

Southwest District Meeting Minutes February 15, 2025

Call to Order: A meeting of the Southwest District of the Missouri Federation of Square 'N Round Dance was called to order by President Lee Gavitt at 3:15 p.m. on February 15, 2025, at The Marc, Mt. Vernon, Missouri.

Invocation: Given by Mark McCartney.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Lee Gavitt; recited by all attendees.

Roll Call: Taken by sign-in sheets and reported by Vicki Clithero, Secretary. There were 4 Executive Committee members present along with Presidents and Delegates from 4 clubs including: Three from Kountry Kuzins, 1 from Twirl-A-Rounds, 2 from Trail Blazers, and 2 from Western Twirlers. Meeting quorum was not achieved to hold an official meeting. Four guests signed in.

Treasurer's Report: Given by Linda Carlson, Treasurer. Copies of the financial report for the period of November 29, 2024, through February 15, 2025, were distributed. Beginning balance was \$6,263.26, representing the closeout amount from Ozark Bank and deposited with a new bank, Great Southern in Neosho, MO. Additional deposits included 9 club rebates from the State Federation totaling \$315.00, and interest of \$0.52 received upon closing past account. Disbursements included \$4,000 for a 6-month certificate of deposit, reimbursement for speaker machine and badges in the amount of \$121.56, and cash of \$100 for making change at the evening's DOIN'S dance. The ending balance was \$2,357.22. A copy of the report is included in the binder with the meeting minutes and will be presented for official approval in the May, 2025 meeting.

Minutes: Minutes of the November 9, 2024 meeting had been distributed within 2 weeks following that meeting by Karen Sullivan, Secretary, to Board members via e-mail and hard copies. An additional draft of the minutes was emailed to the same members on February 11, 2025. Hard copies were available at the meeting. One correction was made changing the number of Western Twirler delegates at the August 10, 2024 meeting from 1 to 2. The November, 2024 minutes will be presented for official approval in the May, 2025 meeting.

Federation Meeting Report: Given by Pam Gavitt. The January meeting of the Missouri State Federation of Square 'N Round Dance Inc. was held January 19, 2025, in Kansas City, MO. Carol Hershey from the **NW District** will continue to chair the Square Dancer of the Year committee. Nominating forms will be available in April on the federation web page. Nomination deadline is August 1, and all clubs are encouraged to make a nomination. **NE District** graduated 2 mainstream dancers and are hosting plus lessons on Thursdays. Brookfield's club has started classes with 6 women and 1 couple. The NE district will have a district dance with area callers on April 12 and host a meeting on April 13, 2025. **SW District** Kountry Kuzins is completing classes with about 8 new dancers. Trailblazers hosted a dance on February 2 and will host another on March 2, 2025. **Central District** will graduate 8 students, 7 of whom have joined the club. There is nothing to report for Duck N'Dive in Rolla. **St. Louis** Cathy Hall reported that 4 clubs are hosting lessons. They will graduate 10-15 new students. The District Dance Jamboree will be held on a single day, May 3, with afternoon and evening dances. There are not enough dancers in St. Louis to host plus lessons. A fellowship game night is planned for February.

Open Discussions

Lee thanked the outgoing and incoming district officers.

Lee led a discussion related to dates and times for district dances. The Saturday evening DOIN'S dance was scheduled to avoid Super Bowl Sunday, but has been held on Sundays in the past. Some dancers have voiced a preference for afternoon dances to avoid later night driving. In order to collect additional information from dance attendees, an informal poll has been included on the sign-in sheet for the DOIN'S dance. Results and options will be discussed at the May meeting.

Lee encouraged clubs to begin thinking about nominations for officers for next year.

Unfinished Business

Constitution/By-Laws Updates

In the November, 2024 meeting, Lee Gavitt presented a proposed change to the Constitution, Section 4. The proposed change, which was approved for second reading, allows expenditures of up to \$500 by the Treasurer without approval of the Board of Directors. Section 4 currently reads as: ". . . The Treasurer shall be authorized to issue the following checks without action by the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors: expenses for the Secretary, and expenses by other persons not to exceed \$75.00." The proposed addition is as follows: *"The Executive Board shall have the authority to approve routine expenditures not to exceed \$500. Any expenditures exceeding \$500 will require the additional approval of the Board of Directors."* Although there was not a quorum in this meeting for the official second reading and final vote, a brief discussion was held. The Executive Committee was described for clarification purposes as currently elected district officers and immediate past president. The Constitution/By-Laws changes will be presented for official second reading and final vote in the May, 2025 meeting.

New Business

Changes to Working Rules – Duties of Treasurer

Lee discussed the need for changes to the district's working rules related to the treasurer's duties. Historically, there have been routine expenditures for which there has not been an invoice or receipt. Caller and cuer fees are examples of common expenses that do not always have a clear paper trail. Proposed changes in working rules would protect the treasurer and create a clear audit trail. These proposed changes are italicized and incorporated into the existing language as follows:

6. OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

C. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall make a report at each meeting listing all receipts and disbursements during the period not previously reported. The President and Treasurer are the only members who may sign checks on the District checking account. The checks may be signed by only one person and need not be

signed by both parties. The outgoing President shall appoint an auditor to review the books for the preceding year. This report is to be presented at the *February* meeting. *Changing Officers: The Treasurer shall be prepared to transfer all banking account information to the new Treasurer. If feasible, the account(s) will be maintained at the same banking group. The new Treasurer will arrange for signature changes with the bank. If this is not feasible, the Treasurer shall come prepared to write a check to the new Treasurer on the reconciled bank account on the election date. All expenses incurred by officers in the carrying out of their duties shall be documented and submitted to the Treasurer for reimbursement from the District account. ALL expenses, not provided for in the Constitution/By-Laws, will be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval.*

Because of the lack of quorum to approve changes to the Constitution/By-Laws and Working Rules, these changes will be revisited in the May, 2025 meeting.

Grant for Square Dancing Lesson and Demonstration

Gaylynn Crosby requested a district grant in the amount of \$150. The grant would be used to pay Jay Wright to host a square dancing lesson and demonstration on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at the Church of Latter Day Saints in Ozark, MO. A range in ages of participants is anticipated to be from 11 years to adult ages. There would be no charge for participants. All interested persons are invited, whether or not they are members of the church where the session will be held. Angels will be needed to assist in the lesson and demonstration. The grant was approved unanimously by four Executive Committee members in attendance.

District and DOIN'S Dances

Lee discussed one traditional use of the district dance to encourage new students to mingle and dance to new callers. He suggested that clubs give consideration to reviving that mission. Crystle mentioned that the district and DOIN'S dances count for credit in the Travel Missouri program.

The District Festival will be held on May 17, 2025, at The Marc in Mt. Vernon, MO. The meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m.; meal will be served at 5:00 p.m.; and the dance will begin at 6:00 p.m. Susan McCartney is organizing the silent auction for the dance and encouraged clubs to consider donating themed baskets. She will not be able to attend the dance and needs some help on the actual night of the auction. Several people who are planning to attend volunteered to help. Square dance apparel will be accepted for donation to the Southwest District but will not be part of the silent auction. Shirley Winans is coordinating the meal. A master of ceremonies has not yet been identified. Invitations to callers and cuers have been sent, and thus far, Jay Wright and Linda Robinson have responded affirmatively.

State Festival

Gaylynn reported that an initial planning meeting was held in January with a good turnout. Volunteers are still needed, but things are progressing well. Next meeting is planned for March or April.

With no further announcements or discussion, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Clithero
Secretary

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, May 17, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at The Marc in Mt. Vernon, Missouri, prior to the District Dance that evening.

SWD/2025 Feb 15/DraftDistrictMtgMins