

Quick recap

The board meeting addressed various operational matters including technical issues with meeting hosting, financial updates, and calendar planning for upcoming events. The group discussed caller pay rates and scheduling changes, including the implementation of new class times and workshop coordination. They also explored plans for advanced dance instruction and LGBTQ+ inclusivity initiatives, while addressing concerns about gay styling instruction and carpool coordination.

Next steps

- [Ed: to handle the insurance renewal in October.](#)
- [Board: to prepare for class graduation in November.](#)
- [Board: to decide on scheduling for the monthly gathering and graduation celebration in December.](#)
- [Ed: to prepare for board elections.](#)
- [Board: to confirm dancing will occur on November 25th.](#)
- [Board: to address Puck's request for an A2 interest survey.](#)
- [Michael: to include holiday-themed music for the December 16th graduation/holiday party.](#)

Summary

Meeting Host Permissions and Dance

The group discussed technical issues with meeting hosting and participant permissions, with El making Pete a co-host before leaving and returning. They shared casual conversation about a recent dance event where Pete got 8,000 steps, and Rob mentioned Michael Levy's energetic dance calling style. The conversation ended with Rob and Pete agreeing to include Zoom meeting details in their email communications going forward, and Kurt suggested using ceder.net's caller database for difficult-to-spell names.

Board Meeting: Minutes and Events

The board meeting discussed several key items, including the approval of July and August meeting minutes, a financial report submitted by Ed, and a review of the calendar for upcoming events. They agreed to keep details about caller pay scales confidential and not publish them in the meeting minutes. The board also clarified the levels of dancing for upcoming potlucks, deciding that the October potluck would be for Plus and A2 dancers, while the November potluck would be for class-level SSD plus Advanced dancers.

Fall Calendar and Class Schedule

The board discussed the October to December calendar, confirming workshops on October 11 and November 8, a quarterly dance and potluck on November 7, and a graduation on December 16. They decided to hold the next board meeting on December 14 at 11am, and agreed to proceed with the regular 15-week class schedule rather than shortening it to 14 weeks. The

group also confirmed that classes would run on November 25 (the Tuesday before Thanksgiving) and that the club would be dark on December 23 and 30, resuming on January 6.

SSD Workshop Planning and Coordination

The board discussed SSD workshops scheduled for October 11th and November 8th from 12-2:30 PM, which will be free for class members and angels, with two callers each session who will receive \$75 each. Michael Levy volunteered to coordinate caller assignments for the workshops, while Kurt confirmed his availability for both dates despite only needing to teach one session. The group also addressed concerns about gay styling instruction and carpool coordination, with Pete planning to make a larger sign-up sheet and announce carpooling opportunities at the next Tuesday meeting.

Caller Pay Rate Increase Decision

Clarifying Tuesday Night Session Schedule

The team discussed scheduling issues with their Tuesday night sessions, particularly regarding a plus tip that was initially planned for 7 PM but caused confusion when it wasn't included in later communications. They agreed to establish a clear schedule: the 1A2 tip will run from 6:45 to 7 PM, followed by a plus tip break, and then the regular class will begin. Kurt will send a reminder email to students about the new 7 PM start time, while Michael Levy has already drafted a message to clarify the schedule for callers.

A2 Dance Class Interest Survey

The group discussed conducting a survey to gauge interest in offering A2 dance classes, which would complement their existing Plus-level offerings. Pete explained that while the club previously hosted A2 classes in 2018-2019, they haven't offered them since, and there was concern about breaking even on costs. The group agreed to create a focused survey to determine member interest, with Mike suggesting it would be simpler than their previous survey attempts, and Michael noting they should focus on A2 content rather than trying to gather comprehensive information.

Advanced Dance Class Planning Survey

The group discussed plans for advanced dance instruction, agreeing to conduct a survey to gauge interest in both weekly and blitz class formats. They decided to explore weekday evening options, with Monday being a likely candidate, while noting that Saturday classes would need to be located elsewhere due to church availability. The survey will include questions about interest

in learning advanced dance and preferred class times, with Michael Keeley taking the lead on creating the survey for review by the team.

LGBTQ+ Square Dancing Inclusivity Challenges

The group discussed issues around LGBTQ+ inclusivity in square dancing, with Kurt sharing that Oaktown faced challenges from straight dancers objecting to same-sex pairings, while ECR faced the opposite issue of straight dancers questioning their welcome. Pete noted that ECR's Meetup descriptions clearly identify the club as LGBTQ+ inclusive, though Kurt pointed out that Oaktown's Meetup descriptions lack similar clarity. The group agreed that clearer communication about LGBTQ+ inclusivity is needed, with Kurt suggesting that Oaktown should add explicit statements about their LGBTQ+ status in their Meetup descriptions.

Styling and Action Review

The group discussed incorporating gay styling into their instruction cycle, with Kurt and Michael agreeing to weave it into the curriculum rather than making it a standalone focus. Oliver raised a concern about an action item from the previous board retreat that had disappeared from the August agenda, which Rob offered to review with Oliver and Pete to determine what items, if any, should be carried forward.