 ***Metropolitan* Chicago *Association of Square Dancers***

 Minutes from the MCASD General Meeting 4/19/15

 At Trinity Lutheran Church, Roselle, Illinois

 **NEXT MEETING SUNDAY, September 20, 2015 AT 2 PM**

Please arrive early to help set up tables & chairs. Thank you.

Frankie Terry called the meeting to order at 2pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

No changes were made to the agenda.  Bob Carpenter moved to accept the Agenda and Duane Bradley seconded.  The Agenda was accepted unanimously.

On page two of the December minutes, “club” needs to be changed to “association” under the Insurance Report.  Donna Carpenter moved to accept the minutes as amended and Duane Bradley seconded.  The minutes were accepted unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**:  when we met last in December, we had a balance of $21,600.  That month there was $137 in income and $1500 in expenses that included fees for the student dances and ink, which were the biggest items.  We ended December with a balance of $20,214.  In January, there was very little activity and our balance was $20,114.  In February, the Sweetheart Dance had $2657 of income and $1400 in expenses.  There was a minor adjustment for printing and we had an increase of $1287, bringing the balance to $21,402.  For March, 3 student dances, one in February had income of $525, retail sales of $85 and expenses of $375.  There were also expenses of $219 for flowers for the Sweetheart Dance.  This brought the balance to $21,367.  Through the first 8 months of this fiscal year, our net earnings are $2336, which is over budget by $1658.

Concerning Tax items, 1099 forms were sent to the providers of the flooring and sound system and the caller for the State Convention.  The IRS has confirmed the tax free status of Chi-Town.

Each club must file an E Postcard on line with the IRS.  If not, after three years, that club would be required to file taxes.

The Sweetheart Dance made $400 more than last year.  Also, Roger Kenney has sent a letter saying that the audit confirmed that our fiscal reports accurately reflect our financial condition.

Christine Steffy moved to file the Treasurer's Report for audit.  Brian Robinson seconded.  The motion passed unanimously.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**:  Frankie Terry will be going to the SCISDA meeting to ask for additional funds or matching funds for the MCASD Intro Parties.

Clubs have been complaining about doing more than one volunteer duty for the Pumpkin Ball, Sweetheart Dance or New Dancer Dances.  Since the by-laws were written when there were many more Square Dance Clubs, the by-laws need to be revised to more accurately reflect the situation we have now.  Frankie asked for two volunteers from the delegates to work on the committee formed at the Executive Board meeting.  The Directors working on the By- laws are James Cha, Jules Heinemann and Duane Bradley.  Barb Koziol and Chris Rakow volunteered to work with them.

Frankie thanked Maria and Curtis Bremer, who are retiring from their positions on the MCASD board, for all their years of service.  She also thanked Ed Haering who has resigned due to health reasons.

**VICE-PRESIDENT REPORT**:  Four New Dancer Dances were held, with 48 new students and 124 Angels attending.  Since there is no data from previous years, it is difficult to compare how well we did this year.  This coming year, we all need to encourage the

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new students to attend these dances.

**SECRETARY REPORT**:  None

I**NSURANCE**:  Bill Neurauter will e-mail all delegates and presidents, the MCASD and insurance applications.  These can be completed on-line and e-mailed back or sent to him by regular mail.

Please have accident reports at all club dances or events.  If there is an incident, a club representative needs to fill one out and the victim needs to fill one out when they can.  These accident reports should be sent back to Bill who will file them with the insurance agency.

Insurance Certificates will be made out to the name of the club.  If a venue needs their name on a certificate, request additional certificates from Bill.  Please be sure to check your e-mail, including Junk or Spam folders for these Insurance Certificates.

**WEB MASTER**:  No Report.

**SCISDA**:  Rich Sehnert is Chairperson for the 2016 State Convention, which will return to the Westin in Itasca.  The MCASD Executive Board agreed to propose that SCISDA also contribute to each MCASD club that is hosting an Intro to Square Dance Party and that fulfills the requirements set forth by MCASD.  The next SCISDA meeting is April 26 in Bloomington.

There are 328 registrations for the State Convention.  There is a confirmed bus that will leave from 87th and the Dan Ryan at a cost of $60 round trip.  Shuttle buses will only go to the hotels in DeKalb.  The trail in Dance on Thursday will be from 730pm to 930 pm on Thursday night.  The money from this dance will be donated to the victims of the Tornadoes that happened in April.

The hospital in DeKalb donated 10 cases of water for the goody bags and Operation Hope in Sycamore will fill those bags.

The KISH festival has given us a street in DeKalb to do our Intro dance party.  And we will have a car in the parade with our Sweetheart Couple in it.

Darlene Kulpa is working on the Hospitality Room committee and has last year’s list of people that volunteered on that.  She is wondering if any of them are willing to do it again. If so, contact her.  Someone is still needed to head the Decoration Committee.

**FRIENDSHIP**:  Clubs need to pick up the vouchers for their graduating students from Barb O’Connell. Friendship awards need to be applied for by July 31.  Clubs need to submit these for their members that have gone out stealing and retrieving over 10 times. These awards will be distributed at the September meeting.

**HISTORIAN**:  Randy thanked everyone who has given him materials.  It is a slow process because of his other family responsibilities.

**PUBLICTY**:  Christine Steffy asked that the surveys that were at the check in desk be filled in and given back to her by the end of the meeting.  They will be using that information to try to come up with an Advertising Campaign.  They would like that campaign to show that many diverse people square dance.  The committee is also hoping to develop a You Tube video that hopefully would go viral.

**SWEETHEART DANCE**:  There was a large group of new dancers in attendance this year.  Next year we will have a sign in sheet for the new dancers so we can track where the students are coming from.  Normally, this is not a money- making dance, but this year was quite successful.

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Denise Hopkins from Arlington Squares asked if clubs needed to sign up for more than one duty between the two MCASD Dances and New Student Dances.  Anita Johnson suggested that if a club could sign up for 3 spots that would give MCASD the leeway to assign clubs to where they are most needed.

**PUMPKIN BALL**:  Duplicate sign up sheets were created for the Pumpkin Ball.  This will be corrected during the Meeting break.

A break was taken at 2:50pm.

The meeting resumed at 3pm.

Well-wishers for the Convention Program need to be submitted as soon as possible

Roll Call was taken and delegates from each club were present.  35 delegates in all were present.

Christine Steffy explained that getting club dance information to the website would be easier if that information could be submitted in an Excel Spread Sheet.  Also, since that information is already typed up for most clubs’ flyers, it would be easy to Copy and Paste that information and send it to Christine.  There will be a workshop at the convention to demonstrate how to do this. The deadline for getting club dance information to the website is the second week in August.  If you have the information earlier, please send it as soon as possible.

Janice Cha explained the Intro Party Grant.  When the three Intro parties were planned last year, there were some difficulties:  planning started too late and the locations were not convenient for all clubs.  This year the goal is to start earlier and provide a way for each club to get some financial support.  The Grant application has been e-mailed to each President, delegate and lesson coordinator.  There are three steps to the application.  After the three steps have been completed, the first lesson has taken place and a count of new students has been submitted to MCASD, $200 will be remitted to those clubs.  Frankie Terry will also be proposing that SCISDA financially support this Grant Program with an additional amount.  Three clubs have already submitted step 1 of the application.  The Square Dance Revival web site will be posting information, advertising and reminders.

Jules Heinemann asked if clubs still can team up to host an Intro Party.  Yes, but one person from one of the clubs must be the point person to submit the three-step application.  Christine Steffy asked if there was any restriction on how the club could spend the money.  Janice replied no.  Denise Hopkins asked when clubs could expect to receive the money.  The money would be sent to the clubs after they have submitted Step 3 indicating that they have had their first lesson and how many new students attended.

Bill Neurauter explained that the MCASD Board of Directors had agreed that due to the success of the Sweetheart Dance, a reduction in Membership Dues and Insurance would be offered this year to each club.  Dues would be reduced from $40 to $5 and Insurance would be reduced from $35 to $5.  MCASD would absorb the cost of these two fees.  Bill explained that this needed the approval of the delegates to the General Meeting.  Frankie asked for a motion from the floor.  Marlene Neurauter moved to accept the reduced cost of membership and insurance to $5 each for this coming year.  Rhea Britton seconded.  This motion passed unanimously.

Barry Johnson commented that even at $35 per club for insurance, MCASD is subsidizing each club as the cost of insurance per club is closer to $60.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**:  Jules Heinemann presented the slate of officers starting August 1.  Nominations could be made from the floor.  If there were no nominations from the floor, the vote would be taken for the entire slate.  If there were other nominations, individual votes would be taken for each office.  35 delegates would be allowed to vote.

For President:  Frankie Terry.  Jules asked three times for nominations from the floor.  There were none. For Vice-President:  Janice and James Cha.  Jules asked three times for nominations from the floor.  There were none. For Secretary: Bob and Carolyn Lopez.  Jules asked three times for nominations from the floor.  There were none. For Treasurer:  Chuck Koziol.  Jules asked three times for nominations from the floor.  There were none.

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Rhea Britton moved to accept the slate of candidates.  Donna Carpenter seconded.  The slate passed unanimously.

Marlene Neurauter requested to set up tables for the delegates at the General Meetings, because it is hard to keep things under the chairs and write notes about the meeting without a table.  After some discussion, Marlene Neuratuer moved to have tables and benches and also some rows of chairs set up for these meetings. Wanda Staron seconded.  This was passed unanimously.

Frankie commented that help was needed early before each meeting to help with the table and chair set-up.

Barb O’Connell reported that 10 clubs had lessons with 83 students graduating overall.

Janice Cha suggested handing out the vouchers for free club dances in August, when it is closer to dance season so that the vouchers don’t get lost and so that last year’s students don’t forget about dancing.

Various clubs made announcements about club dances, workshops and events.

Ken Davies asked if the Chicagoland Directory was still wanted by clubs.  There was general agreement.  He then specified that the deadline for club information was August 1. Ken will send out the form for club Presidents to fill out this week.

Christine Steffy moved to adjourn.  Duane Bradley seconded.  This was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn & Bob Lopez