

Metropolitan Chicago Association of Square Dancers

Minutes from the MCASD Executive Board Meeting 3/3/2016
At Elk Grove Township Hall, Arlington Heights, IL



NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2016 AT 2 PM

PRESENT: Frankie Terry, Janice & James Cha, Bob and Carolyn Lopez, Bill Neurauter, Jim & Pat Glass, Darlene Kulpa, Christine Steffy, Jules & Marilyn Heinemann, Pat Semple, Robert Bradley, and John Wood

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Frankie Terry followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Christine Steffy asked to add Mainstream, Club 50 to the agenda under New Business. She then moved to accept the agenda as amended and John Wood seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.

After several typo corrections were made to the minutes, Christine Steffy moved to accept the minutes and Bill Neurauter seconded. The minutes as amended were approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Anita Johnson did submit reports for the Sweetheart Dance, and for MCASD in January and February. It was reported that besides the 323 paid dancers, there were 40 new students at the Sweetheart Dance. As Anita was not present, the reports will be filed for audit.

SCISDA: Frankie Terry gave all the reports from the 2015 Convention to SCISDA to help them plan the 2017 convention. Rich Sehnert has called to find two available hotels in Springfield. SCISDA has not come to any decision about the convention in 2017. Their next meeting is in April. No other association has volunteered to do the 2017 convention and Springfield is too far for MCASD to handle it.

SCISDA has approved the grant program for another year and has expanded it to include other associations.

VICE-PRESIDENT REPORT: The January 30 New dancer Dance was attended by 15 new dancers. The next New Dancer Dance is March 12 in Downers Grove.

SECRETARY REPORT: Denise Hopkins has declined being a member of the Board of Directors.

INSURANCE: Bill Neurauter handed out a letter and forms that he would be sending out to all Club Presidents for membership and insurance renewal. Bill Neurauter said that he never got the club assignments for the handbook this year. Jules Heinemann said they were passed out at the December General meeting.

At a Caller sponsored dance, insurance is provided by the caller thru Caller Lab.

WEBSITE: Christine Steffy said the website has a new box that lists "Dances Today". Changes will be made to show more dances in more categories. The website has links to any Square Dance information you may need.

Janice Cha asked that that the Convention information be prominently displayed on their club websites.

SCISDA: SCISDA has approved the budget for next year. They struggle with getting a quorum for their meetings. They need officers to RSVP if they will attend their meetings. Ozzie Pearl is doing the state fair this year. There is one day that square dancers dance. He will send passes to clubs once those clubs have sent him the information that he needs.

The SCISDA nominating committee is looking for people to run for office.

The SCISDA grant project has now been extended to any state association that would like to participate.

FRIENDSHIP AWARDS: Donna Carpenter is now responsible for the Friendship Awards and was not present.

SUNSHINE: Two birthday cards were sent in January and two in February. A sympathy card was sent to Chuck Witt on the passing of his mother.

SWEETHEART DANCE: We now have contracts for the callers for 2017. This year there was a great turnout with 40 new dancers. A new banner was bought since the last one is missing and could not be found.

New dancers should also be invited to other club sponsored new dancer dances. Inviting new students to other social events for coffee or drinks after lessons is a way to attract and hold onto new dancers.

Pat Semple had a comment about not having a photographer at the Sweetheart dance but it was pointed out that many people were using their cell phones to take pictures of the sweetheart couples and themselves next to the heart display.

Expenses for the sweetheart couple presentation were \$184 for flowers, \$16.50 for the picture frames, and about \$23 for miscellaneous items, which came to a total of \$221.66.

Frankie Terry explained that next year the food items should go back to being free with a goodwill donation requested. She said it was too difficult to price the food offered at the Sweetheart dance. Janice Cha made a motion to do away with pricing food at the Sweetheart dance and to go back to offering food and requesting a goodwill donation. Steffy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Bill Neurauter reported on the raffle at the Sweetheart dance. There were 16 items donated by 14 clubs, which brought in a total of \$270 for the Sweetheart dance. He requested that in the future the emcees announce last call for the raffle and split the pot.

PUMPKIN BALL: The Pumpkin Ball is a moneymaking event for MCASD since we do not pay for callers or cuers. Darlene Kulpa said the prices are too high for the food at the Pumpkin Ball especially when it comes to the pie slices. A suggestion was made to try to cut the pie slices more uniformly in the future.

Also, clubs need to be encouraged to pre-sell tickets at each club and other dances.

Bobby Poyner suggested that we should consider hiring a caller for the Pumpkin Ball, as we do for the Sweetheart dance because it attracts more dancers. But at the Pumpkin Ball there are different dancing halls and we need more than just one featured caller. Many people suggested that callers should be scheduled earlier so that they can be listed on the flyers for the Pumpkin Ball.

PUBLICITY: Christine Steffy is working with one club to design their club's website. In addition, another club has asked for direction. At Woodstock, most new dancers found the lessons on the Internet. Square dance information should show up when googling fitness, sports, and athletics. This way more people would find out about square dancing activities. Frankie Terry has contacted WTTW to volunteer to answer phones during June pledge. She has also emailed doctors about the benefits of square dancing and would like to place flyers in doctors' or hospital offices. Pat Semple suggested approaching the AMA about the benefits of square dancing.

BY-LAWS: James Cha emailed the proposed revised bylaws to all delegates and club presidents on January 27, followed by a hard copy mailed to club presidents and any delegates that do not have email. Arlington Squares

questioned Article 5 Section 3B about working on club activities and the New Dancer Dances. They wondered if it is mandatory to work on more than one activity? If a club is not willing to work on more than one activity, would they be punished in some way? They were told that due to the dwindling number of clubs and dwindling membership, clubs might be expected to work on more than one event.

For the general meeting, ballots still need to be created indicating yes or no on each change. The ballots would be handed out to each delegate present at the general meeting. When the minutes are sent out for the April meeting, a copy of the bylaws should be attached and each delegate will be requested to bring a copy to the general meeting, since copies will not be available. The ballots will be marked before the break, collected and counted during the break at the general meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Pat Semple has been appointed to conduct the election of officers at the general meeting. Also Jules Heineman and Darlene Kulpa have been appointed to the nominating committee.

MCASD GRANT: The application for the grant has been emailed as a PDF to club presidents in early February. Clubs need a more visible website in order to obtain the grant. Also, they will need to send club members to a training session at the convention this summer. If clubs need help with their website, they can request help from Christine Steffy or Janice Cha. There will be a short grant meeting before the April general meeting.

CONVENTION REPORT: Organizations are being considered to benefit from the trail in dance on Thursday before the convention. Two organizations are being looked at now, including the Shriners and St. Jude's Hospital. Shriners replied right away and would have a representative come to the convention if we would like. St. Jude's hospital has not replied at this point. Darlene Kulpa would like to know the percentage of funds donated that are actually used for the programs that each organization supports. Janice suggested we look into the American Heart Association because maybe they would partner with us to promote square dancing. It was also suggested that a square dancer by the name of Lester Mullard has a daughter who is paralyzed for life. Janice also said that Bobby Poyner suggested donating to a cancer fund for this child.

April 15 is the last date for the early registration discount for the Convention. T-shirts for promoting the convention are available on Amazon.com.

Bob Huckleby has been contacted about the flooring and we are hoping to get an exact quote because the last year the convention was in Itasca, more flooring had to be laid than was estimated.

A road trip is planned for May 7 to the Bloomington/Champaign area for a special square dance to promote the convention this summer. The May 7 event is the 65th May Festival sponsored by the Illinois Federation of Square Dancing from 10 AM to 10 PM that day. The callers are Ken Burke and Larry Johnson. Hotel rooms are on hold at the Hilton Hotel in Champaign.

CALLER GRANT: There is one club in the area, Chi-town, which is sponsoring six callers to send to Callerlab training. Besides growing the numbers of square dancers, we also need to grow the number of callers. Callerlab offers grants for new callers, but it might be advantageous to offer a grant from MCASD.

NEW BUSINESS: Janice Cha made a proposal that all clubs could raise the door fee for independent dancers. This would mean that any MCASD club member would get a discount at the door. This proposal would help clubs with dwindling membership, financially; and possibly encourage members from folded clubs to join another club in the area. Independent dancers enjoy all the benefits that club members do without the obligations of bringing snacks, stealing and retrieving or serving on a club's Board of Directors. Janice Cha made a motion to proceed to take the proposal to the General Meeting in April, increasing the door fee by two dollars each club charges over the price of what an MCASD club member would pay. Bob Lopez seconded the motion. The motion passed with 10 Ayes, and two abstentions. Pat Semple commented that some clubs are afraid that with

this fee structure they will lose dance attendance.

Christine Steffy explained that a group of dancers has completed the Club 50 dance lessons at Woodstock in McHenry. They are dancing at the Club 50 level and having a great time. MCASD should encourage mainstream and Club 50 dances. Clubs in this area should support and promote Club 50 and mainstream venues.

The Convention will add the 50 call list to the mainstream room this summer.

Woodstock is holding dances alternating Club 50 and Plus tips. They are getting an extra tip in during the night because there are no rounds. Woodstock and McHenry have started a second class of club 50 dancers. The fourth Thursday of the month, their lesson's night is also strictly a club 50 dance at the student level.

Bill Neurauter moved to adjourn the meeting. Janice Cha seconded. We adjourned 12:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn & Bob Lopez