

BSCD ANNUAL MEETING 5-20-24

In attendance: Richard Ades, Richard Reichard, Martha Shaw, Ellie Nowels, Marilyn Fais, Jan Phillips, Harold Cheney, Keith Bednarczuk, Sal Pinkham, Bruce Smith.

MEMBERS/BOARD

We currently have 47 members

Current board members Richard Ades, Martha Shaw, and Ellie Nowels were reelected along with new board members Sal Pinkham and Bruce Smith.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Richard Reichard, outgoing treasurer, presented a financial rundown.

Amounts rounded to nearest dollar

We had 8 monthly dances, Winter WarmUp, and Grandview demo dance, and a special co-sponsored summer dance.

Total intake \$21,845.12

Total expenses \$17,972.87

Total gain \$3,872.25

Current bank account \$13,795.34

Income sources

WWU 15,599.12

gate of regular dances 2966

demo at Grandview Library - \$100

dance sponsorships - \$1000

sponsorships - \$1300 (13 sponsors)

memberships \$396 (33 members)

Expenses (WWU/regular)

Bands \$6730 (\$3500 WWU, \$3130 – 8 monthly dances, \$100 demo dances)

Callers \$2315 (\$1490 WWU, \$825 – 8 monthly dances)

Sound \$2420 (\$2100 WWU, \$320 – 8 monthly dances)

Venues \$4205 (\$3550 WWU, \$467.50 - 8 monthly dances, \$187.50 one co-sponsored summer dance)

WWU food \$962.87

CDSS membership & insurance - \$700

Application for tax exempt status - \$600

CDSS newsletter ad - \$40

WWU 2023 had a profit due to many food and other donations, no payments or free admissions for workshops, careful shopping for food; primarily lower than usual talent costs since one band could only play Friday, and our main band had only 3 members.

Regular dances actually made a small profit this year, due to dance sponsorships. We discussed either giving Dave a raise or giving him an end of season bonus based on our profit for the year. We agreed on a bonus but did not discuss how much.

Jan pointed out that we need to pay our RFDC dues. She is representative for All Soles and Big Scioty. We will pay the dues as part of this year's budget.

DANCE VENUES

We danced at the Mennonite Church Feb - May, and changed to second Saturdays since the church is not available first Saturdays. But since Cincinnati has revived their second Saturday dance, and we don't want to conflict with it, we are returning to Clinton Heights. (The Mennonite church is also doubling the rent which is an issue). To accommodate our busiest months (Jan-March), we will be dancing at First Congregational those months. We don't have a contract yet but we've asked for those dates and they are open.

Bruce is investigating a nearby church (The Church of the Sparkling Unicorn) which has a lovely dance floor that could hold 100 people; however we've been told they only allow bare feet or socks, which would be a problem.

WINTER WARMUP

Talent will be a good bit more expensive this year. Our lineup consists of Notorious, The Hollertones, Will Mentor, and Liz Burkhart. Not mentioned – the venue cost has increased. We discussed raising the price of admission to help with increased costs. The committee will meet soon to decide on that and possibly having the early bird pricing end earlier. Prices at other weekends was discussed and we would not be out of line to raise our prices a bit.

BUTTON ISSUE

Jan brought up the issue of the dance buttons being different colors depending on level of sponsorship. She feels it creates a status hierarchy that can be uncomfortable for some and works against our tradition of an open non-competitive environment. Keith also thought it goes against the idea of charity being done for status rather than true giving. Jan pointed out that there are many ways people contribute (extra cash each time they dance, always bringing snacks, Dave doing sound for very little money, etc.) and perhaps instead of button differences we could honor our donors with a thank you email at the end of the season thanking dancers for all the different ways they have contributed.

TAX STATUS

Rick had thought that we were a non-profit and when he investigated it turned out we are not. He applied for the status that appeared to be the closest category for our group – 501c7, a social club. The fee was \$600 and six months later we got a response, and the requirements do not appear to be something we can meet (we have to know how much income came from members vs. non-members, and a majority of the income has to come from members). Since we don't collect that info, it's not likely we qualify. We did consult a lawyer on this issue.

We are investigating applying for non-profit status through CDSS (501c3). It will involve an application fee and a yearly fee. Financial reports would need to be sent to CDSS, since they are responsible for making sure we meet the requirements. Sal has been looking at their info, it's not clear if we need to change any of our bylaws. Otherwise we will need to start paying taxes on our earnings.