

Swing 'n' Country Board Meeting

January 29, 2018

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

Present: Don Moeller, Susie Kaplan, Leah Noparstak, Reike Moskal, Gary LaForte, Karen Saunders, Marcia Emmett, Ingrid Dubman, Lou Chatroop, and Dan Brabec

Mission Statement was read by Marcia

Member Presentations – None

President's Report

Treasurer's Report

- December Preliminary Report - In order to accurately close the books for 2017, the December and full year 2017 will be published at the February meeting.

Secretary's Report

- Don motioned /Susie seconded that we accept the December report. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Hospitality

- No report

Dance Camp Chicago

- The DCC committee met on January 14th at the hotel to partake in the brunch and go over several items:
 - Schedules are now final for the Weekend and Workshops (both are on the website)
 - Update for the Saturday night show:
 - The Hustle Troupe of May I Have This Dance will be performing and those not attending the weekend will purchase a Saturday night pass (I have comped Nino and Dawn).
 - Jimmy Mulligan has retired but he reached out to Leah to give us a recommendation for another Arthur Murray couple to perform (at no cost). They have accepted and are planning on a Viennese Waltz to a country song (with coaching from Jimmy)
 - The Blue Bowl raffle prizes are coming along nicely with a few new additions.
 - Our registrations are slightly ahead of last year at this time.
 - The hotel has continued to be wonderful to our needs; additional concessions:
 - Spring Ballroom has been given to us at no charge (that's 3 ballrooms for 3ish days for \$7K)
 - The Spring Ballroom will have hotel floor (ALSO at no charge) since our floor vendor will not have enough floor.
 - We are not able to hang the projector from the ceiling for the gobo so I have ordered a 5 x 10 banner (which Leah should have by the time of the meeting).
 - Leah will work with the hotel to absorb anyone who hasn't booked within our group to add them to our group block.

Operations

- Staffing sheets were distributed.
- Computer Maintenance & Upgrades:

The following work was performed on the Swing 'n' Country Levono G700 Laptop Computer. This work was annual maintenance on the system hardware and software since previous work performed on January 2, 2017

- ✓ Updated Microsoft Windows with all available updates

- ✓ Updated Microsoft Office 2013 Home & Student from version 15.0.4885.1001 to latest version 15.0.4989.100
- ✓ Checked System Hardware and BIOS – all okay
- ✓ Ran malware scan – system was clean
- ✓ Performed standard IT System Performance Tuning, Maintenance, Check, and Cleanup such as Disk Cleanup, Temp file purges, checking event logs, disk optimization, reinitialized restore points, re-sync system time, purged all recycle bins, checked file system, checked batteries (including mouse), etc. System shows to be in good shape and performing well.
- ✓ Performed image back up of entire system.

Happenings

SNC Board of Directors Elections Advanced Notice:

- The only item of significance and of specialty for this month's Happenings Report is a call for SNC Members to submit themselves for the Board of Directors.
- In the December 11, 2017 meeting, it was brought to the table that the majority of the Board of Directors (8 possible/tentative positions of the 11 total) will be open and/or up for re-election. We currently have one open position now, and with not all of the 7 others committing yet to another term, there was concern the number of Board members may be dropping. It was therefore felt that we get out some early word that we are looking for SNC members to present themselves as candidates to be on the Board of Directors.
- A draft of this Special Happenings was prepared and sent to Marcia (President) for review. It will go out as soon as there is an approved version. Thereafter, regular reminders will be posted in subsequent Happenings.

Marketing

- 2017 Holiday Dance Comparison Review:
 - In the December 11, 2017 meeting, the Holiday Dance held on December 1 was reviewed in retrospect, especially regarding attendance, which was lower than expected. As part of this discussion, the question was raised as to whether the higher price for the additional dance time and expanded hospitality table was a factor (in comparison to our normal dance prices), and how we fared against other Holiday Dance parties that in the area.
 - I mentioned that I might be attending the Chicago Windy City Jitterbug Club (CWCJC) Holiday Dance and may be able to provide a comparison. As it turned out, I did not end up going to it, but did collect the information on it from their web site.



Holiday Dance
 Saturday, December 16, 2017
to be held at our regular club dance at the
 American Legion Hall
 9757 W. Pacific Ave.
 Franklin Park, IL
 7:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Share in the Holiday Spirit with fellow club members & guests at our Holiday Dance on Saturday, December 16th. Pizza, salad, cake, and coffee will be served. The doors open at 7:15 p.m.

Members \$7.00 - Guests \$15.00

○Part of the reason not to go was because it really offered very little in food compared to what I remembered they had a two or

three years prior. In short, for the same \$15 non-member price as our Holiday Dance Party, at the CWCJC Holiday Dance, you get pizza, salad, cake, and coffee. Compare that to everything we of-

ferred – a pretty full buffet - plus an additional 30 minutes of dancing, all for the same price. The member price was lower, but still food comparison was nowhere near to ours. (Also, CWCJC has always had practice of providing its members with fringe benefits at special events like this at regular member prices but at increased non-member prices.)

- The bottom-line by this comparison is that I do not believe the price is a factor at all for our Holiday Party considering everything the attendees get. If anything, we are charging too little for non-members by this comparison.

Holiday Dance Survey:

- In the December 11, 2017 meeting, it was decided that perhaps to conduct a survey to get an idea about how the members and attendees felt about the Holiday Dance Party and whether we might wish to bring back the Holiday Dinner Dance. I was tasked with preparing the survey.
- It was decided that Don would make copies of the survey to be distributed at the next few dances and Wednesday lessons. It was also decided to add the survey to Happenings in March.

Education

- Our January Hustle lessons are doing well, a little light. Liz is doing a great job as always.
- We introduced Rachel Mercedes for the second dance, she taught Cha Cha. She did very well, she is an excellent teacher (she stayed the whole evening, danced with everyone). **Leah motioned/Susie seconded to accept Rachel Mercedes as an official SNC instructor.** The Education Committee has asked Rachel to teach Cha Cha the month of May.
- February-Waltz-Don Macdonald - second dance-WCS-Brian Wong
- March-Two-Step-Julie Hein & Don Leynes plus our second dance March 16th, first Friday March 2nd Megan Wheeler-Night Club
- April-WCS-Jeff Mumford (still waiting on his contract),- second dance Double -Two-Don Leynes and Julie Hein
- May-Cha-Cha-Rachel Mercedes (contract pending)
- Second dance in May and June dances still TBA.

Archive Report

- No report

Website Report

- Domain and Hosting Renewals:
 - All four of the Swing 'n' Country owned domain names and the Web Hosting account have renewed for their annual renewals. The total cost of \$247.20 was submitted and reimbursed by the treasurer.
- Entire Swing 'n' Country Web Platform will be moving
- I received notice this month that Swing 'n' Country's entire web hosting platform will be moving from its current provider IX Web Hosting to Verio. This will affect all SNC web services including web hosting, domain names, and email.
- This is occurring because Endurance International Group (EIG) has just acquired IX Web Hosting. As part of the acquisition IX Web Hosting will be dissolved and all currently web hosting accounts on it will be migrated to Verio. In short, the acquisition is really a matter of purchasing IX Web Hosting Customers and dismantling the IX Web Hosting platform and name.
- How will this affect Swing 'n' Country? In the short term, there will be no affect. Nothing will be happening for a while. This was an early and advanced notice of what was coming. Therefore, everyone may rest easy that nothing will be affected at this time and especially on the sunrise of Dance Camp Chicago. The renewals mentioned above in the first section assures that the Dance Camp Chicago web site

will be alive and well as well as the Swing 'n' Country main site. As the time comes, I will try to ensure any platform movement occurs during Dance Camp Chicago quiescent period.

- In the long term, this is actually a very good thing. I have actually been thinking about moving the web platform anyway for a while to one better. EIG is a large presence in the Web and Internet industry with many big name web companies under its umbrella including some of the top rated ones. Constant Contact, for example, which we use for both mainstream and Dance Camp Happenings is an EIG company.
- Verio is an EIG company, and I am very familiar with it and my own company has three web accounts with them, and I have managed many other accounts with Verio that my clients have had. I have used Verio for 18 years (since 2000), and have been involved in platform changes with them when Verio, previously an NTT company, was acquired by EIG.
- Summarizing, we have nothing to worry about for the immediate future. In the longer term, Swing 'n' Country will be better off after the migration, and with my experience with Verio and other EIG companies, the migration can be handled and managed with the least disruption possible.
- As further information is received, I will summarize it in future web reports.

Music

- Music should be played that can cross a few genres of dance (for example-cha could also be double two)
- The DJ should also announce the appropriate placement on the floor (progressive dances (waltz, two step, etc) should be on perimeter; stationary dances (west coast, cha-cha, east coast, etc) should be in center.

Volunteers

- Nothing to report

Dance Angels

- Snowballs will be brought back instead of Dance Angels.

Special Events Committee

- Nothing to report

Membership

- Nothing to report

New Business:

- Date of next board meetings: February 26, 2018.
- Reike motioned/Lou seconded to have Leah announce the date of Dance Camp 2019 (Feb 8-10) at Dance Camp 2018. Motion passed.
- Ingrid motioned/Lou seconded that the decision to hold Dance Camp 2019 will be made at the next meeting (2/26/2018).

Adjournment

Dan motioned/Don seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 9:17 pm. Motion carried.

Respectively submitted,

Susie Kaplan