

Albuquerque Square Dance Club, Inc.
A Non-Profit Corporation
Meeting of the Board of Directors
February 25, 2019

Members present: Gale Askren, Margaret Bolshazy, Jerry Gilbreath, Alice LaCelle, Lin Miller, Sheri Pastian, Lorraine Pratt, and Bob Stevens. **Absent:** Ben Allen. **Guest:** George Sewell.

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes: Jerry asked for any corrections re the “short” Minutes for the meeting **January 12th**, that is, for the brief **Board meeting** we had after the Annual membership meeting. Sheri thought the “short” minutes were “darling,” and although not everyone endorsed that evaluation the minutes were **unanimously approved**. Margaret arrived at this point, limping, and Lin said he and Margaret should have a race to see whose limp is worse. Jerry asked if there were any corrections or comments re the “long” **Minutes for the January 12th Annual Meeting**. The spelling of Gale's name has been corrected from “Gail” to “Gale.” The Annual Meeting Minutes were **unanimously approved**. Lin likes the shorter minutes, and Alice said all the minutes could be short if we had shorter meetings.

Treasurer's Report, Sheri: (copy attached)

Not much change since the last report presented in January. Sheri is still working on the **membership dues**, with some confusion re double payments. Sheri will compile a list of those who have not paid ASDC membership fees and give it to the various Clubs; they are good at collecting. **Property taxes** are due. We had **damage to the fence** on the west side, and Sheri wanted to thank Bob for his investigative skills. A truck driver named Samuel backed into the fence from the hotel side, and the hotel had a video recording, so Bob got Samuel's contact info and had Sheri email him to ask for his insurance info. Samuel said he would pay for the repairs himself without involving the insurance. Bob got an estimate, Sheri passed it on, and Samuel will bring the payment to the Hall this Wednesday. Bob said he got an estimate for \$1,600 from TriWest and then got a second estimate from JR & Sons for approximate \$600; quite a difference. Samuel was much happier with the second estimate and readily agreed to pay it. The **Wilde Bunch donated \$500** for a curtailment on the Parking Lot loan. Sheri asked Alice and Lorraine to convey thanks to the Wilde Bunch at the Monday and Tuesday WB dances. Sheri said she needs to **order plaques for deceased dancers Jean Maher and Melinda Wilson**. Sheri asked if there is **a dance honoring Jean and Melinda**, and Lorraine and Alice said yes, on March 30th, at a Clubhouse in Four Hills. Lin said he had not heard of it, and needed the flyer to promote the dance. Alice explained that it is a potluck and dance, but the venue is not large, so there won't be room for many squares. Sheri said she needs to talk to Dee Taylor and make sure to get the Round Dance **quer contract for the Spring Celebration**. Jerry asked if we have any money to spend, and Sheri said yes, but we can't spend it. **Treasurer's Report unanimously approved.**

Central District report, Gale:

CD met Feb 3. The **updated District Bylaws** are on the NMRSDA website. **Election of 2019 State Chairman and Vice Chairman:** Lynn Tillery was the only volunteer and was elected Chairman, with Tom Kelly remaining as Vice Chairman. **Life memberships** accepted for Bill Keeffe, Linda Jensen and Alvin Thrasher. There were good reports re a **new class at the Los Alamos Mountain Mixers**, with over 20 new dancers. We have heard that the class is doing great and progressing quickly. **Duke City's class is scheduled to graduate March 21**. All the Clubs have been invited to introduce themselves at the graduation. **The class will continue on Thursday nights at the Plus level**, starting in May. George Sewell stated that **Courtney Sewell will be taking a sabbatical** from calling her monthly dance after her High School graduation ceremony/lunch/dance on April 6th. She will be

focusing on college. She would be available to call if requested; she will be attending CNM here in town. We also need to discuss the upcoming **Spring Celebration** dance and who will be doing what.

Spring Celebration Dance: Jerry said this is Ben's report, but he is out. Jerry sent the Board members a reminder email that the dance is this weekend. **Dee Dee is staying with Jerry**, and Sheri thanked him for hosting. Jerry told his students they could attend the Saturday workshops, and they are a great class. Sheri will have money for change and will attend Friday and Saturday. Alice, Sheri, Lin, and Lorraine will be present for the Friday A dance. Most of us will be here Saturday afternoon and Saturday night. Alice is not coming Saturday evening due to leaving early Sunday for a trip, and Lorraine will have a conflict for the Saturday dances, but Jerry thinks we have plenty of coverage. Re the A dance, we don't get very good attendance, although Kris Jensen promotes the dance with the A dancers on Tuesday and Thursday. Alice said **we need to talk about getting a caller for the next Spring dance**, so we need to get Ben to work on that soon. It would be nice to get a caller known for A dancing so we might pull in more of the A dancers. Jerry said Dee Dee is a very capable A caller, but she "feeds off the floor." If the dancers aren't enthusiastic then she does not call with her usual high energy. We are hoping for better attendance this time, and Jerry said he would ask Dee Dee to see if she can rev it up. Sheri will bring cookies on Friday night, and Lin will put out a request for dancers to bring snacks for Saturday night. Sheri said we should come early to do set-up, and she will have sign-in sheets. Jerry said **Ben has some ideas for next year's Spring dance**, although Jerry doesn't know what they are. Jerry and Lin want to do **a full Spring Festival** next year, as discussed previously, because we might pull in out-of-town dancers and make some money. Lin said if we get an Arizona caller we will pull Arizona dancers. Lin said a festival does not have to be a lot of work for the Board. He has been on Festival committees many times, and knows how to make it work. Jerry said you bring in other people to share the work. Lin said the people on the committee need to be dancing, as ambassadors, so the point is to spread the work out so that everyone is dancing.

Contracts, Lorraine:

- Bob set the heat lower in the Halls, but **the Foyer is still set at 67, so it is too warm for the "hot" Wednesday round dancers** and they end up turning the heat down. Bob said the bathrooms are always too hot or too cold, and sometimes he closes the vents in the bathrooms to try and mitigate the problem. Sheri said poor Bob can't win. Bob will turn the foyer heat setting down.
- **Dee Taylor did not turn in her Hall keys** when she left the Board last month; she said they are "at her house someplace," so these are added to the Lost Key list. We have a total of 16 lost keys. We have plenty of spare keys, but Lin questioned whether we need to change the locks for security reasons. Bob said it has been many years since the locks were changed. Lorraine said there have been 15 keys missing for at least 4 years and we haven't had anyone steal anything except by breaking in. It looks like the missing keys are not a security problem because the people who have them did not keep them for nefarious purposes. Jerry doesn't think we have a security problem re the keys. We were missing a trash can, but that was just misplaced in a closet. Sheri volunteered to ask Dee for the keys when she asks her for the Spring dance contract.
- **We lost Courtney's Sewel's Jewels monthly square dance club**, so this frees up some 2019 Saturdays. Jerry wants Lorraine to send him the dates because he has callers contact him often asking for open dates. Lorraine said the ASDC.org calendar is up to date if anyone wants to look there for open dates.
- **One club dissolved and melded with Desert Dancers round dancers**; they dance on Wednesdays and some weekends, usually during the day.

- **New renter** for the next six months, social dance couple who are practicing for competition. They are flexible and take three hours on the weekend whenever one side or the other is open.
- **The calendar will be open for scheduling 2020 Special Dances effective today.**
- Sheri said she and Bob feel that the **outside (non-square dance) groups need to pay a little more.** USA and ADC have huge crowds. Jerry questioned whether they are observing fire code limits. Lorraine said yes, they shut the doors at 200. Such a large crowd is wear and tear on the floor, the air conditioning, the bathrooms, etc. We currently charge them \$250 a dance, and Sheri thinks we should go to \$300. Lin asked how long it has been at \$250, and Sheri said she would have to look it up, but it has been a long time. Lorraine said the contracts are already done for 2019, so it would have to be for 2020, which would give them plenty of notice. Lorraine doesn't talk contracts with ADC until August. Jerry asked what percent increase she is talking, and Margaret said it would be 20%. Jerry said we should give USA and ADC prior notice that we are planning a 20% increase before it is time for contracts. Lorraine said that she charges extra for set-up time whenever appropriate for outside groups. Alice said she talked to Ben after the last meeting re the **raising the ASDC dues.** Sheri said she will look the last time dues were increased. **George Sewell commented that we could let the square dancers know about increased costs** so they could understand the reason we need to increase dues. Lin said that is a good idea, show actual figures about how much costs have increased since the last time dues were increased. George said Bob could estimate upcoming maintenance costs so people could see figures for what it costs to maintain the Hall, and that these costs need to be amortized. There are major costs associated with the parking lot, lighting, carpet, plumbing, etc. Jerry said that gives us all a lot to think about and to work on.

Maintenance, Bob:

- **Parking Lot:** Fixed a parking block that had been run over, and turned the parking lot sign right side up. Someone loosened the screw and turned the sign upside down. **Bob plans to paint the edges of the curb at the entrances and the parking blocks** so people will be able to see them at night. Jerry said he will get Bob some reflective paint.
- Bob asked Lorraine to **tell USA Dance group not to put nails in the wall** – they put a sign up with a nail and made a hole in the wall. If they do it again Bob will throw out their sign. Lorraine said they claim they used an existing hole. Alice suggested sending out a general notice to the clubs not to use nails.
- Bob installed **six new flyer holders** (total) to give us more room for the many flyers on display.
- Bob painted one of the front walls in the large hall a light blue, and he wants to **paint the entire west side wall** above the paneling the same color. Alice and Sheri prefer white or off-white because they think the blue will darken the hall. Gale joked about using the ladies bathroom hot pink instead, which would probably get us many, many comments.
- Bob will **reset the thermostat clocks** (effecting when the heat comes on) for **daylight savings** time on Friday March 8th. The time change is actually on the 10th, but Bob will be out of town so he is resetting them early. He will change the wall clocks on Monday the 12th.
- Jerry reminded Bob that he had his handyman **fix the urinal in the men's room** after it overflowed; he installed a new pipe jingle. Lorraine had mopped up the men's room and contacted everyone on the Board to let them know about the problem. Jerry gave a technical explanation about how improper installation caused the leak. A1 Plumbing installed the urinal, so now they are off of our list for future plumbing issues. Sheri said she has not gotten the repair bill; Jerry said it will be coming. Alice thanked Lorraine for taking the initiative to mop up the mess – that could not have been fun.

Supplies, Margaret: Need someone to do supplies for March, April, and maybe May. Jerry asked if she will be doing another round the world trip two or three times, and she said no, she is having hip surgery. Sheri, Lin, and Alice volunteered to help with supplies.

Publicity, Lin: Gets frustrated when he doesn't know about events until the last minute, as with the March 30th Wilde Bunch memorial for Jean and Melinda. Alice said there was some hesitation about publicizing it because the venue is relatively small. It was only decided last week that we should mention it to Lin at the ASDC meeting. Lin pointed out that if he misses something it is because no one notified him. Sheri asked Lin to push the Spring Festival, and he said he would, and Jerry will also try to get his students and Duke City dancers to attend the Saturday dances.

Old Business:

Hearing Assist System: Per Jerry we have two hearing assist systems; both are old and dilapidated. Jerry and Alice have both researched possible replacement systems and both came up with the **Williams system** as the most likely to suit our needs. Jerry knows two national round dance callers who use the Williams system, and Alice corresponded with a hearing impaired dancer who uses the Williams equipment and likes it. Jerry said there is a base transmitter that plugs in to our sound equipment, and this is the most expensive piece. There are receivers and earpieces that each dancer carries. Alice had prices and pictures of the various Williams receivers and earpieces. Jerry thinks the dancers buy their own receivers and earpieces. Jerry said there are various computerized programs associated with the Williams unit that work with people's hearing aides. Margaret said the latest hearing aides connect to hearing assist systems automatically, when the wearer walks in the door. For people without the newest hearing aides, however, the receivers and earpieces would be necessary. The only person we know for sure that uses the old system is Jack, in the Wilde Bunch, and he struggles with it. Jerry has had dancers who tried to use them, but without success. We decided we would need **two of the base stations, one for each side**. We need to find out the price for the base stations. Alice has tried to contact the Williams company, but they don't have a phone number and they require you to send them your contact info, but then they haven't called or emailed back. We aren't sure how many people would use the new system, but there are at least a few locally, plus several more who come from other areas for our festivals. Alice pointed out that federal law requires all public buildings to have a hearing assist system. Are we a public building? Yes. Margaret asked if that means we have to let anyone come in who wants to, and Jerry said yes. Margaret was not happy about that. Lin said it would be a good advertisement for the Hall to say we have an up-to-date hearing assist system. Callers could announce the new system at dances to spread the word. Jerry and Alice will both do more research. Bob recommended ear pieces that hang on the ear rather than insert in the ear, to reduce the Ick factor. Jerry questioned whether we even need any receivers or earpieces. Alice, Sheri, and Margaret think we need at least a few. Sheri said Jack will never buy a receiver.

Dimmers for lights: Alice pointed out that Jerry told Richard Riger, at the Annual meeting, that we would discuss the possibility of getting dimmers for the lights; Richard considers the brightness a hazard to eye health. **Lorraine suggested that we consider installing dimmers instead of replacing the icicle lights**, since it would cost about \$1000 to replace them all. Gale said icicle lights are cheap, but Bob said there are 47 strings, and the cost adds up. Sheri and Gale asked who but Lorraine and Alice have any problem with the lights. Quite a few people have mentioned problems to Lorraine and Alice. The light intensity seems worse on the small side. Gale and Sheri said they have not heard anyone else complain about the lights. Alice pointed out that people complain to someone they think will sympathize, which would NOT be Sheri or Gale. Jerry said these LED's are dimable, but each has

to be wired individually, and if we had dimmers people would argue about the setting. Alice said there is no ideal solution, but there is a problem, and we should try to make it better. Sheri doubts it is an issue for anyone else, and Alice offered to get a list of the people who have complained. Jerry announced that no one would put their name on the list. Alice disagreed and said they would. Sheri asked if we could switch out some of the lights to lower Kelvin, and Alice said you cannot mix different levels of LED. We discussed disconnecting some of the lights, but Alice thinks dimmers are a better solution. Lorraine said some clubs use only one row of lights in an attempt to reduce the intensity. Jerry said we need more info than “some clubs.” Lorraine said FolkMads and the round dancers do this, and there are Wilde Bunch dancers who have complained. Margaret asked if anyone has asked an eye surgeon about LED's. Jerry said he gets regular injections at Eye Associates, and all of their lights are LED. Alice said some eye doctors have made statements about LED damage, and some have ignored the issue. Jerry said he will ask his doctor about LED's next time he has an injection. He pointed out that Smith's Grocery is replacing all their lights with LED's. Alice said this does not constitute a health recommendation. The use of LED's might be compared to past uses of asbestos, lead paint, and DDT. Gale thinks square dancers like bright lights. Alice said not all square dancers do. Scott Ampspoker pointed out that this is not an office building and should not be so bright. Jerry said it is also not a bar. Alice said that people should not be exposed to bright light at night, as it interferes with sleep patterns. Jerry said that would mean not using computers, tablets, and phones. Sheri said she can't use her computer at night. Alice said that bright lights also negatively affect people's immune systems. Jerry asked Bob to get estimates for adding dimmers, and Lorraine asked for a separate estimate for the small side. **George said the use of LED is driven by cost considerations**, to lower electric bills. Maybe we should consider dimmers as an option – **variable light setting could be a selling point**. Arguing about the medical issue is endless, but we should consider it from a business standpoint. Sheri thought dimmers would make no significant difference to clubs contracting the Hall. Jerry agreed we would get the estimates for dimmers and discuss it at the next meeting.

New Business:

Board members received an email (copy attached) from Rachel Coleman, who wishes to buy our ASDC.org website on behalf of a non-profit group, the American Society for Deaf Children. They are offering us \$5000. Ms Coleman said she raised the offer from \$2500 to \$5000. Gale asked how switching could be done; it would create confusion. Lorraine said we would have to come up with another website name that isn't already taken and ask Sol Lederman, who is our web administrator, if he is willing to do it. Alice asked Sol already, and he said it is no problem on his end. Sol felt Lorraine would have more work to do because she has set up many links to and from ASDC.org. Alice likes the idea of getting \$5000. Jerry said it isn't a money issue. Alice said Sheri just SAID that we need money, and Sheri said no, she just said don't SPEND money. Alice said if we GOT some money, we could SPEND it. Jerry said no, Sheri still wouldn't let us spend it. Sheri and Jerry think there are too many people who know us as ASDC.org, and if we change it there will be mass confusion. **We voted to decline the \$5000 offer for ASDC.org**, with Lorraine abstaining and Alice as the only dissenting vote.

Next meeting: Monday April 15th at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.