

SSDS Fun Business Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 6th, 2008, 2 PM

Greg's House, 103 Croyden Road, Syracuse, NY, 13224

Attendance: Greg, Steve, Isaias, Stacey, Maria, Rosalie, Deb, Mary Ellen, Michael, Andy

1. Old Business

- Weekly dance 8:30 to 11 PM, Knights of Columbus, 5976 East Taft Road
- Attendance less over the last ten weeks compared to same ten weeks of 2006 and 2005. General discussion of ideas to improve attendance. We will look into using "SurveyMonkey.com" for gathering useful information about our patrons and their opinions.
- December 15th dance & lessons cancelled due to weather. Notice of cancellation was communicated to Y94 Radio and TV9 station broadcasters. James Campagna of ClearChannel said the Knights of Columbus have their own code to use when canceling an event if we ever have to cancel again. Notice was also sent by e-mail to the SSDS listserve and our SSDS phone number 434 – 9503 answering machine carried the message as well. Procedure for dance cancellation will be explained during Thursday's weekly dance announcements.
- Discussion about music mix and keeping it easy for beginner dancers.
- Sound System/cabinet keys: Deb's Expert resource advises to avoid extreme heat over 120°F for the speakers or they will lose magnetism. For the mixer & amplifier, avoid freezing temperatures and extreme heat/humidity because the capacitors have water in them.
- Review of December 6th Holiday Dinner/Dance
 - Catered by Dominicks, food for 80 people, \$10/person. Italian menu including chicken riggies, cavatellis, broccoli, mushroom, roasted chicken, antipasto, greens and beans, bread.
 - Prizes were awarded to volunteers as recognition for their continued effort.
 - Thank you to Andy for donating six bottles of wine to be given as prizes.
 - Thank you to Cathy Osinski for donating chocolates to be given as prizes.

- Thank you to Cathy Osinski for collecting volunteers names and organizing door volunteers for the evening.
- Thank you to people that brought the desserts

The food was served at 6pm and people that came early paid \$10. There were about 20 there when the caterer set up the food. There was a lot of food left over and this was donated to K of C for use at their next event. Styrofoam “to go” boxes were also available for taking food home. People who came later paid \$5 admission but still ate some food. Some people came and didn’t realize it was a dinner. They thought it was a normal lesson/dance night.

- Planning for next year: Holiday dance will be on Thursday, December 11th, 2008
 - Lighter food selection
 - hors d’oeuvres
 - Keep costs lower
 - Award a special prize to volunteers. Possibly order something special to be made or printed with SSDS logo. Ideas: SSDS shoebrush, shoe bags, some variety of prizes and assure everyone wins something.

2. Publicity

- K of C new venue flyer: There are about 40 printed flyers left.
- Our weekly dance is now advertised in Sunday Stars Magazine, Neighbors section and Thursday Weekend edition as well as Syracuse New Times. Dan Hermann has arranged for this to be ongoing for six months.
- We will explore more advertising using the internet. Suggest listing our weekly dance on the “Syracuse.com” events calendar. We need to submit e-mail to them under heading “events submission” and make sure that they know it’s an ongoing weekly event.
- Maria advertised the weekly Thursday SSDS dance in “jumpsocial.com.” Good job Maria!
- Spring mailing planned for first week of February. Deb would need the final draft copies of the Cordoba/Szekely flyer (2-sided) and Strom/Staffeld flyer (2-sided) by January 21st to meet the February deadline. The third sheet would be the July 31st picnic/Arrowhead lodge flyer and the address page.

3. Financial Report: We ran at a loss for 2007

4. Upcoming Events

- Robert Cordoba/Deborah Szekeley teaching WCS at the Syracuse Ukranian Home, April 4th, 5th and 6th, 2008
- Peter Strom/Ramona Staffeld teaching free beginning Lindy class and free dance at SU Skybarn Friday, April 11th, 2008
- Peter Strom/Ramona Staffeld teaching Lindy Hop workshops with dance and pizza at the Syracuse Ukranian Home Saturday, April 12th, 2008.
- Arrowhead Lodge 2008 Picnic Thursday, July 31, 2008.

5. New Business, Other Business

- Dance instruction at area school
- Planning 2008 dance weekends
 - Hazel & Tybaldt possibly October 24th, 25th and 26th, 2008
 - Mike Topel Ask him about possible dates for Fall 2008 or Halloween (October 25th) if Hazel/Tybaldt unavailable
 - Jennifer Lyons: 2008 SSDS calendar saturated at this time. Will try for next year 2009, possibly April

Next Meeting: Sunday, February 3rd, 7pm. Location yet to be decided.