

ANNUAL MEETING - VOTING MEMBERS OF THE CINCINNATI CONTRA DANCERS

Minutes: October 3, 2022 at 7 pm

The meeting began at 7:03

Present: Frank Buschermann, Cori Yaeger, Valerie Allendorf, Bonnie Carpenter, Ashley Greathouse, Larry Lankford, Deb Barrett, John McCain, Jim Vogt, Susan Vogt, Patricia Gorman, Charles Wallner, Darlene Underwood, Steve Edwards, Tammy Goyke, Myra Mitchell, Chuck Reidmiller, Rebecca Pace, Bret Augsburger, Deven Corzine. Mary Rekers arrived at 7:35. John Brockman arrived at 7:42.

Frank clarified that our **paypal account** is working. We don't have data about whether it works for dance payments yet.

The following items were covered starting at 7:03 before quorum was confirmed and official meeting began.

Other Information items

- A. A few dancers have started arriving at Contra without cash, expecting to pay digitally. Since digital payments are growing in popularity, the outgoing Board recommends to the incoming Board that they implement a digital payment plan. Dancers using the plan can be asked to pay a bit more to cover the fees (for example, \$5.65 instead of \$5 if we stick with PayPal). Frank will report on the trial we did on Monday Sep 26.
- B. The outgoing Board recommends to the incoming Board that they revisit the question of requiring the bivalent booster once it becomes more readily available.
- C. No New Year's Eve dance this year because we anticipate a loss of money (as in prior years); larger dance would require vax verification and mask wearing to folks who have not submitted their vax info; difficulty finding a band/bands willing to play until midnight; 4-5 hours is a long time to be dancing with a mask.

Quorum was reached at 7:08 so the official meeting started.

Jim Vogt questioned the Certificates of Deposit that CCD used to have. Frank reported that those have been cashed in to cover losses of Pigtown (inclement weather etc) and other expenses that needed to be covered.

Darlene voiced concerned about our ability to continue with dwindling money in our accounts – and the need for further discussion (at a future board meeting).

Frank reported that we need 48-55 people who pay to break even for expenses at our dances.

Frank presented the year-end **treasurer's report** (attached to this document).

Vote: Unanimous acceptance of treasurer's report

Current number of Voting Members per Secretary is 72. These are members through 2022.

There are 41 members who are confirmed through December of 2023.

The secretary presented the **year-end summary** (at the end of this document) covering the year since the last voting members meeting on October 25, 2021).

VOTE: Unanimous acceptance of Secretary's report (amended to exclude that caller language will be posted on the website)

Darlene asked about whether current members have been notified that they need to renew for 2023 by Dec 31 2022. Cori responded that they have been notified and at least one more notice will be sent before the end of the year.

Darlene asked for clarification about tip jars and it was reported that the board had approved tip jars for callers and bands (at the September 19, 2022 Board meeting.)

Bonnie reported that we have enough callers and bands to continue with weekly Monday night dances for November and December.

Deb asked that Bonnie confirm that all bands and callers are aware of our vaccination requirements.

Election:

By acclamation the following officers were elected:

Steve Edwards: Facilitator

Myra Mitchell: Co-Facilitator

Larry Lankford: Treasurer

Cori Yaeger: Secretary

As required by bylaws, the voting members present voted on the maximum number of at-large board members that board can have in the coming year. The bylaws require 2 at-large members (in addition to the four officers).

VOTE: Unanimous agreement that we have a maximum of 8 at-large members.

By acclamation the following were voted in as at-large board members:

Valerie Allendorf
John Brockman
Bonnie Carpenter
Deven Corzine
Patricia Gorman
Mary Rekers
Darlene Underwood
Charles Wallner

Other business

CCAD purchased a new sound system a few years ago in collaboration with WFAC. Kurt has been trying to find a buyer for the old system, but has reported that he may need to give the old system away, and maybe in pieces. Deb asked if anyone is interested in pieces of it. Mary will ask Michael Ronstadt if he wants any of the old equipment.

Vote: Unanimous approval to Larry’s proposal that we give equipment away.

John Brockman asked whether we want to continue paying for our current email service.

Unanimous decision that this be referred to the new board at a future meeting.

Ashley volunteered to continue to be moderator for FB if new board wants her to continue. Charles is also a moderator and offered to continue.

Bonnie voiced our thanks to Deb for her service as board facilitator.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

.....end of annual meeting minutes.....

Secretary’s Report to Annual Meeting CCD 10.03.22

As of today, we have a total of 72 voting members with 41 members requesting renewal to extend their memberships through 2023. Generous donors have paid membership dues for folks wishing to join CCD or renew their memberships.

In the past, the CCD board has met twice a year, or at most, quarterly. Since the pandemic began in March of 2020, the board has met more frequently to attempt to keep our organization alive. Since last year's annual meeting, the current board has met 14 times in our effort to restart dancing!

After many meetings, much discussion, recommendations from our re-entry subcommittee, a survey of our members, and consultation with other dance organizations, CCD decided to start up Monday night dances again on March 14, 2022. The board decided to hold dances on the 2nd and 4th Mondays during a trial period.

Because contra dancing is a "contact sport" we have required vaccination verification and the signing of a waiver for our dancers. We also required the use of an N95 or KN95 (non-vented) mask for dancing – or a mask that has the same protection and has been pre-approved. This has served us well to keep us safe from the virus.

Although the pandemic dictated that attendance was light compared to pre-pandemic days, the dances continued twice monthly until the present time. We had to cancel the June 13 dance at the last minute because of storms in the area and no electricity in Wyoming Fine Arts Center building.

Since March, we have had a total of 155 dancers attend the Monday evening dances. Of that number, 20-30 of them were new to CCD and hadn't danced with us before (or who hadn't danced with us for a few years). To the list of members and dancers who sent in their vax status before the dance we have added 90 names!

We were asked to participate in the Cincinnati Fringe festival this summer and we planned a street dance for June 15, 2022. It was switched to an indoor venue because of the heat. The board reviewed issues regarding calling language (gendered or non-gendered) and came to the decision that calling language will be the caller's choice for the foreseeable future. We are allowing a mixture of calling language at dances.

During the past 12 months, the board has approved a Volunteer Policy for all our volunteers. We also adopted a Conflict of Interest form for board members to sign. These documents are essential for an organization that is a non-profit.

We have agreed to try to take digital payments for our dances via PayPal (we already have an account). We have also agreed that bands and callers can set out a tip-jar or QR code to accept tips at our dances.

Because we don't know what Covid will do in the next several months, it was decided that we not contemplate Pig Town Fling until we can be sure that it would be well attended and not subject to cancellation because of the pandemic.

Board meeting minutes are posted to the website within a few days of board meetings.
Respectfully submitted, Cori Yaeger CCD Secretary 10.3.22