

## Minutes – Cincinnati Contra Board Meeting –April 2, 2023 7:30 pm

Meeting was called to order at 7:35.

In attendance: Myra Mitchell, Valerie Allendorf, Larry Lankford, , Steve Edwards, Cori Yaeger, Bonnie Carpenter, Patricia Gorman. Absent: Mary Rekers, Charles Wallner, and Deven Corzine. Deven joined at 8:45pm.

Guest: John McCain.

### **Introduction**

Minutes from the February and March meetings were approved with caveat that March meeting did not have a quorum so no official business was conducted.

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented by Larry.

Budget for 2023 – looking like our deficit will be at the low end of the projected range.

Secretary's report

March numbers for Monday dances have averaged 30-40.

Copies of Contra Etiquette are available on back table, by cash box, and also posted on webpage. Trish suggested that callers could gently remind dancers of etiquette. We will add that to the callers' notes by microphone.

Webpage updates – Deven and Cori have been working on updating our pages. Need to add “membership” tab to “About Us” – and remove old announcements – check with Deven on that. Cori and Steve will check with Deven about updates. (Deven arrived later and said he would work on updates.)

WFAC report – no emails have come back from center. Myra will attempt to contact WFAC about the air filters. Trish – questioning whether we even really need them. How big a priority is this? Tabled discussion.

Social Secretary Report - No activity was needed

Scheduling Reports – Update on Last Minute Change Process. Bonnie will send board members a list of all callers and bands so we have backup if someone has to back out. Band and caller contact list will also be sent out to bands and callers with the schedules. It is the responsibility of the band or caller to find a replacement if needed.

## **Old Business**

### **Pigtown Report**

We are still exploring possible venues. Two tours are set up for the next couple of weeks (Mercer and Woodward).

Guest John McCain suggested that Pigtown has a great reputation but we may not need nationally famous bands/callers. In terms of priority, we really need to get our dance numbers up. No sense to start up Saturday dances if we don't have numbers up. At this stage too small a pool from which to draw for volunteers etc.

Bonnie reported that Robin Roland is trying to get dancers together at Gabby's before the Monday night dance – maybe get some volunteers that way.

Also, the possibility of being something lighter than a regular Pigtown.

Valerie and Cori stressed that venue is most critical, as is our need to grow the community – with a special event, maybe, like our added Halloween dance (with Brittany Bay). Delay planning Pigtown until we have enough dancers and volunteers.

Bonnie suggested maybe a weekend day of workshops/education and an evening dance.

No decision was made to cancel 2024 Pigtown and venue work will continue. The window for doing a full-blown Pigtown with a national band may be closing very soon. Tricia was sincerely thanked for her 2023/2024 Queen service and new royalty will need to be found to coordinate ongoing efforts for Pigtown or similar event.

Email: Cori and John have been talking about email program for bulk emails. The one John hoped would work funneled emails to people's spam, so that is not a possibility. John and Cori have been talking about just using gmail and sending out batches of emails. (Gmail has a max of 500 per batch). Mail chimp is free only if email list is 500 or less and we have about 1500. Cori and John will coordinate next steps.

Because we don't have emails for many of our current dancers, we will make a slip for dancers to complete and leave at the money box or back table so Cori can add to our master email list.

Valerie has added a few board members to FB so they can post about events. Many people rely on FB rather than email.

OLLI is a go for May 1, 8, 15. Catalog is out and Tammy G will keep us apprised of number of registrations. Bonnie will let callers know (AFTER we've verified that we have registrants) that we'll have some new dancers on those dates.

Dance Attendance HAS INCREASED since mask and vax requirements have been relaxed. We will depend on John McCain for numbers as we no longer have sign-ins.

"Free" Dance – 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>? Any compelling reason to change current policy? Not at this time...

Starting time See attached report – Cori reported that the max dancers are on the floor 8:30-8:45. Concern about it being earlier. Trish says we need to survey – and already too many changes that folks are dealing with. Steve responded that verbal polling with attending dancers showed one couple could not come earlier. Dropping Covid restrictions is not a change that would affect starting time. Dance attendance after the break continues to be very small. The discussion was tabled.

Direct Contact – Steve suggested that we invite any specific groups we know to come to a specific Monday dance?

Board meeting ended at 8:52pm  
NEXT MEETING? May 7, 2023