

Metropolitan Chicago Association of Square Dancers



**MCASD Executive Board Meeting November 21, 2015
At Elk Grove Township Hall, Arlington Heights**

Next Meeting Saturday, January 9, 2016 at 10AM

PRESENT: Ken and Sue Davies (leaving Jan 20 – Mar Late), Darlene Kulpa, Brian Robinson, Janice and James Cha, Christine Steffy, Frankie Terry, Jules Heineman

Quorum is established

Call to order: Meeting is called to order at 10:04 by Frankie Terry

Frankie Terry led the members with the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of agenda: Brian Robinson motioned to accept agenda as presented, James Cha seconded. Vote by voice, yes: 9; no: none

Approval of minutes: Brian Robinson motioned to accept agenda as presented, James Cha seconded.

Treasurers report: Statement from Frankie Terry: When Chuck Koziol sent his resignation, he had asked Anita to take over the treasurer job. Anita agreed and has advised she has scheduled trips that would prevent her attendance for a while. She will send her reports in. She has sent her report for today's meeting. She has kept up with everything since taking over. Her reports contain all information. Frankie asked if we need to read it.

Darlene has questions regarding expenses on page 5. She asked about the amount in October for Decorations and Registration Refund for convention. One person canceled and returned \$20.00.

Janice said the budget should include convention budget, which is not printed. Questions on format by Ken Davies. Under/Over budget – how do you budget when you don't know how many people will attend. Janice said we didn't do a good job with 2015 convention budget.

Frankie: we knew we were going to be short because of lack of attendance. Jules reviewed the Income and Expense numbers. Budget shows we wanted to make more but we only made \$3000, and didn't go in the hole. Janice said the 2016 budget is posted on Convention website. Darlene asked how the 2016 budget was established. General discussion, best guess. Darlene said we thought 2015 income would be \$18,000 based on attendance from the last time in DeKalb. 2016 attendance is based on 2014 people attending. Budget is now available for all to see and use to stay on budget. If needed, it can be hidden but is now viewable by all. Annual budget contains the early registration period. Discussion of how the Under/Over and best guesses were arrived at. Then everyone realized that the 33rd Convention Budget sheet is for 2016 not 2015. All the discussion was because they thought it was 2015 numbers. The benefit of a budget is so you can see what expenses are coming. Allows changes as the project continues. Standard format of budget

Darlene motioned to accept the treasurer's report subject to audit. Sue seconded. Vote by voice, yes: 9 no: none

Officers Reports:

President: The dates for meetings for 2015/16 were made based on the dates for 2014/15 season. All dates were ready for first general meeting. After published, Frankie received a call that meetings were on 3rd week and Bill was not able to attend. Frankie changed to accommodate, resulting in new conflicts. People think that the meeting dates need to be decided.

Frankie said by-laws do not say anything about how the executive meeting dates are to be determined. Discussion on how dates were determined. Frankie is asking what is the rule as there is no rule in the book. If there is no rule, what is Frankie doing that is wrong? Darlene asked if there is a rule for SCISDA meeting dates. Ken said the executive board meets just prior to the general meeting on the same day. Per SCISDA bylaws, state board meets 3 to 5 times a year. At the end of the SCISDA meeting, Ken will ask members when they are available for the next meeting. There are 5 associations in the state. Darlene said she felt SCISDA should set all meeting dates then all other associations should plan accordingly. Darlene strongly suggested that SCISDA set the calendar. Ken has been trying to keep the dates the same (3rd Sat).

For the first meeting, Frankie sent an agenda, which included the dates, to be printed by Ken. When Ken was printing, why doesn't he tell Frankie if there is a conflict. MCASD book specifies the dates for general meetings and MCASD dances. Darlene asked if we could meet before the general meeting.

Janice stated we have spent a lot of time talking about dates. Dates are on the Shutterfly site and we can sign up. Perhaps we can add the meeting dates to the MCASD website.

Next SCISDA meeting is Jan 16.

Vice President: The New Dancer dance last week had 57 in attendance, ½ new student, ½ angels. With the low cost of the Hall and proceeds from split the pot, we made \$150. There were 24 new dancers – 18 came from Glenview and only 6 from other clubs. There were three other dances that night. Next dance is south area on January 30th hosted by Swinging Sugars. Herschel is the caller.

Janice reviewed a letter from a Glenview Squares member who is active in SD. She asked MCASD to make dances friendly to new dancers, show more respect to mainstream dancers and encourage more mainstream offerings. This would encourage more new dancers to participate. Club 50 dancers will be ready to dance in January. Glenview Club will offer Club 50 friendly tips. Sweetheart dance could offer Club 50 tips. We saw at the Pumpkin Ball that the new dancer hall was full, and the Plus hall had only a few squares. It was noted that it is hard to hear in the Plus hall. Jules says we need to take chances and encourage clubs to be new dancer friendly. We should encourage others to open up to mainstream. It is OK to allow clubs to be just Plus, too. But we can have both. Jules said all he wants to do is have fun dancing. He doesn't know if the tip is plus or mainstream when it is called. He just has fun. Darlene said in Colorado they call mainstream and everyone is having fun. She has asked callers to do mainstream. Good callers can call both. Darlene has questions on list of calls. Ken said there are two different caller organizations and that the lists don't match. Back to having MCASD help clubs encourage new dancers get out. Darlene expressed new dancers don't feel confident to go to plus dances. Jules said let MCASD state a position. New dancers need encouragement and help. We can have directors talk to their representative clubs. It's about trying new things and we discussed that change is hard to accept. We can bring this up at the general meeting. We need to change the attitude that if you publicize club 50 or mainstream, no one will come. Janice suggested that if we invite students, more squares will be there instead of 2 or 3 squares. Yet comments are still heard like, "If I knew this was a student dance, I wouldn't come".

Need a one on one discussion with clubs by our directors. Country Bumpkins would have 3 student dances and have good attendance. Janice said the list of new dancer dances was handed out and on website. There are a lot of dances. ChiTown does have a lot of intros.

General Meeting presentation – We need something to say to all the clubs.

Directors – we need talking points -- this is what is happening and how it works, this is what we would like clubs to do to encourage new dancers.

Janice and Christine will work on this.

Secretary Report: Since Carolyn and Bob Lopez were not present, the report was given by Frankie Terry. A letter of resignation was received November 6 from John & Barb O'Connell. They have served many years, in many ways and wish MCASD future success. Receipt of Thank You Card from John O'Connell Funeral – thank for the concern. Toy's for Tots pick up confirmed by Gary on Sunday Dec 6. Thanks for many years of contributions.

Insurance: No report

Website: Brian – working on making site user friendly – design stage first. Clubs can make their own updates.

SCISCA: No report

News Notes: No report

Friendship: This is an open position now. Frankie realized that Naper Squares needs a director now. Ken and Sue Davies were asked and accepted to take Naper Squares. Question on how long to keep friendship award. No one remembers if just a year. We need to promote it more and discuss it at the general meeting. Perhaps revisit Friendship award.

Sunshine: No report

History: No report

Sweetheart Dance: 2017 featured caller will be Ken Burke. Reminders for 2016 will be sent in January.

Pumpkin Ball: Darlene said Anita has her report. Darlene thought no one came but we made \$3400. Expenses were down and we made more than last year. Perhaps more tickets were sold than dancers actually attended. We had 4 areas this year, adding Advanced/Challenge room (in basement). People were spread out. 283 people attended. The previous year was 270. Attendance was around the same. Mainstream hall had 7 squares but dance floor space for 4. Tape was available to put on shoes so dancers could use the carpet but no announcement was made about this. We did not have flooring available this year. Darlene will not be available next year and we need a new chair.

A discussion took place regarding payment for flooring next year. It was decided that if it is donated, to do it. If we have to pay we need to make a decision. Quote was \$500 for floor, half of the regular fee. This has been donated in previous years. We should move the tape to the Check-In table and provide information about tape on shoes for dancing on the carpet.

Brian Robinson motioned that if we are charged for flooring, we would not have the flooring. Sue Davies seconded. Vote by voice, yes: 9 no: none

There was also discussion regarding having a Featured caller at Pumpkin Ball. It was noted we had some good callers and some not good callers. After discussion, it was decided to keep the Pumpkin Ball callers as is. Featured Caller is costly. Currently the ball runs 1:30 – 5:30 with donated callers/cuers and a hospitality room. Callers/Cuers are given tickets for lunch. Changes to the ball would be hard – people don't want it and it would add to the price of the ticket.

An observation that the Mainstream room is a big room with lots of space wasted. Others noted that the tables were busy. It seemed more like a dance club setting with tables and was more inviting. There were lots of dancers helping students. It is doubtful we could move the Plus dancers to a smaller room. Food/tables/chairs are not allowed in the gyms.

Sweetheart and Pumpkin Ball descriptions are in the by-laws and are meant to be fund raisers. Sweetheart Dance usually has a low income, Pumpkin Ball has a higher income. Sweetheart caller is around \$300, cuer is \$50. Food is donated and some purchased. Clubs are asked to donate the food – some don't donate.

Sue Davies motioned we charge for food at Sweetheart dance. Brian Robinson seconded. Vote by voice, yes: 9 no: none

Frankie Terry will set prices and let everyone know.

Janice asked if Darlene had her list of suggestions from the Pumpkin Ball. Darlene will make sure they are in the notes to be passed on for next year.

Ken Davies commented that the Pumpkin Ball had a good turnout of students. They attend for free. He asked that the students pay or ask for donations at the door. If they go to a regular dance, they pay a fee. Advertising already says students are free for next year. We could start at \$2 or \$5 donation then see how it goes. If there is a good result then charge in 17/18. Or half price, Student Discount - \$5 were ideas. How we word it is important. Frankie said she sold 35 tickets but all those with tickets may not come. If we sell to new dancers, they will come.

Darlene Kulpa moved that at 2016 Pumpkin Ball students get in for half price. James Cha seconded. Discussion that if we don't do fourth hall (shared room with DBD, advanced) and had them share with Mainstream, there would be less floor time for students. High dancers didn't come because they usually have less dance time. This year there was a new room for DBD/Advanced.Challenge. Suggested we do the same for 2016. We want dancers to dance.

Trinity is half price than the school locations MCASD has used in the past. The fourth room was at no extra charge. We should keep the fourth room, all the time.

Vote by voice, yes: 9 no: none

Ken again asked about flooring, can we move students to basement? NO – too small.

Publicity – clubs want a campaign. Partner with state and national? This will be looked into.

Bylaws Change Proposal: James Cha and Jules Heineman presented the latest proposed changes. - Minutes showed quorum is 40% if finalized. All other changes were discussed. Discussion if we wanted to vote as a committee then it would go to the general members for a vote. We must send the proposal to general members 30 days before voting. We can't vote in December (not enough time) and will wait until April or would have to schedule a special meeting for this purpose. Ken Davies suggested we can discuss the by-laws at the December general meeting. Must be presented to all clubs, they take back to clubs for decision. Their board can let their delegates vote in April. We will send email first so they read it in advance. A printed copy will be handed out at the meeting. Revise the proposal to include chapter number for each article. Proposed changes are underlined and bolded.

There was discussion about the bylaws stating that directors cannot make motions and vote at general meetings. Only delegates can do so. Chap 4, art 3 sec 6.

Also there was discussion on Executive Board Terms. Ken Davies thinks one year is the way it should be. Frankie said most other boards have 2 year terms. It takes one year to learn. Some clubs have 2 year terms, some have 1 year terms. Some stagger positions. Sue Davies objects to two year terms.

Christine Steffy moved that we accept the recommendation from by-laws committee as presented. Darlene Kulpa seconded. Vote by voice, yes: 8; no: Sue Davies.

Discussed that delegates at general meeting can only represent one club.

James Cha moved an addition to the by-laws that if a delegate notifies the club president they can't attend, the Club president makes the selection of who can substitute. The Club president would notify president of MCASD before the meeting begins. Sue Davies seconded. Vote by voice, yes: 9 no: none

Grant Update: Janice Cha distributed results from a mini-survey on how the grant impacted clubs and any suggestions to improve the grant program.

Discussion should offer this for 2016/17. Big picture, yes clubs would like to see this again.

Refinements are needed. We should make the clubs do some work to earn the grant. This year

we were generous. All clubs received the money. Some clubs may have done the bare minimum, not putting in extra effort. Next year, the requirements should be raised. This year the time frame of reports was not adhered to. This coming year we need to have explicit due dates and tell clubs they must file on time to get the money. Other associations have not started a program like ours. Perhaps MCASD can help others to start a program. SCISDA should take this up and ask other associations if there is interest to expand. Our success will drive others to start. Janice Cha suggested we be more stringent. Every single club must have a website – if so, we need to tell them now, so they have time to create one. We need to provide training to do so. Flossmoor BnB, Happy Twirlers and Yellowrockers are the only clubs without a website. Southside is beginning to make one. We need to talk to them individually before we make the announcement. We can offer training and then ask for a progress report.

Ken Davies said MCASD info should not be spread across multiple websites. It was explained that you can get to the sites from MCASD website.

Christine Steffy moved we offer grant for 2016/17 – Darlene Kulpa seconded. Vote by voice, yes: 8 no: none, one abstained – Ken Davies.

Frankie Terry brought up the Director List. Ken and Sue Davies just decided earlier in the meeting they will take Naper Squares.

Director Talking Points were talked about at the previous meeting. We need to put this together. Then put on Revival site for directors to use.

Frankie Terry ask Ken Davies if the SCISDA website could have the Convention photos updated with 2015 instead of 2012. Jim Winslow is website director. Jim is too busy to do so. Frankie is asking Ken to visit Jim to request he make the updates on the state website.

New listing of directors and dates need to go on MCASD website.

2016 Convention Committee decided to have a travel team to get registrations. They will have T-shirts for the travel team. Try to be more organized for 2016. More information on site.

Still need coordinators to handle decorations and vendors. Could use more members on the committee.

Motion to adjourn by Christine Steffy. Sue Davies seconded. Vote by voice, yes: 9 no: none

Meeting adjourned at 12:17

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Steffy

(Filling in for Carolyn & Bob Lopez)