

Southwest District Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2024

Call to Order: The Southwest District of the Missouri Federation of Square 'N Round Dance held a meeting at The Marc, Mt. Vernon, Missouri, on May 18, 2024, and was called to order by President Lee Gavitt at 3:00 p.m.

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 Karen Sullivan, Secretary. There were 5 Executive Committee members present along with Presidents and Delegates from 7 clubs including: 3 from Kountry Kuzins, 1 from Mo-Kan Squares, 1 from Tanglefooters, 2 from Trail Blazers, 2 from Twirl-A-Rounds, 3 from Twirling Funtimers, 1 from Western Twirlers. A quorum was achieved to hold the meeting, and for voting on any Constitution/By-Laws changes. Guests sign-in includes 2 Mo-Kan Squares.

Minutes: Minutes of the February 11, 2024 meeting minutes had been distributed by Karen Sullivan, Secretary, to Board members within 2 weeks following that meeting via e-mail and hard copies. No corrections were noted. Anieta England made a motion to accept minutes as is. Linda Peacy seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Reported by Sharon Glenn, Treasurer. Copies of the financial report for the period of February 10, 2024 through May 17, 2024 were distributed. Beginning balance was \$1,884.45 with an ending balance of \$1,189.91. Income included Pioneer's dues, The Marc rental refund and the DOIN'S Dance proceeds, totaling \$393.00, and interest of \$0.46. Disbursements covered the DOIN'S ad for District Dance at \$50.00, dance proceeds to the DOIN's of \$278.00, Pioneer's dues to the State Federation of \$10.00, District Dance deposit of \$100.00, District Dance rent of \$250.00, and cash for the District Dance of \$400.00.

Lee Gavitt stated that the \$4,000.00 Certificate of Deposit should still be included in the Treasurer's Report total funds on hand as it is still the District's money. A short conversation on the topic of the CD was held but tabled until Unfinished Business. The Treasurer's Report was approved for audit.

Federation Meeting Report: Given by Pam Gavitt. The Missouri State Federation of Square 'N Round Dance was held April 21, 2024, in Macon, Missouri. The Southeast District will host

their District Dance on July 13 at the VFW building in Puxico followed by the next State Federation meeting on July 14. St. Louis hosted their 76th Annual Jamboree on May 4 and are working on their 2024 Fall Festival. The Northwest District Dance will be August 10 in Raytown and their Blast Dance is scheduled for August 31. Southwest District will hold their District Dance on May 18. Central District is not currently dancing. In Northeast District a WOW – Warsaw on the Weekend – dance in Warsaw on August 16 & 17; Macon and Moberly are currently doing workshops, no lessons. The Annual Campout Dance will be held at the Macon Fairgrounds on July 19 – 21, and the Route 36 Dance is scheduled for September 13 & 14. There are now QR codes on flyers on the Federation website so you can download to your phone. Graduating students may receive a free issue of the DOIN's but the clubs need to request them by submitting the form available on the website. Crystle Swager added that the request needs to be to Edythe Weber by Monday in order to receive the next issue.

Unfinished Business:

Constitution/By-Laws updates: Proposed changes read at the February meeting by Stan Plummer, Vice President, for Articles IX and XII with respect to improved wording of the requirements to meet a quorum, were presented and read again by Lee Gavitt. A short discussion on clarity was held before voting as it was questioned about the clubs that join for insurance only and do not attend or participate in voting. Those clubs' voting numbers are still counted in a quorum. Motion was made by Committee. Motion passed.

Certificate of Deposit update: In retrospect of the Certificate of Deposit purchase which took place prior to the February meeting, Lee Gavitt offered his understanding of the Constitution/By-Laws' wording with respect that a CD is not a "purchase" but only a transfer of funds. Tony Ahart presented Article VI, Section 4 of the Constitution/By-Laws stating that because a check was written from the treasury of the District, a "purchase" did occur and could not be handled by the Executive Committee alone. Discussion continued as to other issues with the CD purchase which will need to be corrected, including the correct EIN and name on the CD plus the correct signatures as stated in the Constitution/By-Laws.

A motion was made to have a CD and to make necessary changes. Discussion continued regarding the specific issues with the acquisition of the CD. The motion was seconded. Motion failed. An amendment to the motion to ride it out in present form until the term ends then correct it was seconded. The motion was further amended to state that \$4,000 be transferred into a Certificate of Deposit, let it sit as is in present form until the term ends, then make all necessary corrections. Motion passed as amended.

Treasurer's Audit: Lee Gavitt stated that an audit of the Southwest District's financial account has recently been completed by Rosa Davis, Missouri State Federation Treasurer, and found to be in order.

New Business:

Working Rules update: Tony Ahart, Committee Chairman, presented a document consisting of a 5 to 6 year process of compilation of changes to the Working Rules. There are no major changes within the Working Rules but this proposal will fix wording to be consistent to what the District actually does, and will allow the document to be retyped into Word as a formatted document by Karen Sullivan, Secretary. Motion made by Committee. Vote passes.

DOIN's Dance Report: Given by Stan Plummer, Chairman. The Southwest District hosted the 2024 DOIN's Dance on February 11, 2024 at The Marc in Mt. Vernon, Missouri. Door donations were \$336.00 plus \$42.00 from 50/50, totaling \$378.00. Rent for The Marc was \$100.00, 6 DOIN's subscriptions for the participating callers/cuers was \$90.00, which left a donation of \$188.00 to The Show-Me DOIN's publication from the Southwest District. 44 dancers from the District were in attendance representing Kountry Kuzins, Mo-Kan Squares, Pioneers, Tanglefooters, Trail Blazers, Twirl-A-Rounds, Twirling Funtimers and Western Twirlers. Jay Wright served as the MC followed by Cuers Carolyn Ahart and Marge Sherrill, and Callers Ken Jarmin, Roy Hestand and Kenton Sullivan. Stan thanked the District Officers and Board of Directors for their food donations, the Twirling Funtimers for set-up, the Trail Blazers for attending the door, and the Western Twirlers for clean-up.

Various February dates are being looked at for next year as it is noted in the Working Rules that the DOIN's Dance is to be in February . . . Specific date, time, and place of the dance can vary pending availability of facilities.

Future Hall Rentals: With respect to the 2025 DOIN's Dance and the District Dance, Lee Gavitt spoke on area facility rental charges: The Marc has increased their rate from \$150 to \$250 for a 10- hour day. Most area rentals are charging rent with a 3-hour minimum plus an hourly fee thereafter. Lee checked with the following facilities:

Northview Center in Springfield - \$225 with 3-hour minimum plus \$75/hr after = \$825;

Nixa School Gyms - \$150 with 3-hour minimum plus \$50/hr after = \$500;

Joplin Square Dance Center - \$10/hour *however* available only in the evening, not during the day for setup and meal

The Marc remains the cheapest facility by far, with the use of a commercial kitchen, and is more centrally located within the District's boundaries.

Upon the general consensus of the current Board of Directors attending, it was proposed to continue at The Marc depending upon the availability of the facility in February and on the third Saturday of May.

Open Discussions:

Lee Gavitt put forth for discussion to add \$100 as a raise to the amount to be paid to callers/cuers for their time and talents for the District Dance. As the dance is currently a \$10 donation at the door and the callers/cuers split one-half of the door donations after expenses, it was discussed to add \$100 of the District's one-half back to the callers/cuers. e.g. $\$500 / 2 = \$250 + \$100 = \350 to be split between the day's participating callers/cuers. The fewer dancers that attend directly impacts the callers/cuers.

It was voiced that all of the callers/cuers do agree in advance of the dance on the original price not knowing how it will be split, but noted that the fees have been variable in the past and it all depends upon the number of callers/cuers participating. It was stated there were 6 callers/cuers in 2023, and they each received \$54. It was also noted that the hope is to have more callers/cuers in the future so the Board of Directors should consider adding more funds in the future for them to split.

Next meeting: Lee Gavitt proposed to hold the next meeting in conjunction with a club dance. Conversation was held with respect to meeting dates and August dances. Those driving a distance voiced they would like to dance after the meeting while coming that far. Crystle Swager made a motion to hold the meeting on the morning of Kountry Kuzins' August 10 dance with the meeting location to be determined. Bill Thomas seconded. Motion passed.

Upcoming Dances:

Trail Blazers dance Sunday, May 19, with Don Boyer calling;
Western Twirlers will hold a benefit dance for CASA Kids on June 22;
Missouri State Federation Meeting: July 14, 2024 in Puxico, Missouri;
State Fair Dance in Sedalia: Wednesday, August 15, 2024;
WOW Dance in Warsaw: August 16 & 17, 2024;
Western Twirlers will reinstate their "Chigger Fest" to be held on September 28;
State Federation Dance in Sedalia: October 18 & 19, 2024

Other News:

It was suggested that the Board of Directors each stand when they speak so all in attendance may hear what is being said.

Carol Morris read the Thank You card she received from the family of Wilma Gundy in response to the sympathy card she had sent on behalf of the Southwest District.

Rosa Davis has street/yard signs promoting square dance lessons available for anyone to use. As Historian, Rosa is also collecting club pictures for district photo albums. You may send those by e-mail or mail to her. Please provide names of those in the photos.

Lee Gavitt solicits that club Presidents ask their members to volunteer to help with the DOIN's and District dances in the future.

A reminder was given that all district clubs are "open" clubs and all square dancers are welcome to attend whether they currently belong to a club or not.

With no other discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 4:24 p.m. by President Lee Gavitt.

Respectfully submitted by:

Karen Sullivan
Secretary

NEXT MEETING: August, 2024, with specific date, time and location to be announced.