

Band Discussion Meeting  
January 20, 2007

Members Present: Eileen Bens (secretary)  
John Bealle  
Eloise Clark  
Fred Stoll  
Ed Strelau  
Bernadine Zennie

This was a discussion about the contra dance bands, with a specific topic of the possibility of incorporating new bands into the rotation. Several ideas were discussed

1. The bands have no complaints and enjoy playing. The contra dancers enjoy listening and dancing to the various bands in the community. The contra dance community has 8 bands, each with their own unique sound and all are very good.
2. The volunteer schedule: It is acknowledged that the volunteer schedule has a lot to schedule between the callers, bands, sound, crew and treasurer, especially as there are several people who volunteer in multiple capacities. It is recommended that the volunteer schedule also try to make sure that bands are rotated equally among the holidays.
3. Three ideas were proposed for adding new bands into the schedule
  - A. Building 2 open band slots in the schedule to allow for special events and bands. (There are usually 2–3 bands scheduled into the rotation for out-of-town requests.) These slots would be for musicians to play, such as musicians playing with a new group of people.
  - B. Providing a sign-up sheet for special bands to schedule to play 2 Mondays per 6 month schedule. a group of musicians would need to contact the volunteer scheduler to play their name in the dates available.
  - C. The Cincinnati Contra Dance community could take over running the Mason dance, which is organized by Bernadine Zennie and held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday on each month. This dance is located at the Mason Grange Union Hall, which is about 2/3 the size of the Wyoming Fine Art Center. There is a sound system available and a janitor to clean up. The callers and the bands could be rotated through this Friday night dance, providing more opportunities for musicians to play, callers to call and dancers to dance. Bernadine would be willing to open the stage to a rotation of callers.
4. Adding new musicians and bands: Any known musicians/bands who have played for contra dances may be added to the schedule in the rotation. There is no need for an audition or consent from the musicians as long as the musicians are well known to have played contra dances before. (Changeling, an excellent band has recently moved to Yellow Springs, Ohio and may be interested in playing in Cincinnati on a more regular rotation.)
5. Saturdays: There are 2 –3 local bands scheduled for the Saturday Night dances. All the bands need to be rotation through the Saturday dances, including Big Band, and the Good and Plenty String Band.

Respectfully submitted: Eileen Bens