

5/5/14 – Contra Board: Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Ryan, Frank, Ashley G., John McCain, Chuck, Kristen, Greg W., Lea, Trish, Chris, and Whitney

Agenda:

1) Financial Report

Frank presented a financial update. Monday nights and waltz nights fluctuate between loss and profit, whereas the Saturday night dances consistently lose money. The income from Pigtown Fling 2014 more than covered the expenses.

There are no short term financial issues.

2) Concern regarding a local dancer's behavior—Discuss/create a clear policy for how to respond to similar incidents.

One dancer is habitually showing up drunk, and as a result, is not dancing gently with dancers on the dance floor.

General consensus: Cincinnati Contra Dancers can mirror another dance community's policy regarding habitually drunk dancers.

One example of a policy: two board members approaching the habitually drunk person, to express the dance community's concerns while also giving the person a chance to speak his side of the story. Example of an extreme disciplinary action: suspending the person temporarily (i.e. a few weeks) from attending dances.

Possible resources to check out: CDSS, Asheville websites (Diane Silver), and Louisville dance community policies regarding non-intoxication policies.

Kristen and Ashley volunteered to research this topic and draft a rough draft policy for our group. Someone also suggested we post whatever policy we decide on to Cincinnati Contra Dancers website.

3) OINCC

There is an OINCC meeting coming up in the near future. This committee provides feedback for callers in our dance community. Anyone interested in joining this group, please contact Ryan or Frank.

Other news: The OINCC committee reviewed Greg Byrne at their last meeting. Greg has decided that he will step down after his next calling session.

4) Ideas for encouraging new callers

The number of callers on the caller rotation is now down to just five callers. The group discussed some ideas of cultivating new callers.

The general consensus: every six months, we will have an open mic calling on a Monday night dance.

The group was in favor of providing these potential callers with some sort of basic coaching. Like maybe have a caller's workshop on a Saturday, then one person from that workshop could call that Monday night's dance. Or if not a Saturday training session, then perhaps a few different workshops/training sessions the new callers will attend before they are scheduled to call an actual dance.

*****This topic will be further discussed.*****

5) Organizers session at Pinewoods—(last weekend in August)

Gaye Fifer has notified our group of a dance organizer's session in August. It is called Pinewoods Dance Camp and the organizer's session will occur at the tail end of the English & American Dance Week from August 23-30th in Plymouth, MA. (Note: This weekend is the last weekend in August, and as such, will overlap with Sugar Hill weekend in Bloomington, IN.)

The purpose of this weekend is to encourage and equip dance organizers of dance communities. This is a great opportunity to network and to learn. Attendees will get to interview dance organizer experts, discuss challenges and potential problems in one's particular dance community, and brainstorm ways to promote leadership in one's contra group.

Cincinnati Contra Dancers will be happy to help sponsor any individuals from our group who would be interested in going.

6) How should we respond to inquiries about how we pay talent?

Thérèse got an inquiry about what rates we give to the bands that play for our dances. The general consensus was to have a transparency policy about such inquiries (i.e. tell the person inquiring the exact fees we pay bands).

7) Saturday Scheduling: Local Bands

The group discussed our policy for determining which bands get scheduled and how frequently (esp. for the Saturday night dances). The question arose, since The Monks have been scheduled for two Saturday gigs that are pretty close together on the calendar.

Should we give preference to local bands (i.e. The Ripples, The Rosenthorns)?

The group was in favor of establishing a committee similar to OINCC, except for bands (not callers). This group will establish some objective criteria (and maybe feedback forms with this criteria) for evaluating and approving which bands get put on the rotation and how frequently our local bands get to play a Saturday night. The members of this group will help share the honorable responsibility of organizing our dance schedule, a responsibility which currently rests on the shoulders of just three committed individuals (Thérèse, Terri Spiegel, and Deb Frankenhoff).

Another suggestion was to come up with a policy for who (what group or individual) to contact in our dance community, about a great band you heard and would like to play for a Cinci dance.

Frank said he could put together some statistical data regarding dance attendance and which bands glean the most funds, to determine which bands are most popular.

*****This topic will be further discussed.*****

Other notes: Positive feedback from Purcell Marian (this year's Pigtown venue). Looks like a promising location for Pigtown Fling in the future.