

MDSDF DELEGATE MEETING (via ZOOM)

Sunday, July 11, 2021

The meeting began with Brandt Braunschweig requesting permission of attendees to record the meeting. All agreed.

The meeting was officially called to order at 2:05 pm. President Cheryl Rakes noted that we did not have a formal agenda, but the main purpose of today's meeting was to discuss current COVID status and to discuss the return to dancing.

Cheryl began by stating that the MDSDF will not dictate guidelines for any club's return to dancing. Each club should set their own guidelines and let dancers know ahead of time if possible. She noted the USDA does not cover COVID-related illness. Delegates from Friendship Squares, Tom Thumb, Chesapeake Squares, Crossfires, and Frederick County Promenaders shared the guidelines they have been using as they return to dancing. Derek Haber also noted that some masking requirements are set by the facility, not the club.

Derek Haber made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by June Johnson. The motion carried.

Brandt Braunschweig presented the Treasurer's Report. He said there was no change in funds. He has changed the way we track dedicated funds by setting up separate accounts for each of the funds. We currently have \$9,000 in checking, and \$11,260 in savings. Derek Haber made a motion to accept the report; Carol Eyre seconded. The motion carried.

Laura Vykol reported that 13 out of 15 clubs were represented at today's meeting. Neither Galaxy Stars nor Casual Squares were in attendance.

Barbara Buchanan has been working on the flyer for the MDSDF No-Dance Dance Fundraiser. There was discussion on the wording for the flyer to make it clear there was not actually a dance. Laura Vykol then suggested that since Virgil Forbes was not available for Friendship Square's August 25 dance, that we use that time slot to have an ACTUAL Fundraising Dance. We could collect donations and have a 50-50 and all proceeds would go to MDSDF. We could request dancers to send money to Brandt if they were unable to attend the dance. Doren suggested doing both things. Cheryl suggested the flyer could have the dance information and also include information for those unable to attend to send money to Brandt. A formal motion was made by June Johnson that the No-Dance Dance Fundraiser be changed to an actual 2x2 dance with caller and cuer TBD on Wed. August 25 at Jenkins Memorial Church with money raised by both attendees and non-attendees to go to MDSDF for Festival and other expenses. The motion was seconded by Peggy Lea Gosnell. The motion carried. Barbara Buchanan will send a draft of the flyer with this new information to Cheryl ASAP.

Cheryl asked if there was a report from the National Convention. Norva Pope reported that she and Laura Vykol had attended the convention. They attended the USDA annual meeting as MDSDF representatives. USDA has about 14,000 enrolled in their insurance plan. Norva said that using the USDA Rx card raises money for USDA in addition to offering a lower price for many prescriptions. There was a presentation on the advantages of becoming a 501(3)c for all clubs and square dance organizations. Benefits include no sales tax on purchases and no tax on Festival hotels. (Cheryl noted that MDSDF is in the process of becoming a 501(3)c organization.) USDA gives out scholarships to youth. USDA has a traveler program where you can earn a Traveler Badge and dangles by traveling to other states. There is a form on the website .There was discussion of the new Social Square Dance (SSD) Program. There is online information about this new program. One club which started using the SSD program had an increase of 80 members. However, the presenter did make the point that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." This program works for many people, but it is not a cure-all; if your current program is working there is no need to switch over. The slate of officers up for election was elected unanimously. Awards were given to officers for serving the USDA organization. Some had served for up to 30 years. A final note, all the USDA seminars and presentations are available online. Cheryl noted that she had watched several of these and they are excellent.

The updated MDSDF website has a new host and is up and running.

A motion was made by Peggy Lea Gosnell to adjourn the meeting. Doren McBroom seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena Jester

(Acting Secretary)