



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Winter Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Chino, CA and Zoom,
Friday, July 3, 2026

NABO Officers

President - Jean Flesher

Vice President - Philippe Acheritogaray - absent

Treasurer - Mayi Petracek

Secretary - Teresa Cox

NABO Administrators

Euskara Coordinator - Mikaela Goikoetxea-DePoyster (Z) and Madalen Bieter-Lete

Facilitator - Kate Camino

Webmaster - Lisa Corcostegui (Z)

Program Directors & Committee Chairpersons

Ateak Ireki - Monique Flesher - absent

Bertsolaritza - Nerea Eceiza (Z), Oier Pastor (Z) and Martin Goicoechea (Z)

Finance Committee - Mayi Petracek

WWII Veterans Memorial Committee - Mayi Petracek

Calendars - Mary Lou Urrutia - absent

Education - no chairman at this time

Euskara - Ziortza Gandarias Beldarrain (Z)

Mus - Pierre Etcharren

Pilota - Tony Huarte - absent

Txerriki Contest Organizer - Valerie Arrechea

Udaleku - Valerie Arrechea and Kate Camino

Music - Mikaela DePoyster-Goikoetxea (Z)

Euskal Kantari - Becky Sarratea and Noel Goyhenetche (?)

Dantza - Jaclyn Lasuen (Z)

Board of Directors (delegates) Representing 40 NABO Member Organizations

British Columbia:

Zazpiak Bat: Vancouver

Julia Christy (Z)

Tina Etchart

Quebec

Euskaldunak: Quebec

Absent

Absent

California



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A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Winter Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Chino, CA and Zoom,
Friday, July 3, 2026

Bakersfield Kern County Basque Club	Maria Toretta (Z)	Maria Toretta (proxy) (Z)
Chino Chino Basque Club	Marianna Etcheverria	Kathie Goyenetché
Fresno Fresno Basque Club	Jean Pierre Etchechury	Tony Campos
Los Banos Los Banos Basque Club	Jean Pierre Etchechury (proxy)	Jean Pierre Etchechury (proxy)
Ontario Southern California Basque Club	Mike Aguerre	Anne Marie Gariador
Rocklin Iparreko Ibarra/Northern Valley Basque Club	Mike Uro (Z)	Kattalin Etchamendy
San Francisco Anaitasuna Basque Club	Gina Aguerre	Gina Aguerre (proxy)
San Francisco Basque Club	Joana Arrechea	Jean Pierre Elissetché
Basque Educational Organization	Anne Marie Etcheverria	Aline Elicagaray
San Francisco Basque Cultural Center	Valerie Arrechea	Marianne Arotzarena Martinon
Susanville Susanville Eskualdun Inc.	Jeanette Goni	Jeanette Goni (proxy)
Ventura County Ventura County Basque Club	Jose Luis Urrutia	Maria Urrutia



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Winter Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Chino, CA and Zoom,
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Colorado

Denver Euskal Etxea	Mayi Petracek	Kristi Urquidi (Z)
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Saint Pierre et Miquelon

Euskal Etxea SPM	Absent	Absent
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Idaho

Boise

Basque Museum &
Cultural Center

Casey Sieber	Casey Sieber (proxy)
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Basque Studies at Boise
State University

John Ysursa	Absent
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Cenarrusa Foundation

Gloria Totoricaguena	Absent
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Euzkaldunak: Boise Basque
Center

Mark Bieter (Z)	Alex Wray
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Oinkari Basque Dancers

Jaclyn Lasuen	Tiana Herrera
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Gooding

Gooding Basque Association

Absent (didn't log in)	Absent
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Homedale

Txoko Ona Basque Club

Gloria Lejardi (Z)	John Lejardi (Z)
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Mountain Home

Euskal Lagunak

Jaclyn Lasuen	Jaclyn Lasuen (proxy)
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Nevada

Battle Mountain

Battle Mountain Oberenak

Absent	Absent
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Elko



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Friday, July 3, 2026

Elko Euzkaldunak Club	Absent	Absent
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	Gloria Lejardi (proxy)	John Lejardi (proxy)
Reno Center for Basque Studies	Kate Camino	Kate Camino (proxy)
Zazpiak Bat Reno Basque Club	Mike Gortari	Dominica Zubillaga (proxy) (Z)
Winnemucca Euskaldunak Danak Bat	Maureen MacDonald	Absent
New York Euzko Etxea	Absent	Absent
Oregon Ontario, Oregon Basque Club	Frank Yraguen (Z)	Lisa Corcostegui (Z)
Rhode Island		
Portsmouth New England Basque Club	Jose Ramon Aja (Z)	Absent
Utah Basque Club of Utah	Phil Archibeque	Tony Barajas



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

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District of Columbia

Washington D.C. Euskal
Etxea

Absent

Absent

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, Winnemucca
Euskaldunak Danak Bat, New York Euskal Etxea, Euskal Etxea St. Pierre et Miquelon

Basque Government Representatives in Attendance - Conchi Aranguren

Guests - Joseba Etxarri, Itziar Etxarri, Ziortza Olano, Cristian Echeverria, Heidi Echeverria,
Conchi Aranguren

Jean Flesher called the meeting to order at 8:03am and welcomed everyone to Chino. He congratulated the Southern California Basque Club on their 80th anniversary. He also congratulated them for keeping the traditions going and growing what they do in the community. He asked for a moment of silence to think of those who have passed away or are suffering. After a moment of silence, Jean introduced Randy Gariador, President of the Southern California Basque Club who welcomed NABO and gave a schedule of events for the weekend and thanked everyone for coming.

Teresa Cox did the roll call.

During roll call, the internet connection was lost several times and Jean apologized to those online for the technical difficulties.



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Winter Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Chino, CA and Zoom,
Friday, July 3, 2026

Jean let Jose Ramon Aja know that dues have not been received from the New England Basque Club this year so while he would not be able to vote, he is welcome to stay in the meeting and catch up with everything that we're doing. He also asked that Jose speak to his treasurer about getting dues paid.

Jean then introduced Ziortza Olano from the Basque government, Conchi Aranguren, the Delegate from the Basque government to the United States and Canada and from Euskal Kultura, Joseba Etxarri and his sister, Itziar Etxarri.

Kate Camino moved to accept the minutes as submitted and Mayi Petrcek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Jean asked that they be added to the website by Lisa Corcostegi.

Quorum - 32 of 40 clubs represented with 61 delegates in attendance. Simple majority is 17 members/31 delegates and 2/3s is 41 delegates.

Treasurer/Finance Report - The reports which can be found at the link at the end of these minutes were presented by Mayi Petrcek. Mayi reported that we had received our second grant in June for 2025. We've received a total of \$46,000 which was better than we were hoping for due the exchange rate. We wound up 39 clubs, 6,018 members, and as we agreed to at the fall 2024 meeting, 25 cents of every member dollar is going to be transferred to the Aita Tillous fund. This year that was \$1505 which should be a little bit higher. We had some difficulty with clubs not sending in the right dues this year.

We had implemented a new due structure in 2025. So for 2026, there really shouldn't have been any issues. So as delegates, please go back to your treasurers and make sure they understand any changes in the due structures. I'm gonna try and make it easy for them this year toward the end of the year. I'm gonna develop a little form that I will send out, and they can fill it out, and then we'll tell them exactly how to calculate their dues.

The internet connection was lost again so there was a slight delay in the meeting while it was determined whether the meeting was active online. Edurne Arostegui stated that we don't have quorum with the connection being lost so the meeting cannot continue. It was noted that the meeting people are online and could be heard by those onsite even though the video wasn't working.



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Winter Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Chino, CA and Zoom,
Friday, July 3, 2026

Jean called for a short to try to resolve the internet issues. Jean called the meeting back to order and noted that if the signal is lost again, we do have a quorum to continue with 21 clubs represented in person.

Mayi introduced the new travel policy that was sent out prior to the meeting and noted that there had been two comments received. Teresa Cox commented that perhaps an edit be made to reflect that if someone chooses to stay at a hotel that is less expensive than the hosting club one should not need preapproval from the president as it would save NABO money. Jean noted this had been sent out earlier to avoid doing this kind of last minute editing and that this follows what we have been doing already, but it was never written down and asked for further comment. He also clarified because this had been brought up in Salt Lake City. Jean Pierre Elissetche asked if the comments that had been received prior to the meeting had been addressed and Jean said yes. Kate Camino commented that during her tenure as secretary, NABO did not pay for her travel as that was covered under the Center for Basque Studies unless the costs were above the state of Nevada's rate in which case NABO would pay the difference. She also stated that with regards to officer travel, no one was travelling first class or staying in five star hotels. Jean asked for further comment and there was none. Jean called for a vote and the policy was approved unanimously.

Mayi then presented the investment report which is included in the link at the end of these minutes. She included two performance reports, one as of the end of March 31, and the other one as of May 31. Our stock market investments this year have been going up and down as everybody's portfolio. As of June 30th, our investments were 293,181 dollars. There was little bit of a loss between May and June, but we're still doing quite well with our investments. Mayi asked if there were any further questions. There were none.

Mayi presented the nomination of Alex Wray to the finance/investment committee noting that when the committee was started back in 2018/2019 there was no representation from Idaho and there hasn't been during its tenure and Idaho has 2,248 members in NABO which is the most of any state. Alex has been on the Oinkari board for 10 years, and he held a variety of roles, including Vice president and Treasurer. He is currently working in Simplot as the Director of Integrated Business Planning. He's also worked at Clearwater Analytics, and he's a graduate of University of Notre Dame with a Bachelor of Business Administration and Finance. She thinks Alex would make a great addition to our committee, plus younger blood. We need to start bringing younger blood into our committees so that we can continue to grow NABO and make sure that it profits and it grows. She then asked Alex to speak.



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Winter Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Chino, CA and Zoom,
Friday, July 3, 2026

Alex stated that he has worked in a variety of finance roles during his career and wants to contribute where he can and help bring the next generation along and is ready to jump in with both feet.

Jean asked for comments. There was none. Jean called for a vote and Alex Wray's nomination passed unanimously. Mayi asked for a motion for the financial reports. Jean Pierre Elissetche moved to approve the financial and treasurers reports. Kate Camino seconded. Approved unanimously.

Jean welcomed Christian and Heidi Echeverria from Portland, Oregon as special guests. He noted that they have formed a Basque Club there and that we are trying to entice them to join NABO.

Valerie Arrechea asked a question about the Aita Tillous fund. She wants to know if it is more efficient to transfer 25 cents of every member dollar as originally determined or to have those funds go into the general fund and then make transfers to maintain a minimum \$5000 balance which was decided later as it was more efficient. She noted that when the dues were updated it returned to a 25 cent per member dollar transfer. Mayi stated that the 25 cent transfer is more efficient because it only needs to be done once rather than doing multiple transfers to maintain a \$5000 balance. She noted that when she became treasurer, she doesn't think she was told by Grace about the 25 cents or the 5,000 dollars. Valerie stated that it was a vote that was held and was curious as to the why. Jean stated that there was a vote and it was never implemented. Mayi also noted that in 2024, when we were talking about the due increase there were some clubs who were reluctant to have our dues increase and that portion of the dues was a factor for some. She said it could be revised in the future to decide if needed and in that case we'd need to decide where those funds would come from. Valerie confirmed her understanding and asked what 25 cents per member came to per year. Mayi stated that this year it was \$1500 as previously reported and that it was probably a bit low because New York hadn't submitted the right number of members and New England hadn't yet paid their dues. Jean said we could talk about it and bring up something at the next meeting if needed and Valerie said it would depend on the needs of the Aita Tillous fund. Mayi noted that as of May, we had \$4,675 that does not include the \$1,500 that will be transferred which will take us over the \$5,000 minimum. This does include the scholarship assistance that we've already used for Udaleku. Jean noted that we're also accepting donations from anyone that would like to donate to it because it's a great fund.



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Winter Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Chino, CA and Zoom,
Friday, July 3, 2026

Basque Government - Jean introduced Ziortza Olano. She spoke about the new Diaspora bill and where they are in that process. Our communities are changing, new generations are emerging, new professional and academic networks are growing, and technology is creating entirely new ways of staying connected with Euskadi. This new reality deserves a new vision: they are developing the new Basque diaspora bill. From the beginning, they knew it had to be built together with our global Basque community, so they launched an extensive international listening process. Over the past month they have met with 75 institutions across 11 countries and more than 250 voices have actively contributed to shaping the future of this law. They organized four international seminars where over 500 people received firsthand information about the draft legislation and held 10 online dialogue sessions bringing together more than 250 participants from across the world to share ideas, experiences and proposals. In July they officially closed this listening phase so at this moment they are now entering a new stage carefully evaluating the 17 formal reflections and submissions received during the public consultation process.

Their objective is clear to enrich the tech before it becomes a bid and is presented to the Basque Parliament with the ambition of approving the new Basque diaspora law in 2027. This process has confirmed something they already believed. The Basque diaspora is not only part of our story, it is an essential part of our future. The new law introduced a new way of understanding our global community. It recognized the diaspora not simply as a network but as a community of people connected to Euskadi in many different ways. At its core are four strategic forms of capital: human capital because people are our greatest asset social capital because relationships trust and collaboration are what keep our global community alive, cultural capital because our language, our heritage and our identity continue to unite us across generations and continents, and economic capital because the diaspora represents an extraordinary source of talent entrepreneurship international networks and opportunities for Euskadi to reflect a model understanding of what the global Basque community can be in the 21st century but a law only becomes meaningful when it is translated into action and that is why even before the law is abroad they are already beginning to work towards this new framework of Euskadi. They will publish their traditional annual calls supporting Basque centers and community activities between July and September. They will launch three new funding programs that reflect this new vision. One will support innovation projects encouraging new ideas and new ways of connecting Euskadi with its global community, another will promote cultural tours bringing together at least three Basque centers to collaborate on shared cultural initiatives across different countries and a third program will support support publications and new narratives helping us preserve our collective memory while telling today's story of Euskadi



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Winter Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Chino, CA and Zoom,
Friday, July 3, 2026

to new international audiences in different ways at the same time we continue investing in people.

This summer they are celebrating the first edition of Gaztemunduri/Ateak Ireki bringing together young members of the diaspora from different parts of the world to strengthen the connection with Euskadi and with one another. On the 15th of July the Lehendakari will be with the Ateak Ireki group of 50 young people in Tolosa and also with the Euskara Ventura team which is another 107 people that are walking around Euskadi.

They are also launching the Euskal Diaspora Lab developed together with our three Basque universities. In this initiative they are introducing three new learning models focused on comparative diasporas to what they are doing well and what others are doing well. There is another model about communication and global narratives among us and what we are telling to the world and another about innovation and project development. The first one is going to be with the Basque University, a public university and the second one is going to be with Euskal University and the third one is going to be with Mondragon University. In the first model, they will also have different teachers from our diaspora universities.

Because the goal is not only to preserve our past, it is to create new villages, new knowledge, new collaborations, and new opportunities for future generations. The new Basque diaspora law is therefore much more than a legal test. It's another way of playing as Euskadi global lab for the next 30 years to 40 years so it is an invitation to continue building together a stronger, more connected and more global Euskadi because our story brought us together, our present feels as connected and our future will be built together.

Ziortza then introduced Conchi Aranguren who said what a nice opportunity to meet some of us in person and via Zoom and to see the places where we gather because the places mean a lot. It's not just the building, it is the community that we see here. She thanked NABO for having her and congratulated the Basque Club of Chino for preserving Basque culture, language and tradition in California. She wanted to mention this weekend, we are celebrating America's Independence Day. And it's a wonderful opportunity to remember that the relationship between the Basque country and the United States goes back to the very birth of these nations. She reminded us that John Adams, one of the founding fathers and the second president of the US, was inspired by the Basque Fueros and he referred to Biscay in his writings as an example of Republican government in Europe. Some historians also suggest that the Basque legal traditions influenced this aspect of the constitutional principles that later became part of the US Bill of Rights. Another remarkable figure was Diego de Gardoqui, the Basque merchant from



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Winter Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Chino, CA and Zoom,
Friday, July 3, 2026

Bilbao, whose family company played a key role in supplying the American Revolution with much-needed weapons, ammunition and other essential goods. Sometimes they were paid with fish and flour, not money. Among those supplies were thousands of muskets manufactured in Soradute, La Estancia de las Almas. And these are just a few examples.

She was pleased to tell us that they have finally received the approval for the Ellis Island Project this week. This is a very important project for all of us. Next year, the Basque Government will present an exhibition at Ellis Island dedicated to the Basque men and women who came to America through this historic gateway. It will tell the story of their journeys, their contributions, and the legacy they built for future generations. She looks forward to sharing more details with us in the coming months, and hopes many of us will have the opportunity to visit the exhibition in New York. The exhibition will run from Memorial Day 2027 until the second week of September. So we will have time and opportunities to do some things there. She thanked us for our efforts.

Ateak Ireki - Jean presented the report which is attached at the link below. He reported that 21 people participated and he said they are having a great time. There is additional information in the submitted report and there will be more to report at the next meeting.

Dantza - Jaclyn Lasuen presented her submitted report which is attached at the link below. She asked that we double check the person on the contact list so she's contacting the right people. Please have your dancers let her know what's happening so she can share that information. She mentioned that Denver has started a dance group and are looking for costuming advice, so if any one has any they can reach out to Vanessa there. They've also been working on some stuff with Gauden Bat to get together.

Calendar - Jean presented the report which is attached at the link below. They had great sales last year thanks to Jai Aldi. Next year's calendars will be available for Gardnerville on Aug 8. If anyone has any suggestions, please reach out to Mary Lou Urrutia.

Facilitator/Webmaster - Kate Camino presented the report which is attached at the link below. She reported that since our last meeting, as stated by Mayi, we received the second half of our 2025 grant. The total is \$46,165.73 which was much more than what we were anticipating, but she is sure that has to do with the exchange rate. She was also part of the online workshop regarding the new Basque Law held in May. The delegates were in Boise at that time, and so she was part of that. At that time we were told that Basque club 2026 grants would be announced in June, but we haven't had that announcement yet, and she is sure a lot of that has



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Winter Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Chino, CA and Zoom,
Friday, July 3, 2026

to do with the new law. As soon as she knows anything about 2026 grants, she'll share that with everybody. She thanked everyone that shares news with her for Astero. She reported that Lisa Corcostegi was also part of the virtual workshop in May for the new Basque Government Law, and she continues to work on improving the website. Lisa is looking at redoing the website, and is working on that slowly but surely. Kate reminded us to go to the NABO website to check our club's information and provide Lisa with any updates. Kate stated that if anyone is interested in taking over the facilitator/webmaster position, those applications are presented and voted on at the fall meeting. So if that's something that you're interested in doing, please submit your application before Rocklin.

Euskara- Madalen Bieter Lete presented her report due to technical difficulties. The report is attached at the link below. Madalen reported that this has been a big year for our Euskara classes. You can see our numbers in the packet here. This spring, they had about 150 students, and in the fall there were a little bit more than that too. They put on a class for Ateak Ireki participants before they went off to the Basque Country in June. Etienne Lekumberri put on that class. They also had a couple of classes this summer, including a Bertsolaritza workshop where we collaborated with NABOs Bertso Escola. Two Bertsolaris taught a couple of students about Bertsolaritza and came up with those improvised Basque songs which was really successful, and we'd really like to be able to facilitate more of those cultural workshops throughout the year. That could be classes taught in English about folklore, mythology, or history. Maybe somebody would like to talk a little bit about the World War II involvement of Basque people. We could offer a workshop and support somebody being paid to teach that class over a series of hours. So if there's anybody in your clubs who would like to teach a class about language, or is ready to maybe teach it in Euskal-English beginner level that would be great, or maybe incorporate a little bit of Basque language in that cultural topic class, like vocabulary or something like that, they would love to talk to you. Whether it's one class on a weekend or a couple of weekends or a couple of evenings. If you have an idea, please come talk to her today or email us.

The Euskara Munduan teacher training program is full steam ahead. The application is open. They've already had about 23 people submit applications from all over the US. The last day to submit an application via our website is July 31st. At this point, they have room to give 15 scholarships for that program. They are trying to see if they can sneak two more into the budget to work two more. If there is anybody in your club or you know somebody who is ready to learn Euskara and just needs a way to do it and would be ready to teach for your club or online after graduation from the program, have them check out the website or talk to her to get the website. It's a solid program, and people learn a lot through the online modality, and there's an awesome opportunity to go to the Basque Country to Maizpide.



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Winter Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Chino, CA and Zoom,
Friday, July 3, 2026

Her last request is for teachers. If there's anybody in your clubs, in your communities outside of your clubs that speaks Euskara at a beginner conversational level, we do have an application on our website to be a teacher, whether that's at your club, facilitated by your club or hosted on site, and NABO can facilitate the finances for it. Please have them apply on our website. The biggest challenge is having teachers to teach people who want to learn, which is why we're doing this teacher training program.

Jean congratulated Ziortza Gandarias Beldarrain on the birth of her 3rd child and her move back to Euskadi. She is continuing in her role for now, but we are looking for someone to step into that role. She is temporarily helping us out as chairperson for the Euskara program, but we are going to be looking for somebody to take her place as it will just be easier for our people here to have someone that's here. She gave us three candidates, and we'll talk to them and see if they have time to do it. Otherwise, if anybody else has a desire to possibly do it, or has somebody in mind, they don't have to be a NABO delegate to do this. Please reach out to Jean if you have someone in mind that you think could do a good job with this program.

Jean reported in regards to that and to some other stuff, he had a great conversation with Kinku, the representative from the Extepare Institute that helps us out with all this. He's glowing about our program. He's using our program now as a model for some other programs that they're starting in Europe and other places. Jean stated that little by little our program's been growing and growing based on the work of people that have come before us. It was steadily growing, but COVID put us a little bit behind. It had to go online instead of in person, but things got bigger and bigger, and then took a huge step forward when Edurne Arostegui started as coordinator. From there Ziortza Gandarias Beldarrain and then Madalen and Mikaela have done an amazing job. Kinku is so proud of Madalen and Mikaela and so are we. Jean thanked them for all the work they do and hopes by Rocklin there will be a new person to present to vote as coordinator. He'll send out an email regarding candidates.

Jean stated Kinku is suggesting to reward people for the great job they are doing and is in agreement. He, Mayi and Ziortza Gandarias Beldarrain are putting together a proposal for a raise for the coordinator position and for the teachers themselves and they'll have that prepared before the next meeting so it can be discussed with our clubs and be voted on at the next meeting.

Jean called for a break at 9:26am to try to resolve the internet issues.



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Winter Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Chino, CA and Zoom,
Friday, July 3, 2026

Jean called the meeting back to order at 9:48am and apologized again for the technical difficulties and stated that we would move forward as best we can and there is a quorum on-site and is actively monitoring the comments.

Ziortza Gandarias Beldarrain reported that she had no additions and Jean thanked her for her hard work.

WWII Veteran's Memorial - Mayi presented the report which is attached at the link below. She reports that they've been making great progress since our last meeting in February. She made a presentation to the Gardnerville Town Council in April. The town is very, very, very supportive of this initiative. They have donated a plot at their Heritage Park. They have updated their website to talk about this. In May, there was a delegation from the Basque government that toured the site and they were very happy with the site location.

Mayi reported that H+K Architects from Reno have been selected for the project and the fee is \$69,000, which includes a donation of \$13,500. They had a kickoff meeting on June 4th and Jean signed the contract on June 29th. As of June 14th, we had collected \$137,000, which is an increase of about \$59,000 since the last meeting in February. They have an updated brochure that they're going to give out to Basque restaurants and businesses. They also sent a letter out to various Basque clubs. They've also gone into two third party fundraising efforts. One is with Basque Beans out of Winnemucca who has designed a blend for the WWII memorial. They are selling 12 ounces for \$20. Teresa commented that their coffee is delicious. The other is with Basco Apparel who have designed a beautiful scarf. It will be on sale here on Sunday and their program for this year will end after the Rocklin picnic. They're going to be giving us 30% of their sales. The retail pricing is \$15 for one scarf and two for \$20. So they'll give us 30% of each sale. So please support them not only by buying the scarves, but check out the other cool apparel that they have. Additionally, they don't have an agreement yet, but Kate commented that Dale Erquiaga just wrote a book on his uncle's participation in World War II, and he too has agreed to provide proceeds from those sales to the monument.

In other news, Pedro Oiarzabal attended the Okinawa Irei no Hi (Okinawa Memorial Day) on June 23rd to recognize six Basque veterans who died. He also spoke at a public presentation. The niece of one of the six Basque veterans that died in the Battle of Okinawa was Pauline Itzia Iriarte. Her uncle, Alejandro Itzia, was part of the Chino community. So Pauline and her husband, Phil, got a chance to go to Japan and honor her uncle. Work is continuing on developing the digital memorial. There are 2,160 names that have been identified. Biographies are being completed on that.



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Winter Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Chino, CA and Zoom,
Friday, July 3, 2026

Mayi reported that they are anticipating to break ground in probably March/April of next year. Gardnerville is in the mountains, so the weather is going to have an impact. The architect firm did say it would take about six months to complete all the designs. Douglas County, where Gardnerville is located, has indicated we do not need any additional permits since the city council is approved. Mayi thanked Becky Sarratea-Murphy for hosting our Basque delegation when they came to visit the site. Mayi thanked all the clubs who have donated so far. They do appreciate your support because every little bit will help. They're hoping to get 100% participation from the clubs.

The existing committee members: Christopher Bengochea from Los Banos, Kate from the Center for Basque Studies at UNR, Jean Pierre Etchechury from the Fresno Basque Club, Mark Etcheverry from the Fresno Basque Club, Jonrie Etchemendy Davila, retired Senior Associate Director of Planned Giving from Stanford University, Dr. Pedro Oiarzabal and myself. The three proposed new members that we need to vote upon to add to the committee are Aline Izoco Elicagaray from the Mendiko Euskaldun Cluba, Damasa Leonis Miller from the Mendiko Euskaldun Cluba and Hugh Telleria, Project Consultant who lives in Oregon. He has a Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering Management from Oregon State University as well as a Bachelor of Science from Oregon in Rangeland Resources with a minor in Business Administration. He has extensive work experience, so he's been our consultant from a construction standpoint.

Mayi asked for a motion to approve the new members and she will correct the names in PowerPoint. Jean Pierre Elissetche moved to add all three members with corrections to the committee. It was seconded by Casey Sieber. Jean asked for comments on the motion and noted that as Mayi was saying Hugh is a great technical advisor for us. He's been helping us a lot with the contract and stuff. He found a lot of stuff in the contract that we needed to fix. And the two from Gardnerville are to have somebody on the ground in Gardnerville to help us out to get this project done. Jean asked for further comments, there were none. The motion passed unanimously.

Bertsolari - Oier Pastor presented the report attached at the link below. Oier reported that they are currently leaving the program in the virtual arena. He reported a couple of exciting events. In February, the San Francisco International Bertso Event featuring Julio Soto and Iker Zubeldia—alongside five Bertsolaris from our Basque-American community: Martin Goicoechea, Ibon Ajuriagogeaskoa, Todor Azurtza, Oier Pastor, and Nerea Ezeiza. Real-time translations were provided by Xabi Paya – renowned bertsolari from the Basque Country – and Valerie Arrechea



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Winter Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Chino, CA and Zoom,
Friday, July 3, 2026

Then at the New York Basque Center Aberri Eguna Celebration, bertsos were sung by Nerea Eceiza at the NY basque center, accompanied by trikitixa music to celebrate the Aberri Eguna with the basque community attending the event. At the Las Vegas Aberri Eguna Picnic, Martin Goicoechea and Oier Pastor performed 30 minutes, with singing bertsos in various modalities (zortziko txikia, zortziko handia, and puntuka) that were explained to the audience.

They also did Bertsolaritza workshop: In collaboration with NABO Euskara and Etxepare institute an introductory workshop to the art of bertsolaritza was organized on May 30th and Jun 6th . Nerea Eceiza and Oier Pastor guided the workshop, that briefly reviewed the history and current status of bertsolaritza, gave an overview on the different modalities and explained the basics on how to construct a bertso. At the end of each of the 1 hour and 30 minute sessions, the students engaged on practical examples to build a bertso.

He also reported that they'll be performing in Boise in July for San Inazio and then in Oct in San Francisco for the Bertsolari Saioa. More information to come on that.

Pilota - Oier Pastor presented the report attached at the link below. He said he'd be happy to answer any questions, but there were none. Jean noted that because of the current issues with the internet, we'll send a link to the google drive with all the powerpoint reports. He also noted that Tony is traveling for Pilota but is very excited with the program. Kate commented that he is looking for help. Jean repeated that and stated that we'll be talking about that further at the next meeting.

Music - Mikaela DePoyster-Goikoetxea presented the report attached at the link below. She noted that there is not much new to report, but she is open to any new ideas and willing to help with any events like Kantari Eguna so please feel free to reach out.

Kantari Eguna - Mike Uro invited everyone to the Kantari Eguna which will be held in conjunction with their Besta and the NABO meeting on Oct 10 in Rocklin. The flyer was handed out this morning. They are inviting everyone to sing and hope to have Jean lead everything off with a song. All singers are welcome. Jean is working with Noel and others to possibly bring some singers here for this event.

Education Report - Anne Marie Echeverria and Aline Izoco Elicagaray presented what the BEO is up to including the concert "The History of Music: A Living Portrait of an Ancient Land" on September 26 featuring Josu Okinena on piano, Garikoitz Mendizabal on txistu, and Noelia Ibanez on vocals. Tickets will be available soon. They have also launched an art and design



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Winter Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Chino, CA and Zoom,
Friday, July 3, 2026

contest which has a deadline of July 15. If you know of any artists in your community, please ask them to submit something. The award for this is \$750 and the work will be highlighted in our Basque Cultural Day, and they'll be putting it on merch. They also gave an update about the Little Basque Free Library. There are a couple in Boise, one in Denver, one in Chino, a couple in San Francisco, not just at Euskal Etxeas but at people's homes as well. If you're interested, please go to their website.

They also spoke about the BEO scholarship contest. This is done annually. We've been able to raise the prizes from two prizes to three. So there is a first, second, and third place every year. It's a different theme. This year the focus is Basque classical music and composers.

They spoke about the 3rd Edition of the Impact of Women in Basque Communities. This is a really important book because it's put together by members of our communities. They believe strongly that every woman deserves a page in this book. And we hope that you are all committed to making a mark for the women in your lives in this book. It will be coming out later this year. The pricing will be jumping on August 1st. You can get all of the information that you need here. If you need help writing, they're here to help. They want to see this book come to fruition. We have a goal of getting about 150 more women in the third edition and this is something that we're going to be doing every other year.

Jean wanted to let you know that José Luis and Maria Urrutia brought a bunch of books here from their private collection that they've collected over the years. A lot of them came from the Basque government and stuff. If anybody wants one, they're free to take.

Philippe Acheritogaray spoke about the Bertsolari Saioa event on Oct 24 in memory of Xabaldor in San Francisco. The flyer is linked below. His three granddaughters, who make up the group Ahizpak, will perform his songs. T

Casey Seiber thanked everyone for their support of the museum. One of the events coming is the Running of the Bars on July 11 in Boise. They have found a new director for the ikastola, Ane Goenaga who is a former teacher from the Basque Country. He also said if anyone has pictures or anything to please sent them over as they are always working on digitizing because it's everyone's museum with everyone's stories.

Jean spoke about the Chairmen position for the Education Committee and in speaking to Eurne Arostegui, she has agreed to be the chairperson, but would like to work with a committee. Eurne is honored to be nominated to be chair of education, she's looking forward



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Winter Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Chino, CA and Zoom,
Friday, July 3, 2026

to working with all the different educational groups like the ones that just presented and more involved. She thinks that would be great to just kind of have a centralized location also for the other committees within NABO, so we can have a unified uh vision throughout the year and not just at our meetings and work together. She'll have more information at the next meeting. Mayi moved to approve Edurne as Chair of the Education committee. Casey Sieber seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Udaleku - Valerie Arrechea presented the report which is attached in the link below. She reported that Udaleku is just finishing up in Chino. 63 campers attended representing 15 organizations from 7 states. This is a lower number than usual, but this we're not surprised to see considering the national decline in birth rates. The working budget for this year had been set at 53,000. That was \$535 per camper and a hundred campers. In fact, we only received \$41,000 in tuition. This brings her to something that we need to look at that Mayi had brought up last year. With these smaller camps, we have to look at the format of camp. A camp that works for 80 people does not work the same way for 20 people or 40 or 50. She has been talking to others and would like to put together a group to discuss what camp looks like at these different numbers? Please reach out to her if you are interested or know someone who's interested in participating in that conversation.

Valerie reported that a winner was chosen for the Grace Mainvil Award, but she doesn't know who it is yet. She asked for an update on the funds allotted to that account as there have been many donations. Mayi stated that she has a separate spreadsheet to keep track of all incoming donations. Rocklin is the only club that donates specifically to the Grace Mainville Award, and they always donate \$100 every year. So if we could have that, because one thing we realized is that it can't be part of the general checking account for that because it's specific for that. I'm not gonna open another checking account.

The next camp in 2027 is Salt Lake City. The 2027 camp will be in Salt Lake City and they will be working on those dates. Sonia Castanon is the person she is working with. Phil Archibeque asked if there is a deadline for the dates for Salt Lake and Valerie noted that she asked Sonia to have those by the next meeting.

2028 - Jun 18-30 in SF

2029 - Nevada

2030 - Southern Ca

Jean thanked Valerie, Kate, Anne Marie Gariador and Kristina Jaureguy



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Winter Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Chino, CA and Zoom,
Friday, July 3, 2026

Txerriki/Gateau Basque Contest - Valerie presented the report that is attached in the link below. This is the 15th anniversary of the Txerriki Competition which will be on Saturday at 2pm. The Gateau Basque contest is in its 4th year and cakes will be dropped off before mass. Valerie said if there is anyone who wants to help with this, please reach out. Jean pointed out that Valerie is trying to combine these 2 programs under Sukaldaritza Txapelketa.

Mus - Pierre Etcharren presented the report which is attached at the link below. He reported that the 2026 NABO Finals were hosted by the Anaitasuna Basque Club at the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center on June 20th and the winners were Jon Vizcay and Francisco Vicondoa representing the Anaitasuna Basque Club and the second place winners were Javier Alzugaray and Miguel Ybarra representing the BEO. Pierre thanked Anaitasuna for hosting breakfast and lunch, the Basque Cultural Center for the use of the location and the Mus committee for their work both days. The clubs can hold their 2027 tournaments starting June 21st - June 10th 2027. The 2027 finals will take place on June 19 at the Basque Cultural Center hosted by Anaitasuna. The committee highly encourages teaching mus to both adults and children. The committee has lowered the participation age to 16 to encourage as many young players to participate in local tournaments as possible and it's very nice to see the younger ones playing with their parents or their grandparents.

The committee was asked to revisit how many teams an organization could send to the finals. Discussion was held in committee and it was decided to keep the same system: one to 20 teams sends one team, 21 and more sends 2 teams and the largest tournament sends three teams. This year we had 45 teams who represented 20 clubs. In total this year there were a total of 565 teams that participated in NABO qualifying tournaments.

This year the Euskal Etxeas were invited to Merco Mus in Santiago, Chile. Mercomos is an organization for the South American Basque organizations and two teams were invited from the United States. We had one team who represented San Francisco, Robert and Daniel Jaureguay and a second team representing Fresno, Jean Pierre Etchechury and Tony Campos

Jean Pierre Etchechury reported that Mercomus. It's an invitational tournament, but it wasn't extended to NABO. Mexico had dropped out and they were looking for somebody from North America to go over there. We were contacted in late February. The organization includes Uruguay, Argentina, Chile and Peru, and meeting all the players there was fantastic. Um they treated us with open arms. It was very nice. And so for next year, there were preliminary



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Winter Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Chino, CA and Zoom,
Friday, July 3, 2026

discussions. The tournament's going to be held in Uruguay, and at that point there may be an invitation to NABO itself, and then we can incorporate that into the tournament system here.

Pierre reported that the International Tournament will be Dec 5-13 in Bilbao. More information will be forthcoming.

2027 - Canada will host a mus cruise to Alaska

2028 - US, the Mus committee is in discussion regarding location.

2029 - Mexico

2030 - France

Mayi spoke about the Colorado Mus Tournament on Sep 19, 2026 in Grand Junction, CO. This is the first NABO qualifying tournament of the year. Mayi also noted that though Colorado can't host International Mus in 2028, that is the year that the Plaza Urrutia will go on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Euskadi mus is coordinating with Ziortza Olano and she has more information.

Jean thanked everyone for all their reports and reiterated that the reports will be sent out. Kate also noted that the combined committee reports are on the drive as well.

Old Business -

Jean reported that he's been in discussion with Tony Huarte regarding funding for pilota and hopes to have some proposals and ideas for the fall meeting. Additionally they are looking at the format of that committee as discussed earlier.

Future meetings:

Winter Meeting 2027 - Phil Archibeque reported that it will be hosted by Salt Lake City, likely the first Saturday of February. Jean asked for approval and it was approved unanimously.

2027 Convention: Buffalo will host on July 16-19 reported by Mick Camino, with a focus on sport. He extended an invitation to all dancers. Kate reported that you can reserve rooms after July 20th at the Hampton Inn.

New Business -

Election: Jean asked Teresa Cox if anyone other than Jean and Mayi had presented themselves for President and Treasurer and she stated no. Teresa asked for a motion and Jean



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Winter Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Chino, CA and Zoom,
Friday, July 3, 2026

Pierre Etchechury moved to accept nominations and Jeanette Goni seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Casey thanked the BEO for their Little Basque Libraries. They are awesome.

Teresa congratulated Jean and Mayi on being elected for another year as President and Treasurer.

Mayi thanked everyone and reminded everyone to share that the delegates need to share information discussed at the meetings.

Jean thanked Mayi and thanked everyone for their confidence in him. He asked that people read their emails and respond as appropriate. Please also RSVP promptly to help people with hosting clubs with planning. He will also be sending out a form requesting club information as we don't really know anymore who the president and board of directors are, so we don't know who to go to if the delegates aren't responding. He also has a new program with PDFs for the proxy forms so they can be filled out online. Once the new website is up, we'll have it there.

Jean introduced Christian Echeverria who spoke about what's been happening with the Portland Basque Club. They are having regular events with good attendance but are still working on deciding to join NABO. Heidi described some of the events they've had as well. Jean offered to help however he can. Alex Wray reiterated what a good job they are doing.

Announcements -

Jean asked that people share or tag him in anything they'd like added to social media.

Mayi reported that Denver has a new professional women's soccer team that just started, the Denver Summit FC. They were building a brand new stadium not too far from our house. They have 32 people going to the game on July 18th, which is the first game at their new stadium and the reason why we're going as a club is because there is a Basque woman player on the club, Nahikari Garcia Perez. She's from Urnieta so we are gonna go and support her and support the team and meet her and hopefully have a little meeting read after the game.

Phil Archibeque thanked everyone for their vote to have a meeting in UT. Please let him know if there's anything you would like to see.



The North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

A Nevada Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Winter Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** – Chino, CA and Zoom,
Friday, July 3, 2026

Jean thanked everyone for attending and apologized to everyone on Zoom for the technical difficulties. Jean thanked everyone for hanging on through the technical difficulties and thanked those who had attended in person. He also thanked the Southern California Basque Club for hosting.

Kate moved to adjourn the meeting and Jaclyn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 11:18am.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Cox, Secretary

To see reports:

https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdrive.google.com%2Fdrive%2Ffolders%2F1dK3Uyk95bKF4KpvEyhpiblzHewtx-2tQ%3Fusp%3Ddrive_link&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cbabfb6e2f01742433f7508dec7c7c973%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C639167858054221615%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMlslkFOljoitWFBpCslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=F6FJAITXX4ULKoHm1e1rb3%2FaooUM2iyxilG1Lmiy2Jc%3D&reserved=0