



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Summer Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Boise, ID and Zoom,
Friday, Aug 1, 2025

NABO Officers

President - Jean Flesher
Vice President - Philippe Acheritogaray
Treasurer - Mayi Petracek
Secretary - Teresa Cox

NABO Administrators

Euskara Coordinator - Mikaela Goicoechea and Madalen Bieter Lete
Facilitator - Kate Camino
Webmaster - Lisa Corcostegui - excused

Program Directors & Committee Chairpersons

Ateak Ireki - Monique Flesher
Bertsolaritza - Todor Azurtza /Martin Goicoechea
Finance Committee - Mayi Petracek
WWII Veterans Memorial Committee - Mayi Petracek
Calendars - Mary Lou Urrutia
Education - John Ysursa
Euskara - Ziortza Gandarias Beldarrain
Mus - Pierre Etcharren
Pilota - Tony Huarte
Txerriki Contest Organizer - Valerie Arrechea
Udaleku - Valerie Arrechea and Kate Camino
Music - Mikaela Goicoechea
Euskal Kantari - Becky Sarratea and Noel Goyenetché

Board of Directors (delegates) Representing 40 NABO Member Organizations

British Columbia:

Zazpiak Bat: Vancouver	Julia Christy	Tina Etchart
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Quebec

Euskaldunak: Quebec	Benat Urrutia	Absent
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California

Bakersfield		
Kern County Basque Club	Steve Gamboa	Christian Curutchague



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Chino Chino Basque Club	Alain Duhart (proxy)	Jeanette Duhart (Proxy)
Fresno Fresno Basque Club	Jean Pierre Etchechury	Jean Pierre Etchechury (proxy)
Los Banos Los Banos Basque Club	Chris Bengoechea	Chris Bengoechea (proxy)
Ontario Southern California Basque Club	Marie Aguerre (proxy)	Anne Marie Gariador
Rocklin Iparreko Ibarra/Northern Valley Basque Club	Noel Goyhenetche	Michael Uro
San Francisco Anaitasuna Basque Club	Gina Aguerre	Gina Aguerre (proxy)
San Francisco Basque Club	Joana Arrechea	Jean Pierre Elissetche
Basque Educational Organization	Anne Marie Etcheverria	Aline Elicagaray
San Francisco Basque Cultural Center	Valerie Arrechea	Pierre Etcharren
Susanville Susanville Eskualdun Inc.	Jeanette Goni	Jeanette Goni (proxy)
Ventura County Ventura County Basque Club	Valerie Arrechea (proxy)	Valerie Arrechea (proxy)
Colorado Denver Euskal Etxea	Mayi Petrcek	Vanessa Manjarrez



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Saint Pierre et Miquelon

Euskal Etxea SPM

Sonia Borotra

Absent

Idaho

Boise

Basque Museum &
Cultural Center

Annie Gavica

Miren Maguregui (proxy)

Basque Studies at Boise
State University

Ziortza Gandarias Beldarrain John Ysursa

Cenarrusa Foundation

Gloria Totoricaguena

Miren Artiach

Euzkaldunak: Boise Basque
Center

Mark Bieter

Alex Wray

Oinkari Basque Dancers

Jaclyn Lasuen

Jaclyn Lasuen (proxy)

Gooding

Gooding Basque Association

Asun Bedialauneta (proxy)

Peggy Guerecaechegarria
(proxy)

Homedale

Txoko Ona Basque Club

John Lejardi

Gloria Lejardi

Mountain Home

Euskal Lagunak

Jaclyn Lasuen

Goisalde Jausoro

Nevada

Battle Mountain

Battle Mountain Oberenak

Susan Gavica (proxy)

Susan Gavica (proxy)

Elko

Elko Euzkaldunak Club

Tabitha Arbillaga

Tabitha Arbillaga (proxy)

Gardnerville



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Mendiko Euskaldun Cluba	Becky Sarratea-Murphy	Teresa Cox
Las Vegas Lagun Onak	Amaya Beristain	Matthew Hardoy
Paradise Valley Santa Rosa Basque Club	Susan Gavica	Alaina Gavica
Reno Center for Basque Studies	Kate Camino	Kate Camino (proxy)
Zazpiak Bat Reno Basque Club	Erinn Zubillaga	Mike Gortari
Winnemucca Euskaldunak Danak Bat	Maureen MacDonald	Pilar Herrera (proxy)
New York Euzko Etxea	Myriam Mugica	Absent
Oregon Ontario, Oregon Basque Club	Frank Yraguen	Lisa Corcostegui
Rhode Island Portsmouth New England Basque Club	Juan Mari Aramendi	Marie/Roberto Guerenabarrena
Utah Basque Club of Utah	Tony Barajas	Cristina Sangroniz
District of Columbia Washington D.C. Euskal Etxea	Jurdana Izaguirre	Jurdana Izaguirre (proxy)
Washington Seattle Euskal Etxea	Eduarne Arostegui	Patty Aramburu



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Wyoming

Alkartasuna Basque Club

Martin Goicoechea

Mikaela

DePoyster-Goikoetxea

Big Horn Basque Club

Mick Camino

Mick Camino (proxy)

Clubs not attending - None

Basque Government Representatives in Attendance -

Lehendakari Imanol Pradales

Ibone Bengoetxea, Vicelehendakari

Ander Caballero, Secretario General de Exterior y Euskadi Global

Ziortza Olano Astigarraga, Directora de Colectividades

Conchi Aranguren, Delegada de Euskadi en Estados Unidos y Canada

Guests -

Lauren McLean, Mayor of Boise

Elixabete Etxanobe, General Representative of Bizkaia

Asier Iriberri, President of FEVA

Juan Pedro Arin, President of FIVU

Wilfredo Lizarzaburu, President of Trujillo, Peru Club

Pedro Mendiola, President of Queensland Basque Club

Cristian Echeverria, President of Portland Basque Club

Heidi Echeverria, Portland Basque Club

Justin Green, Portland Basque Club

Inaki Goirizelaia, Ateak Ireki

Kattalin Etchamendy, Iparreko Ibarra

Kinku Zintzunegi, Etxepare Basque Institute

Monika Madinabeitia, Etxepare Basque Institute

Irene Larraza, Etxepare Basque Institute

Joseba Etxarri, Euskal Kultura

Benan Oregi, Basque Government



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Jean Flesher called the meeting to order at 7:50am and welcomed everyone. He noted that all clubs are represented. He introduced the Imanol Pradales, Lehendakari of Euskadi; Elixabete Etxanobe, President of Bizkaia; and Lauren McLean, Mayor of Boise, Idaho.

Mayor McLean welcomed everyone to Boise, thanked them for coming, and made a statement welcoming and thanking NABO for all their hard work promoting our culture. Jean thanked her for hosting us.

Jean introduced the President of Bizkaia, Elixabete Etxanobe, who thanked us for the invitation and expressed her thanks for the extraordinary work NABO does for Basque unity and continuity. Jean presented her with a framed letter on behalf of NABO to thank her for her visit and friendship and help through the years to help not only Basques from Bizkaia, but all Basques. She presented Jean with a print of a makila.

Jean presented Gloria Totoricaguena with the Al Erquiaga Bizi Emankora award for everything she's done. He also noted that Johnny Curuchet received this award earlier this year and Aita Antton Eiguren will be presented with it later this year. Gloria thanked Pierre Etcharren, Dave and Jeannie Eiguren, and Miren Artiach for their work.

Jean, Lehendakari Imanol Pradales, and Irene Larraza signed the new agreement with the Extepare Basque Institute. This historic agreement will help our program get to the next level and will now be on par with Argentina. The main focus is to help grow our team of teachers.

Jean introduced Lehendakari Imanol Pradales.

Basque Government

Lehendakari Imanol Pradales made a statement to the delegates thanking us for being the best embassies, best ambassadors of Basque culture. He stated that NABO was born as a key element of cooperation for all Euskal Etxeas in the United States and essential to that, to connect all the Basque people in this land. It is an institution that through the teaching of Euskara, the tradition of Euskal Dantza, the fun of Pilota, or the excitement of Mus reminds us that even if we are Bakersfield, Boise, Denver, Elko, Ontario, Boston or New York, we keep alive what we share...the fact of being Basque and that is our key element. He spoke of the importance of our creation of Udaleku to perpetuate our culture and identity in this country generation to generation as that is the key to our future. He was very happy to hear Basque Americans speaking Basque when he arrived in Boise last week. He introduced Ziortza Olano as the new Director of the Basque Communities Abroad. The Government wants to strengthen



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and encourage exchange between young people across the pond and globally and give focus to Euskara through more and better classes via the new agreement with the Etxepare Institute. They are developing a new strategy, Euskadi Global, and we will play a decisive role in it. He is aware that there is some concern, but please don't be as this is not extra work to get grants from the Basque government.

They want to continue doing what we've been doing and also identify opportunities to take the pulse of the country and opportunities that lay ahead.

Jean presented Lehendakari Imanol Pradales with a framed letter on behalf of NABO and glass plaque congratulating him on becoming the new president and noting that we remain hopeful and look forward to seeing where he will lead us in the future. The Lehendakari presented Jean with a pastoral print of the San Lorenzo Building in Onati which tied the Basque communities in Boise and Onati together and eventually helped with the ties between NABO and Euskadi.

Jean also welcomed Ibone Bengoetxea, Vice President; Ander Caballero, Secretary General of the Exterior and Euskadi Global; Ziortza Olano, Director of Communities; and Conchi Araguren who is taking Unai's place in New York and will be our representative. Jean noted that we are more than just the United States. As the North American Basque Organization, we have Canadian Basque clubs as well as St. Pierre et Miquelon which is part of France. One day we hope to have Mexico and are in negotiations to have them join us as well and then we will truly be the North American Basque Organizations.

He also introduced several more guests: Kinku Zintzunegi, Etxepare Basque Institute; Monika Madinabeitia, Etxepare Basque Institute; Inaki Goirizelaia, Batzen and Ateak Ireki; Juan Pedro Arin, President of FIVU; Asier Iriberry, President of FEVA; Pedro Mendiola, President of Queensland Basque Club; Steve Mendive, Former NABO President; Dave Eiguren, Former NABO President; Jeannie Eiguren; Cristian Echeverria, President of Portland Basque Club; Heidi Echeverria, Portland Basque Club; and Justin Green, Portland Basque Club.

He thanked all our dignitaries for being here.

Jean introduced Ziortza Olano Astigarraga who gave a bit of her background and discussed the programs that are ongoing. Her priority is to utilize the current great network and create new things including talent and economic projects. She stated that Diaspora Day will be 08 Sep and will be in Makina and will honor and highlight pelotaris and we'll also be having a congress this year. Please feel free to contact her with any new ideas.



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Jean noted that we would not necessarily be following the order of the table of contents and will be changing the order to accommodate anyone who needs to leave early. Jean also asked that anyone who is speaking use a microphone to allow the OWL to catch everything. Additionally, due to a limited amount of time, he asks that those with reports give a short one and he hopes that everyone has read the previously submitted reports. There were a couple things that came up recently, but don't have all the reports in yet for Ateak Ireki and Udaleku yet, but will have full reports available in Reno and will address them then.

Quorum - 40 of 40 clubs represented. Simple majority is 21 members/39 delegates and 2/3s is 50.

Jean called for a motion to accept the Salt Lake City meeting minutes. Mayi moved to accept, Lisa Corcostegui 2nd, approved as moved

Treasurer/Finance Report - refer to reports in the packet. Mayi Petracek asked if there were any questions. At the Fall 2024 meeting it was decided to transfer 25 cents of every member dollar collected to the Aita Tillous Memorial Fund to fund future requests for financial assistance for member children to participate in things like Ateak Ireki or Udaleku. As a result of that, \$1546 was transferred this year from the general checking account to the Aita Tillous account. Mayi thanked Gina Aguerre for her help in negotiating a better deal for insurance for those attending Ateak Ireki so we were able to refund each participant a small amount of what they'd paid for insurance. Mayi and Philippe Acheritogaray are still working with the attorney and CPA on trying to make the entire NABO organization a 501c3. Mayi is also working to obtain director and officer liability insurance as a protection for NABO. She's gotten two quotes that will be reviewed by the officers and she hopes to have a report in November. Mayi noted that budgets are required to be submitted by mid-October so they can be reviewed by the officers. They will be submitted for approval at the November meeting. Mayi reiterated that all funds except those in the general account are designated for specific uses and cannot be used for other activities, so while it might look that the balance sheet is cash heavy, it is not, because most funds are restricted to specific activities. The investment fund is growing and is planned for long-term financial stability for NABO. Frank Yraguen moved to accept the report as submitted and Jean Pierre Elissetche seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Jean asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Mayi moved to accept the minutes as submitted and Lisa Corcostegi seconded the motion. The motion was approved.



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Dantza - see report in packet. Jaclyn Lasuen presented her report and commended Elko and Reno for using this group for communication to get information out for their festivals. They've added a WhatsApp group for quick communication. There is a new dance group in Montreal and they have been added. Please check with local dance people to make sure they're getting communications and feel free to contact her with any questions.

Ateak Ireki - see report in packet for details. Monique Flesher presented the report. She reported on lunch yesterday for past Ateak Ireki participants, host families, and those hosting people from Euskadi in Boise. They had a great turnout and thanked everyone who helped yesterday. More details will follow at the fall meeting. We have been asked to have someone from Ateak Ireki come to the US and we were able to do that by having a student come as an aide for Udaleku. It went well and we are hoping to have another one or two participate next year. She read a message from the family of one of the participants about their student's participation.

Jean introduced Inaki Goirizelaia with Ateak Ireki who thanked all the institutions who work together to make this program possible. He thanked all those here in the United States who made this possible, including Philippe Acheritogaray, Annie Gavica, Jean, and Argia Beristain for their earlier work and Monique for what she's doing now. He gave some history of program attendance. He also thanked the host families.

Jean noted that there have been some concerns in past years and there will be a committee meeting later. He'll be sending a meeting invite to all delegates to participate.

Bertsolari - see report in packet. Todor Azurtza asked if there were any questions and presented his report. There has been a positive outcome of this initiative showing it is possible to form quality bertoslaris in the United States, but to continue we'll need more speakers and listeners of Euskara.

Jean congratulated Todor who won 1st prize in a contest in Euskadi for written bertso.

Martin Goicoechea spoke about Todor's move and in spite of concerns it's gone well. He thanked Todor for his help. There will be some suggestions coming in Reno. Todor thanked Martin for his help and invited all to view the latest video released by Euskal Kazeta of the event they did in Chino in March.



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Facilitator & Webmaster Report - see report in packet. Kate Camino presented the report and asked if there were any questions. She noted that she had helped 2 Basque clubs apply for grants. She asked that people continue to send information for inclusion in Astero. She noted that for the packets the powerpoints are a bit hefty, so perhaps they could be provided in a bullet point format just for the printed packet.

Lisa Corcostegui started an Instagram and has been posting. She is working on updating the website and will be working to clean it up. Please let her know if you need something updated.

Music Report - see report in packet. Jean congratulated Mikaela on her recent marriage. Mikaela DePoyster-Goikoetxea presented her report. Last month she met with representatives from Euskalherriko Musika Gulegoa which is an organization in the Basque Country that helps to make Basque music more professional. They make connections and do educational workshops, grants, advising, networking and more for Basque artists, composers, music industry professionals and performance venues. They are interested in making connections in North America through NABO and they spoke about previous events that had been held and we are hoping to make new connections. They asked Mikaela to see if there are any connections we have in our communities for venues, including those outside of the Basque clubhouses that would be interested in hosting bands, etc. Please let her know if there's any information to share about this or if there are any questions.

Euskara Report- see report in packet. Ziortza Gandarias Beldarrain presented her report. She noted that Euskera is a collaborative effort and thanked all of her predecessors for their hard work. The program is growing and is strong. She noted that they'd made some t-shirts designed by Madelen Bieter Lete and Mikaela that include the top 10 Basque festival phrases. They are for sale for \$25. She presented Jean with a shirt. Irene Larraza spoke from the Etxepare Institute and expressed her thanks to Jean for his work and she looks forward to the future. She also thanked Monika Madinabeitia and Kinku Zintzunegi. Kinku and Monika thanked everyone for their work.

Pilota - see report in packet. Tony Huarte presented the report. It's been quite a year for Pilota. He noted that what has stood out is how the local clubs have stepped up supporting the players, building the community and keeping the sport strong. We are building momentum with the youth program and making it accessible. He shouted out the Basque team as they will be representing their own country this year.



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WWII Veteran's Memorial Fundraising Program - see presentation and report in packet. Mayi presented the report. Over 2000 identified on behalf of the US military. Mayi has met with the City of Chino regarding the memorial. They are looking for locations. She will be meeting with the town manager for Gardnerville next Friday and will be going back to Elko. They are making progress and the next phase is fundraising. The anticipated cost is \$200,000 to build the monument. Current fundraising is still helping with the research. If clubs are interested, please reach out to Mayi as all locations are being considered at this point. Mayi noted that there will be a booth at the fairgrounds with more information and they will also be selling calendars there.

Pedro Oiarzabal noted that Boise State has expressed interest in hosting the memorial on campus and there was great media coverage about this program. He will also be presenting at the Nevada Historical Society in Reno on Aug 6 in Reno. This presentation will focus on Nevada. Pedro stated that the project is almost complete. He thanked us for all our support.

Education Report - see report in packet. Johnny Ysursa presented his report. Zortziak Bat (Basque studies symposium) just wrapped up yesterday at Boise State. He thanked Ziortza for her work organizing. It was a great event. He spoke to how great it is to look around the room and see younger faces and how distinct to our culture the sense of belonging across generations is. He stated that it's an exciting time to be Basque. Jean thanked him for all his years of work with this program.

Philippe Acheritogaray reported that the new film "Karmele" by Asier Altuna which is debuting at the San Sebastian Film festival will be touring in early January with the director. It is inspired by the novel by Kirmen Uribe. Please contact Philippe if your club is interested in hosting.

Jean noted that Donald Carlton in France (from New England) has reached out to him and has put together some research between Bilbao and northern New England. His display and program will be touring Massachusetts. Jean will send out additional information.

Mus - see report in packet. Pierre Etcharren presented the report. The 2025 Finals were held in Los Banos on June 14. There were 28 clubs who participated and 43 teams. The winners were Carmen Salaburu and Tony Huarte. There were several multi-generation teams which was nice to see. The 2025 International Mus Tournament will be in Macachin, Argentina in September, in Bilbao in 2026, and in Mexico in 2027. In 2028, the US is scheduled to host for the 50th anniversary, so we need to start planning the when and where so please check with your clubs to see what they can offer for 2028. They are expecting 11 countries this year. Mayi noted that the first 2026 NABO qualifier will be in Denver on Saturday, Sep 13. There is an ongoing



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discussion in committee regarding the possibility of adjusting the number of teams each club can send to the NABO Finals, but at this time there is no change. Jean pointed out that Pierre has been doing this since 1978 and the growth of NABO and international mus is due in large part to him.

Jean commented that this year there were several tournaments on the same day/weekend. Food for thought in the future for scheduling to get together for future scheduling. Teresa noted that clubs may want to look further in advance for mus tournament scheduling as so many clubs schedule their tournaments years in advance.

Pierre noted that there were approximately 700 teams and they pay \$15 per player.

Kate stated the calendars are ready and do have the mus calendar so perhaps clubs can look at that to avoid multiple tournaments at the same time.

Txerriki/Gateau Basque Contest - See report in packet. Valerie presented her report. These will be held in Gardnerville next weekend in conjunction with Kantari Eguna. Valerie noted there is no limit for Gateau submissions and for Txerriki, enough for 2 tastings (approximately 1-2lbs).

Jean introduced Benan Oregi, Benan noted that Lehendakari's reception will be at noon and a Soka Dantza will start the reception. Soka Dantza is coming back in the Basque Country as protocol dance that is led by the major dignitary. He invites all the NABO delegates to join the Soka. The Makila that will be presented to the Lehendakari for the Soka Dantza belonged to Cecil Andrews, who was the governor of Idaho in 1970, 1974, 1986 and 1990. There are also official pictures of the Lehendakari for each club to be picked up at the museum.

Jean called for a break at 10:03am.

The meeting was reconvened at 10:26

Jean asked Alex Wray to come up. He explained the significance of Governor Cecil Andrews' Makila. The first Jaialdi in 1987 was meant to be a one time thing and in 1990 he asked the Basque community to throw another Jaialdi to celebrate Idaho's Centennial, which kicked off the 5 year cycle. That's why having his makila here with the Lehendakari is so special.

Udaleku - See report in packet. Valerie Arrechea stated that we had a very successful Udaleku and thanked the Elko Basque Club for hosting and specifically Tabitha Arbillaga and Kristina



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Franzoia for doing a wonderful job. Tabitha presented the report. Grace Mainvil Award went to Miren Sieber-Basta. She thanked Mayi and Valerie and she reported that by the next meeting we should have a \$10K grant from Nevada Gold Mines. She'll also check into how that will work across state lines, but it will cover NV in the future. Valerie thanked Tabitha for her help in helping update forms and Munduko Pilota Batzaran for their support as they've been sending instructors for the last several years. They are also planning on sending them next year as well. Next year will be held in Chino, CA hosted by the Chino Basque Club and Southern CA Basque Club in conjunction with their 80th festival. Planning is going well and please see the report for further information. Please don't hesitate to ask Valerie questions, express concerns and make suggestions at any time. She and Kate will be here all weekend. She thanked the BEO for their support of the art project. She thanked everyone for their donations and support. Jean thanked Elko Basque Club, Tabitha, and Kristina as well Valerie and Kate for a great job. For 2027, camp will be in the Idaho, Wyoming, Utah region so please talk to your clubs about hosting.

Gloria Totoricaguena passed out additional gifts (beret/scarf) from the Bizkaian government as a thank you.

Kantari Eguna - See report in packet. Becky Sarratea-Murphy presented the report and invited everyone to attend on Aug 9 in Gardnerville. Jean noted that Hamaika Buru Txistu and a trikitixa band from Gipuzkoa will be coming as well.

Jean introduced Asier Iriberry president of FEVA who made a statement talking about his visit 31 yrs ago with his dance group to the United States. He wants to continue to continue building bridges between the US and Argentina. He presented a plaque to Jean on behalf of FEVA. Jean spoke about his trip to Argentina as well and thanked him for his friendship and gift.

Jean introduced Juan Pedro Arin of FIVU (Uruguay). He is also the representative of all the South American Clubs to the Basque Government. He presented a gift of trousers of the type used by Uruguayan gauchos to Gloria Torotoricaguena and she thanked him and spoke a bit about her time in Montevideo in 1986-87. He presented a book "Ser Guacho" to Jean. Jean thanked him.

Proxy/Quorum Discussion - Jean opened the Proxy/Quorum discussion by noting that we will not be voting on this subject today and asked Valerie to present San Francisco's proposal to amend included in the delegates packets and said that they are ok with splitting proxy and quorum proposed amendments. She asked that the context of the conversation resulting in this proposal be sent to the delegates. She read the following:



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“The San Francisco Basque Club and Presently proxies serve two purposes: to give members their voice and vote, and to achieve quorum so that a meeting can be held.

Due to the definition of quorum in the bylaws, proxies are often necessary to achieve quorum compliance to hold a meeting, less so now with Zoom. As NABO has grown we have had more difficulty achieving quorum, even asking clubs who were not planning to attend to send a proxy for quorum purposes only and no voting right attached. Quorum is also described differently in two sections of the Bylaws. We propose lowering the quorum so that there is a lesser need for proxies to make up for non-attending members.

Proxies were intended to give clubs their full voice at a time when delegates (who are the NABO Board of Directors) were obligated to physically travel to meetings to attend, imposing issues of cost and travel. Since 2020 technology has improved to the point that hybrid meetings are now the norm allowing delegates to attend meetings from anywhere they choose. Proxies have always been a concern in that there was no formal procedure in either format or timeframe. In the past 10 years (she does recognize that there is now a form) delegates would even often either text or email their proxies once the meeting had started — sometimes that being the only way quorum was met. This has led to more concerns regarding how many proxies one individual should hold, giving them potentially a substantial percentage of vote. It also raises concerns that clubs might not be as engaged in the workings of NABO as it is easy to give the responsibility of attending to someone else through a proxy.

We believe there is a compromise, and propose that one individual can represent no more than two members clubs at one time, holding their vote and no more than 3 proxies (both votes for the two clubs they represent). This would eliminate one individual holding many votes and would encourage greater club engagement by prioritizing attendance either in person or virtually.”

Jean apologized for not sending it earlier, but just emailed to the delegates. He noted that some clubs have already discussed this and ask Frank Yraguan to speak to Ontario Basque Club's



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thoughts. Francisco Yraguan from Ontario stated that in discussion with his club they agree that the proxy issue should be settled and this seems to be a good resolution, but the quorum discussion raised some questions and concerns. At this time we require a simple majority (51% or 41 votes) to pass any proposal that would come before NABO, but if you reduce the quorum to 40% it requires less votes (17) to pass. He thinks that the vote should be separated because if we address the proxy issues, we don't want to create a situation where there is a question if it represents the 40 member organizations of NABO. Do we want a situation where 17 votes could bind all of us? Ontario thinks no for the quorum, especially since we can attend from afar. Jean asked for additional thoughts. Philippe clarified that the proposal would be 40% of members rather than delegates and to Frank's point, currently 21 delegates is the minimum to pass, a difference of only 4. Patty Aramburu asked how old the current clause in the bylaws is and while the last bylaw revision was in 2019, the thought was that the original proxy and quorum clauses were from 1973-4. Becky said that with the higher quorum it does encourage more involvement, and if we lower the quorum that defeats the purpose. Gloria Lejardi asked if there had been risk of not getting quorum since the onset of Zoom, Philippe said no, but the challenge was to know ahead of time how many would be attending to allow for the hosting club to prepare. Additionally, he did chase down proxies to prepare, and he had come close, but Jean hasn't had issues since he's been involved. Philippe also stated that this is an opportunity to review a proposal that addresses it and if we decide not to take it to accept as well and move on for several years without having to deal with this any more. Kate asked if this warranted more discussion since the majority of people are represented and Jean stated that he wanted it to go back to the clubs one more time as it was a bylaws change. Jean Pierre Elissetche asked that it be addressed in Reno since we are taking it back to our clubs and not push it down the road to another meeting. Jean said that it will be and we will be voting on 3 proposals. Frank asked if there were 3 and Valerie clarified that there are 3 because it is in the bylaws in 3 separate locations. Jean reiterated that this would be voted on in Reno.

Calendar - see report in packet. Mary Lou Urrutia presented the report and 2026 calendar. She thanked everyone for sending pictures. She will be working with Kate to update contact info, including website, facebook, IG. She has calendars for the north and Teresa Cox will have calendars for clubs to pick up in Gardnerville. Cost was \$4.80, we will sell for \$5 wholesale. NABO is selling for \$12 individually. Mary Lou thanked Gina, Mayi and Teresa for their help proofing. Mayi will send an invoice for clubs that are picking up calendars. Jean thanked her for doing a fantastic job.

Old Business



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Valerie moved to add reports as appendix to the minutes to allow for immediate access rather than having to look back at the report. Lisa asked if adding them to a google drive online would help. Valerie suggested one pdf with the reports together so it's right there rather than going back or it could be embedded in the minutes in a separate section. Jean Pierre Etchechury seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Kate stated that once she compiles the reports they are in one report then the only thing missing are the PowerPoint, so if everyone were to include bullet point of their PowerPoint in the regular report then we would have a consolidated report.

Jean introduced Myriam Murgica from New York City and Jurdana Yzaguirre from the Washington DC club who were able to attend in person for the first time in years and he thanked them for attending.

Anne Marie Echeverria gave an update on BEOs talks with the Basque National Orchestra for their Basque Cultural Day. Unfortunately that is currently on pause and they are pivoting. They will still be celebrating Basque classical music on Oct 12 (Sunday) at a theater in San Francisco. It may not be livestreamed, but will be recorded. Please sign up for the BEO newsletter at basqueeducational.org. They send those out about every 4-6 weeks and include information in Astero. Philippe and Aline Elicagaray are good people to talk to as well.

Upcoming meetings:

Fall 2025 - Kate reported that the fall meeting will be in Reno on Nov 15, 2025 at Louis Basque Corner in conjunction with San Martin Dinner with the location to be determined. Please mark your calendars.

Fall 2028 - Denver hosting in conjunction with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Plaza Urrutia in Grand Junction which was designated last year as a state historic monument. The plan is for it to be a National Monument in 2028. Jean Pierre asked if it would be a full day meeting or an abridged meeting like last year. Mayi and Jean noted that will depend.

Convention 2029 - San Francisco is planning to host.

Fall 2029 - Fresno confirmed that they would like to host the Fall 2029 meeting.



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Jean asked if there was anyone who would like a future meeting or convention. There was no response.

Anne Marie Gariador reported that she has posters and contact cards for the 2026 Convention hosted by the Southern California Basque Club to include mus, music, pilota and the NABO meeting will be on Friday.

New Business:

Teresa reported that Jean and Mayi presented themselves for office and their resumes were forwarded to all the delegates. No one else presented themselves so at this time we have Mayi running for Treasurer and Jean for President. She asked if as a point of order this could be done as a single vote or if they must be separated. It was noted that it should be separate. Jean and Mayi stepped out and Teresa asked for further discussion. There was none.

Philippe called for motion for Mayi Petracek as Treasurer - Chris Bengoechea moved and Monique seconded. Philippe asked for discussion, there was none and called for the vote. It was approved unanimously.

Philippe called for motion for Jean Flesher as President - Jean Pierre Elissetche moved and Jean Pierre Etchechury seconded. Philippe asked for discussion, there was none and called for the vote. It was approved unanimously.

Jean and Mayi thanked everyone and they are looking forward to another great year with Teresa and Philippe.

Jean announced that we are able to leave our things in the convention room for the duration of the reception. There will not be an afternoon session, but we are welcome to use the room to have further discussions until about 4pm.

Jean introduced Nancy Zubiri and Pierre Igoa from the Euskal Kazeta Foundation which started in 2008 as a media organization to preserve the Basque Culture. Pierre Igoa introduced the program and noted that Nancy has been running the project out of her own pocket, but they are now a non-profit. Nancy stated that their goal has been to promote Basque events, culture and people. She invited us to check out Euskal Kazeta's website, Instagram and Facebook. They'd like to grow and expand coverage. She introduced board member Steve Gamboa who also noted that Mayi is on the board. Steve is happy to support this organization and asked for our support. Jean noted that their presentation is in the packets and google folder.

Announcements -



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Jean thanked everyone for coming and attending via zoom. It was a productive meeting

Mayi moved to Adjourn, Christina Sangroniz seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:42am.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Cox, Secretary