



El Camino Reelers Board Meeting Minutes (Approved)

Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 5:30 PM-7:11 PM

St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, 4111 Alma Street, Palo Alto, CA

In attendance: Allan, Ed, Eric, David, Oliver, Robin, Kurt

Minutes From Last Meeting

- Minutes from the 1/18/20 board meeting were corrected and approved.

Financial Report (Ed)

- The Friday night potluck with Three of a Kind did much better than anticipated, with 66 dancers, and we made \$333.
- All tax filings for 2019 have been completed, and the merchandise website is up and running.

Club Nights

- There is some minor confusion regarding March 3rd, 2020, which is a voting day. In the past, St. Andrew's has been a polling place, but they are no longer listed as a voting center online. Therefore we will be dancing as usual.
- If we move to a single club night per week, we could extend the club night to accommodate multiple levels (Plus/Advanced). For example, 7 PM to 10 PM.
- A ballot with voting choices for club nights was approved via email and sent to all members. The Board will base a decision on any changes on the outcome of that survey.
- Any club night changes would become effective starting in the second quarter of 2020.
- There was a request made during the general meeting that if we go to a single club night with mixed dance levels, we have a flip chart at the caller table showing what level will be danced each tip. This would also be useful at our quarterly dances.

St. Andrew's Church & Alternate Dance Venues

- *Note: While elsewhere in these minutes, we have dates confirmed with St. Andrews for potlucks and quarterly dances, we may still have to move these events to other venues if the church closes suddenly.*
- There have been no updates from Reverend Saia.
- Eric has determined that Foothills Congregational Church in Los Altos will not work as a dance space for other than occasional weekend workshops.
- Oliver has found the Palo Alto Community Child Center, which is \$50/hour. However, this venue is only available until 8:00 PM. This would be great for workshops.
- Sue Kayton has suggested a couple of Menlo Park venues for club nights (e.g., Menlo-Atherton High School) and one in Redwood City/Woodside. (Allan will talk with Sue Kayton.) The Menlo-Atherton venue would not work for dances. Food must be placed on tables outside the room, and the room is very small, holding no more than max. 4 squares.
- Lucie Stern Center in Palo Alto. (Oliver will contact.)
- Dave Decot suggested that the City of Santa Clara is opening a new sports park including a multipurpose recreational facility. Dave will check on the new sports park and also regarding the arts center at Wilcox High School.
- Ladera Community Church off of Alpine Road (where Stanford Quads is currently meeting). (Allan noted that this location would be difficult to get to during weeknight commute hours.)
- First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto (where Palo Alto Contra currently dances). Allan will contact Mike Buchanan and/or other contra dancers to discuss renting space at the church for club nights.
- David Morandi will contact the PAJCC to ask about how much to rent the gym or one of the meeting rooms.

- David Morandi has contacted Andy Shore to ask who books the Palo Alto contra space at First Methodist Church in Palo Alto.
- Allan will check out the Murphy Park Community Center in Sunnyvale (where Lucky Steppers dances). There is a nonprofit rate and a resident rate.
 - Since the last board meeting, Alan Stevenson was kind enough to forward Allan information on the Mountain View Community Center, which, on paper (well, on website) looks like they have several rooms that would work well for us, as long as we qualify as a non-profit/community group under their guidelines, with hourly rates ranging from \$5 to \$50, depending upon the room:

<https://www.mountainview.gov/depts/cs/rec/facilities/communitycenter/roomsandfees.asp>
- Craig Mahaffey suggested creating an exploratory committee to work with other square dance clubs to attempt to locate a venue (such as warehouses) that might be purchased and turned into a dedicated square dance center, such as Redwood Rainbows or the Wilde Bunch have.
 - Michael Levy, Joe Dehn, and Sue Kayton would be good people to approach for the committee.
- Craig also suggested two clubs sharing a space and a caller to reduce club costs. Sue Kayton mentioned this concept to Kurt. Clubs might have offset dance times during the same evening.

Salvation Army Gym Availability (item requested by Kurt)

- Jane Bishop hosts an annual Thanksgiving Toy Dance to benefit the Salvation Army. They have been very thankful and have recently offered her the use of their gym for other dances. (She can't do the Thanksgiving one there because it requires a kitchen.) She has asked Kurt about concerns the LGBTQ community may have, and would like feedback. She's hesitant to host dances there (or offer it for others to do so) if we would object. The board provided Kurt with feedback to take back to Jane.

Board Appointments/Elections

- Kurt has offered to assist with tabulation of the ranked-choice voting for club night questions.
- Next elections are February 26, 2020. We have three open seats, each for a two-year term.
- Ballots have been distributed to all members.
- Oliver's board term ends in 2020. He has agreed to run again for a two-year term.
- Allan will leave the board in 2021 due to commitments for the 2021 and 2022 convention committees.
- Ed's term expires in 2021
- David's term expires in 2021.
- Robin is running for the board, and is on the ballot.

Friday Potluck Nights

- Potluck dates for 2020 (David will schedule callers):
 - **January 31st, 2020** [SAUMC confirmed] - Called by "Three of a Kind" (James Thompson, Regina Schulz, Mike Pogue), theme: "Load the Love Boat".
 - **April 17th, 2020** [SAUMC confirmed] – Kurt Gollhardt
 - **September 25th, 2020** [SAUMC confirmed] - (Caller TBD...Rich has been asked)
 - **November 27th, 2020** [SAUMC confirmed] - (Caller TBD) ("Black Friday" theme...Rich has been asked)

Quarterly Workshops

- *Note: This topic was not discussed, but is being left here as a placeholder for the next board meeting.*
- We want to hold more quarterly workshops. We'd pay \$200 or half the door. Topics we'd like to cover:
 - Gender Swap/APD workshop, for 4 hours.
 - Eric has not heard back from Reverend Saia on whether or not if we can rent St. Andrews on 2/22/20 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

- Allan was to check with Rob to see how long he thinks a workshop should take, and if he's available for that date. If Rob's not available, Allan will ask the same question of Eric Henerlau.
- We will push out the date for this workshop at this point.
- Convention Brush-Up for Plus (thurs, teacup chain, other rarely-used calls) This might also be handled via the 6 weeks of club nights prior to Convention, as long as we announce the topic of each club night in advance.
- APD/DBD Plus. (Again.)
- Square recovery techniques. (Keep the square dancing, and also know how to reset from lines or waves. Ideally, swap people around to get them into the right place before the end of the sequence.)

Quarterly Dances for 2020:

- **February 22, 2020: Eric Henerlau** [Confirmed 10/17/19]
 - *Allan has sent Joe Dehn additional information for the SCVSDA calendar entry for this dance..*
 - St. Andrews confirmed.
 - Contract acknowledged by Eric Henerlau 10/10/19.
- **May 2, 2020: Barry Clasper** [Confirmed 8/11/19] – ECR's 35th 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 Andy Allemao, Justin Russell, Scot Byars, Steve Minkin.
 - Halloween Dance. (There will not be a competing dance on this date.)

2019 Beginner Classes

- **Violet Class: SSD-50 Level 1 Blast**
 - Eric has 3 people interested in a class, plus another person sent an email asking about the next class. Eric said we were considering a class in March or April. This would make 4 students.
 - Format will be 3 Saturdays, 2 weeks apart, with Wednesday night practice.
 - Eric will ask the students about Saturday vs Sunday.
 - For Saturdays, Kurt is available April 11th, April 25th, May 9th.
 - For Sundays, Allan's office is available any weekend in March/April except for April 4th/5th. Sundays would involve potentially dancing on Easter and Mother's Day. Dates for Sundays are March 29th, April 12th (Easter Sunday), April 26th, May 10th (Mother's Day).
 - Eric will email potential students tomorrow.

Fun Nights

- David Morandi has received a "yes" from Andy Shore for May 20th. This particular fun night will be half contra, half squares, with the intention of "converting" contra dancers into square dancers, per Mike Buchanan's thoughtful suggestions from last month.

- Starting in March, Wednesday Fun Nights will run from 7:15 PM to 9:00 PM, with full level Plus dancing from 9:00 PM to 9:30 PM.
- For February, Friday Fun Night will run from 7:15 PM to 9:30 PM. *After February, Friday Fun Nights will change format to match Wednesday nights (including full level dancing from 9:00 PM to 9:30 PM).*
- Fun Night format clarification: Incorporating member suggestions, we will start the evening with a light and easy non-square mixer, and then mostly call squares with some light non-squares (but not couples dances such as swing or waltz). Squares should have as much variety as possible, to keep it interesting. This could include calls from higher levels or made-up calls or “heritage”/historical calls (such as Grand Colonel Spin or Rip & Snort). We want to minimize break length to keep people dancing as much as possible.
- 2020 Fun Night Schedule
 - **Friday 02/14/2020: BDFC / Michael Levy** - 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**

The remaining St. Andrews dates in the calendar will not be scheduled until we have guidance from the church about whether they’re staying open.

- Wednesday 04/22/2020: SAUMC / Caller TBD – Allan will wait to book this until we finalize the class schedule.
- **Wednesday 05/20/2020: SAUMC / Andy Shore** ... themed around introducing contra dancers to squares. (Class students will be allowed to attend for free, and the “full-level” tip at 9:00 PM will be a review tip.)
- **Friday 06/19/2020: BDFC / Kurt Gollhardt**
- 07/xx/2020: Location TBD / Caller TBD
- Friday 08/21/2020: BDFC / Caller TBD (Jim Maxwell’s Birthday)
- 09/xx/2020: Location TBD / Caller TBD
- 10/xx/2020: Location TBD / Caller TBD
- Friday 11/20/2020: BDFC / Caller TBD
- 12/xx/2020: Location TBD / Caller TBD

Community Events

- The board voted to not participate in the Mountain View downtown parade this year.
- Ed will check on dates and logistics to participate in the Santa Cruz LGBTQ parade.
- Allan will ask Filoli if they will have another pride celebration this year.

ECR Membership History Project

- Ed will email Badgeworks for estimates on hanging bars for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 years. White with blue letters, to match the current ECR badges. We’ll need about 60 badges.
- Eric will send Ed a spreadsheet showing how many of each of the badges we need.
- Eric’s still working through the back catalog of club directories. Kim & Bennett may have some of the missing directories, because they published the roster for several years. Dave Decot may have some of the late 90’s directories. Susan and Michael Garcia have provided a couple of the missing directories.
- A bar usually costs around \$3-5 plus shipping. We’d be looking at 60 bars, so an initial cost of \$180-\$300 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 35th anniversary dance (May of 2020, Barry Clasper calling), and then future sets will be handed out during ECR general membership meetings.

- Craig expressed interest in a simple pin representing 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 years of ECR membership, and said he would look into it, and present some design options to the Board, and perhaps consider a donation towards that project. Eric suggested this might be something that could be folded into our annual merchandise push with the cost being solely the club member's responsibility. Orders would be verified with the board.

Next Board Meeting:

- Saturday, March 21st, 2020 at 11:30 AM at Allan's office in Fremont.

[End]

Appendix: Club Night Calling Schedule (from Kurt on 1/11/2020)

Tuesdays 7:30 - 9:30. (No more 7:00 walk-through.)

- Full A2 with some workshop tips, some fun/smooth tips.
- First tip should be an easy warm-up tip; last tip should be fun/easy.

1/7 Dave

1/14 Kurt (General Meeting)

1/21 Michael

1/28 Dave

2/4 Dave

2/11 Michael

2/18 Kurt

2/25 Dave

3/3 Dave

3/10 Michael

3/17 Kurt

3/24 Dave

3/31 Michael

Wednesdays 7:30 - 9:30.

- The format is Plus / 1 DBD Plus / 1 A2.

1/8 FUN NIGHT - Michael Levy

1/15 Rich

1/22 Michael

1/29 Kurt

2/5 Rich

2/12 Dave

2/19 Rich

2/26 3 Of A Kind (James, Mike, Regina)

3/4 Rich

3/11 Dave

3/18 FUN NIGHT - Rich Reel?

3/25 3 of a Kind (James, Mike, Regina)