

## **Minutes of SSDS Meeting March 6, 2005**

Present: Tania, Can, Mike, Alice, Joe, Jayant, Mary Ellen, Dave, Greg, Deborah, Maria

Minutes by: Tania

### **1. Old Business**

#### **General Report.**

(1) Weekly dance status report. Dave is having some difficulty getting door duty volunteers. New dancers may not be on the listserv and may not receive his invitations to volunteer. We will announce the need for volunteers (and how to get on the listserv) at the hop announcements and during Steve Ryan's Thursday classes. Can will print out the listserv enrollment instructions as a flyer we can have at the door.

We need to confirm with Steve if he has made a different arrangement with Gus for Ballybay rent since Steve started teaching at 5:30 instead of 6 p.m. so we can adjust our payment accordingly.

We adopted the suggestion that instructors pay a \$1 admission to the hop, just as students and instructors' helpers do.

Joe stated that he and Steve have not yet had a discussion with BallyBay per February's meeting minutes but will do so.

Hop attendance is averaging 40 per week, same as this period last year.

Joe will check with Ballybay to make sure there is no conflict for the hop on 3/17.

Name tag night is not working out because people resist the tags or put fake names on them. Dave will check on our supply of name tags, and we may try it again.

(2) Publicity. Deborah reported that the mass mailing went out 3/5/05 with 624 pieces. Rosalie's group of clients did a great job of assembly. One mailing makes up the cost of our \$150 postal permit. Greg will pay to renew the permit that expires soon.

At the 3/24 hop we will put out a sheet so people can add/delete their names from the mailing list, and Can will add a blurb to the web page about the list. Deborah is the contact for the mailing list. The flyers are out for the picnic and Hanover Square.

(3) May 19, 2005 Leukemia Society event. Deborah reported that we could offer four couples to dance, not perform a demo. She has not heard back yet from event organizers.

**Consent Agenda.** No items.

**Financial Report** – Greg reported that the only activity in February was the hop and a phone bill. We netted \$236 for the month. Greg mailed required tax forms (996 cover sheet and 1099 misc. form) to instructors to whom we paid more than \$500. He is working on the Form 990s, which are due May 15. Greg stressed that we need to obtain instructors' SSN before paying them so we can report the income as required.

#### **Progress on upcoming events.**

(1) Mario Robau workshops April 15-17, 2005. There will not be a special event on the Thursday prior. Mario is arriving on Friday, and there will be five privates during

the weekend. Alice has three volunteers so far for housing. Maria reported that everything is under control. We have (in a written agreement) the Polish Home until 2 a.m. each night and total rent for the weekend is \$850. Friday night entertainment is R&B team, possibly a Ballroom demo. Saturday entertainment is Northern Lights demo and contests.

- (2) Hanover Square 2005. Steve Ryan. No report.
- (3) Summer picnic June 30, 2005 at Arrowhead Lodge. No report.
- (4) Diane Nardone. Kim agreed to organize.

## **2. New Business**

(1) We discussed at length the pros and cons of accepting credit cards for workshop payments, T-shirt sales, accepting donations. We have not had a lot of problems with bounced checks. (We do pay a \$20 fee for Canadian checks and should require Canadian dancers to pay in cash.) If we adopted a Paypal account, we would be charged 2.9 percent plus 30 cents for each transaction. There is no costs to set up the account. Greg will investigate Paypal. We can set up an account to sell T-shirts and see how it works. We will charge \$15 for the shirts online to cover mailing and handling costs; Deborah will mail out the shirts.

(2) We had a lengthy discussion about the music mix at the hops. Maria suggested we play more slow-tempo WCS because three beginner classes are going on right now. It was also suggested that DJs play a slow jitterbug after the free lesson so the newcomers can practice; the person giving the lesson should alert the DJ when he/she is done. Can will circulate and post a more accurate description of our music mix. Maria might try using a flip chart to key people into what kind of dance they can do to a song we're playing. As always, we need to pay attention to newcomers.

**Next Monthly Meeting: Sunday April 3 at 2 p.m. at Maria's house.**