



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Fall Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Homedale, Idaho

November 5, 2022

The meeting began at 10am with Philippe welcoming everyone and thanking the Txoko Ona and the Ontario Basque Clubs for hosting us. He then introduced Txoko Ona President, John Lejardi, who welcomed us and let us know that even though they had hosted other NABO events, namely international Mus, but they had yet to host a NABO meeting there. He explained that they are very proud of their clubhouse. The club started in 2000 and by 2005-2006 they had built a building which has expanded over the last few years. Their club membership is 300 but not many live in the area. John was hoping that club vice-president, Laurie Aguerre, would join us for lunch, along with other board members. He explained that the bar runs on donations and gave us a run-down of the day's schedule.

Philippe then expressed our condolences to the Izoco family on Jean Pierre's passing. Anita Izoco has served as the Mendiko Euskaldun Cluba delegates for many years.

ROLL CALL

NABO Officers

President – Philippe Acheritogaray

Vice-President – Annie Gavica

Treasurer – Mayi Petracek

Secretary – Kate Camino

NABO Administrators

Euskara Coordinator – Sonia Castañon

Facilitator – Kate Camino

Webmaster – Lisa Corcostegui

Program Directors & Committee Chairpersons

Finance Committee – Mayi Petracek

Investment Committee – Mayi Petracek

Calendars – Mary Lou Urrutia - excused

Education – John Ysursa

Euskara – Ziortza Gandarias

Mus – Pierre Etcharren

Pilota – Tony Huarte

Txerriki Contest Organizer – Valerie Arrechea



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Udaleku – Valerie Arrechea & Kate Camino

Euskal Kantari Eguna – Anita Izoco & Noel Goyhenetche

Board of Directors (delegates) Representing 42 NABO Member Organizations

British Columbia

Zazpiak Bat: Vancouver Elena Sommer Elena Sommer proxy

Quebec

Euskaldunak: Quebec Noël Fagoaga Noël Fagoaga proxy

California

Bakersfield

Kern County Basque Club Louis Iturriria Maria Toretta

Chino

Chino Basque Club Marianna Etcheverria Marianna Etcheverria proxy

Fresno

Fresno Basque Club Jean Pierre Etchechury Jean Pierre Etchechury proxy

Los Angeles

Oberena Pello Urrutia Pello Urrutia proxy

Los Banos

Los Banos Basque Club Christopher Bengochea Christopher Bengochea proxy

Marin-Sonoma

Marin-Sonoma

Basque Association Valerie Arrechea Pierre Etcharren

Ontario

Southern California

Basque Club

Mike Aguerre

Mike Aguerre proxy

Rocklin



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Iparreko Ibarra/Northern Valley Basque Club	Michael Uro	Michael Uro proxy
San Francisco Anaitasuna Basque Club	Marisa Espinal	Maris Espinal proxy
San Francisco Basque Club	Valerie Arrechea	Valerie Arrechea proxy
Basque Educational Organization	Marisa Espinal	Danielle Camou proxy
San Francisco Basque Cultural Center	Valerie Arrechea	Pierre Etcharren
Susanville Susanville Eskualdun Inc.	Dominica Zubillaga	Dominica Zubillaga proxy
Ventura County Ventura County Basque Club	Pello Urrutia	Pello Urrutia proxy
Colorado Denver Euskal Etxea	Mayi Petracek	Jone Brunelle
Saint Pierre et Miquelon Euskal Etxea SPM	Absent	
Idaho Boise Basque Museum & Cultural Center	Annie Gavica	Cindy Shaffeld
Basque Studies at Boise State University	John Ysursa	Nere Lete
Cenarrusa Foundation	Gloria Totoricagüena	Gloria Totoricagüena proxy



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Euzkaldunak: Boise Basque Center	Argia Beristain	Ricardo Yanci
Oinkari Basque Dancers	Alex Wray	Jaclyn Lasuen
Gooding Gooding Basque Association	Absent	
Homedale Txoko Ona Basque Club	Gloria Lejardi	John Lejardi
Mountain Home Euskal Lagunak	Goisalde Jausoro	Goisalde Jausoro proxy
Nevada		
Battle Mountain Battle Mountain Oberenak	Absent	
Elko Elko Euzkaldunak Club	Bob Echeverria	Mercedes Mendive
Gardnerville Mendiko Euskaldun Cluba	Teresa Cox	Teresa Cox proxy
Las Vegas Lagun Onak	Argia Beristain	Argia Beristain proxy
Paradise Valley Santa Rosa Basque Club	Susan Gavica	Tyler Smith
Reno Center for Basque Studies	Kate Camino	Kate Camino proxy
Zazpiak Bat Reno Basque Club	Enrike Corcostegui	Enrike Corcostegui proxy



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Winnemucca

Euskaldunak Danak Bat Absent

New York

Euzko Etxea Elisa Ancona Elisa Ancona proxy

Oregon

Ontario, Oregon Basque Club Frank Yraguen Lisa Corcostegui

Rhode Island

Portsmouth
New England Basque Club Absent

Utah

Basque Club of Utah Sonia Castañon Jean Flesher

District of Columbia

Washington D.C.
Euskal Etxea Absent

Washington

Seattle Euskal Etxea Absent

Wyoming

Alkartasuna Basque Club Martin Goicoechea Mikaela Goicoechea

Big Horn Basque Club Mick Camino Mick Camino proxy

Clubs not attending – Euskal Etxea SPM, Gooding Basque Association, Battle Mountain Basque Club, Winnemucca Basque Club, New England Basque Club, Washington DC Euskal Etxea, Seattle Euskal Etxea

Basque Government Representatives in attendance– Benan Oregi from the Basque Government's Directorate for the Basque Community Abroad



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Guests – Iñaki Arrieta, Jon Bilbao Basque Library

Quorum - 35 out of 42 attending, simple majority is 36 or 72 delegates, and 2/3s is 48.

Philippe asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the New London Meeting. Mayi made the motion with Bob Echeverria seconding – Approves unanimously.

Basque Government - Benan Oregi presented the Basque Government report as Gorka was not able to attend. Benan provided an update on their programs. He told us that the 2022 grants were delayed because they are adding more money to this year's budget. They are adding another 150,000 Euros to the budget. We should expect to learn the award amounts soon, and we should expect to receive the first 25% of the grant by month's end. Gaztemundu 2022 will have 20 participants from six different countries, including one American – Jean Jules Flesher from Salt Lake City.

Diasporaren Eguna – this year it was held in Donibane and was a huge success that got a lot of coverage on social media and on TV. They have received many messages letting them know that they are going in the right direction working with Iparralde and the Diaspora. Next year they would like to include NABO's Anniversary and the Oñati student exchange program so it will be held in Oñati.

The 8th Congress of Basque Communities Abroad will probably be held. The doubt come from the fact that the current law is being modified. It will go to Parliament early in the year to be discussed, but they still don't know the outcome of their proposal. They expect, as last time in 1994, most parties will support the new law. They are expecting that each party will want to make their own amendments to it, and so it will be an interesting year regarding the main regulation that serves as an umbrella for all their programs. Everyone is pleased with what has been achieved thus far. They hope to go even farther, and they feel that it is a positive process for us all.

The balance of the 2022 grants will be received in 2023.

Spain has opened the door to allow more people to attain the Spanish Citizenship, but this may not apply to many people.

Gloria T. asks if there are any updates on the Han Hemen project?



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Benan, said he doesn't have much to say about that. Original network was very difficult to get enrolled in. It was meant for individuals who are not part of Basque clubs. Only 1,000 people joined, most of those from the Basque Country so didn't enrich the objective. They tried to do it differently so Han Hemen is different now. They contracted a company to create the network. As he is not directly involved in this program, he's not sure on its progress.

Treasurer/Finance/Investment Committee Report

Mayi begins by making a correction to the Treasurer Report that was submitted. She let's us know that she originally reported that International Mus had not lost any money, but she has now received expense from Boise Euzkaldunak, which will result in roughly a \$35,000 loss for International Mus this year. She will review all income and expenses to verify everything. She also highlighted that monies received from the Basque Government grant are really important to our finances, and as we have yet to receive any funds for 2022, so she's hoping this will help some of our losses. She wants everyone to keep in mind that we may have to raise club membership dues. They have been the same since she became Treasurer, and if it were increased by \$10 it would mean an additional \$420, however if member dues went from \$1 to \$2 then that would mean an additional \$6,000 which would help a lot towards salaries. She realizes that the investment account was created to eventually offset salaries, but we are no where close to that yet. She will provide more detailed reports in January that will show how we are doing by program. This will also help program chairs to determine membership dues for those.

In October the cash balance did increase, but we are still owing Euzkaldunak about \$11,000.00. The general checking is now at the lowest balance ever of \$3,553.00. Since Euskara Checking has \$80,000 Philippe has given her permission to transfer \$14,400, or the amount of the Euskara Coordinator Salary from there to the general checking. Then beginning in 2023 and going forward, the Euskara Coordinator Salary would come out of the Euskara checking account, not out of general checking. That will help balance the different account balances.

Philippe – in 2021 we didn't apply for a grant due to COVID and so we have not received any funds from that.

Bob asks about sales of merchandise in case it was from the Amerikanuak book.

Mayi – we have received some income from the Elko Museum but not much anymore.



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Bob will visit the Elko Museum to see what the status is.

Philippe asks for a motion to approve the Treasurer's report: Lisa moves to approve the treasurer's report – Bob seconds – all in favor – motion carries.

Revolving Loan Program – Philippe asks Mayi if she feels it should be maintained. Mayi reports that it has only been used once by New England Basque Club. There are no loans outstanding, and Mayi feels we should keep it going. Lisa will now make sure that emails regarding that program will now go to Mayi instead of Steve Achabal.

PROGRAM/COMMITTEE REPORTS – please refer to committee reports

Euskara – Sonia and Ziortza – They have been working on maintaining students and teachers, they are trying to build teacher engagement, and propose incentives to avoid teacher burn out. They would like to offer Barnategis to professionalize the teachers and provide them tools and resources. This hasn't been done since Sonia has been the coordinator because of COVID, but also due to the low number of teachers. Hard to get them excited about a Barnategi. A special Euskara Committee meeting was held to talk about student engagement, as well as to decide to match Boise's prices for a 12-week course with members getting a discount. This will include teachers' compensation being raised to \$1,000 per teacher per class, partly through increased tuition.

Enrollment began the first part of September and classes started at the end of September. They thank clubs for sharing enrollment on their Facebook. They got 107 responses after a 2-week push, Majority of these students are using the self-guided HABA platform. See pie chart in her report. Sonia has also been trying to contact the 58 folks that fell off because many emails were going to spam.

According to the breakdown of what was sent to Etxepare – The Basque Museum has the majority of the students. Madalen Bieter got one class and Gloria Lejardi is teaching 2 in Homedale. Going forward, a new 12-week course will begin in January. Enrollment starts next week. They hope to grow the offering and get more students and maybe teachers too.

Ziortza – stated that she would have liked to have known about the money transfer, the \$14,400 transferred from Euskara to the General Checking, as to not be caught off guard by it. She would also like to know if that amount will be reimbursed to Euskara.



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In regards to Euskara classes, they have been working on Euskalaldia to promote use of Euskara. Etxepare has sent materials as part of that activity. This year, NABO will not get the whole amount of money because of lack of classes. They requested \$13,000 but only used \$4,000 and so have to return \$3,000. Next semester, they will have a much more accurate idea of hours, students and teachers. They must be more organized and follow-up on student progress and reports sent to Etxepare.

They created a Euskara Handbook, so all are on the same page. Ziortza asks if anyone would like to join the Euskara committee, or rotate off. Current members are Ziortza, Mayi, Valerie, Kate, Goisalde and Philippe – interested Edurne, Esther C and Gloria Lejardi. Philippe reminds us that per the bylaws we have to approve new appointments. Mayi moves to approve new members – Marisa seconds. All in favor – passes unanimously.

Mayi – will Etxepare send us an invoice to return the monies? Ziortza believes so. Mayi also clarifies that the \$14,400 will not be reimbursed, but future grant monies will go into the Euskara account where the salary will now be paid from.

Todor – Zer ikusi hori ikasi – There are many opportunities to learn Basque in our NABO program. He feels that it needs to be more present in our lives and hard to motivate kids to learn if they never hear it...Euskara needs to be everyone's responsibility.

Alex Wray – During COVID large expansion of classes. Edurne – majority of students still on line. The huge drop in student numbers is probably due to going back to more activities? Sonia – most responses are they don't have time for it any longer.

Marisa – I tried to take Basque, but she hates Zoom. Part of the motivation is the social component of in person classes in her opinion.

Alex – room for both.

Gloria – Zoom was hard but enjoying being in person. Students can attend on Zoom, but she's not teaching on Zoom.

Edurne – most students still want zoom classes and they have gotten great feedback from students all over. Great feedback from conversation classes where native speakers also participate.



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Chris – Difficult to get word out about education at all, and also Euskara. Continuously harping on them about spreading the word. It is everybody, language has to be with dance, Mus it is very very important. Our job is to continue to talk to the membership and fight for it.

Pilota – Tony Huarte – Excited to share all the events since our last meeting, as well as upcoming events. Women handball players could not travel this August, but are still working on including women players. This was the first time in a while that they had Jai-Alai with local players. Also had handball with players from Chino, San Francisco and Bakersfield.

Special thanks to Denis Petrissans for all of his work on organizing the event in Chino. Great day at the Aphessetche Trinketa. Special event in Grand Junction Colorado with special thanks to Mayi and Jone. It was a fantastic day at the park in Grand Junction There were several reporters and photographers. Tony shares pictures of the court and picnic. World Championships ended in Biarritz last Saturday – Team USA was well represented. A more detailed report on that will be available soon.

Pan-American tournament –at the last minute the PanAm Games reached out to us to see if we had any players. We will have a player representing the US – Maite Kvarna. If anyone is interested in Pilota – please have them reach out to us. Great opportunity to travel.

NABO Finals – November 19th in Boise – women and men and maybe youth paleta games. Would like to encourage folks in the area to support the event, games and the Oinakari Sagardotegi event.

Thank you to Todor for helping out organizing this event.

Todor – very happy to host the event at the fronton. There will be a game every hour from 9am-4pm and will conclude with a handball game – Todor also shared that Tony came in 4th at Worlds

Mayi – Wants to thank Tony again for all of his efforts to bring pilota to Grand Junction. Great coverage in the paper and locals were very appreciative to gather and celebrate the Basque heritage. T-shirts are \$20 if anyone would like one. Thanks again Tony!

Bob – thanks Tony for getting youth handball going in Elko.



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Susan G. – Do they play handball in Grand Junction?

Mayi – it is in pretty good shape and some play with just a rubber ball.

Benan would like a copy of the newspaper for the archive.

Alex – are there other frontons that we could visit and bring attention to.

Tony is thinking about Jordan Valley and is hoping to hold an event there next year.

Looking to reach out to area clubs for support. There is another court in La Puente – he hopes to visit these frontons.

Benan – was in Saint Pierre et Miquelon where the oldest pilota court is, built in 1906. They are going to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their association. Benan would like it if NABO pilota would reach out to them and offer players. They have spent 200,000 Euros in refurbishing the fronton.

Tony – yes, another exciting problem to have.

Philippe – Noel has a boat

Gloria L – if you need a contact in Jordan Valley, Homedale can provide that to Tony.

Coffee Break – 11:48 resume

Philippe shares the story of the gavel getting taken away at SFO, and Valerie explains same happened to Pierrot so they started taking it apart.

Finance – Investment Report – Returns are keeping in line with our goal, and performing a little better than our benchmark. Had decreased \$24,868 but not lost. Shares an article about the stock market. Historically markets going up are more common than down years. Markets are cyclical. The Finance committee meets every quarter to review strategy and position with financial advisors. We are on the right course just have to hang in there. Lisa moves and Chris seconded to approve the finance report – passes unanimously.

Calendar – Mary Lou not here but 2023 calendars are with the NABO 50th anniversary prominently feature. There was some expectation that calendars would be ready for International Mus but they were not.

Valerie – if we want the calendar to be something that represents NABO, we need to be taking this more seriously. We put the whole burden on Mary Lou, but that is not fair. We



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need to participate gathering photos, inputting dates etc. It is enough work for 2-3 people annually to get this done more efficiently and easier.

Tyler – any thought of breaking it up by region as mus? That is his suggestion because it works very well.

Philippe – if anyone is interested to help out, contact Philippe and he will let Mary Lou know.

Valerie volunteers and has helped a lot over the years. When it goes out it is a snap shot of our lives. If it is important, we need to act like it is.

Valerie – Using a Google doc may facilitate submitting and inputting dates. Just saying every 3rd Tuesday isn't enough. If your club does not appear, folks are mad. If there is no effort, there will not be any assumptions. Also, your club finals are not the NABO club finals – one NABO Mus tournament – qualifying tournaments now appear as club tournaments. More hands make the work lighter and more efficient.

Lisa – Along with that, the Google calendar online requires clubs to request access so she can include dates on the online calendar.

Gloria – is she getting a good assortment of pictures?

Philippe - she said she had a good response this year for pictures.

Valerie – how many calendars were sold in 2022 – 799 out of 900.

Alisa – Where are those calendars sold? In New York City, they do not sell as many there.

Philippe – each club sells them at their events.

Valerie – Bay area purchases and sells 200 a year.

Mayi – sales are spread out, East Coast clubs do not usually participate

Alisa – could we do it digitally?

Lisa – it does exist online

Mayi – calendars can be used as a fundraiser

Pierrot – when clubs submit dates and pictures, place their orders at the same time. Mary Curutchet sells all of the calendars in San Francisco.



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Education – Zer ikusi, zer ikasi – Will present an event in Colorado in January, so if interested please reach out. If anyone has an initiative regarding education, please let John know and he is ready to help you in any way he can.

John is also looking for anyone wanting to take the point if any initiatives are out there.

Jean – please use the Basques in California exhibit at events. Especially at California clubs.

Edurne – a lot of educational content on the Museum website.

John – scholarship opportunities at UNR and BSU.

Edurne – UNR also has a PH.D.

Nere – to expand on what John said – There are four scholarships right now at BSU, one is substantial with certain criteria.

Facilitator's Report - Kate's main activity has been Astero since the New Londong meeting.

Lisa – added the Bertso page, if your calendar person has changed please let her know.

Euskal Kantari Eguna – Mike Uro – around 300 people attended the Besta in Rocklin and they also had a wonderful turnout for Kantari.

Lisa – please send photos from that day to update the website

Philippe – thanks Rocklin for hosting this year's Kantari

Todor – Kantari was a great opportunity, and there were 4 bertsoaris there who are ready to participate at any of your events.

Mus – Main event international Mus October 8-15th sponsored by Boise Euzkaldunak. The last event was held in France in 2019 and no other country could hold it but us, and so we decided to hold it here. In the end 8 countries participated One team from each country plus last year's winners from Canada, and 2 teams from the US as the hosting country. They put together a daily program with 68 people attending. In all 75 individuals including organizers touring around the valley. Pierre goes through the daily events and tours.

Cost to the players were kept the same that Uruguay had set, or \$2,100 for two players and a delegate, then each hosting country decides how much to charge each guest. Uruguay set it at \$1,500 for a double room and \$1,750 for a single, so we decided to keep those prices.

Next year's international tournament will be in Chile, and the next one will be in Peru, also in October.



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Last year, at the NABO level, 500 teams participated in club tournaments and we are now charging \$15 per player. Pierre suggests raising it to \$20 per player. We signed up to host the 2028 tournament to mark the 50th anniversary of International Mus and so will need funds.

Mayi – we just raised the Mus dues from \$10-15 and it was a pretty contentious event.

Let's please wait at least another year before we do another increase.

Pierre – His experience is that most clubs would be ok with the increase. If the cost was \$20 per player, then no need to make change. He feels it may help create more savings.

Pierre moves to increase Mus fee to \$20 per player to cover travel expenses as well as facilitate hosting International Mus in 2028.

Enrike – we cannot vote without talking to our clubs. Maybe bring it up again at the next meeting.

Bob seconds Pierre's motion and Jean moves to table the motion with Enrike seconding.

All in favor of tabling the vote on a Mus dues increase– passes unanimously.

Gloria – asks for a clarification of the motion.

Motion tabled

This year's winners were the team from Mexico, with Argentina coming in second.

Pierrot would like to thank Tyler and Annie especially for all of their work.

Jean – could you please send a concise email regarding Pierre's proposal.

Valerie of course.

Pierre – when he was in Europe they talked about how to teach Basque and Mus. Kinku gave him what he came up with and the words to use in Basque. Mus exists since 1745, and rules were published in Basque, Spanish and Latin by Manuel de Laramendi.

He encourages youth Mus and tournaments at picnics like this summer.

Pierre attended Diaspora Eguna. He and Steve Mendive were there in person, Philippe, and Valerie via Zoom. Lehendakari Urkullu had nothing but good things to say about NABO and



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all the work we are doing and he said to keep it up. Many pictures displayed from the Diaspora and they will now go to the Museum in Donibane.

Valerie – apologizes for including Peio Arrechea on the report instead of Peio Urrutia
Annie thanked Edurne, Joanna, Peio for serving as translators

Break for lunch – 2:30pm MST resume

Meeting resumed at 2:31 PM

Philippe thanked the hosting clubs for the great lunch!

Txerriki Contest – Los Banos, May 20th, will host the Txerriki Contest – Tripota, Txorizo, Lukainka, Txistorra - it will include Gateau Basque as well. Cakes will be made prior to the convention, and judged as at the County Fair. If you are a professional cook/baker, please let Valerie know if you would like to judge. Gateaus Can be cream or jam, will all be judged together.

Udaleku 2023 - Will take place in Boise July 20th and ending with the final performance on Friday, July 28th leading into San Inazio weekend. Number of participants will be determined by the amount of available housing. She would like to incorporate Bertsolaritza into camp. She will also approach the World Pilota Council about sending a coach as last year. If clubs would like to piggyback on the coach's visit, please let her know so she can coordinate flights accordingly. Price – last year was \$450 with sibling discount. She will work with Boise to determine a working budget and will relay that information at the Salt Lake City meeting in January. She would prefer to raise it a little bit instead of making a bigger jump later down the road.

Valerie was a txistu instructor this year at Udaleku. Teaching txistu made her realize that we need to focus on music, not just txistu but in music in general. She feels we need to do more with more instruments. We could encourage kids to bring their instruments and create bandas. Valerie is currently working on online txistu classes. Hoping to open it up in January to anyone interested to put together a banda for NABO convention.

Edurne - offers to help with technology and working on 3D printing poxpolins. James Sangroniz is making them out of PVC pipe and printing mouthpieces.

Valerie – we are low on poxpolins but is in touch with Benan to get more from the Basque Country.



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Edurne – need to encourage choral music as well and singing.

Mercedez Mendive – Are txistus tuned differently?

Valerie – it does not matter. There are two different keys, or lengths, but she has both so does not matter for lessons.

March 1st is the intent to participate deadline. Local children will preregister. If Boise decides to accept 9 year olds, she encourages that to get them involved since they are going home at night. Please email Valerie if you have any questions.

We need to make Euskara more present for kids. Valerie creates stations for little ones at dance 2 hours a weekend. This has been a good way to expose them to different parts of our culture. It gives them an opportunity to learn different things. We have to introduce kids to everything. If they are never exposed, they will never know if they like it or not.

Annie – Argia and Johnny Aldape are Boise's Udaleku Chairs.

Music – Mikaela on her way back to the Basque Country but has included information in her report.

Berstolaritza – Initiative to promote and preserve Bertsolaritza in America. They had an opportunity at Kantari Eguna in Rocklin with US based Bertsolaris.

They would like to piggyback on the Center for Basque Studies event in March. They are looking for folks to participate who speak Basque and to have fun.

Martin – how to approach how to develop this program, first encourage delegates to take this information to the clubs and contact Martin before the picnic so they can be on the program and get exposure for the art. He would like to see more participation at summer picnics. They have been very generous to date, singing when asked to if present at an event. It would be more professional if planned ahead of time, include it in the festival program etc. which translates into having more respect for the Bertsolari art.

Economics – They are hoping for donations, and eventually are hoping for grants and see how funds could be provided for Bertsolari travel or dinner or something. That is in the works right now. Johnny Curutchet donated \$200 that Martin was to bring to the meeting, but he will send it to Mayi. Wyoming Trucks is going to donate \$1,000 as a start and hope to grow those donations.



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Kate – why is it up to NABO and not individual clubs to pay bertsolaris to attend events?

Valerie – to appreciate bertsolaritza we need to translate the bertsos. So, where NABO could play a role is to get it translated so there are more appreciative of what is said.

Edurne – translation has a lot to do with it, but also making sure everyone understands what they are doing – it requires an educational component.

Martin – It is very important to have the presence. The public is aware of it, and the act alone is improvisation and it takes a very special talent. In the Basque Country, they start very young at the bertsolari schools, one instructor has 2200 students under his umbrella. Getting hundreds of thousands to attend txapelketak (championships), all comes with time and cultivating the art. We will not get that many but we can be better than what we are. Aita Tillous started asking them to sing at church and so they created a little movement there. He has hope we can develop this more than we are right now.

Todor – We cannot put the future of this art on the shoulders of 4 youth. It cost them a fortune to go to Kantari Eguna, but it is not sustainable. How do we support this initiative, They want to do a performance, not just one bertso.

Chris – the clubs have to have the initiative to bring bertsolaris to their event.

Philippe – the delegates care and so we need to support this

Mayi – could it be included in the BG grant?

Kate – yes but the 50,000 Euros is all we get, which is divided among all of the NABO programs.

Mayi – We need to hear from committee chairs about budgets so that we can plan accordingly.

Martin – If NABO is going to develop the art, it is going to take money one way or the other.

Valerie – Takes a lot of dedication from a lot of people but shared a story from Udaleku. She suggested something to Argitxu with singing and she talked to Martin and Johnny Curutchet and she decided to work on bertsos with every kid at camp. She taught them the rhythms etc. Valerie shares the video of JP Etcheverry from Bakersfield winner of the Bertso contest at 2019 Udaleku.



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Martin – shared an example of what happened at his sister's house in the Basque Country on Christmas Eve. His daughter sang him a bertso, and he was so shocked he could not even respond to her. If we try to open it up, who knows what it can be in 5-10 years.

Gloria L. - as many things NABO has accomplished over the years, we have to put our money where our mouth is.

Philippe – hears a lot of strong support for this program – he knows that there are a couple of programs who were involved in last year's March event who are strongly behind this.

Todor – will get a list from Edurne to contact clubs.

50th Anniversary – Basque Library Video collection to put together a video loop for Los Banos -

Break clips into decades – Google drive separated by state and decade -

Ateak Ireki – Program for youth after they age out of Udaleku. They are organizing it again in 2023, the website is: ateakireki.eus/english - they are asking for the timeline, as well as for NABO to sign another MOU, they are also working on their website this month. They plan to open registration in January with preference given to the 54 registered in 2020, and then everyone else registering. The program will run June 25-July 17th .

Basque Library updates - Iñaki – The 1959 video is not great quality, and so he is looking into re-digitizing the 8mm video. He is also working on an inventory of the VHS tapes. BertSolaritza – we are working on an event in March in Reno in conjunction with the Centennial Conference of Robert Laxalt – they are hoping to do a bertso program along with that. More updates coming soon.

On Diaspora Eguna, they put together a selection of books of the main works about the Basque Diaspora.

They have received very interesting donations – the Earl tree carving collection, and a photo collection from Euskal Artzainak Ameriketan – 10,000 pictures of shepherders that came to the US thanks to Asier Barandiaran.

Thanks for all your comments on Facebook on our one picture a day. We really appreciate that and it allows us to improve that content.



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Old Business – Fighting Basques – internship opportunities in that program. Pedro will try to attend the January meeting with further updates.

Review of current committees and programs – Last meeting talked about the Euskara program, and now the officer page includes current Bona Fide standing committees, and their members. The Revolving Loan Committee will be updated, and Euskara committee too. Other items are programs, not really committees: Bertsolaritza, Calendar, Film, Kantari Eguna, Music and Culture, and Pilota, Udaleku, and the Txerriki annual contest. Does that make sense to everyone? Should have this out for everyone to see, updated on the website.

Mayi moves to accept the committees and programs with respective chair people and members as presented, Jean seconded.

All in favor – passes unanimously.

Basque Texas Etxea and TF1 email.

Annual Appointments – Facilitator and Euskara Coordinator – Kate reapplied and Edurne also applied for the Euskara Coordinator, with Sonia choosing not to reapply. Kate has served as the Facilitator for nine years, along with Lisa as Webmaster. Edurne introduces herself to those present and Philippe asks if there are any questions for Edurne? Kate and Edurne are asked to leave the room.

Valerie moves to accept both candidates for the respective posts, and Chris seconds. Sonia explained why she didn't apply and she feels that Edurne is the perfect person to continue what they have been working on. It has been an honor to serve as Euskara Coordinator and she will be available to insure a smooth transition.

Valerie also wants to thank Sonia for everything that she has done. All applaud.

Philippe also thanks Sonia and understands her transition was not very smooth.

After discussion, motion carries, Kate and Edurne were appointed in their respective posts Philippe thanks both Kate and Edurne for their willingness to serve.

Valerie moves to make Sonia a committee member on the Euskara committee, Bob seconded - all in favor – passes unanimously.



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Bizi Emankorra awards in Boise today, and Reno next weekend for Miren Artiach and Mary Lou Urrutia respectively. Philippe proposes renaming the Bizi Emankorra award after Al Erquiaga, NABO's first president and the first recipient of the award. Mayi moves and Gloria seconds to rename the award. All in favor – passes unanimously. Al Erquiaga Bizi Emankorra Lifetime Contribution Award.

Future Meetings – 2023

Winter: Salt Lake City, Utah - Saturday, January 28

Convention: Los Banos - Friday, May 19th

Fall: Boise Euzkaldunak

Any clubs that would like to choose a future date?

Philippe thanks everyone for sticking it out on the meeting, thanks all chairs, committee members, facilitator and webmaster.

Mayi moves to adjourn - Annie seconds and the meeting then adjourns at 4:23