specific resolutions that were passed at the following meeting.

Lisa Corcostegui suggested that committees do teleconferences between meetings, to encourage small-group deliberation even when we don't have time to meet in person. There was a suggestion that between each NABO general meeting, each committee chair hosts an open teleconference meeting (via Zoom or similar platform) to field questions about a specific topic. The teleconference invitation could be sent out to delegates, and delegates would distribute to their club members so anyone that has interest in that committee can join the teleconference.

Annie said that a first step towards group participation is to get delegates (and non-delegates, if they desire), to sign up to participate on NABO committees. The NABO committees are: Finance, Calendar, C.A.R.L. revolving loan, Education, Euskara, Kantari Eguna, Memoria Bizia & History, Mus, Pilota, Txerriki, Udaleku & Music. You can sign up on one of the paper sign-up sheets going around, or by emailing [president@nabasque.eus](mailto:president@nabasque.eus).

Gloria asked that on the NABO website, not only the committee chair should be listed but also the members of the committee, so we know who is currently involved.

## VII. Presentations

### A. UNITED STATES FEDERATION OF PILOTA

Esther Ciganda representing USFP joined the meeting remotely via Zoom, and showed a picture from September 1978 for the 30th anniversary of the World Pelota Federation. Esther asked delegates to let their clubs know about Frontball so they can promote that pilota modality to their clubs. Please contact Esther, Xabier, or Annie for any questions.

Esther reviewed the USFP report (see Appendix B for USFP teams that qualified for international championship games). The world championships of Basque Pilota will be held in Barcelona in October 2018. Visitors and support are very welcome!

### B. CLUB SPOTLIGHT: NEW ENGLAND BASQUE CLUB

Juan Mari Aramendi gave a presentation (See Appendix B) about activities and mission of the New England Basque Club, which was created in 2014. Their main events include Euskara classes, Marina Eguna, Sagar Eguna (cider-making festival), Korrika, and films and presentations. This year to make the promotion of Basque culture more public, they are having an "East Coast Jai-Aldi" in New London, CT on June 23, 2018. There will be music, food, dance, herri kirolak, and cultural exhibits. All are invited, and they hope to make it a yearly tradition.

### C. CLUB SPOTLIGHT: CHINO BASQUE CLUB

Denis Petrissans let delegates know about the 50th anniversary of the Chino Basque Club coming up on April 7, 2018. Mitch Gariador will give a presentation called "Bridge to Pyrenees", which traces the roots of Basque families who immigrated to California, as well as other presentations. There will be singing, dancing, Basque mass and breakfast at their Basque center.

### D. EUSKO JAULARITZA REPORT: GORKA ALVAREZ ARAMBURU

Annie reminded delegates that EJ-GV isn't actually a committee, but sometimes they are able to join us and they do have a report today.

Gorka Alvarez Aramburu, the director of the Basque Communities Abroad in the Basque Government,

was very glad to be at the meeting and is eager to learn more about the clubs in the Diaspora, and help keep the Diaspora communities vibrant and active. He said that there are 181 Euskal etxeak recognized by the Basque government in 25 countries, and 37 of those are in US (as well as NABO being a recognized federation.) He thanked all the volunteers that are out there working to promote Basque culture.

**Grants:** 900,000 Euros in total grant funding will be distributed in two blocks: one of 780,000 Euros designated for “activities”, and 120,000 Euros for “infrastructure and equipment.”

As a reminder, the Basque Government grant limit (maximum amount awarded) for an individual club is 30,000 Euros, and the limit for federations like NABO is 50,000 Euros.

**Gaztemundu:** 2018 theme is Basque dance, so attendees will be young Basque dance instructors (aged 18-34). Gaztemundu will be held June 3-16 in Vitoria-Gasteiz. Gorka noted that last year there were no applicants from North America, and he hopes that will change this year.

**Day of Diaspora:** Date selected was September 8. In 2003, the delegates to the 2003 World Congress requested that the Basque Government choose a date where the Diaspora communities would be celebrated around the world. It had been postponed for awhile, but they have finally arrived on a date that worked the best for the most people. It had to be politically neutral, work geographically, and couldn't be an existing holiday in the other Basque Diaspora communities because it would compete for media attention. The advisory board finally arrived on September 8, which also coincides with the day that Elkano finished circumnavigating the world in 1522.

**Archive of Basque Diaspora in Bilbao:** Benan explained that they would like to invite clubs to submit Diaspora-related items to the archive in Bilbao. They would like copies (they don't need originals.) Flyers from festivals, t-shirts, documents, etc. from Basque life in the Diaspora. There are several decades of memorabilia for the Basque clubs in North America, and researchers in the Basque Country are interested in knowing what has been going on with the Basque Diaspora over the last 50 years.

## **E. JASONE AGUIRRE - EH BILDU**

Jasone is a Member of the Basque Parliament, and the Secretary of the Diaspora for her party, Euskal Herria Bildu. She attended the meeting as a guest, and invited delegates to participate in a town hall meeting later today to talk about the Basque country.

## **VIII. Old Business**

### **A. ELKARREKIN-TOGETHER WRAP UP**

Argia Beristain gave a quick update on Elkarrekin-Together, a documentary about a team of archaeologists working to find evidence of Basque whaling expeditions in Canada. The film has been shown in San Diego, Reno, San Francisco, Boise, and the Basque Country. If you want to screen Elkarrekin-Together at your club, Argia has spare DVD's as well as a set of questions for viewers to continue the discussion. The film's team will be doing an event in the Basque Country where they will incorporate feedback from viewers abroad who saw the film. If your club is interested in participating, let Argia know.

### **B. EUSKALKULTURA.COM (JOSEBA ETXARRI)**

Joseba presented Euskalkultura's purpose. Euskalkultura.com is a daily bulletin that promotes the activities of Basque clubs in the Basque Country and abroad. It's available in Euskara, Spanish and

English. He wants to invite delegates and their clubs to report what they are doing (events, presentations, meeting, performances, etc.) so Euskalkultura can publish the events and let other Basque clubs know about them. If your club has an event, please send those items to [info@euskalkultura.com](mailto:info@euskalkultura.com).

Euskalkultura also has an "In Memory Of" section to honor the lives of Basque people from Basque clubs all over the world. You can view this section (and submit a death notice for listing on the website) at <http://www.euskalkultura.com/english/in-memory-of>. Joseba encouraged all delegates and their clubs to contribute to this initiative so we can honor the passing of our Basque community members.

## IX. New Business & Announcements

### A. CARMELO URZA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Kate Camino presented this topic. This was brought up at the Montreal 2017 Fall meeting (see Montreal meeting minutes for more details.). The Carmelo Urza scholarship, through USAC, is open to NABO members and their children to study abroad through USAC in either Bilbao or Donosti. It is a \$2,000 scholarship given out once per semester. The deadline for fall 2018 semester is April 1, and the deadline for 2019 spring semester is November 1.

USAC has asked that NABO form a scholarship committee to help evaluate applications. There are more details in a past issue of Astero, as well as the scholarship section of the USAC website at <https://usac.edu/money-matters/scholarships-and-discounts>.

***Lisa Corcostegui moved to make Kate Camino the chair of the new Carmelo Urza scholarship committee because of the relationship between UNR's Center for Basque Studies and USAC. Jean Flesher seconded. Unanimously approved.***

Kate would like people to email her at [info@nabasque.eus](mailto:info@nabasque.eus) if they're interested in participating in this newly-formed scholarship committee.

### B. SUMMER CONVENTION (WINNEMUCCA - FRIDAY, JUNE 8)

The 2018 NABO summer convention will be held Friday, June 8, in Winnemucca, NV. Paige Brooks and Mike Uria from the Winnemucca Basque Club reviewed the events for the weekend. The meeting will start on Friday with breakfast and coffee with a break for lunch. The Junior Mus tournament will also be on Friday, starting at 1pm. There will be an evening play, "Etxea", put on by Argi Beltza dance group, and music and drinks Friday night. Saturday there will be a 5k fun run, a parade, festival, music, dance, and dinner. Sunday will be mass, breakfast, and dance. They will have a website and a Facebook page for more information.

### C. BIZI EMANKORRA NOMINATIONS & AWARD

Annie as President received one nomination before the Montreal Fall meeting, and asked if there were any others nominations. Philippe Acheritogaray submitted a nomination for Valerie Arrechea on behalf of the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center.

***Bob Echeverria moved to accept the nomination of Valerie Arrechea for the Bizi Emankorra award. Marisa Espinal seconded. Unanimously approved.***

Paige Brooks from the Winnemucca club nominated Isidro Etcheto from Winnemucca. He has been with the Winnemucca club for decades, has arranged NABO conventions, and he and his family have

been involved and contributed much of their time. He was a NABO delegate for many years. John Yursa and Richard Gavica added their support for Isidro's nomination, saying that he has been a consistent figure in the small club of Winnemucca. He ate, slept, and breathed the Winnemucca Basque Club. He kept them connected to NABO and supported the growth of the club even on his own dime. He is an example of someone who transcending his own club.

***Pierre Etcharren moved to accept Isidro Etcheto for the Bizi Emankorra award. Jean Flesher seconded. Unanimously approved.***

***Kate Camino also nominated and moved to approve Jerry Etcheverry (also of Winnemucca) as another recipient for the Bizi Emankorra award. Pierre Etcharren seconded. Unanimously approved.***

#### **D. JANUARY CAPITAL ADVISORS PRESENTATION**

The finance committee has been looking at ways of investing NABO funds for better returns on investment, so we can continue to grow our programs. Most of our assets are sitting in CD's or other areas with very little return. For that reason, the Finance Committee met with January Capital Advisors, an investment firm, to help NABO develop a long-term investment portfolio at the "moderately conservative" level.

Jeff from January Capital Advisors showed a presentation to delegates explaining the financial disclosures, background about January Capital Advisors, and more detail on the proposed investments and how they will be allocating various parts of the portfolio. January Capital Advisors would meet with the Investment Committee on a quarterly basis for the first year to review the funds and their performance. After the first year, the NABO investment committee would meet twice per year, and include the results of the meetings in the investment committee reports. In addition, they would meet and review the entire portfolio plan (objectives, risk profile, etc.) every two years, or more often if needed.

Mayi noted to delegates that any interest we earn off our investments will not jeopardize our non-profit status.

After lunch, the delegates voted on 2 items. First, Mayi requested a vote to authorize the Finance Committee as the Investment Committee. Jean had a question about what powers the investment committee would have. Answer is that committee has the authority to make recommendations about reallocations to the financial advisors.

Mayi mentioned that no movement of money would be made without permission of the delegates unless it was an emergency. If an emergency does come up, the committee should notify delegates within 24 hours that the money was moved because of an emergency. There was discussion about what "emergency" means and how to limit the power of the Investment Committee. Mayi reminded delegates that there are two non-board committee members (Victor and Pello) to act as watchdogs.

Bob Echeverria moved to authorize the Finance Committee as the Investment Committee. Jean Flesher seconded. Unanimously approved.

The second item the delegates voted on was a request from Mayi to authorize the Investment Committee to make the initial investment of \$100,000..

Bob Echeverria moved to authorize the Investment Committee to invest \$100,000 in a diversified conservative fund to be managed by January Capital Advisors. Jean Flesher seconded. Unanimously



approved.

After the vote, there was discussion on the powers and responsibilities of the Investment Committee. Gloria Lejardi suggested that the items of discussion be documented in writing. Mayi agreed - the committee will take this discussion into account and add the items discussed to the investment policy. Lael suggested that we table this item until the next meeting so Mayi make the recommended additions to the policy. We can then we can revisit this topic as Old Business at the Winnemucca summer convention meeting so delegates can review the policy additions from this discussion.

## **E. NEW BY-LAWS PROPOSAL**

Philippe Acheritogaray introduced the two by-laws proposals (*see Appendix C*) with the intent to add specificity to the NABO by-laws to be more consistent with how NABO runs its business. He asked that each by-laws proposal be considered separately.

**Bizi Emankorra Proposal:** This proposal (would be a new section in Article V) specifies that the Bizi Emankorra award is nominated by general members of NABO at the meeting and then approved by majority vote of the delegates (*see Appendix C* for the official wording of the proposal.) This is what NABO has historically done, but this by-laws proposal puts that in writing, because Bizi Emankorra isn't mentioned in the current NABO by-laws.

Jean Flesher asked about the Bizi Emankorra award; is it just for contributions to NABO, or can someone get it if they have contributed significantly to their regional club, for example? Philippe answered that he took the language from the NABO website, but he believes that the board (the delegates as a group) would have the discretion to decide that.

Marisa Espinal suggested that nominations be made ahead of time (not from the floor of a meeting) since delegates want to know ahead of time who they will be voting on.

Argia Beristain asked a question on behalf of Gloria Totoricaguena (delegate for Cenarrusa Center for Basque Studies). She said that the text as proposed only outlines the process for adding Bizi Emankorra nominees, but doesn't say how the nominees would be selected or approved. Philippe clarified that the proposal would only specify how the nominations are received; the approval process is up to the board of directors to decide.

There was discussion about why the proposal needed to be added to the by-laws when it is already on the NABO website. In addition, if only the delegates can vote to accept nominations, it could slow the process if someone wanted to submit a nomination between meetings.

***Jean Flesher moved to close the discussion and approve the Bizi Emankorra by-laws proposal with a change in the proposal text to add that the candidate can be someone who has made contributions to NABO or their local community. Philippe Acheritogaray seconded.***

***Cindy Schaffeld moved to table the Bizi Emankorra by-laws proposal so delegates can discuss with their clubs, and revisit the issue to table. Bob Echeverria seconded. Approved by majority with 7 opposed.***

Annie Gavica said that the revised by-laws will be sent out by March to allow delegates two months to discuss the revised version of the by-laws.

**Committee Chair Nominations:** This proposal (a new section in would be Article V) would specify how

committee chairs are decided. See Appendix C for official wording of the proposal, but it would state that it is the board of directors (aka the delegates) that nominate the chairpersons and committee members for NABO committees.

Goisalde Jausoro asked how committee chairs have been nominated in the past. Pierre explained that the word Chairman isn't in the by-laws. Previously, chairpersons have been appointed by the President and approved by the delegates.

Victor Olano asked what the difference was between what we have now, and what will change with the addition of the proposed amendment. Valerie said that when she was President, there were new committees formed and chairpersons appointed by the President (she gave some examples). In these cases, the decision was presented by the President to the delegates at the meeting, and no one disapproved at the meetings. It was not officially voted on by delegates, but there was general agreement in the meetings where the names were presented.

***Cindy Schaffeld moved to table the by-laws amendment proposal regarding committee chairs. Seconded by Bob Echeverria. Approved by majority with 8 votes opposed.***

Cindy Schaffeld asked to work with Philippe on wordsmithing the by-laws proposals he brought forward, they can be sent out ahead of the June meeting, then at the June meeting the revised versions can be voted on by the delegates. Mayi Petraceck also asked to be involved on this task force, as well as Annie Gavica, Valerie Arrechea, and Gloria Totoricaguena. Philippe recommended that we work on this initiative as a project-based committee, and he volunteered to chair that committee.

***Pierre moved that Philippe Acheritogaray be the chair of the by-laws amendment project committee. Lisa Corcostegui seconded. Unanimously approved.***

## **F. SAINT PIERRE ET MIQUELON**

David Lamoureux and Michel Goicoechea of the Basque club from Saint Pierre et Miquelon (a group of islands off the coast of Newfoundland but owned by France) attended the NABO meeting as guests. Right now they have mostly sports, like pilota and have a concrete fronton that is more than 100 years old. They also have a small dance group, but would like to do something more to propagate Basque culture in their club and so are considering joining NABO as a member club. The representatives presented NABO with a flag as a gift. Annie Gavica on behalf of NABO thanked the representatives for the gift and for joining us at the meeting. She expressed hope that the club will decide to join NABO.

## **G. ONLINE "SUGGESTION BOX" FOR NABO**

Lael Uberuaga proposed that NABO send a link to a virtual suggestion box (a Google form) where delegates can submit feedback to NABO officers. They could submit anonymous feedback, or leave their name if they choose. Feedback can be addressed by the officers as appropriate, or elevated to become agenda items at meetings if appropriate. This would be an optional, additional way to open up communication from delegates to NABO in between meetings.

There was concern about the general public having access to this link, because someone could submit something that had nothing to do with NABO. Lael clarified that this would only be sent out to delegates. Cindy Schaffeld suggested that it be open to all the members of delegate clubs; Valerie Arrechea disagreed because the proper procedure for a club member to bring an issue to NABO is through their representative.

Benan Oregi mentioned that there is already a platform called Basque Global Network, and he suggested an option where NABO delegates could have closed-group discussions.

#### **H. FUTURE CONVENTION LOCATIONS**

Kate mentioned that In Montreal, the delegates tabled discussion of future convention locations, because not very many delegates were at the meeting to deliberate. Buffalo and San Francisco had been requesting the same year (2020) for a potential convention. The President recommended that we table it until the June meeting, and Kate suggested that delegates go back to their clubs to discuss if they want to host future meeting dates. We have Convention locations scheduled out, but still need fall and winter dates. The most current information for future meeting dates and locations can be found at: <http://nabasque.eus/meetings.html>.

#### **X. Adjourn**

Mayi Petracek moved to adjourn this meeting. Susan Gavica seconded. Unanimously approved.

These minutes are hereby respectfully submitted by Lael Uberuaga, N.A.B.O. Secretary (secretary@nabasque.eus), May 2018