

Metropolitan Chicago Association of Square Dancers

Minutes from the MCASD General Meeting 9/20/15
At Trinity Lutheran Church, Roselle, Illinois



NEXT MEETING SUNDAY, December 6, 2015 AT 2 PM

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

Frankie Terry called the meeting to order at 1:55 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Janine Hyde from B&B McHenry moved to approve the Agenda. Terry Kosobud seconded. Bill Neurauter asked that a Membership report be added to the Agenda. A vote was taken and the Agenda with that addition passed unanimously.

Frankie asked if there were any corrections to the Minutes from the April General meeting. There were no corrections or discussion. Christine Steffy moved to accept the minutes, Terry Kosobud seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Chuck Koziol was not present at the meeting. Frankie Terry read his report from May thru August. We began April with a balance of \$21,367. At the end of the fiscal year, July 31, 2015, our balance was \$20,582. In August, there was income of \$154 and expenses of \$747. At the end of August our balance was \$19,989.

The State Convention balance as of the end of August was \$4100.

Christine Steffy moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as written. A vote was taken and the report was accepted unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: After receiving approval from MCASD delegates, by phone and e-mail, to host the 2016 Square Dance Convention and after many phone calls to SCISDA representatives, the registration forms were printed with MCASD information and ready for use at the 2015 State Convention. Official approval was granted at the SCISDA meeting held on Saturday at this year's Convention. Also, at that meeting, SCISDA approved an additional \$200 per club for MCASD clubs holding an Intro Party and starting lessons after those parties.

The Toolbox found at the SD Revival site is available for free for all clubs to use to attract new dancers.

Toys for Tots will be collected at the next General Meeting on December 6.

VICE-PRESIDENT REPORT: There will be three MCASD new dancer dances this coming year. November 14 will be held in Glenview. January 30, 2016 will be held in Burbank. March 12 will be held in Downers Grove. The goal for all clubs holding lessons this year should be to bring as many new dancers as possible to at least two of these three dances.

In the past month there have been 14 Intro Parties, 7 Demos, 230 new people trying Square Dancing for the first time and 250 experienced dancers helping out at the Intro Parties.

There are 12 Grant Applications. 2 clubs used yard signs. 20 events have been posted on the Square Dance Facebook Page.

MEMBERSHIP: Bill Neurauter announced that 1 club, Country Bumpkins, did not renew their membership and has dissolved.

SECRETARY REPORT: Going forward, the secretary announced that if there was an email address listed for a delegate or club president in the club directory of the MCASD handbook, all minutes and other notices would be sent by e-mail. Delegates and Club Presidents should check their e-mail for the minutes within 14 days to 1 week before every General Meeting.

INSURANCE: Bill Neurauter explained that clubs are increasingly requesting additional Certificates of Insurance for specific locations. The Insurance Company does not need these additional certificates and this causes them extra work. In the future, there may be an extra charge for requesting Insurance Certificates for specific locations. E-mail is the preferred way to distribute these certificates. Also, any MCASD club using Trinity Lutheran in Roselle for a dance is covered under the Trinity Lutheran/MCASD insurance certificate.

It was asked what was the turn around time to get a specific location insurance certificate. Bill answered that it normally took one to two weeks.

SCISDA: Christine Steffy is now the new Northern Regional VP for SCISDA. She will be visiting clubs under her jurisdiction in the future.

NEWTOTES: Clubs should be aware that anyone can send info to Jan Morse about events or special dances that clubs are having. She can get that information out to other clubs. Janice Cha also explained that the Facebook page is an unofficial way to exchange information with other clubs. There are two different pages on Facebook. The Group page is internal to Square Dance Chicago. It is a scrolling Bulletin Board to share information with all members of MCASD.

Then there is a MCASD Page. This page is a Marketing tool to be used to attract new people to Square Dancing. You can also post events with details of the event, such as Day and Time and Photos.

STATE CONVENTION: Rich Sehnert said that 638 people attended the 2015 Convention in DeKalb. He thanked Janice Cha as the unofficial co-chair of the convention.

For 2015, many volunteers are needed to make a successful convention. Jules and Marilyn Heinemann are the registration chairmen and can take registrations today after the meeting. The theme is AVIATION, with the featured caller being Jet Roberts and our location back at the Westin in Itasca being so close to O'Hare Airport. There is a list of all upcoming meetings for the convention in order for everyone to plan accordingly. Michael Porsche has volunteered to help at the 2016 convention.

FRIENDSHIP AWARDS: Barb O'Connell was not present. Frankie Terry explained that Friendship Awards are given to clubs for going to at least 10 other clubs to Steal or Retrieve banners. The club chairman should be keeping a record of who has gone out to these dances. There is also a DANCER ACTIVITY AWARD for club members who have gone out more than 10 times in a dance year. Awards are available in multiples of five starting at 10 (eg 10, 15, 20 etc.)

All information is in the Handbook in Chapters 13 and 14. Also, there is a form to apply for Badges and Bars in the handbook in Chapter 20.

B and B Batavia and Arlington Squares have submitted the paperwork for this year but the badges were not available at the meeting. Frankie will be checking with Barb O'Connell about this.

HISTORIAN: Randy Moore asked that anyone submitting anything for the Historical Records, please date that material, especially, newspaper articles or photos. You can contact him at SQDANCERS@aol.com.

PUBLICITY: At the Square Dance Revival site, all documents and templates can be found to help clubs with publicity. The site will continually be updated and changed depending on the success of the items that can be found there. Items include templates for Business Cards and Yard Signs. Also there is information about finding out what might be the local ordinances for posting Yard Signs.

Janice Cha provided a sign up sheet for anyone who needs an account to access the Square Dance Revival site.

PUMPKIN BALL: Darlene Kulpa expects to see everyone at this dance. She distributed tickets for the dance. Those Advanced ticket sales can be turned in at the Pumpkin Ball at the Advanced Ticket Sale Table.

Gift Certificates and Baskets will be accepted for the Pumpkin Ball. Bill Neurauter will be sending out an e-mail explaining what needs to be done. Baskets and Certificates will be needed at the beginning of the dance.

There will be 4 halls for dancing: Plus with Rounds; Mainstream; Advanced and C1; and Rounds.

New Dancers are welcome. There will be a sign up sheet for these new dancers to track where they are coming from.

SWEETHEART DANCE: Chuck Witt and Bob Asp will be the featured callers. Howard and Anna Hoffman will be on Rounds.

A break was taken at 3:02pm. The meeting resumed at 3:15pm.

It was determined that all clubs were represented at this meeting.

PUMPKIN BALL: Darlene Kulpa said there would be signs throughout the venue saying when and how to vote for the Best Costume. Voting would take place during the first two hours of the Pumpkin Ball. Michael Porsche volunteered to be the Costume Coordinator at the Pumpkin Ball.

There were questions about clubs volunteering for MCASD dances throughout the year. Anita Johnson explained that when clubs were asked to sign up for three duties, that did not mean they would be required to work all three. It just gave MCASD some leeway in assigning duties. Denise Hopkins asked how it is determined which clubs will host a new dancer dance. Frankie answered that because the same clubs have requested to work on those dances over the past few years, they were assigned the new dancer dances again.

PUBLICITY: Janice Cha explained that posting demos in order to get volunteer dancers from many clubs needs, to include important information: contact person with a phone number or email address. Many clubs get requests for demos, but they need dancers from other clubs to help out.

Martin Barcello said that he is always promoting Square Dancing wherever he goes. He carries business cards or flyers with him that he can hand out to whoever he is talking to. We need to be energetic and sociable with new students to get them comfortable and excited about Square Dancing.

Kate Reed from Chi-Town Squares said they just graduated 13 people from the Blast weekend, which was held Friday night, Saturday morning and afternoon and Sunday afternoon. Many of those people had attended Chi-Town's First Thursdays.

BY-LAWS UPDATE: Jules Heinemann reported that they are still working on any updates to the by-laws and working to keep them within the rules of the MCASD Constitution. The committee consists of James Cha, Chairman and 2 directors and 2 club delegates. There will be more information at the next General meeting.

WEBSITE: It is helpful for Christine and Brian to get information in an Excel Spreadsheet Format.

GRANT UPDATE: A binder was available for anyone to look at the applications that were submitted by clubs having Intro Parties. It includes the Publicity Flyers, sign-up sheets, any media coverage and any other ideas that clubs used to promote their Intro Parties and Lessons. There was also a poster listing the top 10 reasons to Square Dance.

There are about 100 Square Dance Chicago Magnets left. MCASD is offering clubs a chance to purchase 10 magnets for \$40. Hopefully, each club could use these as prizes at lessons or clubs dances.

Terry Kosobud asked if the grant shouldn't be expanded next year with more financial backing to each club in order to attract more new students. Frankie answered that it would depend on the success that we have this year and also the constraints of next year's budget.

Directors of each club were announced to the delegates. The directors want to work with their assigned club to help them attract new students and retain them as new members.

Sue Davies explained the cost of using the MCASD printer for flyers and other material. Sue requests that any request for printing be submitted two weeks ahead of time. The cost of printing 250 flyers is \$25.50 for Black and White and \$27.50 for Color copies.

Club announcements were made.

Christine Steffy moved to adjourn the meeting. Pat Takir seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn and Bob Lopez

