

Swing N Country Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 21, 2009

Present: Ann Clark, Rich Cooper, Bill Dortch, Marcia Emmett, Jerry Kieras, Don Moeller, Leah Noparstak, Roger Peterson, Susie Kaplan, Judi Troemel
Absent: Tobi Oberman
Guests: None

Meeting was called to order at 7.03 pm by President Roger Peterson. Leah read the Mission Statement.

President's Report:

- Next Board Meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2009.
- Love N' Dancing: Nancy T had given SNC three votes and DCC three votes regarding how to distribute the \$412 profit from the all-club sponsored Chicago premiere. The options were:
 1. Sponsor an ALL-CLUB social dance
 2. Divide profit equally among all sponsors
 3. Divide profit among four sponsoring dance conventions (SCC, DCC, CC, SDA)
 4. Use profit to advertise WCS in local community
 5. Donation in IMO Jenna Becker to Children's Memorial Hospital
 6. Donate profits to sponsor a child with financial needs to learn how to dance.
 7. Sponsor a competition at an upcoming Chicago area event or events.
 8. Allow Nancy, Carlos and Roger to choose which organizations or charities to donate profits to.
- Discussion: Many clubs have individual ideas that may cause headaches in attempting to fulfill. The consensus was to put all of our eggs in one basket and submit our votes to donate to Children's Hospital in Jenna Backer's name. Rich motioned, Judi seconded. **Unanimously** passed.
- The email vote for Tobi Oberman as 11th Board Member was **unanimously** passed.

For the Good of the Club:

Chicagoland Dance Festival: The CDF was a huge success. Roger was complimented on the two tri-folds he put together; one promoting the Club and one promoting DCC. It was noted that while we are grateful for the Chicagoland pictures posted on the web site, we need to include more than just competitions. Judi offered to bring her camera and take those missing shots next year.

Committee Chairs: Chairs have been requested to submit their reports for review prior to the scheduled board meeting. Any format is acceptable.

SNC Officer and Committee Reports: (Listed alphabetically)

Dance Camp Chicago: (Leah, Chair) Julie, Tobi, Roger, Susie, Don

Leah presented an overview of the DCC meeting held September 20. Budget issues had been discussed. Decisions were based on making the \$4000 on food. The Committee is focusing on the dinner to help meet this goal. The box lunches will have a charge of \$7.50. (Ballroom free if we spend \$4000 on food/beverage + 100 room nights) There will be four levels of Pro-AM Two-Step and West Coast Swing. Starters will be using the new UCWDC syllabus. Leah had contacted UCWDC for approval and received same. Roger asked how much money we would exactly lose if the same number of attendees is at 2010 that were at 2009. This calculation had already been done by Alfred who will send Board Members a copy. (Done: Per Alfred, the worst case scenario would be a loss of \$5422.00.)

Roger asked that if anyone wants to see changes to the DCC web site that we say so now. Carlos is handling registration. Judi had submitted comments on the registration form.

Education: (Susie/Tobi chairs, Penny and Jerry members)

Action Item: Non-Payment of Instructor fees because of cancellation of lessons due to act of God needs to be added to our 2010 contracts.

Kristin and Monte: The Education Committee and Roger would like to bring Kristin and Monte in again. Their cost for teaching on a Friday is much higher than our standard payment (\$400). Discussion was engaged about having Kristin and Monte teach at Rebels the following night. Would SNC lose dancers if there were two nights of Kristin? The Board agreed to support them coming in and didn't feel a Kristin and Monte night at the Rebels immediately following our dance would reduce our own numbers. Susie suggested we could possibly

have them at our first dance back from summer hiatus. We had a **consensus** to bring Kristin and Monty in the Spring and Fall.

2010 is entirely planned.

Video Summaries: Roger will discontinue providing video's of lessons at the end of November. Leah would like this service continued. This is an 8 to 9 hour project each month plus attending all Wednesday lessons. **Discussion:** 1. We could put the video on our web site pending teacher approval. 2. We could do nothing.

Action Item: Request a volunteer videographer in the next issue of *Happenings*. (Done)

Happenings: Judi, Chair and Julie and Bill members.

Action Item: Submit a corrected 0810 copy of minutes to include fact that there were no significant *Happenings* events to report for the period 0720 through 0810. (Done).

A *Happenings* Report for the current period was submitted and is attached to these minutes. Of special note is the decision to go from a weekly e-letter to a monthly e-letter with reminders each week of lessons and dances. Ken Dilliard's resignation as an editor acted as a catalyst in the already-thought-out plan. The **consensus** of the Board was that going monthly was a good decision. The Constant Contact trial start date began September 17. We will be publishing through the email marketing firm by November 16. A thank-you to Ken will be in the *Happenings* coming up.

Hospitality: Ann (Chair) with Susie Kaplan, **Marcia Emmett**, Sandy Woodbury, Linda Paige.

Ann previously submitted a report covering the dance themes from September 2009 through 2010 which is attached to these minutes. It was stated that music may be all IPOD for the second dance in December. The reason being low attendance would be expected. Tentatively there will be a Retro night using old tapes on hand. Chris Peterson (former Board Member) had saved these and given them to Roger. The themes are firm and will be posted on the web site three months forward.

SNC is having two dances in January ... 15 and 29th.

Marketing: Jerry Kieras (Chair) Roger, Judi, members.

There was no meeting held and nothing to report. Current ideas/suggestions will be handled by email discussion among the committee members.

Music: Leah (Chair), Roger, Rich, Susie, Ann, Jerry, Ron Oberman – members. No meeting.

Per Roger: The Committee is getting off to a slow start. Hania and Don are “stumped” with getting their arms around the project. The assignment was left intentionally big with no constraints. The thought process is to load songs on their IPODS. Don and Hania have asked for technical help which Roger will accommodate. Roger is asking Rich, Hania and Don to get together to find a common ground of making the music the best it can be for SNC. Discussion/Questions: Are we asking for a common denominator in all danceable music or are we going through song by song in an attempt to make a play list? Should we be asking the assistance of a song writer? Could it be that our current DJs are swing dancers and do not always aptly choose a good song for Two Step or Night Club while choosing great songs for WCS? Are we challenging our current DJs? Discussion was tabled until the Committee meets.

Operations: Leah (Chair), Roger - member

A report was submitted prior to meeting and will become an attachment to the minutes. Attendance is down for September. There are new facilities opening where we are losing dancers. Are we doing everything we can to promote our event? Jerry again has asked for help in getting flyers out.

There are three people now who can set up equipment prior to the dance. (Roger, Leah and Bill)

There is a new mic for announcements so we don't have to take it from the instructor.

Secretary's Report:

Action item: Send a corrected August 2009 minutes to Roger Peterson for web site posting that includes fact that there were no significant items for *Happenings*. Don motioned for approval of minutes, Jerry seconded; **unanimously passed**. (done)

Special Events: December Holiday Dinner: Leah, Tobi and Julie.
No new activity.

Treasurer's Report: Rich (Chair)

Checking acct balance continues to go down. When our CD comes to maturity in a few months, we will need to transfer those funds into checking as we will need to cover bills for DCC. Rich's concern is that we will go over budget for DDC while Roger feels the committee is on target. Roger requested that we pull DCC out of the Report, and place it separately. Per Rich, he would need to set up a separate account. The problem is that SNC has a single checking account.

Action Item: Rich will pursue options in accommodating this request. The Treasurer's report for August 2009 is attached to these minutes. Motion to approve was made by Leah, seconded by Roger; **unanimously passed**.

Web Site: Roger (Chair)

New website up and running; photo galleries are still being added. Report previously submitted and attached. There is but a place holder for SNC facts called About Our Club. We are in the process of putting together a description of our club's history. Susie and Marcia have volunteered to act as Club Historian's, possibly meeting with Merry Chapman and putting together an informative article using the text written earlier by Chris Peterson, Julie Hein and Howard Dubman. Judi Troemel offered to send them a copy of a weekly Happenings e-letter dated 2004 when it was called Thingy's.

Action Item: As per above.

Adjournment: Jerry made a motion to adjourn at 9:45 pm, Bill seconded; Motion unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Judi Troemel