



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

DRAFT

NABO Convention Meeting Minutes – Bakersfield, California
Friday, May 24, 2019

Philippe called meeting to order at 8:15am, and thanked everyone for attending as well as the Kern County for hosting. Kern County is among the first clubs involved in the establishment of NABO. This is the 6th convention that it has hosted, 19th pilota finals, it has hosted Udaleku 4 times and 5 Mus finals. Special welcome to the Basque Government delegation – Benan Oregi, Jorge Fernandez Delegate of Euskadi in the US, Irene Larraza Etxepare Institute, and Kinku Zinkunegi. Kinku has worked with us for at least 16 years. Philippe originally worked with Kinku on the Hezinet program to learn Basque.

Louis Iturriria, Kern County Basque Club President, welcomed us all. He explained that this is the club's 47th annual festival and the club's 75th anniversary. He also thanked the Woolgrowers Restaurant for its hospitality. He then ran through the weekend's activities.

Attending the meeting were:

NABO Officers

President – Philippe Acheritogaray

Vice-President – Annie Gavica

Treasurer – Mayi Petracek - excused

Secretary – Kate Camino

NABO Administrators

Euskara Coordinator – Aitor Inarra

Facilitator – Kate Camino

Webmaster – Lisa Corcostegui

Program Directors & Committee Chairpersons

Finance Committee – Mayi Petracek - excused

Investment Committee – Mayi Petracek- excused

Calendars – Mary Lou Urrutia, - excused

Education – John Ysursa

Euskara –Martin Goicoechea

History & Memoria Bizia – Patty Miller

Mus – Pierre Etcharren

Pilota – Tony Huarte - excused

Txerriki Contest Organizer – Valerie Arrechea

Udaleku – Valerie Arrechea & Kate Camino

By-Laws Review Special Committee – Frank Yraguen - excused

Euskal Kantari Eguna – Anita Izoco & Noel Goyhenetche excused



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Board of Directors (delegates) Representing 32 NABO Member Organizations

British Columbia

Zazpiak Bat: Vancouver Absent

Quebec

Euskaldunak: Quebec Absent

California

Bakersfield

Kern County Basque Club Kathy Iturriria Laverty Teresa Antongiovanni

Chino

Chino Basque Club Marianna Etcheverria Marianna Etcheverria

Fresno

Fresno Basque Club Jean Pierre Etchechury Jean Pierre Etchechury

Los Angeles

Oberena Absent

Los Banos

Los Banos Basque Club Víctor Olano Mark Erreca

Marin-Sonoma

Marin-Sonoma
Basque Association Pierre Etcharren Valerie Arrechea

Ontario

Southern California
Basque Club Anne Marie Gariador Mike Aguerre proxy

Rocklin

Iparreko Ibarra/
Northern Valley Basque Club Valerie Arrechea Valerie Arrechea proxy

San Francisco

Anaitasuna Basque Club Gina Espinal Mike Aguerre proxy



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San Francisco Basque Club	JP Elissetche	JP Elissetche proxy
Basque Educational Organization	Marisa Espinal	Marisa Espinal proxy
San Francisco Basque Cultural Center	Valerie Arrechea	Pierre Etcharren
Susanville Susanville Eskualdun Inc.	Erinn Zubillaga	Jeanette Goñi
Ventura County Ventura County Basque Club	Pello Urrutia	Pello Urrutia
Colorado Denver Euskal Etxea	Vanessa Manjarrez proxy	Vanessa Manjarrez proxy
Idaho Boise Basque Museum & Cultural Center	Annie Gavica	Patty Miller
Basque Studies at Boise State University	John Ysursa	John Ysursa proxy
Cenarrusa Foundation	Patty Miller	Patty Miller proxy
Euzkaldunak: Boise Basque Center	Tyler Smith	Tyler Smith proxy
Oinkari Basque Dancers	Josu Bieter	Josu Bieter proxy
Gooding Gooding Basque Association	Sonia Castañon	Sonia Castañon proxy
Homedale Txoko Ona Basque Club	Absent	



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Mountain Home

Euskal Lagunak

Annie Gavica

Annie Gavica proxy

Nevada

Battle Mountain

Battle Mountain Oberenak

Bob Echeverria

Bob Echeverria proxy

Elko

Elko Euzkaldunak Club

Bob Echeverria

Bob Echeverria proxy

Gardnerville

Mendiko Euskaldun Cluba

Gina Espinal

Mike Aguerre proxy

Las Vegas

Lagun Onak

Tyler Smith

Tyler Smith proxy

Paradise Valley

Santa Rosa Basque Club

Annie Gavica

Annie Gavica proxy

Reno

Center for Basque Studies

Kate Camino

Kate Camino proxy

Zazpiak Bat

Reno Basque Club

Dominica Zubillaga

Enrike Corcostegui

Winnemucca

Euskaldunak Danak Bat

Absent

New Mexico

New Mexico Euskal Etxea

Absent

New York

Euzko Etxea

Absent

Oregon

Ontario, Oregon Basque Club

Lisa Corcostegui

Lisa Corcostegui proxy

Rhode Island

Portsmouth

New England Basque Club

Absent



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Utah

Basque Club of Utah Jean Flesher Sonia Castañon proxy

District of Columbia

Washington D.C.

Euskal Etxea Samiñe Irigoien Samiñe Irigoien proxy

Washington

Seattle Euskal Etxea Absent

Wyoming

Big Horn Basque Club Kate Camino Kate Camino proxy
Alkartasuna Basque Club Martin Goicoechea Mikaela Goicoechea proxy

Clubs not attending –Zazpiak Bat (Vancouver, Canada), Euskaldunak (Quebec), Oberena (LA), Txoko Ona (Homedale, ID), Euskaldunak Danak Bat (Winnemucca, NV), New Mexico Euskal Etxea (New Mexico), Euzko Etxea of New York, Seattle Euskal Etxea (WA), DC Euskal Etxea

Guests in attendance also included Delegate of Euskadi in the US, Jorge Fernandez Quintela, Representatives from the Basque Government, Benan Oregi, and Irene Larraza (Etxepare Basque Institute), Euskara Munduan Coordinator – Kinku Zinkunegi, and from Memoria Bizia – Pedro Oiarzabal.

Quorum – It was determined that 33 clubs were represented by 66 delegates making the simple majority 34 and $\frac{2}{3} = 44$.

Philippe presents Bob Echeverria to say a few words. Bob thanked everyone for all of their thoughts and support during his wife’s last days. In his words, “She was the best Basque in the house,” although she was not Basque herself. Bob thanked NABO for the flowers at her services, as well as several individuals for their special attention during this time. Told the story of Cheryl and Lehendakari Ardanza bumping heads when he dropped his cigarette at a dinner at the Spanish Ambassador’s home in DC. They won the debate over the color of the wreath of the tomb of the Unknown Soldier; it was red white and green.

Approval of the minutes – Bob Echeverria moved to approve the minutes from Salt Lake City, seconded by Martin Goicoechea. All in favor

Treasurer’s report – Please refer to the Treasurer’s Report included in the meeting’s committee report for complete information. Annie Gavica presented some updates to the treasurer’s report provided in the delegates’ packets. She reported that 41 clubs had paid membership, and that 28 Mus tournaments were held with 642



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members participating. Rhode Island paid balance of their CARL loan. She also reported that 16 clubs had donated to Udaleku. Rocklin also donated to the Grace Mainvil scholarship, and that 2nd quarter salaries have been paid.

Bob Echeverria moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by JP Elissetche. All in favor.

By-law Amendment also included in delegates' packets- Presented by committee secretary Valerie Arrechea. Addressing the question, "What happens if Officer is no longer a delegate." The proposed amendment by the committee read that once voted in as an officer, he/she can complete your term regardless of delegate status. After reading the amendment, JP Elissetche moved to approve, seconded by Bob Echeverria. Amendment passes unanimously so meets 2/3 required to pass a by-law amendment.

Etxepare Basque Institute - Irene Larraza – Director gave a presentation on the Etxepare Institute (EI) and its activities, a summary of which follows.

She began by thanking NABO for the invitation. She continued by reminding us that Euskara Munduan is now part of the EI and so she feels it is important to tell us more about what they do. Their mission is abroad. EI was created by the Basque Government not only to serve the BAC but also to serve those in Nafarroa and Iparralde. EI has some specific tasks in this matter. It is named after Etxepare author of 1st book in Basque who wanted Euskara to go forth into the world. Jalgi hadi kanpora.

Its mission is to disseminate language and culture abroad, and their headquarters is in Donostia. Irene is the 3rd director. The first was Aizpea Goenaga, 2nd Miren Arzallus.. Irene knew the EI well because she had already been employed there.

Three lines of work:

1. Teach language abroad
2. Foster international dissemination of the Basque culture
3. Represent language and culture in other organizations

They normally represent in places where there is not much knowledge about Euskera. She continued to talk more about the history of the language from Latin forward to the dictatorship. They want to move the language into the digital era. It is a very modern language with 1 million speakers, with 36.4 percent of the population speaking it today. They are also working hard to encourage more Euskara use. There may be few speakers relatively, but Basque does have a large presence around the world. This is the message they want to share.

From the beginnings of the EI they have created a network of universities that currently has lectureships in 19 countries. Prior to coming to Bakersfield, she met with two of them, Iker Arranz and Unai Nafarrete at UCSB, and UCLA respectively.



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She also explained about the various Chairs. The Jon Bilbao Chair, at the University Of Nevada, Reno is different however, because it is research based, and not focused on instruction. They are currently working on adding two more, one in Argentina and another in Quebec. They are looking for Ph.D. students and professors to take interest in the Basque language and Basque studies to participate in these opportunities.

EI is new to Euskara Munduan but they have signed an agreement with NABO and participating clubs. She feels like this relationship will be stronger now that Euskara Munduan is part of the EI.

The EI is also very involved in cultural promotion providing grants to artists and groups to travel and participate in events around the world. They try to support Basque production as much as possible in all areas, fairs, film screenings, artist exchanges to name a few.

They attended the strategic international program for the first time this year in Scotland. She is now in favor of attending one big event annually, instead of so many smaller events with smaller projects. In 2020, she will be visiting Quebec. All of this is connected to the Euskadi Basque Country strategy as well, with the EI providing the cultural content to that project.

The EI also publishes in three languages to promote Basque writers.

The EI is also part of the EUNIC – in Brussels works closely with the European Union representing culture at various organizations. More information is available on their website.

She was then asked why they had chosen Scotland. She said because Scottish festivals are very well attended by people from all over the world, and that the Basque Government and the Scottish one are in touch.

Question: Victor Olano “Is there communication between the Basque Government and the US Government?” Her response was that direct communication with the government is not the job of the EI, but maybe Jorge Fernandez could respond better as the delegate of Euskadi in the US.

Jorge responds that the Basque Government does participate in many activities, such as the Smithsonian Festival in Washington DC as an example. Of course always happy to collaborate at the national and state level when possible.

Benan Oregi from the Basque Government’s Department of the Basque Community Abroad then took the floor:

He updated us on the upcoming Gaztemundu Program as well as the World Congress of Basque Collectivities – Saregintzan (Networking) since the meeting in Salt Lake City. The congress aims to work on a 4-year plan for clubs in the Diaspora, as well as nominate members to the advisory board. NABO will choose three representatives to the event scheduled September 30-October 5, 2019 in Bilbao. Each country has 3 representatives from the 25 countries with clubs recognized by the Basque Government, so a total of 75



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delegates. There will be guests invited as well, including the presidents of all the Basque club federations. As part of the congress activities, there will be a tribute to Euskatzaindia on its centennial. The participation of the Basque Diaspora will be the last of a yearlong program of activities to celebrate the centennial. The Basque Museum in Boise will also present the “Basques in California” exhibit. He then thanked them for their efforts to conclude this project in time, since it has been ongoing since 2015. After it is exhibited in Bilbao, it will travel around the Basque Country, and hopefully California before coming back to Boise for Jaialdi 2020. Congress attendees will also visit the Basque Diaspora Archive. They appreciate anything that can be shared with them. The most significant activity of the congress is the 25th anniversary of the creation of Law 8 that allows actions in the Diaspora by the Basque Government. All voted in favor of this law permitting the Basque Government to do all the work it has done until now in the Diaspora, except for two parties who left the chamber ahead of the vote. This event will take place at the Basque Parliament.

He also reminded us about Euskal Diasporaren Eguna – Day of the Basque Diaspora, September 8th - inviting everyone to celebrate this date. This year they have chosen a place that represents the whole Diaspora – Ispaster (near Lekeitio) for the official celebration of this day. Ispaster was chosen because there are citizens in more than 11 countries residing there. Very representative of a small town in the Basque Country with people all over the world. On its main square there are also two houses names Nevada, and Oregon. Everyone is invited to attend the official celebration if you are in the Basque Country on September 8th.

He also talked about the ENARA Project (survey of Basques abroad) that had been sent to emails collected from the Euskal Etxeak magazine. It had been previously sent to approximately 30 individuals as a test, and has been adjusted after receiving that feedback. The updated survey will be sent on June 6th to 9,000 addresses. Most will be sent electronically, but some will also receive paper copies. Asking for our collaboration, because they want as many responses as possible. There will also be a raffle for a trip for 2 to the Basque Country among those who participate.

Program and Committee Reports - please refer to submitted reports provided in the delegate packets for complete information

Finance Committee – report presented by Peio Urrutia in Mayi’s absence. He provided some background of this committee. He then reported that we have a total of \$150,000 invested. January advisory group manages the funds invested on NABO’s behalf, in various mutual funds.

This committee was also tasked in evaluating applications for tuition aid for Udaleku, and they awarded four scholarships for a total of \$1,100.00 that will come from the Aita Tillous Fund.

Calendar Report - proposals to consider: continue featuring films in 2020 and proposes to feature clubs in the next coming years. Jean Flesher moves to approve proposal - Bob Echeverria seconded.

Valerie comment - it will take 3 years to get through all the clubs - highlight your club in case you have big events coming up in the next 3 years. Passed all in favor



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Education Program - John Ysursa gives the floor to Philippe to talk about Dantza tour. Ended up in Seattle, Reno, San Francisco, Chino, Ontario OR, Boise ID, NYC and DC. - total of 8 clubs participated in the tour. It was funded by the SFBCC who worked it out with Txintxua films and fronted the fees. The SFBCC was then reimbursed a portion of the fees by the participating clubs except for \$189 for a flight change fee that happened at the last minute. The remaining balance will be reimbursed by the SFBCC's Basque Government grant. Lisa Corcostegui moved that NABO cover the fee, John Ysursa seconds. All in favor.

Jexux Larrea workshops - offered himself to teach workshops during his stay in the US. Gave the floor to Lisa Corcostegui to talk about the tour.

John told everyone that Jexux Larrea was in Bakersfield and so to please thank him for his efforts, if you run into him. Also thanked Lisa and Enrike Corcostegui for their part in it all.

Lisa said that all of Jexux's expenses were covered by the various clubs.

Valerie Arrechea moved to reimburse Lisa and Enrike \$1,000 for their efforts - seconded by JP Elissetche. All voted in favor except Lisa and Enrike Corcostegui voted against. So moved.

John Ysursa - Basque on social media commenting on EI report. He also commented on Diaspora Archive mentioned by Benan. Kudos to clubs who participated in dance a film tours. Talks about Bertsolari recognition.

{9:46 am COFFEE BREAK. Meeting resumed at 10:07am}

Euskara Report - Aitor thanks guests for being here. Today he would like to compare what we have and what we had before. Numbers are going up in many of the classes and he is happy about that. Some of the change in numbers are due to cases like Los Banos who will resume in the fall. Aitor celebrated his 10th anniversary teaching Euskara in San Francisco

Need to be happy for the exposure Basque is getting but need to continue to work hard. Be happy for our progress, but be aware that this is one of the main goals we have in the US and thanks to the Basque Government and work done by Kinku to keep Euskara instruction alive.

Explains different possibilities for learning Basque, online, *Aisa*, through Zoom and face-to-face classes. Will start with new teacher program in the fall, the chosen person changed her mind and so will begin with a new person in the fall in Bakersfield.

There are now two groups in DC, and numbers have increased thanks to more advertising etc. Samiñe says a few words. She feels Zoom is a great way to teach and reach people who otherwise would not have access to classes. She is nicely surprised because it is working very well. She is very proud too because students are motivated and are creating their own network in US and Canada via skype etc. to practice what they are



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learning, and she has a very good retention rate. She asks that everyone promote Zoom because it works very well. No more excuses.

Question for Samiñe, “When do courses start and what level are they,” Her response: They start in the fall and include higher levels as students advance.

Aitor will have a stand at festival this weekend. Take fliers to your club and let them know what they are doing. You can also refer to the NABO website and click on Euskera. There are now two teachers using Zoom so students have more of a choice, Samiñe and Esther.

Has been doing a lot of advertising, including success stories from different teachers/students. Mark Molina drives 4 hours each way for a 2-hour class in San Francisco. So he doesn't want to hear excuses. Published his story as well to promote Euskera. Another teacher wrote about her students' experiences on TV and that was published in Astero and Euskalkultura.com. Other articles published in the Basque Country in *El Diario*.

Trying to maintain what we have and keep the established classes going. Making an effort to create new classes in LA, Elko and Las Vegas - Anita taught for years in Elko but is now moving to Boise.

Visiting teaching program - started with 4 schools in California - Bakersfield, Los Banos, Chino and Fresno, Bakersfield is the only one with a positive result. They are trying to include a class at the university as well. They are would also be able to provide the required visa. Worth continuing with this effort even though, it has only worked in one place. May have to get funding from the Basque Country to make it easier on the Basque clubs. Will keep working on that.

Administrative stuff – putting together a 4-year plan hopefully by the World Congress. Hopes to get a lot of feedback from the teachers that is really helpful.

Talks about the continuous reading of a novel at the Arriaga - one of Aitor's students participated. Shared the clip of his student participating in this event. Wants to put faces on the people who are making everything happen, especially the teachers. They are doing a lot of work, and many have done some on their own for many, many years. Aitor's portion concludes

Martin takes the floor - Thanks everyone and shares where Euskera started in NABO, where it is now, and where he'd like to see it in the future. Started in 2000 and thanks to Bob the Euskara Committee was established, when Martin realized we needed to start preserving the language in the states. Have had Basque Government support from the beginning. His message to the delegates is that this is no longer about preserving Basque, because Basque is alive, *Bizirik dago*, it is alive. No excuses anymore because of the opportunities provided by technology. It began with Hezinet, and now we have other methods online and he thinks that will be our future. He believes in the technology and Kinku has told him that a new online program will be available this fall. If they can do it in the Basque Country, we can do it too. Thank you to everyone.



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Facilitator's Report – The 2019 Basque Government has been submitted for a total request of 50,000 Euros. Kate is currently working on justifying the 2018 grant.

Lisa has been occupied with Jexux and updating the website and Astero. If you have pictures of events please share those as well and she also reminded us that calendar photos can be submitted online.

Kantari Eguna – 2019 event will take place in Gardnerville, NV on August 10th hosted by the Mendiko Euskaldun Cluba.

History/Memoria Bizia

Pedro Oiarzabal begins. Thanks everyone for the opportunity to join in. First visit to Bakersfield was on the club's 60th anniversary. Excited to present new research project. This time related to Basques in WWII. Working on a large database in partnership with Memoria Bizia and Sancho de Beurko Association. In the Basque Country trying to ID as many men and women as possible who took part in WWII. Once the database is completed, they can analyze the generation from the 1940s. In 2016 partially completed 300 Basque men and women in NV alone. Probably over 1,000 Basques who took part in the war. They have about 50 from Kern County. Starting to have something tangible with the database and now the first book in Spanish on Basques in Nevada that will be translated into English as part of the larger research project. Developing different products to share what the project is about, including the teaser of the first documentary they are working on. The documentary is a historic reenactment. The first features the US Marine Corps, based on the stories of 6 real men who were in the Pacific. Three of these men have already passed away. Their hope is that the community can help them identify more individuals, including more materials, photos, etc. The National Archive has dedicated a researcher to help the project full time and there are another two in the Basque Country. This is a volunteer project and so they hope to be able to fund raise in the future. This project is a big part of our mission to preserve our history.

The project has different layers that get more complex as they progress. Once the database is complete it will facilitate many other things, including a book that is already under contract with a major publishing house in the US. Please share information about friends and relatives who may have been part of the war, and particularly women because they are having more trouble identifying them as they have taken their husbands' last names. Many took part as army nurses, pilots etc. They are going county by county but once they marry American names it makes it more difficult. Once identifying a name they are cross-referenced with other databases to try and determine if it is truly a Basque name or not. They have even found names whose families have disappeared completely. He continues to explain more about the process of putting together the database. Talks about the case of Ordoquiandy (sp?) who died in Okinawa in a drowning accident, and apparently has no more family.

He then presents the documentary. He will be in Bakersfield all weekend if anyone has any questions.



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Philippe asked, where was the teaser shot? - In an old mining quarry in the Basque Country. Hopes this documentary will be done 2020. They are very time consuming... They are very excited to see how many partners they can count on, and hope for more information from the US Basque community.

Gina asks about Basques in other conflicts - currently working on WWII and would like to know more about WWI but have a lot of work to do. They know that there are many Basques from other places that joined the US forces, from Puerto Rico etc. First focus is on the Marine Corps. And then will move to the other armed forces. Since it is a volunteer group, it is taking a lot of time. There are Basques in every Armed Forces including Merchant Marines that will now be recognized for their role in WWII. One of the men featured in this documentary was seriously injured and lost a leg, making him instrumental in the prosthetic industry. There are Basques who have been awarded silver and bronze stars. One of the highest ranks is General and families who started in WWII and continued to serve in Korea and Vietnam.

Patty Miller then takes the floor to update us on various club progress in regards to the oral history project. She reviews information included in her report.

She then talked about the *Inner Strength* book that features 100 women by the Basque Museum, including 22 from California. Realizes that this is not the end of this project, as there are still many other women in Nevada, Utah etc. that could be included. But, for now, she is very happy with the result of this book, including Basque immigrants and others born in the US. Talked about the opening of the exhibit in Boise attended by many women in their 90s, and many women that came from California. She then presents a copy of the book to Philippe since BEO also contributed to the project.

Also recently concluded project was the “Song of the Basque” production in Boise on its 70th anniversary. Huge production that John Ysursa was very involved in as well. Included 176 cast and crew from the ages of 2-95. The grandmother of the two year old was in the original production, and Ray Mansidor, who played in the pit band in 1949, wasn’t on stage, but did entertain in the theater’s lobby. Nice historical effort.

History of the Basques in the West that many people may have used from 1917-18. Worked with interns and were able to upload that book to their website. Doesn’t include California, but does include Basques from other areas. Originally published in Spanish, they have provided English translations with the photographs. They also tried to identify Basque women there as well.

Community History Project – Had a researcher over the winter months that looked at census records in Nevada and from that are trying to compile a master list names and hope to do video recordings with them. The videos are then being indexed and sent as part of the Memoria Bizia Project. She believes 50 such videos have been shared with UNR and Deusto.



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Basques in CA project – this has been in the works for a long time. Fortunately, much research has already been done for the Museum to review and compile. She thanks Asun Garikano for doing so much of the research and pushing the project forward. The project is divided into different sections, and she is currently working on the last section. Asun sends her work in Basque and then it is translated into English in Boise. Research on early Basques includes Basque governors, various missions and inland exploration. Section two includes research on Basque pioneers, early Basque towns, routes, drives and highways and sheepherders. California Wool Growers started in 1859 - Basques prominent in the CA Range Association now the Western Range Association. Boarding house research by Museum as well as including Jeri Echeverria and Nancy Zubiri's work. Working on folks who have worked in clubs to keep them going. Next section, the Present, includes clubs and festivals, Basques in modern California, Basque sites and name and ties with the homeland. Will be a website as well as part of the exhibit. Iñigo Medina worked with Jean Flesher to identify Basque places. Hope to make this interactive. Blast ? of places and faces presenting the impact Basques have had in CA. With faces and portraits as well and the impact they have made in this area. Would also like to include information on exchanges that have happened between California and the Basque Country, maybe Valerie could speak to that. Then Future Generations - Udaleku etc. in California, Music, dance, Mus.

Web content can be much more extensive but physical exhibit needs to be more condensed but hope to also direct them to the website to learn more. Hoping to locate artifacts, either by loan or donations, from families. Also some audio/visual content as well. Hoping website would be at least be in three languages, but maybe also in French. As what happened with *Inner Strength* that is in four languages. Project would be in three languages sorted by time period and visuals would also mirror the graphics that are used in the exhibit.

The exhibit will open at World Congress and will be at the Euskal Museoa Museum in Bilbao, on the second floor in the exterior part. Will be in Euskara and Spanish and hoping to include English. The intent is to have an exhibit for the Basque Country, and then have another one here. Working with the design firm recommended by the Basque Government, choosing materials and hardware. Explains more of what it may look like. Maybe sandwiched between two videos. Provides the timeline for the project. Will be in California between January and June, and then at Jaialdi in July, then could travel to other venues after that. the Museum will dedicate one gallery to the Basques in California and use the other to feature Basques in other states. Asks for California delegates to meet after the meeting to talk about project. Will appreciate any help that can be provided.

Question, the website isn't up yet? No it's not up yet. Annie interjects that it is up but it is still missing pieces. You can still see most of it in Euskera and English.

Patty recommends that you wait to take a look at it. Aitor Iñarra volunteered his help with the project.

Mus



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There is good news in that 642 teams participated in Mus tournaments. Last year there were fewer and so numbers are increasing, so that is great news, especially since the older generation is no longer participating. NABO 2019 Mus Tournament is next Saturday, June 1, 2019, in Winnemucca, and all of the players have been provided the program. The tournament is being held in Winnemucca because last year's winners were from Santa Rosa Basque Club and they decided to hold the event there. Registration begins at 7am and play by 8am – Forty-five teams that qualified for the finals, and the winner will represent NABO in Bayonne in October.

The Jr. Mus tournament isn't doing as well, Pierrot asks Gina to comment.

Jr. Mus Tournament report Gina the Jr. Mus tournament was cancelled again because even though clubs are holding Jr. Mus Tournament locally, they can't travel to convention. Last year tried to go back to the region idea and it didn't work out very well. Some clubs agreed to try it, but regions just made it harder. Even if they had not gone forward with the region idea, there were only 2 teams at convention in Bakersfield. Bakersfield will host a Jr. Mus tournament tomorrow, alongside the adult tournament. With what Pierre said about numbers going down, club really have to promote Mus, and maybe reach out to kids that maybe aren't involved in the dance groups. Maybe let kids play in adult tournaments? She recommends forgetting about a NABO Jr. Mus tournament at convention, and just focus on tournaments in your clubs.

Marianna Etcheverria recommends not doing away with the tournament because it serves as incentive for some kids.

JP Etchechury suggests just making it an open invitation tournament for the youth.

Gina likes that idea, and they did that originally, but went away from that to encourage tournaments and play at the club level.

Why not do it at Udaleku but also limited due to age groups?

Valerie says Udaleku is limited to 15 year olds and this would be above and beyond Udaleku to encourage more participation.

Pierre again emphasized the need for a person appointed as a Mus chair in each club to be in charge of Jr. Mus. Gina says that they already do have such a person. Pierre feels that it needs to start at the club level, then the regional could happen. It should be the club's responsibility. He sees the decrease in participation at the International Mus level as well, since many countries are not teaching their youth. France is doing well.

Gina disagreed with the Regional tournament but she is not a chairperson. She is appointed by Pierre as the face of Jr. Mus.



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Marianna says do away with regional because they can't even make it to local tournaments. Recommends doing away with regional idea.

Gina thinks the only clubs that had a Jr. tournament were Seattle, Buffalo, and Chino. San Francisco also had one but it was more about teaching them Mus. Gina's point is that out of 40 clubs only 3 or 4 actually held tournaments. She thinks that the issue is just clubs not working on it.

Marianna Gariador: Why couldn't clubs that do participate send more than one team to a tournament to encourage participation? Instead of five teams, could result in 10 if you allowed first and second place to complete.

Pierre explained that adult participation also started slowly, but eventually has grown to over 600 participants. Clubs have to assign someone to be in charge.

Valerie explains it can be both, it doesn't just have to be a local, or regional tournament. The idea behind the regional tournaments. Regions were created to facilitate dealing with fewer clubs at a time, instead of the entire organization. It is also good to get the kids together more often. Obviously easier in California than in Wyoming and Idaho, but that was the idea. We are promoting Mus but more interaction between the kids is really what we are after.

Pierre concludes Jr. Mus with asking every club to go back and appoint a Mus chair, bringing these names to the next meeting.

Next year's NABO Mus tournament will be on June 20th, as decided previously to be held on the day before Father's Day. That will be the date from now on.

Back to International Mus – there are problems. Last year there was no Canada or Australia, it is getting smaller and smaller. So they decided to add more directors and Pierre will now serve as the director for Canada USA, and Australia. Belgium has now joined with Brussels Basque Club. Vancouver is going backwards and he attributes that to lack of youth involvement.

Pierre likes the idea of using Mus as a fundraiser, or as a kickoff for picnics. It brings more people to the events and a great idea for smaller clubs too.

That is it for his report unless there are other questions or comments.

Jean F. agrees with not cancelling the NABO tournament so that if clubs send teams, they still have the chance to participate, and as not to discourage the kids who have won and expect to move on to the NABO tournament.



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Have trophies ready etc and whoever comes wins. If we continue to cancel and accommodate everyone, the original kids involved will become discouraged and drop out.

Maybe a money award would entice players? Pierre – no money at any NABO Mus Tournaments at any level.

Will there be a Jr. Mus Tournament next year? Pierre says yes. Gina said would have to discuss when and where. Next year's convention is in New England and so maybe have to look for another venue.

Marianna – why not have it at convention, and if they don't show up so be it.

Pierre – can we go back to regional tournaments?

Jean F. people don't want to have to travel twice.

Annie why are we doing regionals if the adults don't do it? Not sure if it is an issue of space and time in New England? Maybe have individual club tournaments then get away from regionals where traveling isn't an issue.

Pierre says he has seen the same with Udaleku. When it began it was always in the same place, and now it travels through the regions, and so he hopes regions could work for Mus as well.

Gina - We will have a Jr. Mus tournament at convention, if no one shows up that's ok. Some have thought that the expense of travel is the issue, but this really hasn't been the problem to date. There has just always been other time conflicts.

More discussion that is inaudible –

Valerie – it was originally combined at convention because it was assumed that dancers were the main Mus players.

Lisa says why not virtual Mus?

Gina has played online with people all over the world.

Lisa – not ideal but why not? If you cancel a tournament, it may be an alternative.

Pierre is missing Las Vegas and Colorado at the national tournament.

Annie, on behalf of Santa Rosa Basque Club talks about 2019 NABO Mus Tournament - Sad that it can't be held in Paradise, but convenience and space works out better to have it in Winnemucca. Registration at 7am, play begin at 8am with a nice lunch. They have gifts for all players. They are not hosting a dinner, but are encouraging people to make reservations at local restaurants. Mercedes Mendive will be playing at Bakarra that



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used to be Ormacheas as the after party. This information will be sent to Pierre to share with the players, but please share it with your players as well. The tournament at the Winnemucca Convention Center.

Let Pierre know about any changes in players etc.

BREAK FOR LUNCH - noon reconvene 1-1:30. Meeting reconvenes at 2:48pm

Pilota - refer to report - Tony Huarte excused will arrive this afternoon. Philippe asks that everyone thank Tony for stepping up and helping organize the NABO Pilota Tournaments.

Txerriki contest - Valerie provides updates on contest that will be on Saturday at 3pm. Meet at 2:30pm near the BBQ area, and judging will be at 3pm. Already have quite a few people who are interested. Great event with a bunch of people who love to cook, so please join us.

Udaleku Report - refer to report. Begins on June 16th through June 28th in San Francisco there are 112 children representing 14 different clubs the breakdown of which is provided in the report. She will provide a list of attendees to each club, so clubs are aware of who is participating. The SFBC who are members who live in the Basque Country and this year there will be 7 participants from there, including Jacques Unhassobiscay's grandchildren. A lot of American-born teachers, as well as others from the Basque Country. Aides from Rocklin, Susanville and locals. Camp topics and classes provided in the report. Please let kids know that there will be no electronics during camp. Phones collected at 9am and returned before dinner about 6pm.

Explains what the Comet Line was during World War II that will also be presented to the kids at Udaleku.

Udaleku 2020 will be in SLC from June 21st-July 3rd at the same location as the last one. Jexux will do dancing.

Fee to cover PayPal fee has made a big difference in being able to cover the tuition in full.

2021 will be take place in Bakersfield.

Philippe reminds us that there is a film called *The Last Passage* about the Comet Line that is in NABO's Filmateria for anyone interested in learning more.

Old Business -

Resume discussion about upping the Mus dues to \$20 per player. Mus broke even last year, by charging \$10 per person, and this year going to France will be similar and Uruguay should be similar. Have not upped Mus dues for years. Every time we host International Mus it comes to \$60-\$70,000 and so looking ahead he is suggesting



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the dues be raised from \$10 to \$20 per person. This isn't an issue currently, but they need to be raised in order to build the cushion necessary for future activities. Jean F. moves to raise it to \$20 per person since they haven't been increased in 40 years; JP Elissetche seconds, starting in 2020.

Enrike feels it is a pretty extreme increase, and suggests \$15 would be a better amount. Pierre feels it is easier to give change back from a \$20. Enrike explains as a non-Mus player that it is not only the dues, but also the dues at the club you are playing in plus each club's Mus fee. He feels \$15 is a better compromise.

JP Elissetche has discussed with other Mus players and doesn't feel that most players have a problem with that.

Pierre insists that \$75,000 is necessary to host international Mus.

Marisa Espinal (?) reminds the group that as many players play multiple tournaments, you are changing the same individual \$10 multiple times.

Much discussion ensues. Annie G asks if international Mus could be more affordable.

Valerie responds – you have to put up 100 people for 10 days. She said as many corners were cut as possible and so very difficult to make it cheaper for NABO. She also lets us know that International Mus requires a lot of money that has to be fronted for deposits etc. so we have to have reserves.

International Mus doesn't have any funding for these tournaments. Pierre fears that if we don't do it, very few countries will be able to host the event. It also serves as an incentive for local players to play in the NABO level so they can participate in the next level.

Marianna E. says \$10 isn't much but it is a hard sell since NABO has just invested \$100,000. She says that Chino will not charge more at their tournament until there is a need.

Gina said that when taking this back to the clubs it was communicated that raising the dues was not favorable.

Mike Aguerre said that when International Mus took place in Chino, it was done for a lot less than \$75,000 since surrounding clubs donated to the event.

Jean Flesher asks how much were hotel rooms in 2008 in Chino? Inflation from 2008 till now is incredible.

Sonia suggests yearly membership dues. Also suggested to have a Mus membership as Pala dues?

John Ysursa suggests taking it back to the clubs.

Pierre said they have already been approached.

Motion: to increase Mus dues from \$10 to \$20 beginning in 2020.



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18 in favor - opposed = 25 against - motion fails.

Philippe proposes providing some projections at the next meeting of costs of hosting international Mus and where we will be if we don't raise the dues, and where we would be if we do.

New Business – 34:00

NABO Bertsolari Special Tribute - Frantxo Bidaurreta proposed honoring bertsolaris for all their years of performances and participation in club events. He would like to recognize that on the NABO level. Philippe has discussed this with the BEO, SFBC and SFO club all are in support of event, and have agreed to sponsor this NABO event. The idea is to bring two bertsolaris from the Basque Country to do a full-blown bertsolari performance, followed by dinner and the recognition of the "local" bertsolaris contributions. The event would be on March 14, 2020 at the SFBC. Philippe is requesting delegate approval of the event. Most expenses would be covered by the aforementioned organizations but he would also like to request a potential budget from NABO not to exceed \$1,000 to help out if needed. JP Elissetche moved and Annie seconded.

Comments – Kate suggested maybe getting in touch with the CBS since it is also hosting a Bertsolari conference in the spring.

Motion passed – all in favor

Philippe reports on inactive members - Miami and New Mexico will now be inactive. He reviewed the by-laws to make sure we were dealing with these clubs in the right way and determined that there are gaps in the by-laws in terms of that process. Philippe will huddle with Mayi and see if they can come up with some recommendations for the next meeting. For example, the by-laws don't include language to determine when a club falls out of good standing. It is referenced, but does not include the conditions required for that to occur.

Proxies – Mike Aguerre requested that this be included on the agenda due to concern about number of proxies held by individuals at any time.

Mike – When looking back at the minutes, it seems like some people have up to 18 votes, and it seems like proxies are out of control sometimes. He feels that at the least, the proxy should be a member of the club they are representing, because that is not always the case.

Jean Flesher – Not sure what the solution is, but he feels that it is kind of ridiculous that people have 14-18 votes not really knowing how they should vote. Not sure what the legality of it is, but doesn't make sense to have so many members that just don't care enough to send representation to meetings. Not sure either if proxies have enough knowledge or are given direction before the meetings.



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Philippe asks for more input

Valerie - I have in the past held multiple proxies, and usually for clubs that I am either member of, or have a close working relationship with. I've been told how to vote in most instances. Being a proxy also includes the responsibility of reporting back to the club about what happened at the meeting, you are also expected to have a response to those clubs. Hopefully all proxy holders do so in a responsible way.

Pierre – I would also like to add that many delegates are responsible for all expenses to attend the meetings, and many people can't afford to attend meetings. So what is the solution?

Jean – Salt Lake has always sent a delegate and feels that it is important enough to attend. So why isn't it important to all clubs? Jean also feels that it is the responsibility of the club to pay for delegate expenses. Salt Lake has always done so.

Philippe – please try not to get into one on one discussions.

Kate – How many members do you have that pay dues, but otherwise don't show up. The same with NABO, why be part of an organization if you are not going to participate? If you can't be an active member of NABO and attend at least one meeting a year, maybe we start talking about degrees of membership. Maybe there should be consequences attached to not attending meetings. Everyone reaps the benefits of this organization, and so if you don't attend maybe you don't get to come to Mus, or Udaleku. Just like in our Basque clubs, it is always on the back of five people. She feels like we should really start talking about that.

Jean – Doesn't feel that they should be kicked out of NABO activities, simply just don't let them have a vote. Let them participate, but don't let them have a voice in decisions made. Uses Denver as an example. If it is important enough to be a voting member, then you should come and vote.

Anne Marie? Maybe nonattendance is due to extenuating circumstances, but probably not three times a year. So maybe limit the number of proxies one person can hold.

Kate suggests putting together a special committee to look at this point.

Benan would like to comment – reminds us of the register that the Basque Government has, and includes consequences for inactive clubs, or those that have not registered. They currently have a list of 182 clubs but no politician wants it to be reduced. He could provide us the conditions of maintaining status on that list if we'd like if that is helpful, or as an example of obligations that are not being fulfilled.

Philippe- are delegates interested in a special committee to look into this? If so, we'll need a motion.

Jean moves to create a special committee = Jean Pierre Etchechury seconds.



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Jean asks if Frank would be involved? Valerie – feel it falls under by-laws.

Philippe says we should form the committee and then see if Frank can be part of it.

Valerie, is this to assess quorum or proxies, Philippe says they go hand in hand.

Valerie says yes and not. Quorum is one thing, how many clubs need to be present to carry out business, and proxy is another, can you give your vote to someone else. According to current bylaws, both are included in separate by-laws.

Philippe – they are related because we achieve Quorum through proxies. If we change proxies, also need to take a look at quorum.

Jean amends motion to look into Quorum and Proxies with some legal counsel.

Marisa, could we reach out to some of these clubs to see what it would take to get more involvement from them. Philippe, yes we can email all the clubs.

Valerie – how are we defining an inactive club? Those that don't come to a meeting? Some clubs participate in other things but can't attend meetings, so maybe shouldn't be considered inactive?

All in favor of the committee – all in favor.

Jean F. recommends Frank Yraguen to be part of this committee. Valerie suggests that the by-law committee take a look at this and if there are other members who would also like to be part of the discussion, they are also welcome.

Jean moves same by-law committee address this question. Pierre E. seconds – Philippe asks for other who may want to be involved - Mike Aguerre would like to become part of the committee, John Y will also join. Tyler Smith would also like to join. All in favor.

Valerie – Reports on Baztandarren Biltzarra 41 dancers from California, and 10 Musicians from the Basque Country and the US along with 93 people joining for lunch on July 21st in Elizondo. In all 145 people are part of the Kaliforniako Euskaldunak. Everyone going is paying his or her own way. Everyone is going with his or her family. Open invitation to join them. Morning parade.

World congress elections – Has been discussed at the last two meetings and nominees were requested earlier in the year. Deadline was May 6th. Call for Gaztemundu applications also happened at the same time and we have



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had some Americans apply for that program as well. By May 6th we had received 3 nominations from Annie Gavica, Argia Beristain and May Petracek.

Gina question – do we know if any have already attended?

Philippe - Annie had attended before and Lisa attended the congress in 2007.

Philippe continues, the Basque Government then contacted him because Annie was selected for Gaztemundu and so we had a vacancy and so nominations were reopened, that is when Jean and Lisa sent their nominations along with New York Basque Club's president, Iñaki Bakedano. Argia couldn't attend today but wanted to address the delegates with a video that was then shown.

Ballots were distributed and the results of the first vote were that Jean and Lisa were chosen with Argia and Mayi tied. There was a second vote then between Mayi and Argia with Argia being chosen as the delegate.

Philippe thanks everyone for stepping up and taking time away from their jobs, and families to prepare and then attend the event.

Annual NABO election for President and Treasurer as the vice-president is the last NABO president and the secretary is appointed. There were only two nominations received, those of Philippe and Mayi. Bob moves that we approve them both into office. Second by Jean Flesher - all in favor.

Philippe thanks everyone and expresses that Mayi also enjoys serving them. Philippe says it is an honor to be our chair and concludes with Mila esker!

Next meeting in Mountain Home Sunday October 12th may include a trip to Trailing of the Sheep on that Sunday. Awaiting more information from them.

Requests for future meetings: Jean would like to offer Salt Lake City for winter 2021 if nobody else would like it. Mark Erreca seconded. All in favor.

Bob moves to adjourn the meeting seconded by Jean Pierre Etchechury - all in favor meeting adjourned at 4:35pm