

## RAF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF 04/02/2020

**WELCOME/MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** 7:33 PM.

**ATTENDEES:** Due to Coronavirus CDC guidelines, we met via telecommunication.

**CALL-IN PARTICIPANTS (DIAL-IN NUMBER: 605-313-4441, ACCESS CODE: 347590):**

Amy Aeckerle, Kris Aeckerle, Debbie Blood, Jeff Blood, Mike Callahan, Sue Eddy, Peter Emmel, Jim Gotta, Lorraine Granath, Gary Granath, Jane Jones, Stu Jones, Donna LaDonna, Rick LaDonna, Phil LaRussa, Mary Martin, Sharon Meyer, Chuck Meyer, Warren Olson, Carol Ann Stahl **AGENDA REVIEW:** No changes were made to the agenda.

**QUORUM (Gary/Lorraine):** We have a quorum. Seven clubs represented.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Minutes from RAF meeting of February 19, 2020, were accepted by Sue Eddy, Debbie Blood seconded.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Total funds available 2/19/2020: \$17,640.54. Total funds available 4/2/20: \$17,440.54.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Dance-O-Rama (Jim):** The recommendation of the DOR committee is to cancel the May 2, 2020, DOR. Is there anyone that disagrees with that recommendation? No one opposed. DOR for 5/2/2020 is cancelled.

**Debbie:** At our DOR meeting this evening, we discussed setting up a special dance on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 2:00 pm-6:00 pm with no dinner. The Daphne-Norma Leadership Award will be presented, recognition will be given to the 2020 graduates, and we are hoping clubs will provide baskets to raffle. The Federation depends on the basket raffle as their primary fund raiser. Silver Squares, Village Squares, Grand Squares, and Copy Cats all support a basket raffle. We are looking for a venue with two halls for this event. We do not believe this date conflicts with any other club activities. **A letter will be going to club Presidents explaining DOR was cancelled, and we are trying to set up a special dance.** We will keep everyone updated.

**Jim to Peter:** Make note in Promenader that DOR is cancelled. Ask Sidney to place a tentative date of October 3, 2020, for a special RAF dance.

**Jim:** We are asking clubs to refund any money acquired for ribbons and dinners. Federation will not need to have the ribbons returned to us. We will not use them at the RAF October dance.

**Deb will call Otto Tomotto to cancel the dinner.**

**Jim to contact callers and cuers and the Perinton Recreation Center regarding cancellation of DOR. Jim to schedule callers and cuers for next year's DOR.**

**Deb to place a note on Facebook regarding DOR cancellation.**

We have 52 graduates for 2020. We have 20 dancers who are couples, and 32 singles.

Mike Callahan mentioned that the classes have not had a full 9 months of classes. (Jim G.) We would like to recognize the classes as graduated even though they are at different levels. They put in 8 months of effort. We hope to have them return in the fall.

Insurance (Carol Ann): Normally, once a class has graduated, insurance needs to be paid. The insurer gives dancers 9 months to complete their lessons and join a club. This year most classes have been on hold since approximately mid-March. The insurer has agreed to give 9 months coverage for this year's classes. Continued free coverage will need to be done on an individual club basis. If you decide to continue classes beyond May or June, you can still have free coverage for class members. You need to send Carol Ann the date of their first class and the date of their last class. This will establish how much of the 9 months you have used. Then give the date that you resume classes.

CCR (Jim G.): We have not been meeting. We have dancers at many different levels. Monitoring closures.

Mike Callahan: We talked about meeting in May or early summer. If we meet, we can work together to see what needs to be accomplished and how to accomplish it.

Promenader/Web Site (Peter): A "Breaking News" section is on page one. Cancellation of DOR 2020 will be posted on this page. There is a long list of cancellations in this section. The schedules are still present, but we ask that you refer to the Breaking News section for cancellations. Breaking News cancellations also go into the Facebook page for Square Dancing Rochester.

Promotions Committee (Amy and Kris): We spoke with Gary and Alice. Three free summer RAF dances are scheduled to be held at the Henrietta Fire Hall, all on Fridays: June 26, July 17, and August 7. Debbie and Jeff have the flier, and they will print them at home. We have received the Square Dance business cards. A business card and a flier will be placed in the graduate packets. The Promotions Committee has a supply of business cards to give as needed to those who request them. We discussed yard signs. South Paws quoted us \$12.00 per sign. We will also contact Build A Sign. A sign-up sheet was created for volunteers willing to participate in demos. These will be available at dances and classes. We are considering establishing a mentoring program for class members. We would like to use Copy Cats as a trial club in the fall. Mary Martin replied Copy Cats would love that opportunity. Assigned angels would check in with a student or couple and provide a personal touch to make sure they feel welcome and comfortable. We need a more thorough discussion on the topic of a Promenader page for new dancer, and the topic was tabled.

**Debbie will send a PDF summer-dance flier to Peter for the Promenader.** We were waiting for tonight's meeting to clarify the focus of the dances. They will remain 2-hour, free RAF dances.

**Debbie to send Jim a PDF summer-dance flier. Jim will forward it to Leon for Where's the Dance. Jim to copy-in Amy, Kris and Debbie.**

**Jim, Amy and Kris:** Promotions Committee is still within budget (including summer dances and business cards). **Jim and Tracy L.** have the bill for the business cards. **Need to get that to Rick and Donna for reimbursement.**

### **CURRENT BUSINESS:**

FALL BALL: Cancelled due to a conflict with Penn Yan Friendship Squares' Watkins Glen Weekend.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **OFFICERS TO BE VOTED ON THIS EVENING FOR 2020-2021:**

Presidents: Debbie and Jeff Blood

Vice Presidents: Ann Granger and Sue Sepkowski

Treasurer: Donna and Rick LaDonna

Secretary: Open

Promotion Coordinators: Amy and Kris Aeckerle

We have not been able to identify anyone for the Secretary position. Any nominations from the floor? None. Any volunteers from the floor? None. Jim offered to cover the position of Secretary temporarily. Peter offered to assist when Jim cannot attend.

Bylaws allow for a voice vote when there are no contentions: Any opposed? None. Any in favor? Unanimous.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW OFFICERS FOR 2020-2021!!!**

### **BYLAWS**

Bylaws updates were sent PDF: Are there any questions regarding the updated bylaws?

Debbie: RAF purpose mentions sharing via federation website, newsletter and affiliated club information such as schedules, fliers and news. Should we also include Facebook as we are trying to encourage Facebook. **Peter suggested we generalize that to social media. Jim will add social media to this section of bylaws. Jim will resend the bylaws with this one suggested change for a vote next month.**

**NEW NORMAL:** Many changes are expected to follow the current pandemic. How will these changes effect square dancing?

Social distancing will stay with us. We still have the basic need to interact with people. Square dancing is a social activity and has something for all ages. Three barriers: Get people interested in square dancing, teach it, and budget. Several squares are necessary to cover the cost of callers and halls. We need to find new ways to do things. Perhaps small groups and free spaces to dance. C1 and C2 clubs meet in homes. Do we need the caller to be present? Virtual caller? Zoom? Facebook? A callers' expenses include travel and equipment. We need to be thinking about what the new normal might be.

Mike C.: mentioned his daughter has over 100 employees. She called every employee individually to encourage them to return. We need to make personal calls to every dancer to make them feel welcome and encourage them to return. Divide club lists up into phone trees. Personal contact will accomplish more than an email or flier.

We may have to concentrate on rebuilding our clubs. People will be reluctant to touch hands. Perhaps have boxes of gloves at every dance. Some may want to leave square dancing due to health reasons. Some may have lost their confidence after a long hiatus and may not want return. Encourage new graduates to angel the new class. Try a no-hands tip.

OTHER TOPICS? Debbie: The draft of next year's meetings includes October 13<sup>th</sup> as one of the meetings. Debbie would like to change that date to October 6<sup>th</sup> to avoid the Autumn Leaves Festival. **Jim to update calendar for next year's RAF meetings.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 8:34 PM.

Next Meeting: May 12, 2020. Video or Telephone communication. **WATCH FOR EMAIL TO SEE HOW WE WILL CONNECT NEXT MONTH.**