



## El Camino Reelers Board Meeting Minutes (Approved)

Tuesday, November 19, 2019, 5:45 PM-7:18 PM

St. Andrews Unified Methodist Church, 4111 Alma Street, Palo Alto, CA

***In attendance: Eric, Allan, Oliver, David, Ed, Kurt.***

### Minutes From Last Meeting

- Minutes from 10/12/19 were sent out via email on 10/12/19. Minutes were corrected and approved by the board. Allan sent out a formatting-corrected version of the minutes on 11/17/19 for Ed to post to the website.

### Financial Report (Ed)

- We are now at 60 paid-up members. In addition to the \$3,000 in dues we received from these members, we also received \$620 in additional donations.
- The following people who paid last year have not renewed yet. I expect some might be willing to pay up if we give them a bit of personal attention; others are probably lost to the club.
  - Mike Aquino
  - Ann Cavalli (Tony says she will no longer be dancing due to health issues)
  - Harriett Ferziger
  - Michael Garcia
  - Rachael Hawtin
  - Gil Huppert
  - Don Margolin
  - Bennet Marks
  - Judy Pick
  - Jane Seligson
  - Paul VanHouten
  - Linda Wieder
  - Aahz
- Nancy Shelton has received our first insurance check. I will send her another to cover the stragglers, but I'd like to make one last push to get some of these folks to pay up.
- We have not yet received our distribution of funds from the SF Pride beverage booth.

### St. Andrew's Church & Alternate Dance Venues

- St. Andrews announced in their latest newsletter that they have been asked by their district superintendent to begin discussing a merger with another nearby UMC church. If this goes through, it's likely that one of the properties will be sold.
- Rob French reported to Allan that the church is not accepting any new dance dates for 2020.
- Eric has reached out to Reverend Saia regarding our April 17<sup>th</sup> potluck, and received a non-committal response that they were not scheduling new dates right now, and that there was not any other information at this time.
- Status of Michael Levy/Michael Golden's donation towards church refurbishment: We are holding off on doing anything further for the church until its continuing status has been confirmed.
- *Allan will reach out to Sue Kayton to discuss alternate local venues that would have Tuesday/Thursday nights, with alternating quarterly Friday and Saturday nights..*

- There is also Foothills Congregational Church in Los Altos or Ladera Community Church off of Alpine Road (where Stanford Quads is currently meeting). The Palo Alto Contra group dances at First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto. *Allan will ask Annette to talk to FCC, and will also reach out the contra dance group for information on a contact for UMCPA.*

#### Tuesday Club Night (Advanced Dancing)

- David reports that Tuesdays were getting 2 squares regularly in the spring, now we're running about 12-13 people/night.

#### Wednesday Club Night

- Ed reports that we're getting about 12-13 people/night on Wednesdays.
- We're paying \$75/night for Tuesdays, \$100/night for Wednesdays, plus caller fees. This is not a long-term sustainable situation
- Pursuant to our discussion last month, due to attendance concerns, are there any other details or questions regarding proposing swapping Tuesday and Wednesday nights, or moving Wednesday night to Thursday.
- The other two Plus clubs in the area also dance on Wednesdays, and Sunnyvale Belle Swingers dances on Wednesdays. Beaus & Bows have an occasional class on Tuesdays. Interlocked Squares dances on Thursdays.
- This will be added to the next ECR General Meeting's agenda to ask people for input.

#### General Meeting

- Our next general meeting will be on Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7:30 PM. (This is a one-time shift from Wednesdays to ensure that Kurt can attend.) We will have a tip or two starting at 7:30 AM, and then we will start the meeting afterwards.
- To be added to the agenda (not necessarily in this order):
  - Financial report
  - Elections coming up
  - Memorial of ECR members who have passed away
  - Classes
  - Potential club night changes (moving away from Wednesdays to avoid conflicts with two other Plus clubs)
  - Fun Night scheduling changes (moving to a club night)
  - St. Andrews status
  - Scheduling of a game hour before dancing on club nights

#### Callers

- Kurt will be moving to Oakland sometime in 2020.
- Kurt is scheduling club night callers through March starting in December, and will need input from the board.
- If we keep Wednesday night dancing, Kurt would like to call on the 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays.
- Kurt would like to cut back his Tuesdays to 1 Tuesday out of every 5 -or- once every other month.
- We will discuss potential callers to take on some of Kurt's duties starting in January 2020.

## Board Appointment/Elections

- There have been no new interested parties to date.
- Next elections are February 26, 2020
- Eric is planning to run for re-election in February for a one-year term.
- Oliver's board term ends in 2020. He has not yet indicated if he will run again.
- Allan will leave the board in 2021.

## Friday Potluck Nights

- Lynn confirmed the following callers for the First Friday potlucks on the schedule.
  - **November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019** (Michael Levy)
- Potluck dates for 2020 (David will schedule callers):
  - **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020** [SAUMC confirmed] - Called by "Three of a Kind" (James Thompson, Regina Schulz, Mike Pogue), theme: "Load the Love Boat".
  - **April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020** [space not yet confirmed] - (Caller TBD) [Eric was to email Reverend Saia]
  - **September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020** [SAUMC confirmed] - (Caller TBD)
  - **November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020** [SAUMC confirmed] - (Caller TBD) ("Black Friday" theme)

## Quarterly Dances for 2020:

- **February 22, 2020: Eric Henerlau** [Confirmed 10/17/19]
  - St. Andrews confirmed.
  - Contract acknowledged by Eric Henerlau 10/10/19.
- **May 2, 2020: Barry Clasper** [Confirmed 8/11/19] – ECR's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance
  - St. Andrews confirmed.
  - Booking accepted by Barry, contingent upon our providing transportation and dinner beforehand.
- **August 1, 2020: Mike Kellogg.** [Confirmed 9/10/19]
  - St. Andrews confirmed.
  - Contract sent 8/10/19.
  - Contract accepted in writing by Mike on 9/10/19.
- **October 31, 2020: TBD**
  - St. Andrews confirmed.
  - Allan will reach out to Sandie Bryant, Andy Allemao, Justin Russell, Scot Byars, Steve Minkin.
  - Halloween Dance. (This may be the same date as a SCVSDA Whing Ding.)

## 2019 Beginner Classes

- **Indigo Class: SSD-50 Level 1 Blast**
  - There were 9 students from Oaktown. There are no students from ECR.
  - Since there were no ECR students, and no Oaktown students have expressed interest in attending out club nights, we will not hold reviews at ECR.
- **Violet Class: SSD-50 Level 1 Blast**
  - Eric will email the "interested in class" to ask if there's interest in a January class. Eric has received 2 or 3 positive responses. This included someone from the November Fun Night.

- **APD/DBD Plus Workshop: Saturday November 23, 2019, 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM**
  - We have 16 paid students, not including Eric or Allan, who will be attending.
  - Rob French will teach the workshop.
  - Rev. Saia has confirmed the hall at St. Andrews from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM.
  - Allan has boosted the workshop event on Facebook.
  - The admission will be \$30/person. Ed will set up a Paypal link to collect funds in advance.

### Fun Nights

- The November Fun Night had 2 squares and a few extras, with about 4 or 5 new folks.
- Robin has offered to reach out to some other Meetup groups and Facebook groups with \$5 offers to their membership.
- Allan will add Robin to the meetup account as an admin.
- We have no more Fun Nights in 2019.
- Concerns and observations:
  - The Billy DeFrank Center is less expensive to rent on a Friday than the church.
  - A proposal was made to shift some Fun Nights to Wednesday nights, to reduce room rental costs, dancer event fatigue, and also replace a faltering club night once a month.
  - The Wednesday Fun Night would run from 7:15 PM to 9:00 PM, and then we'd offer full level plus from 9:00 PM to 9:30 or 9:40 PM.
  - In the months where we have review sessions scheduled, we would either shift the Fun Night to a Friday, or extend the review sessions by an extra week, or move that month's Fun Night to the Billy DeFrank Center on a Friday. This decision can be made later.
  - Eric discussed the Fun Night on Wednesdays with Rich Reel on 8/21, to get his input. Rich is OK with any adjustments we would like to make on Wednesdays.
  - Allan has confirmed BDFC dates with Gabrielle Antolovich as shown below.
  - Allan will begin scheduling Fun Night caller for the St. Andrews dates past January in early 2020.
- 2020 Fun Night Schedule (confirmed dates **in bold**)
  - Wednesday 01/08/2020: SAUMC / TBD (Kurt not available)
  - **Friday 02/14/2020: BDFC / TBD**
    - *Note: We have invited the BDFC's Transwomen group to attend for free, since the ballroom was originally scheduled for them on this date.*
  - Wednesday 03/18/2020: SAUMC / Rich Reel?
  - Wednesday 04/22/2020: SAUMC / TBD
  - Wednesday 05/20/2020: SAUMC / Rich Reel?
  - **Friday 06/19/2020: BDFC / TBD**
  - 07/xx/2020: TBD / TBD
  - **Friday 08/21/2020: BDFC / TBD (Jim Maxwell's Birthday)**
  - 09/xx/2020: TBD / TBD
  - 10/xx/2020: TBD / TBD
  - **Friday 11/20/2020: BDFC / TBD**
  - 12/xx/2020: TBD / TBD

### Recruiting & Retention

- We said last month we would discuss non-dancing club events this month.

- 3Below's sing-along schedules that would work are:
  - Sunday 12/15/19 at 1:30 PM: *White Christmas*
  - Saturday 12/28/19 at 6:30 PM: *Fiddler On The Roof*
- Ed will email ECRtalk to ask folks to RSVP for the above sing-alongs.
- Perhaps a Star Wars movie outing in January?
- The Philadelphia club has started doing board games for an hour before their club night. Eric has suggested we ask about this at the general meeting.

#### Longevity Dangles

- Eric's working through the back catalog of club directories.
- A bar usually costs around \$3 plus shipping. We'd be looking at 53 dangles, so an initial cost of \$159 plus shipping.
- Eric has proposed that we use the IAGSDC club retention program to propose they pay for the initial set of bars.
- The initial set can be handed out at the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary dance (May of 2020, Barry Clasper calling), and then future sets will be handed out during ECR general membership meetings.

#### Dark Dates for ECR

- December 24, 2019
- December 25, 2019
- December 31, 2019
- January 1, 2020

#### Next Board Meeting:

- Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 11:00 AM at Allan's office.

[End]