



Santa Clara Valley Square Dancers Association, Inc.

## General Committee (Delegates) Meeting

25 August 2013

### *Draft Minutes*

The meeting was called to order by Jim Davis at 12:42pm, at Mariani Square Townhouses and Lofts, in San Jose. Five out of seven member clubs were represented at the start of the meeting, with six being represented later.

#### **Attendance**

##### Officers

President – Jim Davis

Secretary – Joe Dehn

Treasurer – Richard Boucher

*(Officers absent: Vice President – Gary Evans)*

##### Delegates

Belle Swingers – Natalie Wahl

Bows and Beaus – Donna Bookbinder, Louis Bookbinder

Krazy Dazys – Davis Mast, Mary Jane Wegener

Star Eights – Anita Chen, Dave Westerman

Sunnyvale Squares – Jane Bishop (arrived during Treasurer's Report)

Top Cats – Mary Gingell, Sue Lietz-Davis

*(Clubs not represented: Silver Buckles / Carnival Twirlers)*

##### Guests

Keith Ferguson (SCVCA)

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the 21 July 2013 meeting were approved without objection.

#### **Treasurer**

Boucher presented a written report.

#### **SCVCA Liaison**

Ferguson reported that the SCVCA met on 4 August. They did not adopt a "round of the month" because the round dance teachers association didn't recommend one. They discussed the question of SCVSDA member discounts for Whing Dings and decided to accept the discounted amount on an ongoing basis, with the understanding that they can revoke this policy at any time with 60 days notice. They decided to sponsor a September-level newer dancer hoedown on 23 November, to be called by

Jim Osborne and Roger Smith. They discussed the possible Whing Ding dates for 2014 but decided not to take a position on the questionable ones until after we see how the one on Labor Day weekend goes this year. They purchased a full-page ad in the Jubilee program book. They discussed how to make classes more interesting; Gary Carnes was in attendance for the first time in a long time, and they decided to hold a special meeting, to be chaired by Carnes, immediately following Jubilee, to discuss this subject.

### **57<sup>th</sup> Jubilee**

Chen raised the issue of ribbons for vendors and representatives of other festivals. No action was taken. Gingell pointed out that if representatives of festivals are also the representatives of their associations to the CSDC, they qualify for a ribbon on that basis.

Westerman reported that the final dance program is now available.

There was a discussion of sales to date. Various people commented on recent sales. Dehn said it looked like with 19 days to go there have been a total of only 86 full-weekend ribbons sold. In response to a question about the number of comp ribbons, Gingell said about 50 were likely to be actually used for admission. Chen said some people are still confused about the change from October to September.

### **Bylaws**

Dehn presented draft language for a standing rule regarding alcohol:

SCVSDA expects dancers participating in events which we sponsor or co-sponsor to arrive unimpaired by intoxicating substances such as alcohol. No alcoholic beverages will be provided by SCVSDA, or permitted to be provided by others, at such dances.

He said he was not proposing this, but just prepared the language because there was concern about the issue at the previous meeting, in case somebody wanted to make a motion. Wegener suggested inserting the words "for consumption" to make allowance for gift baskets that include alcohol-based products.

### **Demo Dances**

Wegener reported that Jim Osborne is seeking dancers for a demo at the San Jose Bacon Festival.

### **Insurance**

D. Bookbinder reported that she has started the process of getting clubs to submit their membership statements, and that her numbers and the Treasurer's have been reconciled. She reported that the CSDC has recommended that insurance fees charged to the associations be kept the same for the upcoming year – \$4.60 per dancer with a \$48 minimum per club.

### **Property**

Davis reported that Chen reported that Jerry Janke says he still has the keys to the trailer but doesn't know where. There was a discussion of the types of locks involved; some are pad locks and some are special locks for the trailer hitch. Davis said he doesn't think it is worth the trouble to replace either kind.

## **Whing Ding**

Davis reported that there are now flyers for both the August and November dances. He said we will be trying Resurrection Lutheran Church for November, but we should check out the church that Chen recommended as a possibility for the future. He asked for volunteers to help with the August dance; D. Bookbinder volunteered.

## **Joint Whing Ding**

Davis noted that the member discount is being continued, and said this is a way to show that we care about our members.

## **California Square Dance Council**

Davis said he had distributed by e-mail the minutes of the May CSDC meeting. He reported on who will be serving in the various officer positions for the coming year. He said the main effect on SCVSDA is that neither he nor Lietz-Davis will be able to vote as our representative. He said if anyone would be interested in serving as our representative they should let him know. Lietz-Davis noted that the next meeting is the same weekend as Jubilee.

## **President**

Davis said he will be starting a full time job, so he will have less time available to deal with SCVSDA activities.

## **Thanksgiving Dance**

Davis said he would like to find somebody else to help pay the cost of the hall for future years, noting that SCVSDA is currently paying the full cost of a room for this, at John Muir Middle School, that we can't afford to use for our own dances. Boucher asked about the possibility of accepting donations specifically for the hall; Bishop said it has always been advertised that all donations will go to the Salvation Army. In response to comments about the possibility of sharing the cost with SCVCA, Bishop said that they had never paid directly for the hall, but rather had made a donation to the Salvation Army of a similar amount. Ferguson said that SCVCA could discuss the possibility of instead helping pay specifically for the hall. Davis suggested the idea of selling special ribbons to raise money for the hall cost. Bishop said that the school will only provide the space for free for events that specifically benefit the school.

## **Future Jubilees**

Dehn asked for clarification regarding plans for the 58<sup>th</sup> and 59<sup>th</sup> Jubilees. Chen said that the 58<sup>th</sup> is scheduled for 12-14 September 2014; the proposed featured callers and cuers have agreed to this date and the school is trying to keep those dates free for us. Westerman said nothing has been done yet regarding the 59<sup>th</sup> except that he has talked to some people about who might be General Chair, and nobody has been found yet.

## **General Dance Program**

Dehn explained the idea of a "General Dance Program", which would involve SCVSDA sponsoring dances throughout the year at a level about half the size of Plus. Davis said that there isn't anything in this that should be a negative for any club; in discussing this idea with Dehn, they had agreed that such dances should not be scheduled in conflict with dances sponsored by any member club, and that all clubs would be free to recruit from the population of GDP-level dancers.

Various officers and delegates commented favorably on the general idea, including the potential for starting classes more frequently and getting the same sort of benefit as some areas now derive from supporting Mainstream. Ferguson compared this approach favorably to many other proposals he has seen over the years for addressing these concerns, noting that it specifically addresses the two issues of introducing a new level without disrupting the activities of existing groups and of providing a regular place for people who learn this level to dance. He also said he thought a dancer association like SCVSDA was a good choice to take on such a project.

Davis appointed a committee to develop this plan, with Dehn as chair. Ferguson and L. Bookbinder volunteered to serve as additional members. Dehn said he wants to be able to include additional members, including additional Top Ten callers as representative of the sort of people who are likely to be asked to call these dances, specifically mentioning Jim Osborne and Roger Smith; Davis said he was appointing them if they are willing to serve. Dehn said he may ask Davis to appoint additional members as the planning proceeds, if suitable volunteers are found.

Dehn said his intention is that this committee come up with an action plan for the next meeting, possibly including tentative plans for a holding the first such dances.

## **Elections**

Dehn was nominated for Secretary; he said he would accept on the same basis as last time, that all Board positions be filled. Boucher was nominated for Treasurer. All three Directors were nominated for another term. D. Bookbinder was nominated for Vice President. Davis was nominated for President.

The election was conducted by paper ballot; all ballots were cast in favor of the entire slate.

## **Announcements**

Various upcoming events were announced.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Dehn, Secretary