

Cincinnati Contra Dancers, Inc
Annual Meeting of Voting Members
October 12, 2024 6:00 pm
Wyoming Fine Arts Center

Meeting Minutes

1. Steve Edwards called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm. Quorum was established at 19 members present: Valerie Allendorf, Deb Barrett, Rick Campbell, Elizabeth Campbell, Sted Edwards, Audrey Eyman, Kurt Grannan, Brenda Grannan, Nada Huron, Larry Lankford, John McCain, Philip Ogston, Rebecca Pace, Robin Roland, Darlene Underwood, Charles Wallner, Francie Wolgin, Cori Yaeger, John Zeller, & Josh Telecan. (Quorum = 10% Current number of Voting Members per Secretary + current number of board members: $(11 + 10\% \text{ of } 52 = 16.2)$)
2. Larry Lankford presented the Treasurer's report (see below)
3. Secretary's Update on Activities Since 2023 Annual Meeting (see below)
4. Elections, as directed in our bylaws (see bios)
 - A. Officer candidates as of 9/9/2024 are Steve Edwards (Facilitator), Philip Ogston (Co-Facilitator), Larry Lankford (Treasurer), and Cori Yaeger (Secretary) – see bios below
 - B. Nominations for officers, and verify nominees' acceptance of nomination
 - C. Officer elections via ballot forms
 - D. Tabulation of Votes and Announcement of Officers – all officers won their elections by majority votes.
 - E. Candidates for board-members-at-large as of 9/9/2024 are Valerie Allendorf, Bonnie Carpenter, Deven Corzine, Charles Wallner, Audrey Eyman, Myra Mitchell, Michael Hentz, and Josh Telecan.
 - F. Decide the maximum number of board-members-at-large for the coming term. (Our bylaws require a minimum of 2 board-members-at-large.) Vote was for 9 members at large.
 - G. Nominations for board-members-at-large, and verify nominees' acceptance of nomination. Additional nomination of Kurt Grannan was made by Audrey Eyman. Kurt accepted the nomination and was added as a write-in candidate on the ballots.
 - H. Election for board-members-at-large – Tabulation of Votes and Announcement of Board Members-At-Large. All nine members won a majority of the votes.
5. Other business
 - A. Start time for dances 7:30 instead of 8:00 pm

It was unanimously agreed that a start time of 7:30 would be implemented. The Board will decide the start date at their next meeting on November 3, 2024.

B. Raise limit of one-signature check writing for treasurer from \$200 to...?

It was unanimously agreed that the limit for check writing without a second signature be raised to \$750 immediately.

C. Discussion of our payment to WFAC ensued. We have been paying \$100 per night since 2003. The board announced that we will begin paying \$125 per night to WFAC. We will also consider specified donations to WFAC which will help both WFACE and CCD.

6. Adjournment at 7:00 pm

CCD Board Candidates for Members At Large:

Audrey has been contra dancing for 4+ years and has served on the board for the past year. She helps with closing the hall and working on the website. She works as a designer, and in her spare non-contra time, enjoys swing dancing, pub trivia, and more.

Bonnie has been dancing contra, vintage and English country dance since 1981. Semi-retired, she teaches Japanese executives and their families how to survive and thrive in America. She lived in Japan for 23 years and is a travel bug. Bonnie is responsible for the scheduling of callers and bands for Contra. She has served on the Board for 4 years.

Charles has been involved in traditional dance and music since 1977 when he first joined the Contra and English Dance Communities. From 1981 to 1986 he served as Director of the John Jacob Niles Memorial Festival and, for its first six years of the Woodland Jubilee Festival (Lexington, Kentucky). An initial founder of the Cincinnati English Country Dancers and the Lexington English Country Dancers, in 2002 coordinated the tour and public relations for noted folk-musician Tom Paxton in Cincinnati and at Kent State University

Deven has served on the Contra Board as a member at large for the past 3 years. His contributions include scheduling our dancers and callers and keeping our website up to date.

Josh has been on the Contra Board as a member at large for the past year. He has been active in helping with Pigtown in the past and was an amazing asset to Pigtown 2024, coordinating things with the venue's personnel and meeting challenges with temperature and sticky mats to keep the dance floor clean.

Michael has been contra dancing for 1.5 years in Lexington, Berea, and Cincinnati. Graduating from the University of Kentucky last May, and working as a software developer, Michael enjoys dancing, hiking, sight-seeing, architecture, games, and puzzles.

Myra lives in Newtown and is a Software Engineer who likes to learn new things, especially when it comes to house projects. Organizing Pigtown Fling and being on the board are ways she contributes to keeping Contra alive and well.

Valerie has been involved with Contra since the mid 1980's and served on the Contra Board for the past 3 years. She was a key player in organizing our comeback Pigtown Fling 2024 with a great committee and volunteers and is working on PTF 2025. Val works as a Speech Language

Pathologist & Audiologist and is an Argentine Tango dancer & event Organizer. She likes to spend time with two dear sons, Contra dancing Granddaughter & likes to swim, dance & travel.

For Executive Committee:

Steve has been contra dancing for over 40 years and calling dances off and on for about 30 years. He works as a consultant for two area farms and serves the community as a volunteer in several organizations. He has been on the CCD board for 3 years and has served as board facilitator for the past two years.

Philip has been contra dancing since 2011 and living in Cincinnati since 2008. He enjoys the music and pattern and movement and community of dancing and hopes to be part of Cincinnati contra dancing for decades to come. Outside of dancing, Philip enjoys rock climbing rock collecting and hiking.

Larry has been contra dancing for more than 40 years. He is one of the founders of the Cincinnati Contra Dancers in January 1985 and has served as a sound tech for about 20 years and as treasurer for past 2 years. He enjoys playing music, kayaking, and hiking

Cori has been contra dancing for about 10 years and has served as board secretary for 3 years. She is a retired psychologist who loves cooking, baking, gardening, beekeeping and reading.

Treasurer's report for October 01, 2023 through September 30, 2024 (12 months)

Not including Pigtown Fling 2024, we had 63 regularly scheduled dances with about 2,691 dancers.

On October 1, 2023 we had \$15,411.36 in the bank and \$646.00 cash on hand.

On September 30, 2024 we had \$25,722.83 in the bank and \$336.50 cash on hand

During the last 12 months we have made \$10,127.22 which includes \$8,217.17 from Pigtown Fling which had about 320 dancers, and \$2,490.00 in donations.

Projection- On average, we are breaking even on weekly dances due to generous donations from our dancers. We need to increase attendance to break even without depending on donations.

Due to the good turnout and enthusiasm at PTF 2024, I expect that we will have a gain on PTF 2025. We may experience an increase in rent in the near future. We have been paying the same rent for about 15 years.

Secretary's report for 2025:

Annual meeting secretary's report

Since the 2023 annual meeting on October 10, 2023 Cincinnati Contra Dancers, Inc has hosted weekly Monday evening dances and monthly 2nd Saturday night dances. Our attendance at dances has averaged about 30-45 individuals. It is difficult to determine whether attendance is affected by weather, the caller, the band, or other issues in dancers' lives. We estimate that there are about 150 dancers who attend semi-regularly, with a core of about 20 who attend almost every dance.

After a 4 year hiatus, Pigtown Fling returned for a wildly successful weekend March 22-24, 2023. PTF was cancelled in 2020, 2021, and 2022 because of Covid Pandemic concerns. In 2023, we were unable to find a suitable venue for the dance (Purcell-Marion, our most recent past venue, was unavailable because they just refinished their floor and would only allow us to dance if we put a tarp over the floor). After an exhaustive search of over 40 possible sites, the committee was finally able to procure Mercer Elementary School in Anderson for the 2024 weekend. Trillium and Darlene Underwood headlined the Friday night Dance, and Elixir and Nils Fredlander played for Saturday and Sunday dances. Workshops included flatfoot, advanced waltz, musician's jam, back pocket flourishes, English country dance, challenging contras, and a Motown sing-along. The venue's staff was extremely accommodating to our needs and we have booked the same venue for PTF 2025. Kudos to Tricia Gorman for 2023 work and the 2024 planning committee of Valerie Allendorf, Myra Mitchell, and Charles Wallner (and many volunteers!) The three have agreed to plan the 2025 PTF, with a plan to turn 2026 PTF over to a new committee.

As of October 6, 2024, CCD has 52 voting members – additions?.

Thanks to Deven Corzine and Bonnie Carpenter who have procured talent for our dancers. And to Myra Mitchell and Philip Ogston who have managed the opening and closing duties. And to Larry Lankford and John McCain who have scheduled our sound engineers.

Our treasurer, Larry Lankford has managed our finances with great enthusiasm and accuracy.

Our board has been meeting monthly, but with the stabilization of dances and procedures, looks forward to less frequent meetings in the near future.

Wyoming Fine Arts Center has a new interim director, Lydia Collins and we look forward to working with her.