

Southeast Regional Folk Alliance Annual Membership Meeting

May 18, 2018 Montreat Conference Center, Montreat, NC

Don Baker, Board President, called the meeting to order.

Don introduced the other members of the Board, who were seated in the front rows of the Convocation Center: Grady Ormsby, Abby Parks, Jefferson Ross, Isabel Taylor, Roberta Schultz, and Denise Williams.

Then Don highlighted some of the innovations the Board instituted over the past few years:

- The first time SERFA held a showcase room at FAI was this year for three nights. Denise Williams and Don Baker shared hosting duties while Denise handled all decorations for the three nights.
- We held four “Opening Night” showcases on Wednesday night for the first time this year to give artists more opportunity for showcases and to highlight the various spaces available for late night showcasing at Montreat.
- We continued the barn dance tradition on Wednesday night that founder Kari Estrin began at the 2016 SERFA Conference.

Don announced that we had narrowed our search for next year’s conference site to three locations:

Montreat
Knoxville’s Crowne Plaza Hotel
Chattanooga’s Chattanooga Hotel

The Board will meet on Saturday at noon to discuss the three proposals.

Don called Roberta Schultz, Nominating Committee Chair to the podium to announce the 2018 Board Election results. Don Baker was the only candidate running for his seat. He was re-elected to serve on the Board for a second elected term.

Don called Denise Williams to the podium to report on our showcase room efforts at FAI. She reported that we hosted for three nights, with 21 performers showcasing. Denise hosted two nights and Don hosted one. We gave priority to SERFA members who attended FAI when selecting the showcase artists, charging all performers \$40 for a set in order to cover expenses of the room plus refreshments and promo.

Don introduced our Executive Director, Art Menius, who shared copies of last year’s Annual Membership Meeting Minutes with the membership in attendance. Art reported that we had roughly \$53,000 in our account, which is \$10,000 more than we had last year this time. He emphasized that we have been trying to keep registration costs low while growing the conference. He also pointed out that we are the first regional conference to have an Executive Director.

Art then introduced Michael Kornfeld from the FAI Board and Marisa Kolka from the FAI Staff. Michael reminded the membership about NERFA dates this year—November 8-11 in Stamford, CT and encouraged members to attend. He announced that there will be Formal and Semi-Formal showcases as well as guerrillas. He also mention that NERFA Board Member, Barb Schiller, was also in attendance. Recent attendance has been around 700 for NERFA.

Marisa Kolka reminded members that she is available to help with digital matters at FAI, or with any needs SERFA might have in that area. She reminded the membership that FAI will take place in Montreal this coming year with an Official Showcase deadline of June 1.

Don asked for questions. There were none. Denise Williams moved to adjourn to the awards ceremony. Abby Parks seconded. Motion passed. The awards ceremony commenced

Respectfully Submitted,
Roberta Schultz
Board Secretary 2017-2018