

May 7th, 2006, SSDS Meeting Minutes

Maria's House, 98 Sherwood Lane, North Syracuse

Attendance: Deb, Maria, Greg, Mary Ellen

Old Business:

Ballybay dance. We pay for five hours of time rental space from Ballybay. We often run longer than that time. Discussion about whether we should start paying for the extra time. We are currently paying \$50/five hours every Thursday starting at 5:30pm and ending at 10:30pm. It seems that people are arriving later. On 4/20, at 11pm, the dance floor seemed full but no one was in the bar buying drinks. Mary Ellen left a tip of \$20 to the bartender for extending our usage time of the hall. Starting the dance later is still an option to consider. If we move the starting time, this will also affect the lesson times. We need to talk with Steve and Gus about changing these times.

We discussed the coming summer season and the hotter temperatures. Greg has offered to give Gus an air conditioner. He just needs to come get it from Greg's house. We still have two electric box fans. We will search for and try to purchase the heavy-duty fans that are mounted on stands. They are large and too heavy for people to carry away.

Publicity:

The new t-shirts are available for purchase. Maria sold four shirts April 20th during the dance. We've sold a total of seven new-style t-shirts. An invoice for \$289 was paid to Eric for our order of 50 shirts.

Marketing the Mario weekend, which was moved to June 23rd weekend: Maria asked how we could advertise this weekend. Sending postcards as reminders might help us to advertise this event. We should send these out within two weeks. Greg and Maria will try printing some sample postcards for us to consider using.

We used Greg's printer to print the last mailer, three pages, double-sided. After looking at the costs of the printing, that option is probably not as cost efficient as having the printing job done by Staples. We have a tax exempt certificate on file with Staples. Contact Mary Ellen to learn details about using this service.

Upcoming events:

We discussed possible one-day workshops with area instructors. We will try to advertise in the Daily Orange and focus on the student population. There are a lot of people that attend our regular dances that are also college students that will graduate next Sunday, May 14th. We will focus on workshops that help to grow the size of our group and get more people interested in learning to dance. We could offer introductory level

workshops for nominal fees. We discussed possible venues for these workshops. Lemoyne College might possibly have some room suitable for dancing and dance workshops. Mary Ellen will contact Lemoyne College.

There is a demo opportunity for three couples to dance with the SSO in the spring of '07 onstage at the Civic center. They want three couples to perform choreography to the song "Sing, sing, sing." Mary Ellen has contact information.

Halloween Dance, Mary Ellen will check with Ukrainian home for availability. We'll book Polish Home again for our Holiday dance since they still have our deposit from the cancelled Mario date. We'll ask for the December 9th Saturday.

Next Meeting: June 11th, 7pm, Mary Ellen's house, 401 Thurber Street, Syracuse, 13210.