



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Winter Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – San Francisco, CA and
Zoom, Saturday, February 14, 2026

NABO Officers

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

NABO Administrators

Euskara Coordinator - Mikaela Goikoetxea-DePoyster and Madalen Bieter Lete
Facilitator - Kate Camino
Webmaster - Lisa Corcostegui

Program Directors & Committee Chairpersons

Ateak Ireki - Monique Flesher
Bertsolaritza - Nerea Eceiza (Z) and Martin Goicoechea
Finance Committee - Mayi Petracek
WWII Veterans Memorial Committee - Mayi Petracek
Calendars - Mary Lou Urrutia (Z)
Education - no chairman at this time
Euskara - Ziortza Gandarias Beldarrain (Z)
Mus - Pierre Etcharren
Pilota - Tony Huarte
Txerriki Contest Organizer - Valerie Arrechea
Udaleku - Valerie Arrechea and Kate Camino
Music - Mikaela DePoyster-Goikoetxea
Euskal Kantari - Becky Sarratea and Noel Goyenetché
Dantza - Jaclyn Lasuen

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	Absent	Absent
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California

Bakersfield



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Kern County Basque Club	Louis Iturriria (Z)	Maria Toretta (Z)
Chino		
Chino Basque Club	Marianna Etcheverria	Maite Maisterrena (proxy)
Fresno		
Fresno Basque Club	Jean Pierre Etchechury (Z)	Absent
Los Banos		
Los Banos Basque Club	Chris Bengoechea	Chris Bengoechea (proxy)
Ontario		
Southern California Basque Club	Anne Marie Gariador (Z)	Anne Marie Gariador (proxy)
Rocklin		
Iparreko Ibarra/Northern Valley Basque Club	Noel Goyenetché	absent
San Francisco		
Anaitasuna Basque Club	Gina Aguerre	Gina Aguerre (proxy)
San Francisco Basque Club	Joana Arrechea	Joana Arrechea (proxy)
Basque Educational Organization	Anne Marie Etcheverria	Nicole Sorhondo (proxy)
San Francisco Basque Cultural Center	Valerie Arrechea	Pierre Etcharren
Susanville		
Susanville Eskualdun Inc.	Jeanette Goni	Jeanette Goni (proxy)
Ventura County		
Ventura County Basque Club	Jose Luis Urrutia	Maria Urrutia
Colorado		
Denver Euskal Etxea	Mayi Petracek	Kristi Urquidi



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Saint Pierre et Miquelon

Euskal Etxea SPM

Absent

Absent

Idaho

Boise

Basque Museum &
Cultural Center

Casey Sieber

Miren Maguregui

Basque Studies at Boise
State University

Ziortza Gandarias
Beldarrain (Z)

Ziortza Gandarias Beldarrain
(proxy) (Z)

Cenarrusa Foundation

Gloria Totoricaguena (Z)

Gloria Totoricaguena (proxy)
(Z)

Euzkaldunak: Boise Basque
Center

Mark Bieter (Z)

Alex Wray

Oinkari Basque Dancers

Jaclyn Lasuen

Tiana Herrera

Gooding
Gooding Basque Association

Lisa Luzar (Z)

Absent

Homedale
Txoko Ona Basque Club

Mark Bieter (proxy) (Z)

Mark Bieter (proxy) (Z)

Mountain Home
Euskal Lagunak

Jaclyn Lasuen

Jaclyn Lasuen (proxy)

Nevada

Battle Mountain
Battle Mountain Oberenak

Absent

Absent

Elko
Elko Euzkaldunak Club

Tabitha Arbillaga (Z)

Absent



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Gardnerville Mendiko Euskaldun Cluba	Becky Sarratea-Murphy	Teresa Cox
Las Vegas Lagun Onak	Amaya Beristain (Z)	Matthew Hardoy (Z)
Paradise Valley Santa Rosa Basque Club	Miren Maguregui (proxy)	Miren Maguregui (proxy)
Reno Center for Basque Studies	Kate Camino	Kate Camino (proxy)
Zazpiak Bat Reno Basque Club	Mike Gortari	Errin Zubillaga
Winnemucca Euskaldunak Danak Bat	Maureen MacDonald(Z)	Maureen MacDonald(proxy) (Z)
New York Euzko Etxea	Myriam Mugica (Z)	Absent
Oregon Ontario, Oregon Basque Club	Frank Yraguen (Z)	Lisa Corcostegui (Z)
Rhode Island		
Portsmouth New England Basque Club	Beronika Alonso Estankona	Beronika Alonzo Estankona (proxy)
Utah Basque Club of Utah	Phil Archibeque	Absent



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District of Columbia

Washington D.C. Euskal
Etxea

Sam Zengotitabengoa (Z)

Sam Zengotitabengoa
(proxy) (Z)

Washington

Seattle Euskal Etxea

Eduarne Arostegui

Dominic Lesaca (Z)

Wyoming

Alkartasuna Basque Club

Martin Goicoechea

Martin Goicoechea (proxy)

Big Horn Basque Club

Mick Camino (Z)

Mick Camino (proxy) (Z)

Clubs not attending - Euskaldunak: Quebec, Battle Mountain Oberenak, Euskal Etxea St. Pierre et Miquelon

Basque Government Representatives in Attendance - Conchi Aranguren

Guests - Pedro Oiarzabal, Joseba Etxarri, Kinku Uzkudun, Conchi Aranguren, Veronica Goicoechea

Jean Flesher called the meeting to order at 8am and thanked everyone for attending both in person and via Zoom. Jean introduced Marie Rosencranz, President of the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center who welcomed NABO and gave a schedule of events for the weekend. He then invited Joanna Arrechea for the San Francisco Basque Club. Joanna thanked everyone for coming. Jean thanked them for hosting.

Teresa Cox did the roll call.

Chris Bengoechea moved to accept the minutes as submitted and Eduarne Arostegui seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Quorum - 37 of 40 clubs represented. Simple majority is 19 members/37 delegates and 2/3s is 49 delegates.



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Treasurer/Finance Report - The reports which can be found at the link at the end of these minutes were presented by Mayi Petracek. Mayi asked if there were any questions. There were none. She noted that one of the reports submitted at the end of every year is a comparative report. In the report, she noted that there was a loss in 2025 with regards to operations. Any gains shown were from our investments. The loss was due mostly to unique items that are not anticipated to be repeating this year, hopefully 2026 will be better. Mayi noted that one of the things that the Finance Committee is working on for this year is a travel policy that will be rolled out to all the officers and also to different committees that travel. She noted that there was a little disconnect in International Mus travel in 2025 so the travel policy will close up those disconnects. That should be ready in June.

Mayi presented the highlights of the investment committee report as it was not included in the packet. The biggest highlight is that the portfolio finished the year with almost \$300,000 which was a return of 9.78% for the year. The strategy and goal has been to keep it between 5%-7% annualized. The portfolio is 44% bonds, 20% stocks, 16% commodities and 20% in money market so while the stock market did well in 2025, towards the end of the year, the financial advisors felt the need to pull out of the stock market to some extent and put some of the funds in the money market. She noted that there are no outstanding loans under the cultural aid revolving loan program which is still an open and active program. No clubs have applied. The breakdown for contributions is: General Account - 36.96%, Mus - 19.57, Udaleku - 30.43%, and Euskara - 13.04%. She reminded us that we are investing for the future growth of NABO so we don't need to rely as much on grants from the Basque Government.

Jean asked if there were any questions on either report. No one had questions. Jeanette Goni moved to accept the reports as submitted. Kate Camino seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Basque Government - Jean introduced Conchi Aranguren, the Delegate of the Government of Euskadi to the United States and Canada. She congratulated the Cultural Center on their 44th anniversary. She spoke about our community united under the Ikurrina and mentioned certain statements made in the previous week that do not reflect reality. Our community reached out and the government reacted. The process that was started has been stopped and as the Lehendakari remarked on his Instagram and social media, legislation of a unifying symbol is always good news. It's also a reminder of something important. We cannot take our freedom for granted. We must defend them every day. She thanked everyone who has kept this center alive.



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Jean noted that if anyone has any questions for the Basque government on any issues, they can speak to Conchi later today and thanked her for her statement.

Bizi Emankorra Nominations - Jean introduced Lisa Corcostegui who presented the Ontario Basque Club's nomination of Philippe Acheritogaray. She read the nomination letter submitted and included on the link below.

Valerie Arrechea presented the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center nomination for Mike Bidart.

Jean asked that we discuss and these will be voted on this afternoon.

Gloria Totoricaguena asked if the SFBCC would consider amending their nomination to include Jeanette Bidart as she is a musician, has initiated the oral history project and conducted a lot of the oral histories, and continued on with bertsoaritza and Euskara.. Valerie agreed with that modification and their nomination will be amended to include Mike and Jeanette Bidart.

Ateak Ireki - Monique Flesher presented the report which can be found at the link at the end of these minutes. For the 2026 Ateak Ireki, there were 35 applicants, 33 of which were able to be considered. 26 were accepted, leaving 7 on the waitlist and they have made it through the waitlist. There are 14 applicants from California, 6 from Idaho, 2 from Utah, 1 from Nevada, 1 from Washington, 5 from Oregon, 1 from Arkansas, 1 from Quebec, 1 from Toronto and 1 from Washington DC. Requirements for applying include previous participation in Udaleku as it is meant to be a bridge from Udaleku, NABO membership either in their own right or through family memberships, a willingness to take Basque language classes prior to attending, which is new this year. They also had to submit a presentation video and express an interest in hosting. They also prioritised those who were applying for the first time (after meeting criteria).

This year some changes have been implemented. The age requirement has been updated to 18-25 years old so that everyone attending is considered to be a legal adult. An aide from the US will be with the group for the entire time and will be in direct communication with Monique. The aide this year will be Lexi Chaffin from Winnemucca who attended last year. Basque classes will be offered in the spring for participants. Also, if a participant chooses to go away from the program at any point during the accepted program dates, they will not be allowed to return to the program. Family time is considered to be host family time and that is to be respected.



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Ateak Ireki would like to send 1-3 people over as aides to our Udaleku program. Those students will need to be 18 (to meet the same requirement for aides from the US), have good English skills and pay for their own travel to the US. The clubs will house them and treat them as part of the group. There was a participant last year and she was great. The committee is in touch with Chino and Southern California to organize. The goal of the Ateak Ireki organizers is to transform this into an actual exchange program. There has been discussion on different ways to do that and they are hoping to have 10 young people come to the US. One of the thoughts is to center this group visit around a well attended festival or event, such as a NABO Festival, Boise, Gardnerville, Reno, San Francisco's August event, Chino, etc. The Fresno, Bakersfield and San Francisco picnic would be hard considering that in the Basque country, most are in school until the end of June. We also want to respect that the end and beginning of the school year are hard for some, but that doesn't affect all and we need to consider how to accommodate. Centering around a festival or picnic would allow several cities or towns to participate in hosting. We cannot do anything similar to how Ateak Ireki is run in the Basque Country and don't have the bandwidth to have another Udaleku style program which is the reason for this current idea. There are other ideas being discussed and if anyone has any idea, please email Monique and she'll take those to the committee. Monique shared a story from one of last year's students and their family.

Jean asked if there were any questions. Kate Camino asked about Ateak Ireki and Gaztemundu becoming one program. Jean asked Conchi to speak to this and Conchi confirmed that this will start this year and they will be releasing paperwork about it either today or tomorrow. As far as she has noticed, there are not many changes to Ateak Ireki but the goal is to run the two programs at the same time so everyone is there at the same time, but will include people from communities worldwide. Kate then asked if Ateak Ireki would then continue to be a NABO program and Jean said yes. We don't have details at this time about Gaztemundu. We know that they have opened it up to Australia and Argentina, but are not sure if it will work for them as it's the wrong time of the year just like Gaztemundu has always been for us. The Argentinian/Australian program will be in Bizkaia, but we don't have anything definite about that program. Conchi noticed that it's experimental at this point and that the big change will be to Gaztemundu. Jean noted that for the last couple of meetings, the report had not been completed from last year. The organizing committee in Europe had put together a lengthy analysis of the program, but he had not had time to go through it as it arrived just before the meeting. There is a synopsis of that in English in our packets as the actual report is too lengthy to publish, but is included in the Google link at the end of these minutes.



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Jean introduced Joseba Etxarri who spoke about the new program which is replacing Gaztemundu and Ateak Ireki. There will be two groups, the first group will be the same as last year and will be in Gipuzkoa and there will be a 2nd group in Bizkaia which will include people from Argentina, Uruguay and Australia. The second group is a trial. The name of the new program is Gaztumunduri Ateak Ireki. The goal is to see how the collaboration with the Basque government and Ateak Ireki works.

Education Report - Jean noted that we don't have an education chairman, but introduced Philippe Acheritogaray to start. Philippe updated from the last couple of meetings on the Karmele Film Tour. They've had a good response with 10 communities organizing screenings starting on May 7 in New York and will run for 3 weeks. If your club is still interested in screening the film, that can still happen, just contact him. He also spoke about a tour of Basque rock band which will include Chino, Bakersfield, Boise (Treefort Music Festival) and San Francisco. That information is in the packet as well.

Jean introduced Anne Marie Etcheverria and Nicole Sorhondo from the BEO. Anne Marie spoke about the Basque Film Series. The first screening will be today at 1pm in the Baztan Room. She reminded people to contact them for any screening questions. They've started expanding the screenings to a San Francisco movie theater, the Little Roxy. She also spoke about an effort to get the books in the BEO library out to the community via the Little Free Library program. They have put together a starter kit that will be registered with the Little Free Library and will include some of these books. It will be free of charge for communities, but there will be a charge for individuals and passed around a list asking for interested people to add their contact info. Anne Marie discussed the Impact of Women in Basque Communities books, they are on Edition Three and the goal is to include every Basque woman. They will be offering help with writing the pages this year for a nominal cost for people who would like help with submissions. Last year, they spoke about Basque Cultural Day last year when the original plan was to have the Basque National Orchestra. They have a new plan. The date will be September 26, 2026 at the Presidio Theater in San Francisco and will be bringing over classical pianist, Josu Okinena and txistulari, Garikoitz Mendizabal. They will be bringing another person, either a singer or violinist. Mark your calendars! She also spoke about the BEOs annual scholarships for those at university which are due in mid-summer and the two grant programs they started last year. One is for women's empowerment and the other is for the creators fund and those are due in the spring. Kate asked if the September event is the same as what was done in Reno in the Fall and Anne Marie said that it would be different. It will be one of two topics, either the history of Basque music or the celebration of Aita Donosti.



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Jean introduced Miren Maguregui and Casey Sieber to speak to what's happening at the Basque Museum. Miren invited everyone to follow them on social media. They have 11 Euskara classes and collaborate with Boise State University, Basque Studies, the BEO and other Basque organizations and are open to other collaborations and partnerships. There will be a volunteer day this month at the museum, where anyone who wants to volunteer is invited. This can be done online. It's also for current volunteers as a kind of retraining and celebration. Casey spoke about the Arborglyph Collective presentation on March 5th. John Bieter and Boise State grad students will share their research and work that has been in the works for several years. They will also have a clothing designer, Oihane Pardo Perez presenting at the Basque Center on March 31st. On April 2nd, they will be partnering with Boise State to host a Basque Poetry Night. Other upcoming events include their annual benefit dinner and auction in April, Wine Fest in August and one of their favorite new events, the Running of the Bars, a pub crawl on July 11th.

Jean introduced Inaki Arrieta to speak about the Lertxun-Marrak Arborglyph Collaborative and what's happening at the Basque Library including an event for Korrika. He spoke about the history of the arborglyphs in the American West from the late 19th century through the 1980s. In the late 1970s they became the object of research by Jose Mallea and others. In 2019-2020, they started to document them and create a digital archive of thousands of trees including creating 3D models of them. Right now they are working on 2 grant proposals and an exhibit. The card that was passed out includes a link/QR code to their website as well as to the app used to take pictures of trees to both submit arborglyphs and look at other arborglyphs or to donate. In the rest of the Basque Library, they will have a small exhibit about Korrika. Jean asked everyone to go back to their clubs with this information and spoke a bit more about the history of Korrika.

Edurne Arostegui commented that there was previously discussion about having a rotating chair and while she is enjoying all of the reports and things that everyone is doing, how does NABO tie into this? Is it just reports from institutions that already exist? Are we just getting to know what's happening? What is NABO doing on its own front to promote education? Initially, John Ysursa had said it was going to rotate, but that seems to have gone by the wayside so it seems like education doesn't exist, but is a section where we hear about what clubs are doing rather than having our own initiatives. Jean commented that no one has stepped up to do this so the rotating thing did not work. So for now it is members. We have several members who specialize in education so he is allowing them a platform to do this until someone steps up. We are open to someone volunteering to do this, but it is a lot of work. Edurne asked if it was a committee. Jean



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replied that it was just a chairperson that collected all the information and Johnny did all of that as well as initiatives. If anyone is willing to step up, we'd love to have an educational chair, but in the meantime, we have some great members that do this stuff. Edurne said that it would be good to have a side meeting or something for people interested and brainstorm. Maybe a committee as the main mission for NABO is education to help all of these different organizations. Jean asked for anyone interested in volunteering to please talk to him.

Calendar - Mary Lou Urrutia presented her report which is attached at the link at the end of these minutes. She reports that we had a record year on calendar sales. She also noted that online sales have started to pick up. The calendars are \$12 online. Please put it out there letting members know that they are available online. She has reached out to Lisa Corcostegui to get the information on the online calendar and they are working on that. Hoping to get the dates in by May 31st and hoping to have it printed by mid-July and ready by August 1st. She searches social media for pictures, but if you want to send pictures please do. This year, she will also be reaching out to the clubs to update the contact information for the calendar. Jean commented that Mary Lou had suggested that he hand out calendars at the meeting during Jaialdi that included the Lehendakari and several representatives. He did that and everyone loved the calendars.

Dantza - Jaclyn Lasuen presented her report which is attached at the link at the end of these minutes. Jaclyn reported that materials given to us by the Etxepare Institute that she spoke about in November have been sent out to all the clubs that requested them. They were sent on a first come, first served basis. She has been working with Anne Marie Gariador to coordinate sending information for dancers for the convention. She has again asked clubs to confirm their dance instructor's contact information and to share things to advertise on their social media. She mentioned the Dantzariak Facebook and Instagram accounts and noted that the Facebook group is closed and for members only, but Instagram is not. There is also a WhatsApp group. Valerie asked about the color coding on the group list in her report and Jaclyn stated that green is for youth groups, red is for adults and blue is a mix of adults and children. Jean asked if there were any questions or comments. Anne Marie Gariador stated due to all of the festivities scheduled for the convention and their 80th anniversary festival, that they only have room for 3-4 groups on Sunday afternoon from 4-6pm for the convention.

Pilota - Tony Huarte presented his report which is attached at the link at the end of these minutes. Tony reported that November was a big month with a group from St. Pierre et Miquelon coming to play and travel all over the west. He thanked Mateo Franzioa, Lael Urberuaga, Crash Magnuson and Michael Lejardi for their help with livestreaming and hard



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work. He mentioned that they are seeking sponsors, merch sales and passing the beret and ways to fundraise to keep the program alive. It's a lot, especially with travel. There are a lot of out of pocket costs, so if you have any ideas or want to sponsor, please reach out. Jean asked if there were any questions.

Marianna Echeverria asked if we would be voting on dues increases. Jean opened the conversation on this by talking about the great work that Tony has been doing to help some of the pilotaris to travel to different places which has helped grow interest in the program from where it was a few years ago. He noted that it is very costly to send people and Pilota doesn't have a great source of funding as it is now. Currently, we have dues from the clubs that have frontons in their clubs or are hosting games in their clubs which are minimal and it is hard to charge people for something we need to promote, but it is our only source of funding. We also have expenses, like trophies for the clubs participating in NABO tournaments. We have talked about several ideas about new ideas to fund pilota and said we would discuss at this meeting. Marianna commented that Chino prefers the 2nd option of increasing the dues for the clubs with frontons that was presented at the November meeting which was \$200 (suggested), but also thought that all clubs should contribute something like \$50 as it is a Basque sport. Jean commented that there were several ideas and that this is an easy fix but doesn't fix the whole program problem, but it is a good start to increase our dues to those clubs. Valerie moved to raise the dues to \$400 for current clubs who are currently paying dues. Maria Torreta asked for clarification that is only for the clubs with courts that pay this. Jean confirmed. Maria feels that it is not fair for the clubs with courts to be penalized. Bakersfield just spent \$30000 to fix the back wall of their court and now NABO wants more money. Her opinion is if you have a court, you are penalized. Jean said that they also are one of the clubs that have players that want to play in NABO tournaments. Louis Iturriria and Maria asked how many players from Bakersfield played and Tony noted that there were a few players last year. Tony said that there is a problem with the funding and to bring ideas. He is personally ok with clubs that do what they can and if the dues are steep that's fine. If they can contribute with housing or any other way, that would be good. To go back to their question, there were not a lot of players from the clubs and they're trying to see if they can change that. He thinks that raising the dues a little would help, but it is not the ultimate solution. It's one of the things we could consider doing. He will send the exact number of players after the meeting. Mayi stated that there were 6 clubs that pay \$200 dues. Fresno provides housing and meals for the players when they come to Fresno. Colorado provides hotel rooms and meals as well as paying the dues. Jean Pierre Etchechury said that because they have players that come to play at their event (Fresno) they are willing to pay an annual fee or whatever the clubs decide as they think that's fair as well. As a member of the Kern County Basque Club as well, he also thinks that a \$200 increase is not an exorbitant



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amount because it does bring value, is an important aspect of our culture, and we should try to expand its reach. Maria stated that they bring people from the Basque country every year and they pay themselves, with the exception of one of the flights that San Francisco pays because they will go up there and play in May as well. She's not sure what is paid and in looking at the financials, like in Grand Junction, she's not sure what that is, but when they have NABO, nobody pays for the flights of the people they bring over. Jean Pierre Etchechury said that if he's not mistaken, we are talking about homegrown people as opposed to bringing the others. Maria asked if NABO paid for the flights for Grand Junction and was that the local people that we paid for. Jean confirmed that they were US pilotaris that went to Grand Junction because there were no pilotaris in Colorado. Maria then asked if they have players that moved somewhere, will NABO pay for their flights. Jean said, yes, if they can. Maria pointed out that it exceeds the budget and she doesn't think it's fair to penalize the clubs. Jean stated that it doesn't penalize the clubs, but pointed out that dues haven't increased in 20 or more years. Maria stated that yes it does because the dues are only for certain clubs. Jean clarified that it is for clubs with courts with players participating in NABO tournaments.. Maria then asked if dues still needed to be paid if there were no players from that club playing in NABO tournaments. Teresa Cox commented that for a club like Gardnerville which is 4 hours away from a handball court and has no one who plays handball, just like it's not fair to ask Bakersfield to pay everything, it's also not equitable to ask for clubs who have no access to handball to pay. It goes both ways. Valerie withdrew her motion and asked Tony if there had been a meeting to discuss this prior to the meeting. He said no. She suggested that the clubs that have courts should meet to hammer this out with the clubs that have pilota before the next meeting. Edurne stated that even raising the dues to \$400 would only raise the annual dues collected to \$2400 which is not enough. There is a bigger issue and there needs to be bigger thinking around it. She then asked what the budget was? \$10000? Mayi stated that the 2024 budget had a significant hit of \$5000 because of a trip to St. Pierre et Miquelon. She then stated that the purpose of NABO is to bring the community together and to grow our programs, whether it be dantza, mus, pilota, udaleku, ateak ireki. We cannot continue to take this feeling that we are penalizing people. She is suggesting that since she has been treasurer, there has been no increase in pilota dues, and Tony is doing a fantastic job bring pilota to light. So instead of saying we're penalized, lets try to figure out a way. Now, like Valerie's suggestion, how can we make this more equitable? Let's work together on supporting each other. Tabitha Arbillaga stated that their club spends a lot of time working with their city who technically owns their court to maintain it. She thanked Tony for everything he does and stated that while they are a smaller club and don't get a huge turnout, she'd love to sit down with him. She thinks that sponsorship from local businesses could potentially be a great way to make some money for pilota. She did that for Udaleku and would be happy to do the same for sponsoring pilota and more travel costs. Elko also currently covers meals and hotel



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rooms as well. Kate Camino asked if we could adopt a model for pilota like we have for Udaleku. So as part of the dues, there's a \$50 suggested donation or something for all clubs. There are many clubs that donate to Udaleku that have no children that participate and there is no reason why there couldn't be a donation from clubs that don't have pilota courts. This is for everyone's benefit. Philippe asked for clarity because he understood that the fee paid was so that members could participate in the NABO pilota tournament, not because they have a court because it sounds like a tax on members that have a court. For example, there may be a club that doesn't have a court, but may have members who want to participate in the NABO tournament, his understanding is that they would then need to pay that fee. He's like clarification on what is the purpose of the fee. Tony responded he will look at it as that's before his time. He's happy that people are talking about pilota and excited for Maria's feedback as this conversation is well overdue. He will reach out to the clubs to come up with something. Jean reiterated that Valerie had withdrawn her motion and Tony is going to set up a Zoom meeting with the clubs that have participants and courts to brainstorm. Alex Wray asked about a target for spending, what kinds of things we want to cover, the types of tournaments we are looking to create? How do we think about what this money is going towards and how much we think we need on an annual basis? We need this before we can think about what dues should be or what sponsorship we need to find, because it gets really tough to know how much money we need to raise. Edurne agreed and if we are going to vote on this, she would also like to see a uniform policy on what NABO is covering which includes what those monies will cover. Valerie also clarified that this is only for play within the US as NABO does not participate in international pilota as that play is under the US Federation. St. Pierre et Miquelon is a different story because they are a NABO organization. Jean stated that we will reconvene this discussion at the Convention in Southern California to discuss feedback from Tony's meeting.

Jean broke at 10:07am; the meeting resumed at 10:22am.

WWII Veteran's Memorial - Mayi presented the report which is attached at the link at the end of these minutes. Mayi announced Gardnerville as the new home of the Memorial. The location will be Heritage Park which is within walking distance of the JT. She also presented a proposed rendering of the monument. The next step is to meet with the Town Manager of Gardnerville, give him the dimensions and they can then determine what the next steps are with permitting, etc. The Town of Gardnerville is donating the land for this monument and last night Mike Gortari said that his company will donate the lighting for the monument. She announced a concentrated fundraising effort and passed out a tri-fold pamphlet for everyone. If a thousand people donate \$20 each, that's \$20,000. The budget listed on the trifold is \$500,000, which is a lot of money, but with the town donating the land and the lighting being donated, that budget can go down



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significantly. She asked that each club donate something specific for the building of the monument and has asked that clubs donate towards this instead of Udaleku this year. Supporting both initiatives would be great as well. She asked Jean to share a story from the night before. He shared the story of Jonrie Davila who was a head fundraiser for Stanford University among her other jobs and is an Etchemendy originally. Her father and two uncles served in the Armed Forces and fought in World War II and were held up as heroes. They were highly decorated; two Colonels and a Lieutenant Colonel and their father was born in Arneguy. They were all born in Gardnerville and John used to run the Overland as well as a couple of other hotels. Mayi reminded everyone that Pedro Oiarzabal would be giving a public talk today at 2pm and would be unveiling the location at that time as well. They would like to get this done this year as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation. Pedro said his presentation will have more renderings and details. It will be short, but will have an open discussion and question time. He reminded us that we are the best ambassadors for this project and that this is a national monument which will honor veterans from 30 states. He is sure that all of our clubs have WWII veterans as members. Some were even founders of our organizations. He asked that we talk to our clubs, friends, coworkers and employers. The last time we tried something as big as this was the National Monument to the Basque Sheepherder. We are now just stepping another generation as we celebrate those immigrants who came to this country. Most of them had no papers but joined the Army. They volunteered to fight for their newly adopted country and most of their children fought for the US too. Mayi asked that clubs reach out to her as they are doing their program booklets and fundraising. They are willing to pay for a full page ad in your program booklet to get the word out. Sam Zengotitabengoa asked what the total fundraising goal is. Mayi answered that it was originally \$500,000, but now with the Town of Gardnerville donating the land and receiving the first in-kind donation for the lighting, they need to go back and fine tune the budget. They anticipate that it will be much lower with a \$500,000 max. She also noted that the Mendiko Euskaldun Cluba has pledged to donate \$1000 annually to this project and thanked Becky Sarratea-Murphy, Teresa and Aline Elicagaray. Since it will be in a town park, the park will take care of most of the maintenance, but there will also be unknown items, like sprucing up the flowers or changing out bulbs and adding names and that money can help with that. Jean thanked Mayi, the committee and Pedro for all their hard work.

Kantari Eguna - Jean had noted previously that Chino had approached him about hosting Kantari Eguna this year, so he reached out Noel Goyheneche about that possibility and Rocklin said they would be happy with that change, but after further discussion, Chino has decided that it would be better to host it when they host the convention in order to have a better turnout. He hopes that Noel, Becky and Marianna can discuss what will happen this year.



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Txerriki/Gateau Basque Contest - Valerie presented the report which is attached at the link at the end of these minutes. She reported that Txerriki will be Saturday afternoon of the convention with the Gateau Basque on Sunday.

Mus - Pierre presented the report which is attached at the link at the end of these minutes. 2026 Mus Finals will be hosted at the SFBCC by the Anaitasuna Basque Club on the day before Father's Day (June 20, 2026). He encouraged teaching mus in our local organizations both youth and adults. Also, lowering the age to 16 has shown an increase in multi-generational play. The mus committee determined that the current rules for sending teams to the finals will hold. The current rules are as follows: tournaments from 1-20 send one team, 21 or more teams send euskaratwo and the largest tournament will send 3 teams. At this time with the current rules, the finals tournament includes about 100 people between players and workers and not every club has the ability to host that many people. Additionally, with the approximately 40 teams that we have now, it takes a whole day to play. Mayi observed that while she respects the committee discussion, she observes that while most small clubs may not have the location to host, many have other spaces that can be used. NABO has available \$1000 for the national tournament for any club that needs assistance. She thinks if the clubs are willing to pay for two teams to come, then she doesn't see what the logistical problem is and asked that the option to increase the number of teams be discussed further in committee. Valerie stated that it will be put back on our agenda along with the flip side which is for the clubs who have larger tournaments, why are they not sending three teams. She also asked that we adjust the final date to qualify for the tournament from Jun 19 to June 1st to bring it in line with having mus dues paid within the timeline set forth in our bylaws. Valerie stated that the last tournament is May 30 in Ontario, Oregon. The committee will revisit the dues conversation. Teresa spoke to the committee's discussion of the time required for a tournament larger than 42 teams. Gardnerville consistently runs a significantly larger tournament than the finals and they play from 8:30am to 6 or 7pm. If every club sends two teams, the problem is not just a space issue but also a time issue and we would need to consider extending the tournament into a two day tournament which becomes even more problematic. It will be discussed further, but as a club that runs a larger tournament we are at the limit for a one day tournament. Valerie stated that that was one of the strongest reasons as a committee to stay the same. Jean thanked the committee for discussing and making a decision. He doesn't think there is anything to vote on here, but asked that the committee look at it again down the road if asked. Gina Aguerre asked for confirmation that 16 year olds can play in the internationals if they qualify and it was confirmed that yes they can by Valerie and Pierre. It was confirmed at the International level as well.



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Pierre reported that our Euskal Etxeak were invited to participate in MercoMus in Santiago, Chile which is an international tournament based in South America. It started with Argentina, Uruguay and Chile in 2005 and in 2013 Peru and Venezuela joined. This year, they have invited two teams from Euskal Etxeak in the US to attend. It will be April 15-18, 2026. The cost will be \$500/player plus travel expenses. Pierre is looking for 2 teams from the US. Valerie clarified that this is not an international tournament, but NABO would act as a gatekeeper. NABO would not pay, but if clubs are interested in sending someone on their dime, they would reach out to NABO. Jean asked if there were any questions. Anne Marie Gariador asked for the country and Pierre confirmed it would be in Santiago, Chile.

International Mus Finals will be in Bilbao from Dec 5-13.

Udaleku - Valerie presented the report which is attached at the link at the end of these minutes. Planning is going well. Applications will go live at 6pm PST on Mar 1, but the aide applications are live now. The hosting club has final say on the aides, NABO only facilitates the conversations. Valerie confirmed the cost is \$535 + \$60 supplement for Disneyland. Anne Marie Gariador confirmed that they are going to Disney and have a lot of fun things planned. Mayi reminded everyone of the process for financial assistance for Udaleku. Anne Marie Gariador confirmed that they are hoping to host up to 120 participants. 2027 Udaleku will be in Salt Lake City and there will be further information at the next meeting. Jean thanked Valerie for her hard work and Chino and Salt Lake for hosting Udaleku.

Euskara - Ziortza Gandarias Beldarrain presented the report which is attached at the link at the end of these minutes. The program is doing well. There are currently two Basque clubs that are successfully offering Basque language instruction and they would like to see that happening in more communities. They are thinking of a personalized outreach model where the coordinator and maybe a teacher can go to clubs that are interested in Euskara in their community to tailor a program that works for that community. They are also working on Korrika. They have had some communities reach out to them and will be sharing materials with them. They have also been speaking to Nerea Arrieta in New York and are thinking to somehow symbolize the Korrika this year is going to be from Xiberua to Bilbao, so starting on March 20 in New York and finishing on the west coast. They will be working in Boise with Basque Studies, the museum and ikastola and NABO students will be working on that with the coordinators. Another thing they are working on is relationships with other Euskara programs in the diaspora, so they have been partnering with FEVA and Kinku, Madalen and Mikaela were there to see how their Euskara program is working and how to bring that program to North America. They will start working on that this fall and work to adapt it to our needs. Now is the moment to grow and we have the



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resources for that. We have the support of Etxepare, the government and our Basque communities. The most important thing is that the new generation wants to learn. Another Topaketa is happening this weekend and another one is coming up in Reno and they are helping and creating belonging.

Jean and Ziortza introduced Mikaela Goicoechea-DePoyster and Madalen Bieter Lete who reported about an immersive 10-Day Euskara program through Etxepare that they were able to participate in with FEVA. Mikaela highlighted a test run of a program implementing bertsolaritza into Euskara. The intention beyond this is to replicate something similar in the US. There is a large interest for learning Euskara but we don't have the teachers or people who are prepped to make the leap to become teachers so. They are planning to launch a scholarship program in Sep 2026 which will be a 3 year program to learn Euskara with the goal to come back and teach either in person or online. The goal is to achieve a B1 level so they can teach A1 or A2 classes. This will be similar to the Argentina program, except to accommodate US vacation schedules, they will plan long weekends every six months and perhaps in the summer have a slightly longer (one week) opportunity. At the end of the three year program, the goal is to support a short-term stay at Maizpide so they can participate in a barnetegi intensively and then at the end of summer come back to the US and be ready to teach. This will put us finishing the program in 2029. If there is anyone interested in learning Euskara and potentially teaching, we have a program for them. It is free as long as they commit to keeping up with things. Please reach out to Mikaela and Madalen for more information or go to the website naboeuskara.org. They plan to open 15 spots and already have 5 people interested. They thanked NABO, FEVA and Etxepare for their support and the opportunities they have had so far.

Jean introduced Kinku Uzkudun from the Etxepare Institute who made a statement in Basque. Jean gave a quick synopsis of Kinku's statement. He said that he was in Argentina with the two young ladies and it was a wonderful experience and they did a great job. It was really neat for the Argentinians to see two young people from the diaspora who spoke Basque so well. Then he talked about the new programs that we are developing and how the Basque program here in the United States has taken a big jump forward. This is with the new money that we are receiving from the grant from Etxepare to develop the program with the teachers. We did already use the money from last year's grant to run a gathering of teachers and possible teachers in Reno and there is another going on now, as well as helping pay for the trip to Argentina which is separate from our regular grant that we get for our regular program which will help us grow further, so the grant has been a success and now it's up to them to implement what they've learned here with us. He also talked about books that they've been doing. They had one on dance which Jaclyn got to a few groups and he will send us more, so if there are



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other dance groups interested, there are more coming. There is one on mus, unfortunately, it's not how we play here. They are coming out with one for little kids (3-5 years old) to start teaching them Basque which is very cool and will include QR codes with more information. Right now, it's just in Spanish, but they are coming out with an English version soon. He then spoke about Korrika and they are very excited to have our community involved and having a contest. You make a little video talking in Basque and submit it. The deadline is February 22. For more information on that, talk to Ziortza, Madelen or Mikaela. The last thing he talked about was our contract with Etxepare. They are giving us money to develop a more professional class of teachers which is separate from our regular grant so we will have two grants. Last year received 20,000 Euros and this year we will receive 40,000 Euros to help develop our program. Jean signed the new agreement and thanked Etxepare and Kinku.

Conchi spoke regarding Korrika. The idea is to find out how the Korrika is running in the US and Canada. Which states are participating, how many people, how many kilometers in total. The goal is to pass the baton via video around the US and Canada.

Music - Mikaela presented the report which is attached at the link at the end of these minutes. The online programs are still running and we have our NABO Spotify. She's working on a new Spotify playlist of the songs that you should know, that you have to know so that when you are in the Basque Country and you hear them come on, you can join in the fun.

Bertsolari - Jean introduced Martin Goicoechea and Nerea Eceiza who presented the report which is attached at the link at the end of these minutes. Nerea is very happy to hear about the increasing interest in learning bertsolaritza. They are working on revitalizing bertsolaritza in the US and so far the initiative has consisted of bertso events and the establishment of a bertso school in 2022. Last year, we had many virtual events fostering community participation including the Omenaldia honoring Johnny Curuchet in Mar 2025. It was an international event with great artists coming from the Basque Country as well as those from the US. There was also a team providing real-time translations so everyone could engage with the participants. In Chino, there was a lunch on March 23 with seven bertsolaris. At Jaialdi, there were several events, including sports night and the pilota finals. In Gardnerville, there were 3 bertsos for the Kantari Eguna and later in the year, we had the Diaspora Eguna (Day of the Diaspora) where we had the opportunity to send a video for the official event held in the Basque Country. It was a great year in terms of all the events that we held and all the engagement from the Basque American audiences. In parallel, we continued with the ongoing program of the Bertso school. If you know anyone interested in attending, please reach out. For 2026, we are working on additional efforts to make sure that this unique art form continues to survive and thrive in the



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Americas. To start, there will be an event on March 8 in San Francisco including renowned Bertsolaris from the Basque country as well as several from the US and we will have live translation as well. She believes there will be livestreaming for that event. Also, they are looking forward to performing at other events. They are also collaborating with the Euskara program on the bertsolaritza program discussed earlier. Martin Goicoechea thanked Nerea and Oier Pastor for their hard work. He also thanks Kinku, Ziortza, Madalen and Mikaela for how quickly they've gotten this partnership set up.

Facilitator/Webmaster - Kate presented the report which is attached at the link at the end of these minutes which included the 2025 Grant receipt of 40,281 euros which is significantly lower than the amount we were hoping for. She asked Conchi if she knows why with the limit for federations being 50,000, FEVA received over 51,000. She also asked if Benan is still the point person and who she should discuss it with as we had been told that we were not doing enough new programs, but even though we've implemented a bunch of new programs, we are still not increasing our funding and actually it's making it worse because we're spread thinner with 40,000 euros. Our salaries annually are 38,000 which basically leaves 2,000 for all of the other NABO programs to fight over. Obviously, this model isn't working very well anymore for us. We have had this discussion several times and she is trying to be as transparent as possible because we have always said that if the salaries become a burden, they will go away. This year we received even less than last year so we're going in the wrong direction. She also thanked everyone for sharing information for Astero. Lisa is continuing to work on the NABO website template and finding ways to improve and streamline it and hopefully it will work better with mobile. Kate congratulated Colorado and Salt Lake City Basque Clubs on their grant awards and noted that if anyone needs help, please reach out. Conchi doesn't have an answer to Kate's question about why FEVA received more than the allotted amount. She has been told that this year funds have been split even more than before to more proportionately distribute funds, but she will look into it. Lisa also reported that we've had some rough experiences with GoDaddy lately so maybe when we get WordPress up and running, we'll go somewhere else because it's really expensive and not very helpful.

Old Business -

Bizi Emankorra - Mayi moved to approve the nomination of Philippe Acheritogaray and Chris seconded. It passed unanimously. Philippe thanked everyone.

Martin moved to approve the nomination of Mike and Jeanette Bidart and Edurne seconded. It passed unanimously.



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New Business -

Anne Marie Gariador spoke about the 2026 Convention. Fliers and info were passed out including lodging and website info and she spoke about the schedule of events. This information is also included in the link at the bottom of these minutes. Udaleku is ending during the convention which is why there are so many events. On Saturday, there will also be a mus tournament, handball games and the txerriki contest to be followed by their anniversary dinner which will include the Udaleku final performance. Sunday will be the picnic. Centro Basco is open to hosting breakfast on Monday morning if they can get 50 or more people there. Reservation links for meals to follow via Astero. Jean asked that she send him any information and he will forward it to the delegates as well.

Jean announced that the fall meeting will be on Rocklin on October 10th with more info to come.

Jean asked if any other club would like to put in for a future meeting. No one responded at this time.

Jean asked if there was any other new business. There was none.

Jean read an email received from John Ysursa. He moved to rename the NABO Finals in honor of Pierre Etcharren (The Pierre Etcharren North American Basque Organization Tournament). Edurne seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

Announcements -

Seattle will be hosting a mus tournament in Seattle on Mar 21st and invited everyone to attend.

Gina reminded everyone to pick up posters for the convention.

Miren thanked Gloria Totoricaguena for her testament at the hearing in the Idaho legislature.

Joseba noted they are celebrating the 25th anniversary of putting together information for the Basque diaspora for the Basque Country and different diasporas. He also reminded that together with EuskalKultura.eus they publish a weekly article regarding the diaspora in Herria of Bayonne. It is on paper and lately, they have a kind of internet version as well.



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Mayi moved to adjourn the meeting and Jaclyn seconded the motion. Lunch will be hosted by the San Francisco Basque Club and SFBCC. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 12:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Cox, Secretary

To see reports:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1t0_GqhnzoflVBOWhUPVbKlpVJiUH3iW4?usp=sharing