

Albuquerque Square Dance Club, Inc.
A Non-Profit Corporation
Meeting of the Board of Directors
July 14, 2021

Meeting conducted by computer application Zoom. Board Members present on Zoom: Ben Allen, Gale Askren, Margaret Bolshazy, Jerry Gilbreath, Alice LaCelle, Larada Horner-Miller, Lin Miller, Sheri Pastian, and Bob Stevens. Absent: None

Zoom meeting set up by Larada Horner-Miller. Meeting was **called to order by President Jerry Gilbreath at 7:00 pm.**

Minutes of the June 28 meeting unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report, Sheri: No printed report. **Checking account stands at about \$4,200** after bill for insurance paid (approximately \$2,700).

Jerry called the meeting to settle who will be eligible to vote at the August 14th Special and Annual Meetings. Sheri reported that there are people who did not pay their 2020 dues, but who did pay 2021 dues. Some did not pay because we weren't dancing. We still had the expenses of maintaining the building and paying taxes and insurance. Per Sheri, two people who signed the petitions did not pay their 2020 dues. Jerry asked for opinions regarding who should be allowed to vote in the meetings.

- **Bob said that every member for 2020 and 2021 should be able to vote on By-law changes** because these will have a major effect on the future of the club. We are talking about changing a document that has been in existence since 1978, which is a decision that should be made by as many members as possible. **In the Annual Meeting** for the election of officers, Bob feels that **only 2020 members** should be allowed to vote. (Note: All Lifetime members are automatically 2020 members.)
- **Gale doesn't think that the age of the By-laws is relevant; what matters is the people who were members at the time the By-law changes were proposed.** If we had not had the Pandemic, the Annual meeting for 2020 members would have been held in January, 2021, because the fiscal year ends February 1.
- **Jerry said that Life members are eligible to vote** whether they are current dancers or not. He asked how many Lifetime members we have at this time. Sheri did not have her records available, but Alice pulled up a list Sheri sent her earlier in the year and found **approximately 55 Lifetime members**. She noted that there are probably several who should be removed based on our inability to contact them, (returned letters, no forwarding address, no email, phone disconnected), but we still have a very significant number of Life members.
- **Larada thinks we will have a major problem if we have different voting privileges between the meetings** by saying 2021 members who were not also 2020 members can vote in the Special Meeting only.
- **Lin agrees with Larada that we should restrict voting for both meetings to Lifetime and 2020 members.**
- **Alice still feels that we should be inclusive and allow as much of the membership as possible to vote at both meetings– 2020, 2021, and Lifetime members.** The Pandemic and delay of the meetings created a special situation in which an argument can be made both ways, and we should err on the side of generosity. The Hall was closed most of 2020, and some people simply did not pay their dues because we were inactive. Money may well have been an issue for some, especially during the Pandemic. We can also make it easier to administer the meetings by not having to monitor which members should be allowed to vote in the different meetings.
- **Ben agrees with Alice.** Although there is a logical argument that only 2020 (and Lifetime) members should be able to vote in the Annual meeting, **we should not penalize people for not buying a membership during a year when we were not operating.** Not allowing those people to vote will create anger, frustration, and unnecessary disputes. We have an opportunity to move forward together as one group.
- **Sheri has been for limiting the meetings to 2020 members,** but thinks it may be impractical.
- **Larada thinks we as a Board need to stop being afraid of offending people** and make decisions based on logic. Logic dictates we include **only 2020 and Lifetime members.**
- **Lin changed his vote** and now agrees with Ben and Alice to **open the meeting to everyone** in order to avoid creating new divisions.
- **Jerry called for a final vote:** Will 2021 members who did not pay 2020 dues be eligible to vote at the August 14 meetings? Larada, Gale, Margaret, and Sheri are opposed. Bob, Lin, Alice, and Ben are in favor. Jerry is the tiebreaker. He sees both sides and thinks it is a difficult decision, but is voting in favor of allowing all 2020 and 2021 members to vote. **Split decision: All 2020 and 2021 members, as well as Lifetime members will be able to vote at**

both meetings. Jerry directed Alice to write a letter advising the membership of the decision.

Jerry: Plans for the August 14th meetings:

- Re the **Financial Review** to be presented at the Special Meeting: This could lead to endless discussion and augment, and Jerry plans to accept the report as presented without opening the floor for discussion. The Board needs time to review the results and prepare a response. Ben agreed that we need to study the report before we can decide what actions or responses are needed.
- Jerry will appoint a **Sergeant At Arms**, Karen Zakovec, to help keep control at the meetings. The last annual meeting was chaotic, with people speaking out of turn, and we don't want that to happen again. Karen is well versed on Roberts Rules of Order, and Jerry considers her a Parliamentarian who can also evaluate the wording of the petitions. Ben says we need a Sergeant at Arms to maintain order, but not to analyze the wording of the petitions. There was **unanimous agreement to appoint Karen Sergeant at Arms.**
- We will have to **keep order and move the meetings along** because the Hall is rented at 5:00 p.m., and we will have a major cleanup with all the tables and chairs so spread out.
- We will allow **10 minutes of discussion for each petition.** Ben suggested that the Chairman (Jerry) can be flexible and allow more or less time if needed. Larada feels that we need to enforce time limits.
- Gale asked if **members can withdraw their name after signing a petition.** Jerry said yes, and one member is doing so.
- **Sheri asked, if there is a vote to change the By-laws re eligibility for directors, would it take effect immediately?** This will need some research. Jerry thinks the By-law changes might have to be prepared by a committee with regard to proper language and then added to the By-laws before it would take effect.
- **Margaret asked if people who aren't current members can attend, and Jerry said yes, if they were members prior to 2020, they can attend but not vote.**
- Jerry said we have two new **candidates for the Board election: Lise Brooks and Karen Zakovec.**
- Alice had a question about the **petition for a run-off election.** The By-laws require a vote of the membership for changes to the By-laws, but not for other petitions. It will be up to the Board to decide if we allow a vote for a run-off election. Jerry said per Robert's Rules of Order, **once a director has been seated an election cannot be challenged, so there won't be a vote re a run-off election.**
 - Reference: <https://www.kidlink.org/docs/RobertRules/chap12.html>
 - "It is important to remember that once someone is elected, the election can't be rescinded unless there is some provision for it in the bylaws."

Other Business:

- **Larada** reports we have a **Tango group interested in renting** for the Saturday nights that are open.
- **FolkMADS** will be starting in August.
- Larada thinks our **rental prices** need updating. The price for the large hall is too close to the price for the small hall. None of our pricing is keeping up with inflation and is too low compared to similar venues.
- The **spotlights on the roof** are not working, and the lot is pretty dark. Jerry said the company that installed the lights is already working on it. Two globe lights in the parking lot are out. Bob is out of town, and will fix those as soon as he returns.

Meeting concluded at 8:22 p.m.