

March 3, 2020, board meeting

Dave Notman joined the meeting to talk about improvements he had made to our sound system, including buying two monitor speakers and selling two unneeded speakers. Richard R. asked him to provide a document showing the sound setup in case a substitute sound technician is ever needed. It was suggested that Larry Gilbert shadow Dave at some point so he can serve as a standby substitute.

The board talked about ways to deal with the shortfall from Winter WarmUp 2019, which raised only a few hundred dollars rather than the \$6,000 or more we need to cover our local dance expenses. Members agreed with the WWU committee's decision to add \$10 to the 2020 admission rate and to offer the youth rate to ages 30 and under (rather than the previous 26 and under). They also decided to raise the admission rate for local dances. Beginning in the fall, those older than 26 will pay \$10, \$8 for members (up from \$8, \$7 for members). Dancers ages 12-26 will pay \$5, \$3 for members (up from \$4, \$3 for members). The annual membership rate will rise from \$12 to \$15.

Most of the meeting was devoted to the emerging coronavirus pandemic. Dave offered statistical evidence of how fast the virus could spread in the U.S. Chris, a visitor from the English country community, said his group had decided to cancel dances as soon as the first local case is reported, and the board decided to do the same. Members also discussed ways to protect dancers in the meantime, as by encouraging frequent hand washing and instructing dancers to stay home if they felt ill. It was agreed that Ellie would make an announcement about these and other precautions at the March 7 dance.

Postscript: By the following week, the board decided it was advisable to cancel dances immediately rather than waiting for local cases to be reported. Both All Soles and Big Scioto canceled dances as of March 10. Following CDSS advice, other Ohio contra groups also suspended operations until it is considered safe to return to the dance floor.