

## 12/9/13 – Contra Board: Meeting Minutes

### Attendance:

Ashley, Trish, Chuck, John McCain, Ryan, Whitney, Frank, Lea, Larry, Kitty

### Agenda:

#### 1) Saturday Scheduling Questions from Deb and Terri—

- Which bands should we be hiring for Saturday nights (in-town vs. local)? The majority was in favor of incorporating the Rosenthorns and Ripples into the Saturday night rotation.
- The group also discussed the current policy for how any caller gets onto the Saturday night rotation. The majority decided that the board should review and revise this policy. One idea was that if a caller is on a Monday night rotation, they can also be on the Saturday night rotation.
- Since we *are* revising the policy for choosing Saturday night callers/rotations to make sure the quality of our Saturday night dances is as excellent as possible (both the caller and band choices), the group decided to move Greg Byrne from the 2014 rotation onto the 2015 rotation.
- Other comments:

Ryan suggested that OINC would help filter which callers are placed onto the Saturday night rotation. He also asserted that both he and Frank are currently developing a constructive feedback/evaluation system for evaluating callers. The caller standards would be similar to teacher standards (i.e. clear walk throughs, good dance selection, are you engaging the community outside of the calling period (out of town caller or in town caller)). The idea is that some callers on OINC will evaluate the caller and filter the feedback/comments for a particular caller.

Larry suggested that the callers give self-evaluations, which also play a role on who gets to remain on the rotation.

The majority was in favor of both of these suggestions (evaluations by the board members/dancers as well as the callers themselves).

## 2) New Years Eve

- **Supplies**—The majority was in favor of updating the New Years Eve Supply Box with new items (primarily tablecloths, plasticware, silly hats, and noisemakers).

Trish volunteered to purchase the new hats and noisemakers. Larry volunteered to purchase the tablecloths and plasticware.

- **Bands**—The majority agreed that since most bands want to leave after midnight/stop playing, then DJ Contra is a possible alternative for after midnight.
- **Callers**—Frank is in charge of organizing the callers for New Year's Eve.
- **Cleanup People**—The majority decided to make an announcement to assert the need for 4 core clean-up people to clean up on New Year's Eve.

- **Proceeds should go to \_\_\_?\_\_\_--**

In 2013, we gave the proceeds of the New Year's Eve Dance to maintaining/repairing the WFA Center floor. The majority of the group was in favor of donating this year's funds raised to a charitable cause (average funds raised per New Year's Eve Dance—about \$600).

Since we have not had any other proposed charities to sponsor, the group decided that this year's funds will go to the Dancing Well project (Deborah Denenfield's charity that involves using contra dance as therapy for veterans with PTSD).

- **Sound system**—A volunteer sound person rotation is in the works for New Year's Eve.
- **Decorations**—  
If Josh Telecsan is available and willing to be the chief lighting person, the majority was in favor of using both regular lighting as well as colored/white stringed lights for the New Year's Eve Dance. This would strike a compromise between dancers that prefer an atmosphere with brighter lighting (i.e. those with vision impediments) and those that prefer dimmer lighting.

### **3) Inclement Weather Policy**

- Do we have one?
- If not, how should we determine when to cancel a dance and how should the news be distributed?

The group currently has no FORMAL policy for inclement weather. In the past, we have posted to the facebook website if a dance gets canceled.

One idea is that we could create an event code and allocate one contra board member the task of calling in to the tv station to announce a dance cancelation (if there is one).

Frank volunteered to be the core person in charge of determining the severity of the inclement weather and initiating a cancelation policy. The majority agreed he should send a chain email to the Cinci Contra Board members and whatever the majority of people email back (cancel or no cancel), then that decision will stand. Then the decision will be posted on the Cinci Contra Dancer page on Facebook.

The group also agreed on the guidelines we will use to decide whether or not to cancel a dance. During the Winter season, our group will follow the Winter Weather Advisory “snow emergency levels” (1, 2, or 3). If there’s a level 1 advisory: yes, the dance will occur as scheduled. If there is a level 2 or 3: no, the dance will be canceled for the safety of the dance community.

### **4) Treasury Update**

The state of the group’s finances: stable/healthy. (see Frank for a detailed report)

### Other/Misc. Topics—

- The group briefly reviewed board member positions, for the sake of new members.  
Frank—Treasurer  
Ryan—Facilitator  
Ashley—Co-Facilitator  
Whitney—Secretary
- Pigtown—Lauara Buschelman is heading the food committee for Pigtown. Details to be addressed at the next Pigtown Fling planning meeting.
- We now have an established venue for Pigtown 2014: Pursell Marion High School located close to Clifton—Date: 5<sup>th</sup> wknd in March.
- Frank and Ashley are currently brainstorming about starting a potential monthly dance at UC (for 2014)—perhaps on the last Saturday of each month. An additional idea is to have a gender-free dance. The majority agreed that having a dance at UC would be a great way to attract new dancers to our dance community.