

## **Southwest District Meeting Minutes**

### **May 17, 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 3:10 p.m. on May 17, 2025, at The Marc, Mt. Vernon, Missouri.

**Invocation:** Given by Catherine McLemore

**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 the Immediate Past President, one Past President, and Presidents and Delegates from 7 clubs including: Four from Kountry Kuzins, 2 from Mo-Kan Squares, 3 from Tanglefooters, 1 from Trail Blazers, 2 from Twirl-A-Rounds, 3 from Twirling Funtimers, and 2 from Western Twirlers. Meeting quorum was achieved to hold an official meeting, and for voting on any Constitution/By-Laws changes.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the November 9, 2024 meeting were distributed within 2 weeks following that meeting by Karen Sullivan, Secretary, to Board members via e-mail and hard copies. These minutes, with corrections, were also distributed by email to the same members on February 11, 2025. The minutes were also available in hard copy form at subsequent meetings. Because a quorum was not achieved at the February 15 meeting, the November, 2024 minutes were presented for official approval. Motion for approval was made by Bill Thomas and seconded by Gaylynn Crosby. The minutes were approved as presented.

Minutes of the February 15, 2025 meeting were distributed within 2 weeks following that meeting by Vicki Clithero, Secretary, to Board members via e-mail. These minutes, with corrections, were also distributed by email to the same members on February 27, March 29, and May 7 2025. Hard copies were available at the May 17 meeting. Motion for approval was made by Catherine McLemore and seconded by Bill Thomas. The minutes were approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Report:** Given by Linda Carlson, Treasurer. Copies of the financial report for the period of February 11, 2025, through May 15, 2025, were distributed. Beginning balance was \$2,357.22. A deposit of \$498.00 from the DOIN'S dance brought the account balance to \$2,855.22. Disbursements included \$35.00 rebates to each of 9 clubs, for a total of \$315.00; a Show Me DOIN'S donation of \$248.00; a cleaning deposit for the MARC of \$100.00, reimbursement to Karen Sullivan for ink and a USB drive of \$114.27; and payment of \$150.00 to Jay Wright for a demonstration dance in Ozark, Missouri. The MARC deposit is anticipated to be returned to the district. After total disbursements of \$927.27, the ending balance was \$1,927.95. In response to questions about the certificate of deposit held on behalf of the district at Great Southern Bank in Neosho, Linda noted that the current earned interest rate is 4.12%, with an annual percentage yield of 4.20% monthly, which is added back to the CD. The CD will mature on 6-20-25 and be renewed at that time. Linda has purchased a receipt book so that all disbursements can be recorded for auditing purposes. A motion to accept the report was made by Gene Holtgrewe and seconded by Crystle Swager. The report was approved as presented.

**State Federation Meeting Report:** Given by Pam Gavitt. The District Meeting of the Missouri State Federation of Square 'N Round Dance Inc. was held April 10, 2025. Carol Hershey from the **NW District** reported that they will host a plus dance at a time to be determined, most likely in August. **Central District** had nothing to report

in terms of lessons or dances. Cathy Hall from St. Louis reported that the district dance date as May 3, 2025. Wayne Plemo was the teacher for singles and doubles lessons and dance in late March. Lee Gavitt reported the **SW District** meeting and Hawaiian-themed dance on May 17, 2025. There are no ongoing lessons at this time. There was a good turnout for the demonstration dance in Ozark, Missouri, which was instructed and called by Jay Wright. It is hoped that this will increase new dancer interest in square dancing. Jay Wright will be hosting lessons in Springfield starting July 9. **SE District** is busy working on the state festival. Packages for the state dance will be going out to all presidents. Penny reported that the **NE District** dance was held on April 9, 2025, with 11 callers. There were 3 squares for plus lessons. The district is working on a Macon and Waverly dance as well as future dancing with themes for the year. Penny attributed the abundance of dances to healthy volunteer support to promote dancing in the area.

The Travel Missouri program has been discontinued because of lack of interest and participation. Anyone who has participated in the program should contact Debbie Moffat for dangles.

Per Catherine McLemore, almost 100 people have registered for the upcoming Missouri State Festival in Cape Girardeau. It is scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in October, which is the same weekend as the Arkansas State Festival.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Disussion about DOIN's Dance**

Extensive discussion was held about the DOIN's Dance. Previously, preferences for Saturday vs. Sunday and afternoon vs. evening were included in an informal survey at the February dance. Nineteen participants preferred Saturday afternoon, 8 participants preferred Saturday evening, and no participants preferred Sunday at any time. There was also discussion about whether the dance should be held in February or March because of weather concerns. Changing from a February to March date will require changes to the Constitution and Working Rules. Stan reported that he did informal polls at some of the local dances to ascertain preferences for a February or March date. Most who responded preferred a March date.

Continued discussion focused on the fact that the Southwest District is the only district to host a DOIN's fundraising dance, despite the fact that it is a statewide organization. Organizing and hosting the DOIN's dance is a considerable undertaking in both financial resources and volunteer help. Several ideas were shared, including relinquishing the DOIN's dance to the state and changing the focus to a new dancer's event to expose new students and graduates to multiple callers. Alternating the dance each year between Joplin and Springfield could potentially capture more dancers and save the \$250 rental fee for the MARC.

Linda clarified the net amount of money that was donated to DOIN's from the last event. Nearly \$500 was taken in, but DOIN's only received \$198 after the MARC rent was paid and DOIN's subscription costs were paid for two callers. The net amount included a private \$20 donation made to the treasurer for DOIN's.

The state hosts a DOIN's dance the Sunday after the state festival. Carol Morris was able to provide a historical account of how the Southwest District came to be the only district to host a second DOIN's dance, primarily because over a period of years, no other districts volunteered.

After extensive discussion, Catherine McLemore made a motion to eliminate the DOIN's dance as part of the Southwest District's agenda. Stan Plummer seconded, and the final vote tally was 10 in favor and 3 opposed. The motion carried. A second reading and final vote will be needed by special meeting or at the regular August meeting. If a special meeting is held, it could be held by Zoom or as a combination in-person and Zoom format. Lee and other state representatives will take this issue forward to the state meeting in July, asking that the state take over the responsibility for this aspect of fundraising for DOIN's.

An unresolved issue is whether a new dancer dance should replace the DOIN's dance, and if so, should it be held in February or March. Two readings of proposed changes to the Constitution and Working Rules will be required. A proposed structure for the new dance will be discussed in August so that the changes can be finalized by vote in November. All clubs are encouraged to discuss these changes and bring their ideas to the August meeting.

### **Carry-over Items from February**

#### **1. Constitution/By-Laws Updates**

##### **Expenditure of funds approved by the Executive Committee**

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."*

Because a quorum was not achieved in the February 2025 meeting, The Constitution/By-Laws changes were presented for official second reading and final vote in this May, 2025 meeting. Motion to accept these changes was made by Lee Gavitt, and the changes were approved.

#### **2. Changes to Working Rules – Duties of Treasurer**

In the November 2024 meeting, Lee introduced the need for changes to the district's working rules related to the treasurer's duties. The changes will ease the transition of duties from the previous treasurer to the new treasurer and facilitate the creation of an audit trail.

The 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.*

Motion for final approval of these changes to Working Rules was made by Catherine McLemore and seconded by Gene Holtgrewe. The changes were approved.

## **New Business**

### **New Officers' Nominations**

Lee and Stan will be stepping down after the November 2025 meeting. Vicki and Linda have agreed to serve another year. Nominations for officers should be given to Gaylynn Crosby by August. Additional nominations for officers will be taken from the floor at the November meeting, and elections will be held at that meeting.

### **Awards**

Square Dancer of the Year – Clubs are encouraged to submit nominations for the State Federation Square Dancer of the Year award. Forms are available on the federation website, and per the State Federation Standing Rules, deadline for nominations is August 1.

Ambassador of the Year – Per the District Working Rules, the past recipient of this award becomes the new chair of the committee for the subsequent year's award. Sharon Glenn is the most recent recipient of this award.

Twirl-A-Rounds were honored with the Longevity Award for 40 years of dancing.

## **Open Discussion**

### **Procedure for Grants**

There was some discussion about the procedure for requesting a grant from the District. Follow-up is needed to identify whether there is a required form and procedure.

With no further announcements or discussion, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Clithero  
Secretary

**NEXT MEETING: Saturday, August 23, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. at The Library Center on South Campbell in Springfield.**

SWD/2025 May 17 /DraftDistrictMtgMins