

RAF Meeting November 19, 2020

Zoom Meeting started @ 6:30

Attendees:

Jim Gotta – acting secretary, Whirl-A-Ways rep
Jeff & Debbie Blood – Presidents
Sue Sepkowski - Silver Squares, VP RAF
Dave Eno – Shirts & Skirts
Jamond Billyard - Dalton
Kris & Amy Aeckerle - Promotions
Rick & Donna LaDonna – Treasurers
Phil & Mary Martin – Copy Cats
Carol Ann Stahl – Grand Squares
Eileen Webster – Southern Tier Wheelers
Gil Porter
Warren Olson
Sharon & Chuck Meyer
Ray Tompkins
Linda & Glynn English – Cayuga Cut Ups
Peter Emmel – Village Squares

Meeting called at 6:35pm

Quorum – need 7 clubs & have that

Secretary's Report – Minutes from September 9

no changes proposed to minutes, Carol Ann motion, Rick second, all in favor

Treasurer's Report

Sep 9, balance \$16,997.52
\$120 in dues, \$200 DOR 2020 hall deposit refund
\$25 paid to USDA, Nov 19 balance \$17, 292.52

Committees

May 1, 2021 DOR – nothing – Jim mentioned have hall and staff on contract – cancel soon or have some event. Plan to discuss whether to cancel at Jan RAF meeting, consideration for NYC caller.

Insurance – Cayuga only club dancing. Will need to renew for 2021 dancing. Others sit tight. Gil asked, Carol agreed, virtual dancers would be considered self-insured. FLAC insurance has different carrier – policy runs Jul through Jun. USDA company raised rate, but we don't know how much, USDA eating difference for now. USDA annual policy coverage is Jan. to Dec.

CCR – no meetings, five callers involved in RTD task force

Promenader – December 1 issue in process. No revenue or expenses.

Peter requested clubs send in pictures of their activities of last several months

Promotions

have not held meeting since March
few conversations in and around returning to dance

Return to Dance Task Force-

Been busy, sub committees – safety, CCR, virtual square dancing
Safety information & process will be in Promenader
Safety measures for in-person dancing include advanced reservations, dancer questionnaires, ability for contact tracing, taking temperature
If dancer has fever not allowed in dance hall
\$49 average cost for IR thermometer

Rick asked about liability if someone gets COVID
Kris said an organization is not held liable

CCR – 5 callers on task force: Ron, Mike, Dave, Jim & Gil
CCR will be looking at Social Square Dancing (SSD) after in-person dancing resumes
Gil pointed out all callers call to level of current dancers

Virtual Dances

Peter indicated have had test events, planning on 3 dances on Fridays in Dec.
12/18 Holiday dance
Tomorrow night (11/20/20) testing virtual round dancing, 6 cuers to participate:
Eileen, Jim, Mark, Alice, Chuck & Lisa

Square Dances best if have 2 couples, also can do 1 couple or single with phantoms
Gil mentioned it takes a few weeks to get use to dancing with phantoms
Debbie pointed out audio quality depends upon internet providers of both dancers and callers

Debbie called most club presidents last week:

many already having Zoom sessions with members to stay in touch
Batavia and Waterwheels without caller and Batavia without location

Budget for virtual dances

proposing to give callers & cuers some compensation for virtual dances
assuming 1 hour for dances

Bloods proposed 2 different options to generate discussion- see attached proposals
It was questioned why multiple callers?

variety of caller styles, more fun experience for dancers, dancers like their own caller
Dave Eno pointed out more planning goes into virtual dance and it is easier
when you have multiple callers

Gil indicated set of 3 callers can make cohesive dance program

Carol agreed that should pay callers

Peter suggested tip jar –Pay Pal – they take monies – question on how much

Jim charged 9% (\$0.45 on \$5 tip) for recent events

Phil mentioned clubs can make contribution to RAF

Debbie mentioned RAF **cannot** accept donations for the callers per RAF bylaws

Eileen indicated can make blanket donation

Phil said callers should set up group for dancers to donate

Debbie pointed out the goal is to get the dancers back dancing before they find other activities. It should be RAF promotion to keep dancing alive until in person dancing can safely resume. Kris pointed out the Promotional Committee's \$2,000 Free Summer Dances budget was mostly intact and not used.

Both Carol Ann and Linda stated their club and several other clubs could not afford to contribute to the virtual dances at this time. There isn't the income.

Peter made motion to accept RAF funding option 2 providing for \$2,000 for Virtual Square & Round Dances from December 2020 to June 2021., Carol Ann second, all in favor

Carol asked if Friday only date, it was explained that Friday was picked for least conflict at this time. Originally it was thought Silver Squares and Copy Cats would be resuming in-person dancing, but that didn't happen. The 2021 dance dates haven't been planned yet.

Gil pushed to start planning for in person dancing once vaccine comes out General consensus was it will take a lot longer for dancers to return to in-person dancing, especially inside a facility. Anticipate outside dances when nicer weather returns.

Old business

Vote to approve changes to RAF Constitution & By-laws passed, 17 unanimous votes

RAF not-for-profit 501 c status

It has been discovered the RAF's 501 c 4 status was revoked in 2011 due to not filing the required annual returns.

Rick explained:

1986 EIN # invalid

2007 EIN # valid

The penalty for not filing returns is \$20 /day with a \$5,000 maximum

Bloods talked to 2 CPAs, one was a CPA/Lawyer

Is our EIN # valid?

yes, with IRS, but NYS doesn't recognize it. RAF is not valid corporation anymore. This makes every member of the Federation (each member within each club) liable if the Federation is sued.

Bloods have discussed two options

1. To file back missing tax returns (~2008 to 2019)

We have verified we do not have the necessary financial information for the Federation and Promenader to do this. This option includes a \$5000 IRS penalty

2. Recommendation by Lee Walter, CPA:

Create a new NYS Corporation – Requires a not-for -profit attorney to draw up the Article of Incorporation. Request a new EIN # and fill out the annual 990 forms. It would require a slightly different name for the Federation.

The CPA/Lawyer advised the Bloods to get an experienced not-for-profit lawyer. He stressed this is a specialized type of practice and you need it done correctly.

Kris asked if we changed name, would that impact insurance- general consensus was that didn't think it would. Jeff mentioned if we change our name & EIN # and don't resume dancing before July 1st, it might be worth considering FLAC for our clubs' insurance.

Jim made reference to a third option of not going for tax exemption – create the new EIN, but stay an informal association and pay any taxes. Jeff Blood indicated we would need legal guidance to consider the risks of operating as an unincorporated entity.

Gil made motion for \$5,000 for professional fees related to this 501c issue. After more discussion, Kris made motion for up to \$2500 to enable Bloods to get legal opinion on how to move forward on this. Phil made motion for \$4,000. Rick agreed with the motion for \$2,500 and mentioned the RAF By Laws have a provision to call special meeting to discuss one topic if needed. A special meeting could be called if more money is needed for professional fees. Rick seconded this \$2500 motion. All in favor

Debbie indicated USDA is holding virtual workshops that Club leadership maybe interested in:

Jan - Social media & newsletters

Feb – Promoting square dancing during the most challenging times

Presented by Mike Hogan, Marketing Executive of IHeart Radio

Debbie & Jeff heard his presentation at USDA convention in

Atlanta, GA in 2019 and he was excellent and they highly recommend it.

Mar – USDA educational material

Village Squares not planning on New Year's event

meeting adjourned 8:30pm

Next Meeting, Monday Jan 11, 2021 at 6:30pm