

**Central California Square Dance Association
Regular Meeting
March 19, 2018**

MINUTES

Call to Order at 7:10 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

- **Officers** - Sheri Cummings – President; Alice Ann Ewing – Vice President; Sharon Patterson – Treasurer; Ray Patterson – Parliamentarian & CAMA Representative; Sharon Patterson – Promenader Editor; Sheri Cummings – Wing Ding
- **Club Representatives** – Martha Jaban – Boots N Slippers; Janis Nielsen – Calaveras Twirlers; Bob Allmon – Oakdale Squares; Ray Patterson – Rockin W Rounders; Pat Allmon – Single Skirts & Flirts; Judy Webber - Turlock Steppin' Pard; Nadine Campbell – Twain Harte Twirlers;
- **Guests** – Norm Nielsen – Calaveras Twirlers; Dennis Cummings – Turlock Steppin' Pard; Rey Varela – Twain Harte Twirlers
- **Absent** – Sue Farver – Secretary; Joann and Dennis Fones – Historian; Kathy Moreau and Annette Brown – Insurance; Kathy Moreau – All-A-Round Wunders; Audry Langlois – Round Robins

Minutes of Last Meeting – Moved by Nadine C, seconded by Judy W, minutes of the January 8, 2018 approved as presented.

Treasurers Report – Moved by Judy W, seconded by Bob A, Treasurers Report approved as presented. Checking Account as of March 19, 2018, beginning balance \$2,893.89, total income \$34.25, total expenses \$114.25, ending balance \$2,813.89; Savings Account as of March 19, 2018, beginning balance \$12,207.26, interest for January and February \$0.59, ending balance \$12,207.85

Promenader Treasurers Report – Promenader Account as of February 28, 2018, beginning balance \$1,576.29, income \$869.00, expenses \$312.26, ending balance \$2,134.03

Correspondence – E-mail and card correspondence was shared from Wing Ding callers, cuers and dancers, all were positive. E-mailed resignation from all CCSDA offices was read from Kathy Moreau. Bob A. asked if there were comment cards from Wing Ding. There were four, three pertained to Advanced sessions were listed on the schedule as Workshop/Dance and some callers only did dance, the fourth was a suggestion for single rounds rather than double rounds during Advanced dancing. These will be reviewed and addressed by the Wing Ding Committee.

Standing Committees Reports

- **President** - Lots of dancing! Attended regional meetings at Wing Ding and Bakersfield Fiesta. Outcome of the meeting was motion will be presented to State Council to have Promotions meeting recorded and minutes distributed to Associations. Other outcome of the meetings was to

get to know other officers from USDA, VASD, Central Coast, Central California and Past Presidents. All associations are facing similar issues with declining number of dancers, callers and dance locations.

- **Vice President** – Dancing at the Stanislaus County Fair has been scheduled for Thursday, July 19, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Coors Stage. Dennis C asked if dancers will be given free fair admission with badges. Alice E will contact the fairgrounds for clarification. 5th Saturday Dance will be held on March 31, theme will be Spring Fling.
- **Insurance** – Need a new Insurance Chairman. Annette Brown will continue and assist the new chairman. Recommended that chairman have basic computer skills. Sheri C requested representatives share with their club members that insurance is more than just dancer insurance (supplemental medical), this also provides liability insurance for the halls we use, and for club officers.
- **Parliamentarian** – Ray P reported that he has been working on bylaws. Committee should be meeting soon. Ray P requested representatives share with him any concerns regarding the bylaws. Bylaws are on the webpage if representatives would like a copy.
- **Historian** – No report
- **Promenader** – Sharon Patterson reported that the Promenader has received a number of renewals and several new subscriptions.
- **CAMA Rep** – Ray P reported CAMA will be holding a meeting at 5 pm prior to the 5th Saturday Dance. Callers and cuers are ready for the dance. Ray Patterson provided an update on Ben Goldberg. Ben had a stroke, is currently in rehab and will be moving to a specialized facility for stroke patients. Ray was asked about Carolyn Wunder. No report on her was available, other than she should be back cueing soon.
- **Wing Ding** – Report moved to old business.
- **Publicity** – No report

Old Business

Wing Ding – Sheri C thanked clubs for allowing her to serve as Wing Ding Chairman. She has enjoyed serving and appreciates all the support her and Dennis have received over the years. She went on to report that there was great support of all clubs for set up, decorations, silent auction and baskets. The club baskets were exceptionally well done this year. We had a very successful Silent Auction. Wing Ding will be having a Wrap Up meeting on March 24 at 5 pm at the Oakdale Grange. With the resignation of Kathy Moreau as Wing Ding Chairman, there is a critical need for a Chairman and a Treasurer. Representatives were requested to share this need with their clubs. If someone is interested in either of these positions Sheri C and Sally Cole would be happy to discuss the responsibilities with them.

Audit Committee - Judy W. stated the Promenader audit is still pending.

New Year's Eve or 5th Saturday Dance or both – Consensus of club representatives was for a 5th Saturday dance in December rather than a New Year's Eve dance. Motion made by Janis N, seconded by Nadine C, motion approved. Ray P on behalf of CAMA, thanked the representatives for the early decision as this allows callers and cuers to accept other dances for New Year's Eve.

State Convention Basket – Items have been coming in for the “All Things Breakfast”. If clubs still have items to donate, it was requested to get them to Sheri Cummings as soon as possible.

State Council meeting – held in Turlock on January 12 and 13, 2018

- **Tim Merino, Oroville** presented on his webpage squaredancefun.com. Site has many ideas for promoting square dancing and new dancer classes. Some ideas include soup/salad night, club visitations, a recipe card with recipe on one side with square dance information on the other. Free take one items are often picked up and kept.
- **501c3** – State Council is still discussing. 501c3 will benefit the State Council and possibly the associations.
- **Harassment policies** - request was made to develop policy and procedures. United Square Dancers of America Code of Ethics contains a generic statement which applies. It is “Dancers should be aware that some of their dancing habits may be uncomfortable or undesirable to other dancers in the square and should make every effort to avoid such actions.” Sheri C cautioned when discussing with your clubs that it is possible that this can be an extremely sensitive subject for some of our dancers. Also, a dancer who has been harassed is likely not to return and will not express reason for leaving the club.

New Business

Dance Requests – Two requests made for additional dances. Rocking W Rounders Saturday April 14 afternoon All Round Dance. Calaveras Twirlers May dance to coincide with the Jumping Frog celebration. Calaveras withdrew their request. Motion by Judy W, seconded by Nadine C, Rocking W Rounders additional dance approved. Janis N requested that the approved dance schedule be e-mailed to her. Sheri C will send Janis N the schedule.

Random Thoughts – brief discussion was held on the following:

New Callers/Cuers – Our area needs to encourage the development of new callers and cuers. Two upcoming caller schools are: Callers Boot Camp at Harvest Hoedown, Caller School at Golden State Roundup (free w/ribbon). Ray P shared that he and Kip Garvey are also working on bringing a Caller School to our area. Warm Up dance had a new caller, Holly Ferreira. She did an excellent job, does all signing calls.

Officers – Harvest Hoedown will be hosting “The ABCs of Square Dancing – Administration, Bylaws, Contracts and More” in October. This may be an opportunity for dancers who are thinking about becoming officers of CCSDA or an area club.

Themes – Sheri C suggested that we clubs can be creative with their themes without stepping on others. Likewise, with callers, there are many callers available that we don’t all have to book the same ones, or at least space them out so all clubs are successful with their dances.

Promotion – We are Square Dancers! Let people know you are in town to square dance (hotels, restaurants, etc.) whether it be for a festival, party dance or workshop.

Challenge – Challenge dancers to attend other dances, recognize the dancers for meeting the challenge. Several years ago, Ray V and Nadine C had badges that said how many dances they had attended.

Fundraisers – Heritage Dancers (501c3 group) has \$1 per ticket for a chance for 4 tickets to Disneyland; We Love Square Dancing badges (Rocking Jokers), thinking outside the box.

Dancer Etiquette – Items discussed were: Don't walk through squares or across the round dance floor – just recently saw a cuer and a caller do this, this is not ok; Be respectful when visiting on the sidelines, Keep talk down while cuers are cueing, so round dancers can hear the cues; Don't let a square sit out for lack of a dancer or couple; Don't walk out of a square (it only lasts a 10 minutes); when forming squares don't push dancers out of the square; and don't be distracting to callers and cuers while they are calling. Recommended that we share this with both new dancers as well as all club dancers. USDA does have a brochure available on dancer etiquette on their webpage usda.org. Ray P mentioned he has been talking to CAMA about callers covering this as they teach.

"Get a grip" - Gently touching hands while dancing is preferred to a hard grip.

Fingernails/Jewelry - Keep fingernails trimmed and hand jewelry to a minimum for maximum square dance enjoyment by all.

History – Why do we wear the outfits we do, why is a do si do called that, where did allemande left come from, etc

Overall – Smile, listen to the Caller, leave the calling to the caller, make visitors welcome, be an active club member, be on time and support other clubs in our area

Revival - Participate, start a revival of Square Dancing, it can begin with us that attend this meeting. Janis N shared that the December 2017 National Geographic had an article about folk dances and it stated that participation in square dancing was on the increase.

More random thoughts – Pat A shared that Singles will be hosting a potluck for former dancers, encourage them to come in to socialize at a potluck and then invite them to stay for workshop. Suggestion made that this might also be used for New Dancers who have dropped out of class.

It was also mentioned about caller rudeness and them being mean toward dancers. Ray P will share with CAMA members and Sheri C will report on dancer concerns at the next CAMA meeting.

Future meeting topic – There was interest in having a presentation regarding IRS Filings – who needs to file, 1099s, etc., general financial business practices. Representatives felt this would be beneficial, Sheri C will work on arranging for either the May or July meeting.

Next Meeting May 21, 2018 – Oakdale Grange

Announcements

- **Boots N Slippers** – May Anniversary Dance, May 20
- **Calaveras Twirlers** – no announcements
- **Oakdale Squares** – Parker Family Affair, June 9
- **Round Robins** – will be starting a new 2 Step class in May
- **Rocking W Rounders** – will be starting a new 2 step (Tuesdays) and Waltz (Thursday) in May, Easter Parade Dance, March 24, Ray Patterson and Vernetta Thompson; All Round Dance, April 14 – afternoon dance
- **Single Skirts N Flirts** – Spring Flower Dance, April 21, Bob Elling and Carolyn Wunder; Circus Time Dance, May 19, Laurence Johnstone and Steve Wey
- **Bunko**, April 13, always the second Friday of each month – helps support the Oakdale Grange
- **Turlock Steppin Pard** – Mad Hatter Party Dance, May 4, Ray and Sharon Patterson
- **Twain Harte Twirlers** – New Dancer Hoedown, April 15, MCs Ray Patterson and Carolyn Wunder with Callers and Cuers from the floor
- **5th Saturday** – Spring Fling – March 31
- **State Convention in Yuba City!** – April 20, 21 and 22, mark your registration with Central California Square Dance Association
- **Youth Dancer Scholarship Program** – scholarship program for our youth dancers

Why do we do what we do ... Friends, Fellowship, Fun, Dancing!

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Sheri Cummings, CCSDA President for Sue Farver, CCSDA Secretary