

Swing'n'Country

Board Meeting

December 8, 2008

Present: Ann Clark, Rich Cooper, Alfred Dahma, Julie Hein, Susie Kaplan, Jerry Kieras, Leah Noparstak, Tobi Oberman, Roger Peterson

Absent: Tina Reitz, Penny Rusch

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

Mission Statement was read by Ann.

Treasurer's Report

- Rich requests that we deposit money from last Wednesday dance lesson of the month asap, so that books can be balanced for report at next meeting.
- If report from lesson is given to Rich in a timely manner, he can create the bonus for that month and reflect it in the monthly Treasurer's Report.
- Alfred reported that we need not report purchase of the new computer to McKay Insurance (our liability company), since it is covered against damage by a maintenance warranty.
- Budget is a continuing project.
 - Reminder to committees: send budget to Rich asafp (feasibly!), so he can create an accurate budget. These are due by December 15.
 - Committees which need to submit a budget are:
 - Marketing
 - Sponsorships
 - Advertising
 - Hospitality
 - Special programs
 - Operations
 - DJs
 - Equipment
 - Dance camp
 - Website
 - Education
 - Happenings (possibly)
 - Professional fees
 - Licenses
 - Tax returns
 - BMI
 - WSDC

Secretary's Report

- Despite the fact that Julie had the minutes prepared, and despite the fact

Operations

- There was discussion about where to place registration table in order to avoid congestion. In January for lessons, we'll move registration tables toward the closet. We will leave the flyer table where it is but turn it flush to the wall.
- To keep track of weekly lesson enrollees, Roger or maybe Alfred or maybe Rich will create an Excel spreadsheet that should allow us to be paperless. This will be a trial during January. "Control F. Cooper. Done. Or you can do your own videos!! Fire me!" Roger snickered.

Website

- Holiday pictures are up.
- Website has been receiving kudos.
- There is a feedback form on the front page. Responders may identify themselves or not. Roger will forward responses to the entire Board.
- Dance Camp Chicago info and registration form is up!

Marketing

- We need a budget!!!
- We need to get more people involved!
- January flyer is out.

By-Laws

- All members of the committee have reviewed the By-Laws
- Most pressing is the issue of what constitutes the Board of Directors and how to handle an election
 - Consider eliminating office of Past President
 - Spirited discussion ensued.
 - It was moved (Roger) and seconded (Tobi) that the By-Laws Committee be directed as follows:
 - eliminate the position of President Emeritus from the by-laws
 - add an additional member at large to the Board of Directors be added to the by-laws in order to maintain 11 members
 - this take effect on the date that the appropriate amended sections are approved by the Board
- Vote was unanimous. **Motion passed.**
- Roger requested that we have an e-mail vote to address this issue

Hospitality

- Toys for Tots: 52 items collected
- Suggestions received that a larger monthly food/water budget be allotted.
- Request for increased budget will be submitted to Treasurer for inclusion in budget

Music

- No report

Education

- Julie, Don L, Jeff, Bev have signed monthly contracts

- Jeff, Brian W have agreed to Friday dance instruction
- Other instructors have agreed but haven't signed contracts

Special Events

- Holiday dinner/dance was a success: 75 for dinner, 40 for dance only.
 - Next year
 - Climate control downstairs (warmer)
 - Decorate entrance?
 - Great desert!
 - Music selection was Christmas music interleaved with regular music
 - Decorations upstairs?
 - Award volunteer of the month

Happenings

- No report

Dance Camp

- Meeting is Sunday

2009 Elections

- Schedule
 - Slate presented in Feb
 - Election in March
 - Transition meeting in April
- Election Committee: Roger, Tobi, Julie

Membership/Comped Dance Entry Policy

- Long-time members?
- Active monthly instructors during the year that they teach?
- Rich will create a list for the front door/desk that indicates who gets comped into dances on a regular basis.

Member Communications

- Examples: practice partners, travel companions, roommates for conventions, concert attendance, etc.
- Consider a Facebook group
 - Use logo, directing people to website
 - Motion (Roger) and seconded (Leah) that Roger or Judi create a Facebook group for Swing'n'Country, using the logo. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
 - Hotline: Roger will ask Marlene Kenney to host the hotline, with the understanding that the number may change. The cost will be around \$10/month.

Music at the Dances

- Concern continues to be expressed about music selection.
- Susie will ask all SNC instructors to list up to five songs that would be appropriate for beginners for all dances played: Double Two, (Polka), Cha Cha,

- Nightclub, Waltz, Two Step, East Coast, West Coast, Hustle. These will be used as examples for DJs to use during the first hours of our dances.
- During the January dance, Matt will be asked to “call” each dance as it is played.
 - During announcements, Leah will announce that DJ will “call” dances as a suggestion.

Audio Equipment for Lessons

- SNC equipment is absolutely awful, and CNP’s equipment is only slightly better.
- Roger will price out headsets, including consultation with Don Leynes.
- Boom box is heavy, old, and annoying. Roger will price out Bose systems, that can be plugged in. Julie doesn’t understand the details because she’s technically challenged, but she’s confident that those who aren’t will come up with an answer.

T-Shirts

- We will no longer give t-shirts to renewing members, only to new members.
- Once we catch up with t-shirt distribution, we may elect to sell t-shirts to those who wish to purchase them
- We may consider selling or giving away hand towels in the future.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:19 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Julie Hein
Secretary