

Swing N Country Board Meeting Minutes Monday, December 14, 2009

Present: Ann Clark, Rich Cooper, Bill Dortch, Marcia Emmett, Jerry Kieras, Leah Noparstak, Susie Kaplan, Judi Troemel, Don Moeller, Tobi Oberman., Jerry Kieras

Absent: Roger in body only, spirit available by cell.

Guests: None

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by Vice-President, Leah.

Mission Statement was read by: Tobi Oberman.

President's Report:

- Next Board Meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2009.
- Santa Clause has left us about 125 SNC-logo coffee cups to use for marketing (maybe??) or for rewards (probably). We can discuss at another meeting.
- Friday night take down help. We have a need to find people who can stay and take down on Friday night. A blurb will be put in the *Happenings* reminder requesting same and offering double volunteer points.

Membership: Jerry suggested that if a dancer has not been a member for two years, he or she gets a letter with an invitation to come back along with a free dance offer.

Action Item: Leah will do a run by date expiration and give to Jerry.

SNC Officer and Committee Reports: (Listed alphabetically)

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

- The Dance Camp Chicago flyers arrived from Alfred. Each Board Member was given a quantity of twenty and asked to distribute.
- Randy Sloan is doing our DCC mailing as a donation. (A big thank you to Randy.) This includes labeling, sealing and applying postage. DCC, of course, is paying for postage.
- A "flyer folding" party began immediately. Enough were folded so that we can stuff into the prepared envelopes at Friday night's dance.
- A DCC apparel-for-purchase tentative sheet was passed out. Alfred hopes to get pricing and a vendor finalized so that a link can be put on the DCC web site much like Chicagoland's. Those that are asking about the shirts can pre-order and DCC can have them ready for pickup at the event.

- Becky Larson will be DCC's videographer.
- It was determined that Mike Kusibab has the weights for the DCC. Leah to send Bill his phone number for verification. Per Don, the rest should all be in our storage facility.
- Dance Angels will be used at DCC. We may ask for mentors should someone brand new to our Club register.
- Ann requested that DCC have specific identifying name tags, especially for beginners.
- Board members who are not on the DCC committee will pay full price if they do not work the full required 8 hours.
- Judi will create a specific e-letter under the Dance Camp Chicago name that will be released over and above our SNC Happenings.

Action Items:

Bill to call Mike Kusibab to determine what DCC items he is storing in addition to the curtain weights.

Judi will create email format for Dance Camp Chicago's e-letter. (EdtrDanceCamp will be the name of the sender.)

Dance Angels: Per Susie, Dance Angels will be used at the December 18 dance (no lesson and dancing beginning at 7:30).

Education: (Tobi, Chair) Penny and Jerry.

New Format: The new format is definitely working out with the Beginner's lesson. (Ten minute Q/A period). This format is currently not transparent as it is in the trial stage. Per Tobi, Maren will be the second teacher to work this new format which will be the true test. All liked how Bev Solazzo taught in November. Bev was approved to be added to the 2010 Instructor List.

Tri-Dance: The Tri-Dance is being held due to X Dance assuming they had booked 1/29 when SNC already had. We have invited the Rebels to join X Dance and ourselves in holding this dance.

Tobi submitted a proposal which included the following:

- Flat Fee of \$10
- Music Rotation that should make all clubs happy.
- Clubs to share in set-up/clean up.
- All costs associated with the dance including: DJ; Cost of Franklin Park; Teacher; Refreshments. .

The Board requested the following be added:

- April Prince be the DJ (Tobi to contact)
- A 50/50 Raffle to be held with one prize of cash only.

Motion **passed unanimously** to accept Tobi's proposal with the addition of the Boards recommendations

Action Items:

Tobi will contact April Prince.

Tobi will submit a new outline to include the Board's recommendations.

Jerry offered to create a poster listing the dance rotation.

SNC Instructors and Guidelines: Tobi distributed copies of the Instructor Contract, Guidelines for SNC Instructors 2009/10 and an Education Committee status. Still to be determined is how we can better serve our "newbie, newbie" dances who comes to class and has never taken a step.

Happenings: (Judi, Chair) Bill.

A report had been submitted prior to the meeting showing statistics from Constant Contact that SNC had a 24% Open Rate which is twice the average of those in the entertainment category. (Attached to these minutes)

Hospitality: There is enough food left over to cover the December 18 dance. The February dance will be called "Color Me Red".

Marketing: Jerry Kieras (Chair) Roger, Judi.

T-Shirt Contest: A revised outline for the T-Shirt contest to take place in 2010 was distributed by Jerry. (Attached to these minutes)

There was a lengthily discussion and input on how to define and make clear the rules regarding winners of the grand and semi-annual prizes. As the time became extensive, Leah needed to move to the next agenda item and asked that all board members finish reviewing the proposal sending their comments to Jerry prior to Friday's dance.

Music: Leah (Chair), Roger, Rich, Susie, Ann, Jerry, Ron Oberman – members.

Roger listed and provided a list of names of songs for seven rhythms that are in the music rotation at our dances. He attempted to list songs that were more up-beat. He did this on his own only because the Instructor Music Committee had not yet provided inputs. This play list (which was attached to the agenda) will be used at this Friday's dance through use of an IPOD. Leah asked that we all go through the list and give any questions or concerns to Roger. The emails of Paul Daugherty and Marge O'Conner commenting on SNC's music were discussed.

Operations: Leah (Chair), Roger – member

Videos: Don volunteered to do video-taping during the month of January. Chris Herring has volunteered to do the copying, labeling, and mailing of the DVDs if we get her a master DVD to start with. Roger has agreed to create the master DVD from videos made by someone else.

Secretary's Report:

Motion made by Rich and seconded by Jerry to approve the November minutes.

Passed unanimously.

Special Events: December Holiday Dinner: Leah, Tobi and Julie.

Holiday Dinner Dance: The Holiday Dinner dance was successful. Our dinner had 83 attendees and there were 35 *Dance Only* attendees. JoAnn had commissioned the gingerbread house in the corner to be made as Firemen were celebrating the following night and she could get double duty out of the decoration. We received a record number of 85 Toys for Tots which Roger and Ann dropped off after they spread them all out to take a brag picture for our web site. We lost \$464 on the dance as dinner is subsidized by SNC (an expected loss).

Treasurer's Report: Rich (Chair)

The Treasurer's November was **unanimously approved** as submitted. (Attached to these minutes)

Budget: (Attached to these minutes)

National Fast Dance Organization (NFDO) is an umbrella organization which covers three music rights companies, themselves, ASCAP and BMI. Our NFDO fee, which is based on membership and dances, is now part of our 2010 budget and will include both our dances and Dance Camp Chicago. This fee is less than the 2009 ASCAP fee. Rich made a motion that we join NFDO. Tobi seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Marketing: Jerry Kieras questioned the advertising amounts. The Chicago Classic had been approved temporarily depending on how Dance Camp runs. There will not be a reciprocity issue. There was some discussion about how the "pink cards" will add to the budget. It was explained that Jason and Sophie's event plus Home Sweet Home Chicago is listed under June's advertising. Jerry requested funds for "additional stuff" such as prizes and giveaways. Rich put this amount in January.

DCC: Roger had submitted some issues and concerns for the DCC budget and had them clarified with Rich before the meeting.

IRS 501c7 The filing fee for IRS 501c7 status will be put in the month of January.

Holiday Dinner Dance 2010: Additional funding was put in the budget for the Holiday Dinner Dance as next year's goal is 100 attendees.

Action Item: Rich will submit a corrected 2010 budget to the Board. We will vote via email.

Web Site: Roger (Chair)

Pictures of the Holiday Dinner Dance are on the web site. The Dance Camp Chicago web site is online and mostly complete. Roger is still waiting content inputs for the Pro Am and J&J Contest pages, rules, descriptions.

For the Good of the Club: Marlene K. wanted to be kept advised of current SNC dances and lessons to better serve the hot line. Per Susie: "Marlene should not have to look this up on the web site. We need to provide it to her." Marlene's email address will be added to the Three-Month Calendar distribution.

Adjournment: Judi motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 9:46 pm. Many yelled, "I second." **Motion unanimously passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Judi Troemel