

Metropolitan Chicago Association of Square Dancers



Aug 26, 2017 MCASD EXECUTIVE MEETING
Elk Grove Township Hall, Arlington Heights

Attendance: Duane Bradley, Robert Bradley, Janice & James Cha, Ken Davies, Pat & Jim Glass, Marilyn & Jules Heinemann, Darlene Kulpa, Anita Johnson, Brian Robinson, Christine Steffy, Frankie Terry, John Wood

Guests Joy Nachtrab, Bruce Holmes (North Shore Squares), Cornie Gardner (South Side Squares), Janeen Hyde, Betty Siebens, Walter Schapals (McHenry BnB), Michael Preusker (Happy Twirlers), George Schnitzenbaumer (Swingin Sugars), Andi Malfese (Yellowrockers)

Call to order at 10:01 am by Frankie Terry
Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

James Cha moved the agenda approved as presented, John Wood seconded. Vote: Yes – All No – None Motion carried

Approval of Minutes

James Cha moved the minutes accepted as presented. Brian Robinson seconded. Vote: Yes – All No – None Motion carried

Treasurer's Report

See attached. Discussion on Membership and insurance fee. Once the last of retail stock is sold, there will be no re-orders. James Cha moved to accept the Treasurer's report as given pending audit. John Wood seconded. Vote: Yes – All No – None Motion carried

President's Report

The president welcomes the opening of the 2017/18 season. Rich Sehnert is not here due to work obligations. Frankie Terry will present the report. The June meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum. We expected 8 guests to attend and they were notified. Today we will have an Open Forum for our guests. A new club has formed, North Shore Squares, and applied to become a member. Robert Bradley is our new News Notes chair. The thank you letter from St Jude regarding the Brick was read. Our brick is installed on Pathway to Hope. St Jude is grateful for our donation. They

extended an invitation for us to see the brick and tour of St Jude Campus. Trip can be organized for \$200; includes bus and hotel only. We can dance at a local club. We would want to organize publicity of our group viewing the brick and dancing. This will be presented for discussion at the general meeting

VP REPORT

Janice Cha reviewed one of her duties is she is in charge new dancers and promoting new dancers. She has set up new dancer dances for people taking lessons. List of 3 scheduled dances (See Attached). These dances are Sponsored by MCASD and hosted by member clubs.

Secretary

A desperate plea for a secretary was once again made. This can be split into two positions to alleviate the amount of tasks, General and Executive.

Insurance – See attached report

Webmaster

Brian Robinson has developed a tool for data entry of dances. He will setup a training session prior to the General Meeting. He hopes to train a representative from each club how to maintain their dance information. This falls dances have most of the club's schedules. Emails for the missing club's dances has been sent.

SCISDA

Frankie Terry reported that Jim & Janet Winslow are the new Northern VP. Next meeting at Jan 16 at Trinity Lutheran Church. 12:15 pm is the Executive Meeting, 1:00 pm will be the General Meeting in the Fellowship Room downstairs.

News Notes

Robert Bradley reported that so far he has not received any information from clubs. Clubs should send Happenings, Special Dances and anything else they want published to him. The first newsletter will be handed out at the general meeting. This one page newsletter will be posted on website. If possible, with links to the club's website where the full information is.

Friendship Awards

Donna Carpenter is not present. Discussion regarding clubs not having people to qualify because not as many going out. It is a struggle to encourage more banner stealing to allow individuals to have the number of visits. Reviewed some reasons are people don't want to travel and club membership dropped. Discussed changing from 6 to 4 members attending in order to qualify. The Bylaws require 6 members to make it qualify. A suggestion was to add an individual based Friendship award along with the club based. There is a Travelers badge administered by SCISDA. We decided to table this topic now and revisit the topic at the next meeting.

Historian– absent

Pumpkin Ball

Darlene Kulpa reported that clubs signed up for tasks at last general meeting. Directors assignment need to be done today. They oversee the tasks. Ken Davis printed the Pumpkin Ball Tickets. Discussion regarding Northshore members. Bobby Poyner is setting up callers. The Sprosty Twins and Tom Manning will come in. There will be a Costume Contest and parade. Flyers will be available at the General Meeting. Dancing hours are 1:30 – 3:00. All will meet in big hall for the Costume Parade with neutral judges. Dancing continues from 3:30 – 5:30 dances. Raffle and Spit the Pot will draw at 4:00 pm then one tip with all dancers. Discussion on dancing and rooms for Round, Beginner, Club 50 and Plus. Again, putting the A – C dancers in a smaller room. Food with Basic / Club 50 / Mainstream in the Kitchen room.

Publicity

SquareDanceChicago has everything you need to know. The Facebook GROUP has around 500 members. It is used to allow clubs and members to talk to each other, exchange dance info, etc. The Facebook PAGE is run by MCASD for exterior page for people to see what is going on. Intro/Lesson/Articles will be on these pages. Share the FB Page on your FB account to add exposure.

WHERE's the DANCE – don't forget to add your dances for the upcoming dance season.

Grant Update – see attached report

Janice Cha reviewed this year's Grant Summary. The dances are loaded onto the Shutterfly site. Some may need to be updated with complete info, address etc. Reviewed that the grants first two years was focused to help promote lessons. This year we are promoting a way for new students to transition into dancing. The jump from lessons to full dance is intimidating. We've lost dancers when they are scared at full Plus level dances. This year's grant is to encourage clubs to host a Mainstream/Club 50 level dance. We have eight dances in the fall, 18 in the spring. The New Year's Eve dance will have a Club 50/Mainstream dance room. These are posted on SquareDance Chicago.com. The Grant offers \$100 / dance to help offset any financial loss for offering Club 50/Mainstream. Unfortunately with the new focus, we realized we didn't have the info on this fall's Intro Parties. An email was sent out to club leaders to post their Intro Party information. Seven clubs have responded so far: Glenview, McHenry/Woodstock, North Shore, Arlington, Fox Valley/Batavia, Swingin Sugar, Naper Squares, Yellow Rockers.

New Business

Bruce Holmes from North Shore Squares requested formal approval to be admitted into MCASD. James Cha motioned that MCASD accept the application for membership from Northshore Squares. Darlene Kulpa seconded. Discussion included questions on rules/requirements to become part of MCASD. They have to work the balls and attend

General Meetings. Bruce explained that he started a year ago as classes. They had lessons in Kenilworth and Wilmette. A second session started in winter. So far, he has taught 32 people. The focus is on people from Wilmette, Kenilworth, Skokie and Evanston. They will host Club 50 dances. They are starting with 29 members. Five are also members of Glenview Squares. They did lose a few students. Dues is \$95 per person and includes the dances. The first Plus class started with 14 students in 2 weeks. These 14 are good dancers. Stealing and retrieving isn't going to happen in their first year as they can't dance plus – hard to retrieve. The club has officers and bank account. Joy Nachtrab will be their MCASD delegate. Their dance schedule will be the 2nd Saturday of the month. They have held ten Club 50 over the summer to keep them dancing. Bruce has had an enjoyable time with these dances. Club has a board of directors. Bylaws, etc done. Age ranges are mid 40 – 60, young. Official name is NORTH SHORE SQUARES. Vote: Yes – All No – None Motion carried. Applause for Bruce for starting this. BnB Flossmor folded last week.

2017 SD Convention

Ken Davis reported there were round 510 attendees. No final meeting was done as a wrap up. It was fun for people who attended. The SCISDA meeting is in September and there should be more information once the IL Federation completes the convention tasks.

New Callers

Rich Sehnert wants to have a special dance in January for all the new callers to call. This will give the new callers in training a chance to practice their calls with live dancers. Discussion on how many potential new callers are in the area. There were 12 students who attended the March/April Caller School. 10 from Chicago, 1 from Rockford, 1 from Morton.

OPEN FORUM:

Question – What is the purpose of MCASD?

Discussion – facilitate interaction, insurance, banner stealing, new dancers, information, website. October and Sweetheart balls. Requirements, dancers to volunteer as officers, attend and selling at the money making events.

It was noted that large clubs are not selling the tickets they should. Clubs should be selling 50% tickets. Money made are returned back to clubs through the grants, new dancer dances. If clubs don't sell the tickets, these programs will go away. Encourage tickets to be bought whether they come or not. Sweetheart dance callers are paid, Octoberfest has volunteer callers and has the best earnings.

See attached report regarding accomplishments, lowering of dues and insurance.

Money earned is returned to the clubs. Diamond Circulators and South Side Squares are 100% sold. A strategy would be don't ask club members to buy - tell them to do so. Find out what works for your club that encourages sales. Reminding them of the advantages of MCASD tells them they give and get back.

Question on who is whom? At MCASD meetings, we should wear your badge!

Introductions of both the guests and executive board were made.

Dance Tickets to graduates was discussed and tabled at a previous meeting. Question – who makes the decision? Executive or General Meeting delegates? Cost is printing and labor. Clubs give up the income when the dancer use it. No complaints from clubs yet. These are an incentive to get the new dancers to come back after summer break. Good for one year – use it or lose it. In past, Executive has done this. Tasks to administer were discussed. Each club should be contacted to see if they wish to participate. One person has to contact each club, create the tickets, print the tickets, get the number of students, and distribute. Jeanine asked – we have CLUB 50 dancers, many clubs didn't offer Club 50. As a result of the Grant Program, we now have over 30 Club 50/Mainstream dances that these can be used. If they have a good time, they will come back. Clubs mentioned they had receive a few coupons from new dancers. Nine clubs are offering lessons – fewer new coupons needed/used. Clubs that are teaching Club 50 are Swingin Sugars, South Side, Glenview, North Shore McHenry BnB/Woodstock.

Discussion of ideas – let clubs offer new dancers in free?, The grant dances offer at no charge. Let the club members of new dancers give guidance to what dances they can go to.

Returned to the discussion on the coupon program: Who will do it. Discussion how to get someone to update old coupon formats. Sue Davies has the same format from last year. Darlene Kulpa and Anita Johnson volunteered to do this.

Spare Squares said they will have two dance rooms, Beginner and Plus. As the year goes on, the beginner room will expand the calls. This will be at their 4th Saturday of the month club dance.

Frankie Terry announced that snacks are provided. Please stay and join us!

James Cha moved to adjourn, Brian Robinson seconded. Vote: Yes – All No – None Motion carried

Meeting Adjourn: 11:40 am