

SSDS Meeting Minutes

Sunday, June 6th, 2010, 3pm at Panera Bread Company, Cicero.

Attendance: Lydia Perez, Alice Chico, Deb Smith, Isaias Banegas, Steve Ryan, Maria Cirino, Keith Chow, MaryEllen Datta

1. Old Business

- Thursday dances at St. Clare Theater:
 - April 29th, May 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, June 3rd. In general we usually see an average of 40 people attending the weekly dance. The money doesn't always add up but that's not new. We are making the rent. People are buying water. April 29th was higher attendance, about 69 people.
 - Review of April 29th Maria, Andre lesson, Andre & Donnie deejayed Andy Watkins provided wine service. The lesson went a little long. They did a great job of teaching to all levels, finding something that everyone could do. Andre/Maria did not use the microphone. This was a treat to do this once in a while. The lesson was scheduled to be 45 minutes long, starting at 8:30pm. June 17th would have been the next guest instructor lesson event. We had planned to invite Antoinette, but she is teaching that day in Rochester. Our next guest instructor event will be August 26th, which is the Thursday before SummerHummer.
 - Set up/clean up/door volunteers/bottled water/snacks
 - Sound system/music/volunteer deejays
- Dance venues: Driver's village (Donna's studio), Pastimes, Ukrainian Home, Skybarn, Delavan, Syracuse City Schools
 - Donna O'Neal's studio "Puttin' On the Ritz" tentative rental agreement for SSDS to hold regular Thursday night lessons/dances: SSDS would pay flat fee of \$150 to Donna for 6pm – 11pm every Thursday. Donna has students and classes scheduled through the month of July. She thought that SSDS would not be using the studio until September because we have been taking August breaks. The mall doors close at 10pm, which means that anyone coming in after that time would need someone to go open the door for them. Staying a little past 11pm, is not a problem. Donna said there is one exit door that people should try to park near and she would explain. Using the existing sound system may be possible with some plug-ins for the cd-mixer.

- There is a small room which would ideal for teaching a beginner lesson
 - Donna has had over 100 people in there dancing for a Halloween party
 - We don't have the exact square-foot dimensions for Donna's studio. Donna's studio is larger than the space we used at KofC.
- Isaias and Mary Ellen spoke with the Pastimes manager, Cosimo (spelling?). Saturdays were greatly available. Thursdays were not reliably available. It's not worthwhile to consider Thursday's at that facility unless you are only interested in Summer time. They do have an air conditioner that does work but it needs to be turned on several hours before using the space. As time goes by, the coolness wanes. As soon as people start dancing, the coolness seems to fade away.
- Skybarn is not available for Summer. No answer from Delavan Art center/Bill Delavan. Rumors describe that Delavan Center will be split into several smaller art gallery spaces. Ukrainian home not available for Thursdays. Nothing to report about using City School spaces.
- Do we break for August? If we do not move to Donna's studio for Summer, we would take our normal August break.

2. Publicity

- Paper fans: 500 paper fans purchased from Advertising supply for \$234.08.
- tee shirts:
 - i. SSDS artwork needs to be in digital format. If people have ideas for new SSDS artwork, we would happily consider any new submissions.
 - ii. We need to decide to keep an inventory of t-shirts or give people permission to use our SSDS artwork for printing on their own t-shirts.
 - iii. Mary Ellen has files of past logos we've used. We cannot use the Kay Curtis artwork without permission.
- SSDS website
- e-mail list: some folks still having problems subscribing to SSDS email list. Not everyone comfortable using computers.
- Local newspapers: SSDS not always in the local listing, sometimes we make it in

- Business Cards, printed flyers: POBox listed on business cards is no longer being used. We'll correct that on our next print order. We still have some dance flyers for the St. Clare location.
- Other local dance events & classes: Our flyers are displayed at other local dance events & lessons, we thank those instructors.
- Facebook: 172 fans currently

3. Financial Report

- April 9-11th, 2010 weekend financial details still need to be finished.

4. Upcoming Events

- Felix teaching July 1st as guest instructor before weekly dance: Steve is away, Felix has accepted our invitation to be our guest instructor. We need to gather some details about the class(s) that he will be teaching to advertise this special day.
- 2010 Picnic Arrowhead Lodge Thursday, July 29th, 2010: Mary Giehl has a lot of supplies stored for SSDS. Deb also has some supplies left from the Holiday party. Mary Ellen will add this event to Facebook. Lydia will start a list for people to sign up during the Thursday dances. People liked the barn dance. The sound system will need to be transported. Thank you Can and Steve.
- Jennifer Lyons WCS workshop, Saturday, October 30th, 2010. Contract is signed. She does not mind staying at someone's home but would prefer no cats. She is expecting to teach private lessons, but not during the dance. We need to provide a location for private lessons and transportation to/from. Steve's house may be available. We will be working on the flyer, hopefully ready for printing when we meet again. Jennifer has not sent titles but she has agreed to teach four one-hour lessons. Turn technique might be one of the classes.
- Halloween Dance, Saturday, October 30th, 2010.

5. New Business, Other Business

- guest instructor for the June 17th Thursday, before Liberty swing event. We do not have a guest instructor, so this will be a regular Thursday night dance.
- Our next special guest instructor teaching Thursday night might be August 26th. Steve is not teaching in August, so this lesson schedule could start earlier than 8:30pm.

Next Meeting date, time, place: Sunday, July 18th, 2010, 3pm, Panera, Cicero.

Addendum:

There was discussion about check return policy after the close of the meeting. We may need to determine our policy and display this information on flyers for future dance weekends.

Mary Ellen spoke with Donna O'Neal about using the Puttin' On The Ritz studio starting July 1st. Donna has some students that are regularly coming on Thursday but she said we could probably use the studio that day (July 1st) if the lessons started at 7:30 instead of 6pm. Donna will be calling me back tomorrow, (Tuesday June 8th) to confirm this. July 8th would be the starting date if not July 1st. Donna is planning to speak to Steve about lesson times starting at 6pm. Our dance can run late, until 11:30 or a little longer, with no complaints from the other tenants. No alcohol, ever, no exceptions. Water and snacks are okay. Using the sound system; not sure since I've never personally seen it.

We do NOT take an August break. We're dancing at Puttin'On The Ritz starting either July 1st or July 8th and continuing forward until we grow old and cannot dance any more or until something catastrophic occurs.

Volunteers that want to dance in August, we would like some help with the usual like door duty, set up, clean up, deejay, etc. If someone has a vacation already scheduled, we wish you well, miss you, have fun, enjoy, we'll welcome you back with open arms and well worn dance shoes.

People who asked me for a copy of the bylaws:

<http://syrswingdance.org/bylaws-march04.htm>

<http://syrswingdance.org/bylaws-original.htm>