

RAF MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 15, 2019

WELCOME/MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES: Aeckerle, Amy; Aeckerle, Kris; Briggs, Ed; Eddy, Sue; Emmel, Peter; Gotta, Jim; Granath, Gary; Granath, Lorraine; Hager, Bob; Hager, Alice; LaDonna, Rick; LaDonna, Donna; Meyer, Chuck; Meyer, Sharon; and Stahl, Carol Ann.

CALL-IN PARTICIPANTS: Deb and Jeff Blood

GUEST: Felice, Don

AGENDA REVIEW: No changes or additions to the agenda.

QUORUM: Gary/Lorraine: Yes, we have a quorum. Seven clubs represented.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: No questions or corrections. Motion to accept minutes from 9/11/2019: Motion to approve the minutes: Carol Ann 1st, Ed Briggs 2nd. No one opposed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Rick and Donna: Total funds available at the 9/11/2019 meeting: \$17,599.07. Total funds available 10/15/2019: \$17,849.24.

Income: RAF Club Dues, Revenue from Promenader Ads, Fall Ball Admissions and 50/50, Website Hosting Fee.

Expenses: RAF Dues, check reorder, Fall Ball: Callers/Cuers and cutlery.

Paid RAF club dues as of 10/15/2019: Belles "N" Beaus, Boo-Bull Squares and Rounds, Cayuga Cut-Ups, Champagne Whirl-A-Ways, Copy Cats, Dalton Gang, Grand Squares, Round Towners and Dancing Shadows, Shamrock Squares, Fulton Shirts 'N' Skirts, Southern Tier Wheelers, Village Squares, Waterwheel Squares.

Awaiting RAF club dues from (as of 10/15/2019): Batavia Silver Stars, Cloverleaf Squares, Fun Bunch, Pairs 'N' Squares, Penn Yan Friendship Squares, Silver Squares. **A reminder notice will be sent by Rick and Donna LaDonna.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Dance-O-Rama/Jeff and Deb via call in:

Dinner menu and vendor selection complete after email voting by DOR Committee. Vendor, Otto Tomotto, will provide food delivery, serve, and clean up. Price per dinner: \$16.13. Meal ticket price: \$16.00. (RAF to make up difference.)

Ribbons: White with purple writing. Trying to get a darker purple than the sample.

Dangles: Pictures of the dangle were sent via email to DOR members for a vote: 5 votes for round, 2 votes for square. Only two votes remaining – so it looks like 2020 DOR dangles will be round.

Dance flier and dinner flier: Warren has all info needed to complete both the dance flier and the dinner flier. Dinner ticket price is set. Menu is set. Location (Perinton Rec) is set.

Insurance/Carol Ann:

Carol Ann has sent instructions to all clubs for which she has updated email addresses. Seeking new treasurer email addresses. Carol Ann needs: Copy of Current Roster. Clubs to make changes necessary. If no changes from last year, make note: "no changes". Also need: Request For Certificate and Application for registration in the Federation and Association.

All forms can be found on line. Questions: contact Carol Ann Stahl.

Carol Ann sent a new roster to Copy Cats in June. (Roster sent to Copy Cats in January did not include graduates.)

Carol Ann has received info from Dalton Gang and Belles N Beaus.

CCR/Jim Gotta

Have had a couple meetings this year. There are two clubs with classes in Monroe County: Copy Cats and Cloverleaf Squares. Known classes outside Monroe County: Champagne Whirl-A-Ways, Dalton Gang, Batavia and Waterwheel Squares. Champagne WAWs has decided to focus on Mainstream at their dances with occasional plus tips. Bill Ryan is using the New Sustainable Square Dancing 50-call list to teach at Waterwheel Squares and Batavia.

Rick LaDonna: Is there a way to promote the Mainstream clubs for those seeking Mainstream? Jim: There is no overt list on the Promenader at this time. In the schedule section, the dances with an "M" are mainstream. Encourage mainstream clubs to identify themselves as such in their Club News in Promenader.

Promenader/Web Site: Jim G. and Peter Emmel

RAF pays two fees: Blue Host Support and the Square-Dancing Name. Cloverleaf Squares has their web pages under our umbrella. Mike Callahan has his caller web pages under our umbrella. And now the US Singles (not affiliated with RAF) has their web pages under our umbrella. We have requested a contribution of \$75.00 a year from US Singles. They are getting a less expensive web hosting fee, and we are getting help to offset our hosting fees.

Federation clubs' dance schedules are listed for free on the Promenader.

If a need for updates (new officers or club reps) or edits to the Promenader or Website are noticed, please do not hesitate to contact Peter Emmel.

Promotions Committee/Amy and Kris

Considering Email address: Planning on going through g-mail to allow for associating an events calendar with it.

No meeting in September. We met in October. Went over the August RAF dance. Discussed open houses. Plan to provide a generic open-house flier to all clubs. Clubs are welcome to use it or their own. The Promotions Committee is willing to help clubs needing assistance filling out these forms on line.

Planning to develop an events calendar for promotions to be shared with all clubs. Having issues getting dancers for demos. At times more than one demo on a weekend. Our committee discussed demos and their role (entertainment versus recruitment). Synopsis: If potential to gain new dancers from a demo, we would refer to that as a recruitment demo; and the Promotions Committee would help clubs recruit dancers and publicize the event. If the demo is for entertainment, the responsibility would be on the club. If in need of help getting the word out to dancers, we would help. We plan to compile a go-to list of dancers willing to participate in demos.

RAF board members agreed demos should be of two types: entertainment and recruitment.

Promotions Committee discussed "catch up classes" for those who would like to join square dancing after September open houses. Gary Bubel may be willing to do a one-day class to introduce beginner dancers to several calls allowing them to join a class already weeks into their program. Jim G. strongly encouraged conversations with Batavia and Waterwheel Squares, both utilizing the modified 50-call lessons, a 12-week class. These two clubs would begin again in January. Jim also suggested the Pittsford Rec square dancing classes.

We are putting together a budget. Jim: Presumably the fiscal year runs from July to June. Presumably there could be a fiscal year budget beginning now and running to June of 2020. The budget would need to be presented to RAF and voted on. **Kris/Amy will send the proposed budget to be included in the agenda for the November RAF meeting.** At the November Federation meeting, we will vote on said budget.

Jim: Include the proposed budget in the November agenda.

A question arose regarding using CDs for demos. Jim: If you play music anywhere the public can hear it, you are performing music. You have to have a performance license. If you are at a facility that has a performance license, or if there is a caller or cuer present that has a performance license, you can play music.

Suggestion was made to give a reward for participating in a certain number of demos. Example: a free DOR ticket. (Similar concept to the book given to new graduates for collecting caller signatures for a dangle.)

Jim to Amy and Kris: Consider creating a generic open house sign-in sheet asking questions such as where did you hear about us? Make available to all clubs.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

Fall Ball:

Total attendees: 57

9 new graduates attended.

Survey comments: 27 turned in.

Should we continue Fall Ball? 26 yes, 1 no.

Would you return next year: 25 yes, 1 don't know, 0 no.

Should dinner be offered: (24 responses) 19 yes, 5 no.

For those who desire dinner, prefer catered or dish to pass: (19 responses) catered 4, dish to pass 15.

RAF member comments:

Unanimous yes to holding again next year. Dancing was held in the afternoon to allow people to get to the dance and home in daylight. Preference to have the dinner after the dance.

Location for 2020: Difficult to find a place centrally located to all clubs. Return to Penfield Baptist Church for 2020? Chili location? Need ample parking. Henrietta Fire Hall? Move to new location each year allowing for more remote clubs to attend? Jim: Would like to move dance around; but if driving distance is too far, we will lose many dancers. Penfield Baptist Church is not air conditioned. Is this a deterrent to attendance? If buffet after dance, need kitchen available.

Jeff and Deb: suggest bring in info from your research of 20 venues. These may be suitable for Friendship Ball.

Tabled discussion on Fall Ball/2020, to discuss next month.

Bylaw update (four sections to look at: Revise RAF purpose, Redefine Communications Liaison, Proposed change Open up DOR date restriction, Promenader Committee versus Promenader Team). Dialogue is ongoing for all four sections.

RAF is in the process of revising/updating four sections of the bylaws.

Drafts handed out to RAF.

RAF (Draft replacement for section 102: Definition and Purposes). The original description of section 102 purpose is too brief. Our purpose should explain our vision, what we do, who we are. Proposed replacement draft defines Federation, provides its reasons for being, lists its activities without limiting them.

Sections c. and d. of draft, means of accomplishing purposes. List of suggestions, not mandatory. Pass on to our successors our history, what we do and how we fund it. Presently basket raffle is our main money-maker, dues are second. Possibly place sections c. and d. of draft in the appendix rather than at the front of the bylaws. **Peter to continue working on wording.**

Offices and Qualifications. Propose eliminating the title Communications Liaison, replace with Promotions Coordinator. Duties include: Coordinate and facilitate promotional activities to recruit new dancers and retain current dancers. Kris, Amy, Jim review draft RAF bylaws and continue working on wording.

DOR date restriction limits possibilities of change of venue. Deb and Jeff recommend change wording to allow for a change of date for DOR if a change is necessary. DOR Date change to be recommended by the DOR Committee, to be voted on by RAF. Debby, Jeff and Jim to continue working on wording. Possibly leave original wording, but add an exception clause.

Promenader Committee: Change to Promenader Team. Team chaired by Promenader Editor and Web Master who are members of the Federation. Prepare annual budget, submit to RAF. Duties. Jim to continue working on wording. Give consideration to: Annual Budget approved? Line item budget? Review and approve expenditures of \$75.00 or above.

Sikorsky Dance:

Date: August 28, 2020. Contract signed.

Need Venue: Henrietta Fire Hall if available. Gary Bubel is planning to book the Fire Hall under his name. Alternative venues (if Fire Hall not available)???

NEW BUSINESS:

Thoughts from President's meeting.

The two Federation fun dances held in the summer were very well received. Thoughts were to extend fun dances throughout the year. Possibly rotate through clubs to encourage people to dance at clubs in addition to their own. Question dance to take place on the hosting club's usual dance night? Charge or no charge? Guest fee? Level of dancing? Belles and Beaus has annual Spring Fling dance and invite all clubs. Batavia has name tag dance and all clubs are invited. Village Squares invites all clubs to their Anti-Freeze dance. Many clubs presently invite a different outside club each month to join them for a night of dancing. (Peter) Need to define fun dance further: what are the expectations of a fun dance, what is its purpose, and how does it differ from what many clubs are already doing? Financial responsibility? Peter, Amy, Kris, Debbie and Jeff – to continue to work on concept.

Winter presidents' meeting. Is there interest in this? When? Presumably in December prior to departure of all who travel south. Deb suggested have while clubs are still active. If enough interest – Jim will set it up. Board members, club presidents, club reps: go back to club officers and see if there is interest in a Presidents' Meeting in December. Jim to send note with agenda, or a separate email to see if any interest in December Presidents' meeting. If no response it will be presumed no interest.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion to adjourn: Peter E, seconded Gary G. 8:36 PM. No objections. Adjourned 8:36 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 21, 2019. RAF: 6:30-8:00 p.m. (No difference was noted in attendance with new time slot. Will try one more time with RAF: 6:30-8:00 p.m. and DOR: 8:00-9:00 p.m. Will decide next meeting on time slots for RAF and DOR.)

Location: Bill Grays, 1225 Jefferson Road.