

**Central California Square Dance Association  
Regular Meeting  
May 21, 2018**

**Minutes**

**Call to Order**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call and Introduction of Guests**

- **Officers** - Sheri Cummings – President; Alice Ann Ewing – Vice President; Sue Farver – Secretary; Sharon Patterson – Treasurer; Publicity – vacant; Historian – absent; Insurance – vacant/absent; Ray Patterson – Parliamentarian & CAMA Representative; Sharon Patterson – Promenader Editor; Wing Ding - Vacant
- **Club Representatives** – All-Around Wunders – absent; Boots & Slippers – Clayton Jones; Calaveras Twirlers – Janis Nielsen ; Oakdale Squares – Robert Allmon; Rockin W Rounders – Ray Patterson; Single Skirts & Flirts – Pat Allmon; Turlock Steppin’ Pards – Judy Webber; Twain Harte Twirlers – Nadine Campbell
- **Guests** – Dennis Cummings – Turlock Steppin’ Pards; Rey Varela – Twain Harte Twirlers

**Minutes of Last Meeting** – Spelling correction of “signing” changed to “singing”. Moved by Nadine C. and seconded by Ray P. to accept minutes as corrected. Passed.

**Treasurers Report** - Approved as presented.

Beginning Balance as of 3/19/18	2,813.89
Income 5 <sup>th</sup> Saturday Dance 3/31	300.00
Expenses Rent	- 200.00
End Balance as of 5/21/18	2,913.89
Savings Beginning Balance	12,207.85
Interest March & April	.61
End Balance as of 5/21/18	12,208.16

**Promenader Treasurers Report** – Approved as presented

Income	214.00
Expenses	205.41
End Balance	2436.62

**Correspondence** - None

**Standing Committee Reports**

**President** – Reports from State Council and State Convention will be given under Old Business . We have been approached Mariposa Bootjack Stompers that there is a potential that they may be interested in rejoining CCSDA again. We would be willing to have them come back. We will answer any questions they have and will go up to a meeting with a membership committee. We have not heard back yet. Valley Association is not doing well. Their president, Kay Gonzales, has stepped down and no one has stepped up to replace her. There is a good possibility that they may be folding.

An idea that had been briefly brought up by them is for CCSDA and Valley to join together. We would then have a range from Twain Harte all the way down to Hanford and up into Oakhurst. The question is how we could effectively work together. Sheri C. stated that distance to meetings and scheduling dances would be the problem. She feels that a two-hour drive to attend meetings is too great a distance. Nadine C. asked how many clubs were in Valley Association. Sheri stated there are 5 clubs. Oakhurst Dancers, Woodstackers, Mariposa, Hanford and Royal Oaks Round Dancing. The round dance club is strong, but the square dance clubs are small and don't really travel to other clubs.

**Vice President** – Alice Ann E. has not received anything from the Stanislaus County Fair regarding tickets for caller and cuers and parking.

**Insurance** – No report.

**Parliamentarian** – No Report

**Historian** – Sheri C. received an e-mail from Joanne Fones. She has been busy taking pictures, and when they are not available to take pictures, Vicki Ellis has been helping out. At a Wing Ding meeting, the question had come up that with everything on Flickr, people in the photos are not identified as they are in the scrapbooks that are at the Grange. The concern is if Joanne and Dennis no longer take pictures, would someone transfer everything over. Judy W. questioned that nothing is being put in the scrapbook. Sheri C. is concerned that no one would go looking on a thumb drive to find something. There are no scrapbooks being kept at this time. Judy W. suggested that a select few should be printed out to commemorate party or anniversary dances and that Vicki E. has plenty of printed pictures that could be placed in a scrapbook. Flickr started because the scrapbooks are so big and cumbersome. Sheri C. stated she thinks the scrapbooks are split between the Grange and Merced Boots and Slippers. There was a discussion as to the location of the scrapbooks at the Grange. Rey Varela stated that here at the Grange, in the room with all the chairs, there is a locker with ten big albums in plastic bags.

**Promenader** – Sharon P. stated that no one has been added, but no one has been taken off for the last two months. Janis N. commented that one of their members sent her \$20 and subscription to the address that is on the back of the Promenader and that the post office returned it. Sharon P. stated that if it's just her name alone it will be returned. It has to state "Promenader" – the name on the PO box.

**CAMA Rep** – Ray P. stated that we have callers scheduled for the Stanislaus County Fair. We have a good 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday Dance scheduled with a special program being put on by Kip Garvey prior to the dance. Ben Goldberg has officially retired from calling. He hopes that at some point, he can come out to a dance, and whoever is calling will invite him to do one guest tip.

**Wing Ding** – This will be reported on later.

**Publicity** – No report.

**Old Business**

**Wing Ding** - Final cost for Wing Ding: Income was \$17,036.27 and expenses were \$17,107.70. Loss of \$71.46. The silent auction was very successful. Our expenses were very low, so the only thing to attribute to the \$71.46 loss was the lack of dancers. There were 278 ribbons sold. The weather was probably a factor, with people cancelling at the last minute. We always leave the next Wing Ding

\$4,500.00 in the bank. We need to replenish the \$71.43. It was moved by Nadine C. and seconded by Clayton J. that we replenish the Wing Ding fund by \$71.43. Motion passed.

The Wing Ding committee has met. Kathy Moreau has stepped down as chair and has not been replaced. Committee met and discussed how to move forward with the 2019 Wing Ding. Wing Ding will be run as a committee. Sheri C. had a list of all the responsibilities and a number of the members picked up those responsibilities. Callers and cuers are under contract. Still looking for someone to come forward to chair the 2019 Wing Ding as there could be some things that need to be done quickly and may fall through the cracks. The committee is not moving forward on a 2020 Wing Ding at this time. We must have a chairperson in place for the 2020 Wing Ding. Sheri C. asked clubs to ask members. The committee is hoping that by September, someone will step up to either chair or co-chair 2019 or become involved with the committee set-up to take over as 2020 chair. Going into early January 2019 will make it very difficult to secure callers and cuers without the structure to put on a festival. Sheri C. shared with the committee that this is our festival and we need people to step up and volunteer and give leadership. We have a strong festival. Our difficulty is not attendance, but that we only have 200 dancers in CCSDA to provide the leadership. If Wing Ding folds, it will be because we do not have someone to step up to a leadership roll on the committee.

We need to secure a sound contract for 2019. As Ben Goldberg will not be doing sound, we approached Scott Pierce to do the sound and we now have a contract with him for \$850.00 (same amount as we were paying Ben) plus two ribbons for him and his wife and two nights for RV parking. In the absence of a Wing Ding chairperson, the CCSDA president would sign the contract. Sheri C. wanted to bring this to the representatives for approval in signing the contract. The was moved by Ray P. and seconded by Nadine C. to authorize Sheri C. to sign the contract. Motion passed.

**Audit committee** – Judy W. now has a phone number to contact Sally Cole. She will contact her and have a report by next meeting.

**Bylaws committee** – A first reading of the bylaws will be at the July meeting.

**State Council meeting** - This was a very good meeting, although it took a long time to get there! The 2019 budget was approved. They are being very frugal and staying within their means. A Central and Southern vice president was elected. The Central VP is Joe Boyajian from Pismo Beach. He is our VP. The Southern VP is LePaul Schmidt.

State Convention had 718 dancers in attendance in Yuba City with a \$7,000.00 profit. There will be a Dancer Day check ready for us in September. No confirmation as to the amount of the checks. Remind club members to spell out CCSDA – “Central California Square Dance Association”. We will not get credit if it just says CCSDA because they won’t know if it’s Central California or Central Coast. They do not look at “city” to determine the association. Sheri and Dennis C. were appointed to the Budget and Finance committee. Sheri C. will continue on the Education committee. This committee is working on a “how to” dancers handbook. There is a current handbook on the web page that was written in the 1970s. The new handbook will be divided into chapters to make it more accessible. Topics will include how to be an officer, the history, dancer etiquette, clothing.

The Promotions meeting was held before the main meeting. Discussion included:

How some associations are doing 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays. Several comments made that they rotate responsibilities among the clubs. Use a central location, but each club would take a responsibility for a 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday.

There was a discussion about fee contracts - how some clubs pay for callers. There is the on-going issue that more callers are asking for a percentage contract. There was one interesting presentation from San Diego. They figure out what their base dancers are, for example, four squares plus expenses are the base. If the caller is popular and can bring in more than the base then a percentage of the door is paid. The base and expenses have to be hit first. If there were six squares, the caller would be entitled to a percentage of the two extra squares. The thought process being club would make more from the extra squares and the caller would have the extra incentive if he brought in more dancers. Ray P. asked how the callers were accepting this. Sheri C. stated that the callers were "all over the board". Sheri C. stated they sat in one meeting where callers were getting \$300-400.00 as their norm. Our norm is \$100.00. If you are a friend of someone, you might get them to call for a certain price. Everyone seemed to agree with the percentage contracts. Really work on what is the door. Sometimes you have a few dancers, like Dancers of the Year, CCSDA president, etc. that don't pay. Make sure the caller is on the same page of who is a "paid" dancer.

Other ideas were company sponsorships. There were some car dealer and corporations that had sponsored dances. Sheri C. stated she doesn't think we have looked into this in our area. Some of the items they are doing to keep afloat in their fundraising are the same things we are trying, like garage sales, home parties, etc. Some are having success with raffles that were outside of a particular dance, for example, at other clubs, selling tickets for a quilt. Heritage Dancers has a raffle for Disneyland tickets. There was an association that used a visitation incentive. If a dancer came to 10 dances, then their next dance was free. The association picked up the free dance. This could be a way to get dancers out more often. Another idea is a Pink Ribbon dance with a sizeable donation going to City of Hope. This past year \$5,000 or 6,000 in donations were made to City of Hope. Kay Gonzales's club does this. They just put out a bucket at their 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday dance.

Other topics – Independent dancers, what is the definition of a club and an active dancer. Some clubs are dues based and by-laws based, others are caller-cuers based, and some dance once and you're a member. Everyone is doing their own thing.

There was an excellent recording about "Time". The main point was that we have 86,400 seconds per day. What if we turned that into dollars and we had \$86,400.00 per day, what would you do with those dollars. This was telling us to watch our time because it's valuable, and we shouldn't fritter our time away.

State Convention 2019 in El Centro – There was a walk-through of their convention. It is a long way to drive. Sheri C. is hoping that there will be other CCSDA attendees. The convention moves back and forth between southern and northern California. El Centro had the most affordable halls in the southern California area This may be changing. There was a proposal for the 2021 location to be Palm Springs. He would need to guarantee 375 rooms at \$200.00 each. The price point for a convention here would be too high.

There is a new Webmaster for State. Look at the State Council website. It is called [squaredance.org](http://squaredance.org). Joe Dehn out of the Bay Area is Webmaster. He asked that all clubs check their web pages to make sure they are accurate.

BYOM – In the 2019 State Convention flyer, it states there will be a BYOM potluck. Bring Your Own Meat.

## **New Business**

**June 30 is the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday Dance.** The theme is “Firecracker Dance” and is casual dress. On the flyer it asks dancers to bring things that go with ice cream. CAMA is having Kip Garvey come in for a presentation at 4:45. Kip’s presentation looks like it is going to bring in many people that we would like to keep for the dance. If they go to restaurants for dinner, they might just go home after. Sheri C. asked what we would think if we did a hot dog dinner – hot dogs, chips and drinks – very simple. We would not charge but put out a donation bucket. We can accept donations for the hot dogs and buns!

Ray P. talked about the presentation. Kip Garvey is a master at getting new dancers and retaining them. The talk will be on new dancer recruitment and retention. It is going to be very well attended. He put it on the internet and he already has RSVPs from San Diego. He is also staying to be one of the callers at the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday dance. He is asking for RSVPs due to attendance. Call him with questions.

We will need club members to come and help, too.

**Leadership Training** – Harvest Hoedown, Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. The ABCs of Square Dancing – Administration, Bylaws Contracts and More. This is a great opportunity for officers or anyone who wants to learn more. Cost is \$10.00. 9AM-3PM with a light lunch. Presenters are LePaul and Sally Schmidt. Great opportunity to learn.

That same Friday there will be a Callers Bootcamp. \$25.00. Conducted by two very well known national callers.

**Caller Lab** just put out a new marketing manual. If your club is interested in Facebook, social media, flyers, how to build a marketing campaign for square dancing, it is very well written. Find the link on the Caller Lab website. Sheri C. sent everyone an e-mail on this.

**Fundraising ideas** – We are doing the July 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday dance hot dogs. Let’s look at how well received it is. A club might like to do a meal before a 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday dance as a fundraiser. We are not doing a New Years Eve dance, but if a club would like to do one, check with Pat Allmon to see if the Hall is available or if you have another location to do a NYE dance.

**2019 Dance Request** – The bylaws say September, but if your clubs are ready to start turning in your schedules, you can turn them in now. Twain Harte has turned in all their dances. If they are turned in by July or August, then they can be approved in September. There has been some interest in moving some of the non-Saturday dances to a Saturday. There may be some conflicts that will need to be worked out. It was asked how dates are assigned. Sheri C. stated that they work hard so dates work out. Sometimes there needs to be a trade-off with clubs for every-other year for a date. Three of four Saturdays are taken up by Singles, Round Robins and Rockin’-W Rounders. Second Saturdays are open. Calaveras Twirlers and Oakdale Squares pair up for second Saturdays. Turlock does not do Saturday. Twain Harte normally does a Sunday but is asking for a Saturday this year. Boots and Slippers is always Sunday afternoon. When a club turns in their dance schedule, the by-laws state that your anniversary dance, new dancer hoedown and a special dance are protected dances. We try not to schedule two anniversary dances on the same weekend. Judy W. suggested that if Calaveras holds dances on a Sunday afternoon there would be a better draw of people from the valley coming up on Sunday rather than Saturday night.

**Nomination Committee** - We need to have nominations brought to CCSDA in July for voting in September and installation in October. Staying on are: Alice Ann E. - VP, Sharon P. - Treasurer, and

Sue F. - Secretary. We need a president. The VP and president must be a past or present club president or a past or present CCSDA officer or representative. It cannot be a caller or a cuer. Sheri C. is proposing the eight representatives present at this meeting as the nomination committee. Please ask in your clubs if there is someone interested.

We also need an Insurance Chair person. Annette Brown will stay on as a co-chair. Janis N. will ask Carol McCuin. She does travel. Sheri stated if she is interested to set her up with a phone call with Annette. There is a period that is very busy with insurance then it slacks off.

We need a Publicity Chair. Sheri C. can't continue in this position. This person needs to maintain the Facebook page. She would be happy to set this person up as the administrator. Facebook has been easy.

**Callers and cuers** – Kip Garvey is doing an online callers school. Flyer will be sent by e-mail. Scot Byers is doing one at Golden State.

Sheri C. asked that we look at the “over-use” of some of our callers. Please consider other callers. Janis N. needs the list of callers Rob got for Calaveras’ four dances. Ray P. will ask at CAMA.

Sheri C. also asked that when scheduling and you have back-to-back dances, talk amongst yourselves to be sure callers are not the same. Give time between the big-name callers.

**Visitation incentive** will be tabled for tonight. Ask club members what would be an incentive to them.

**Other New Business** - Janis N. asked how the Dancers of the Year are chosen. Sheri C. stated that they will be chosen in September and that each club chooses a couple by their own criteria. A couples’ name is drawn out of a hat in September. Janis N. stated that she felt Dancers of the Year should be based on visitation – the dancers who travel the farthest and most often. Judy W. stated it was up to each club how they were chosen. Sheri C. stated some clubs struggle to find a couple to nominate and other clubs do it as an honor. CCSDA has always allowed it to be club choice. Often, it does fall into those who have visited the most. Most Dancers of Year do visit often. Ray P. commented that after the first year, you would be getting the same couple year after year. Sheri C. would like to see our association with full dance halls. Janis N. stated that mainstream only dancers are shy about coming to dances because of the callers. Suggestion to bring the mainstream dancers in your club along with you.

**Next meeting** will be 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in July. There will be a presentation from Chuck Strand, CPA discussing IRS filings and general business practices.

**Question about CCSDA meetings** – We always have our CCSDA meetings on Monday. Sheri C. asked if we could be thinking about options to our Monday meetings.

## **Announcements**

**Skirts and Flirts** – The club is having financial problems with concerns that they won't be able to make it through the rest of the year. There will be a huge yard sale with many donations with some collectables. The club needs dancers! If the club does well with the sale, they will try for another push for people. The yard sale will be June 1 and 2 at the Grange from 7AM to 2PM. Ray P. asked for a flyer to post on the internet.

June 8 – Friday Night Bunko

June 16 – Celebrating Dear Old Dad – Bob Elling calling and Vernetta Thompson cueing – desserts.

July 21 – Gold Bless the USA – Terry and Janet Passarino calling and cueing

**Boots and Slippers** – New president Jerry Orosco and wife, Barbara

**Round Robins** – June 2 7PM Ladybug Dance – Ray Patterson calling and Sharon Patterson and Steve Wey cueing

**Twain Harte Twirlers** - nothing

**Calaveras Twirlers** – May 29 - 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Party Time May 29th – Scot and Erin Byars calling and cueing.

Starting June 5<sup>th</sup> - Plus class workshop. Open ended time. \$5.00 per person.

**Oakdale Squares** – June 9 - Family Affair Party Dance – Parker Family – Casey and Ashley calling Sharon cueing. 7 PM for rounds 8PM for mainstream and plus.

**Turlock Steppin-Pards** - June 29 6PM Fundraiser Dinner – American legion hall.

**Rockin' W Rounders** - May 26 – Mexican Fiesta – Mexican food Vernetta T. cueing and Ray P. calling. Rounds 7PM Squares 8-10:30.

**Plumas Homegrown Americana Festival** – August 31-Sept. 1 – Plumas County Fairgrounds, Quincy, CA – Scot Byars and Lawrence Johnstone calling and Erin Byars cueing.

**Nationals** – Wiley is going, Bob is going.

**Next meeting – Monday, July 16 Oakdale Grange 7 PM**

Meeting adjourned 8:31 PM.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Sue Farver, CCSDA Secretary**