Is it Time to Renew Your Membership?

January 31 marked the end of TIFD’s fiscal year, so that means it’s membership renewal time. Good news! If you registered for Texas Camp 2019, your membership dues for 2020 were already included with the camp fee. If you are a life member or have already prepaid your membership for 2020, thank you! For the rest of us, membership renewal is quick and easy at tifd.org. Simply fill out this secure online form and pay using PayPal or your credit card. Prefer to pay by check? Just print out our membership form and mail it with your payment to the address listed on the form. Your continuing support of Texas International Folk Dancers will be greatly appreciated by present and future generations of folk dancers!

November TIFD Board Meeting

The board held a meeting on November 28th at Camp. Discussed were final tasks that needed attention to launch the 2019 Camp and the upcoming nominations for three vacant positions. A report from the Treasurer was postponed until the February meeting. Bruce Bostwick discussed plans for the new database and a decision was made to move group email functions of the board to the Groups.io email service. The next meeting of the board is to be held Saturday, February 29th at the home of RosieLee C. Salinas.
General Meeting at Texas Camp

The general meeting for all members at Texas Camp began with an introduction of the board. Points covered in the report to the membership by the president of the board, RosieLee C. Salinas were the following:

• Currently TIFD holds in trust $100,000, which is held primarily in an investment account. Assurance was given that under the sound management of the board this will provide seed money to fund future camps and continue the services needed by the membership.
• Mentioned were the accomplishments which included: the running of the 2019 Camp, the management of a strong volunteer staff, timely replacement of the current database for a more effective and comprehensive one, and transition of the email service used by the board to Groups.io.

Elections were held at this meeting to fill vacancies due to terms ending for Holly Plotner and RosieLee Camacho Salinas, and the resignation of Sara Chapman due to family obligations. Three candidates ran for the TIFD Board and were elected by unanimous agreement of the membership. Dee McCandless will fill a two-year term left vacant by Sara Chapman, and Kathleen McDonagh and Sara Horn Talbot will each fill a three year term. We're delighted to welcome them onto the board! Each of them has graciously written a short bio introducing themselves:

Dee McCandless
I started dancing with AIFD in 1963, going every weekend and to almost all the folk dance camps back then. (Two at Idlewilde and TIFD, and SAC—SAFDF now—per year! Ah the good old days.) Back then we also had weekend workshops in Austin at least one, maybe two per year. I was a teen and an avid folk dance fan, but after three fabulous years of folk dancing, I went away to Vermont to finish high school and then a couple more years in colleges out of state. In the early 70's I was finishing my BA back in Austin, dancing with AIFD, and joined the board for a year. I moved out of state again for a few more years, to study and develop my career in modern dance. Back in Austin by '75, I stayed in the modern dance world as a choreographer, teacher, and performer, with very very rare visits, to AIFD. After about 40 years of missing folk dancing I went to a 50th reunion event at AIFD in 2012 and I've been pretty avid since then. My first camp at Greene was in the fall of 2013, and I've been to camp since. Folk dance camps are and always were my favorite place to be—period! I'm delighted to be on the TIFD Board.

While in graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin, Kathleen McDonagh discovered international folk dancing and hasn’t stopped dancing since. An active member of Austin International Folk Dancers for more than 30 years, Kathleen has served in several AIFD Board positions, including Program Director, Teaching Director, Vice President and President. Kathleen also dances regularly with Csárdás Hungarian Folk Dancers, enjoys singing with the Austin folk band Slavadillo and with the women’s ensemble Samodivas, and occasionally performs as a
vocalist/ukulele player with the Hawaiian Kona Isle dance troupe. Recently, as the Children's Music and Dance Coordinator at Texas Camp, Kathleen has enjoyed introducing international folk dances to a new generation of dancers. She is looking forward to her first occasion to serve on the TIFD Board!

Sara Horn Talbot's dancing foundations were formed in Houston with the HIFD. Even though she's not dancing as much these days, she thinks of TIFD and its member groups as family. She currently lives in Georgetown, Texas with her husband, three kids, and three dogs. She has six previous years of experience on the TIFD Board and over a decade of volunteering at Texas Camp.

**Seeking Co-Chairs for the 2021 Texas Camp**

Preparations for Texas Camp 2020 are already underway; however, it's not too soon to begin planning for 2021! The board stands ready to fully support any TIFD member who is interested in a co-chair position for 2021, which carries a 50% discount on the camp registration fee. Here's an overview of the role and some of the resources that will be available to you, along with a timetable of dates related to putting on a camp.

Texas Camp is held at Thanksgiving weekend each year at the Greene Family Camp in Bruceville, TX. Co-chairs select and contract the line and couple dance teachers, and often a singing teacher. They delegate various tasks to a staff of volunteers and check in with them over the course of the year on their progress and needs. Staff volunteers perform duties vital to the running of camp, and many of them have been in the same roles for years. Most volunteer staff positions including the co-chairs get a discount on their camp registration fee. A list of past volunteers, along with their contact information will be available.

In a nutshell, the work of the co-chairs is primarily in keeping in contact with the teachers and the volunteer support staff. Co-chairs obtain biographical information from the teachers for the camp brochure, finalize travel arrangements with them, and obtain their teaching notes. Staff may be hired to design and print fliers and the brochure. A primary task of the co-chairs is keeping all involved on the timeline. Many resources, including the Camp Manual, and the TIFD Board provide support to the co-chairs. The Board would also consider some change to the usual method used to provide Camp. Are you interested in taking on a co-chair position and being a part of putting on a great Texas Camp in 2021? [Let us know!](mailto:letusknow@tifd.org)

**Approximate Texas Camp Timeline**

Feb 1-15: Receive teachers' signed contracts, and confirm other paid staff
Mar 1: Biographical information received from teachers
Mar 15: Finalize teachers' travel arrangements
Mar 20: Fliers for groups printed, email announcement, website posting
Mar 31: Given February board approval, GFC contract signed and deposit made
Apr 1-30: Volunteer staff verified; party themes, schedule etc. considered
June 1: Brochure information finalized, includes party themes and descriptions
June 15: Brochure information assembled for designer and shared with webmaster
July 25: Brochures printed and ready for mail-out; labels printed
Aug 6: Brochures mailed today if not before; open online registration
Sep 1: T-shirt design completed and posted on website
Oct 1-Nov 1: Receive teacher notes
November 1: Completed menus, proof of insurance and final schedule to GFC
November 11: Housing info and T-shirt orders complete; send check/to-do list to GFC
November 20: Camp handouts printed; Thursday breakfast and lunch arranged
Day before Camp: Essential staffers and planners travel to GFC

Calendar

March

**NFO Conference/Laguna FD Festival**
March 4–6, March 6–8
The annual conference of the National Folk Organization (NFO) is being presented in conjunction with the 50th Laguna Folk Dance Festival. Yves Moreau will be the main teacher.

**San Antonio Folk Dance Festival 2020**
March 13–15
[safdf.org](http://safdf.org)
This year’s teachers include Lee Otterholt (international), Ventzi Sotirov (Bulgarian), Andy Taylor-Blenis (International, Scottish and Mexican) and Franklin Houston (Balkan).

July/August

**New Mexico August Camp**
July 23–26, Socorro, NM
[swifdi.org](http://swifdi.org)

**Mainewoods Dance Camp**
August 16–22, August 23–29, Fryeburg, ME
[mainewoodsdancecamp.org](http://mainewoodsdancecamp.org)

September

**Mountain Playshop 2020**
September 11–13, Black Mountain, NC
[mountainplayshop.org](http://mountainplayshop.org)
Milo Destanovski will be teaching Macedonian folk dances.
Submissions
Write to us with your event announcements, your camp experiences, or just any folk dance experience! Send them to editor@tifd.org and we'll put them in the next newsletter.

When planning your charitable donations please consider TIFD, a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit organization.

(Or simply shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/74-6055403 and Amazon will donate a portion of the proceeds to TIFD.)

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Texas International Folk Dancers | P.O. Box 4516, Austin, TX 78765

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