

**CHATTAHOOCHEE COUNTRY DANCERS
MINUTES OF 2/28/05 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

The February meeting was held at Morningside Baptist Church and began at 7:00 p.m. It was preceded by a cleanup session in the room used for storage of sound equipment. **Many thanks** to the room cleaners, headed up by Margie Cooper and including Harriette Bugel, Fern Garber, Linda Graves, Marti Goldring, Bill Porter, and Ann Robinson.

CCD Steering Committee members present: Harriette Bugel, Margie Cooper, Pam Eidson, Marti Goldring, Linda Graves, Bill Porter, Ann Robinson, Scott Russell and Emily Vorder Bruegge. Also present were: Adina Gordon, Lalah Manly, Roger McLain, Brian Schott, Bruce Tarnopolski, Seth Tepfer, and Darrell Webb.

UPDATE ON BUSINESS CONDUCTED SINCE LAST MEETING VIA EMAIL

Business conducted via the Steering Committee List Serve since the last meetings included Nightingale planning for June 17; Sound workshop planning for Feb. 26 (which was changed to Feb. 27); Lalah's update as Morningside liaison (including the possibility of a July 3 event that included the congregation of the church); communication from Rob Harper regarding the need for a recorded evaluation of a caller and timely sharing of feedback with the caller; continued discussion of the list serve regarding the decision made at the last steering committee meeting. Also, Bill Porter circulated a questionnaire to the steering committee regarding the Sunday dances; it was suggested that steering committee meeting be held at Morningside in order to clean up the storage room; and Ann Robinson sent out a reminder that we have community service obligations to the City of Decatur which we need to be discussing.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Revisiting Listserv. The decision made at the last meeting was revisited as people who initially supported the idea had second thoughts. The pros and cons of an additional listserv were summarized. The advantages would be that some people don't like all the extra emails and they drop out. If they were on an announcement-only list, they would not be lost altogether in terms of CCD dance announcements. And those on the current list serve would be more encouraged to participate in discussions if they didn't feel they were bothering people. The disadvantages described were that it is trouble to set up; trouble to maintain it; it will take some effort and will cause some duplication. One alternative to setting up this second list serve is to tell people how to monitor their own email in such a way that they feel less burdened by the existing list serve: such as accessing the digest form only. Margie Cooper pointed out that we do not really need a yahoo list serve – just one person with email addresses sending out simple CCD announcements is all that is needed (and she is willing to be that person – Thank you, Margie!). The list will not show everyone's address – they will all be bcc's.

2. Nightingale in Atlanta June 17. Christin Whittington has made headway in arranging a concert for Nightingale on Thursday night, June 16th. This enables the band to financially justify adding Atlanta to their travel itinerary when they go to Birmingham for City Stages. They will play the Friday night dance, June 17 for \$500. The caller has not yet been determined. Christin

Whittington stepped forward to arrange the concert. She has contacted media regarding advertisement; Oakhurst Baptist Church as the venue, and David Wolfe will do the sound. It was agreed that **Christin rocks** for having done so much good work on this project.

3. 2005 Dance Weekend.

A. Friday Night Band Selection.

First Choice: Avant Gardeners

Second Choice: Elftones

Third Choice: Smoke and Mirrors

Fourth Choice: a tie between Dead Sea Squirrels and Red Mountain White Trash

B. Workshops

Adina Gordon reported on a survey she took of what people have liked and not liked about the workshops at past CCD dance weekends. She got a lot of responses to her survey, and the list was long, quite varied, and very interesting. Several suggestions were made about how to organize the process. Seth suggested that at all times during the dance weekend, we could strive to have going on, at any point in time: no more than one form of set dance; one form of couple dance; and one form of non-dance activity. For instance, we would not have a contra dance going on at the same time as an English dance. Bruce Tarnopolski suggested that as a planning technique, we take each of the rooms we have available, and each of the time slots, as if on a large grid, and go about seeing which activity we would put in each room. He said we need to have this done by May, so that we can reserve whatever number of rooms we need. In addition to the five rooms at the Decatur Rec Center, other venues in town that have been used before include the Several Dancers Core and the Methodist Church. Also, we have an agreement with the City of Decatur and the Decatur Rec Center to provide several events over the course of the year, in exchange for reduced Rec Center rent. We could look at ways to make one or some of our dance weekend events public, so that these events would go towards fulfilling our obligations. This might also entail use of other venues in Decatur. It was suggested that all free events, if any, be at a separate venue from the Decatur Rec Center so that no one has to be checking to see who has paid or who doesn't need to pay, etc. Seth would like one of the free events to be a family dance open to the public. Volunteers for a workshop subcommittee included Roger McLain, Emily Vorder Bruegge, Adina Gordon, Kimberly Hagen, Bruce Tarnopolski and Margie Cooper.

4. Letter Agreement with Contra Quad: Hotpoint in December! A presentation was made for a Contra Quad dance the first weekend in December. Contra Quad gave the steering committee a letter agreement they had prepared along the same lines as previous agreements with CCD. The steering committee was agreeable to this proposal; Pam abstained from voting. Contra Quad would like to charge dancers \$10 for the Friday night dance and the steering committee agreed to this request. OK, it seems the secret is out: It's Hotpoint String Band!! More information to come later!!

5. Caller Application Process: One of the steering committee pointed out that although we have a procedure in place; we have had an outstanding request on the table for a while, to assign caller mentors and revisit giving callers half nights. The steering committee reaffirmed that

Friday nights are for seasoned callers; the steering committee does not feel it is its role to assign mentors directly; and that the half-night idea has been tried and abandoned.

6. Treasurer's Report: Income of \$2,559 Expenses of \$3,879.50. Some of the expenses related to the November dance weekend. More details will be provided next month after the treasurer has a chance to get together with the bookkeeper.

7. Button Machine: The Steering Committee OK'd the purchase of a \$349 button machine. Anyone who has used the old one in recent years agrees it is badly needed.

8. Floor at Morningside: Lalah reported that there are new gouges in the floor which greatly concern the church. The steering committee agreed that the shoe policies need to be revived. The callers need to say it every week, check your shoes. One suggestion made was: If people come in bad shoes, when teaching the beginners' class, the caller should say "you are welcome to take this class, watch the dance, come back and dance for free next time – but you can't dance in those shoes." Linda Graves will write a blurb to recruit a shoe monitor. She also shared some information from her research on gym floors.

It was suggested that, next time the floor is refinished, we should have a Decatur Community event while the floor is curing. The floor might need two consecutive Fridays without dancing, in order to cure properly. Lalah will ask Sandra about when the floor could next be refinished. When the floor is refinished, there will be no dance. We need to be sure to let Kimberly know not to book a dance when the floor is being refinished.

Update: For purposes of scheduling refinishing: subsequent response from Kimberly is: The next sets of consecutive Fridays that aren't booked at all yet are: July 8 - 15 (two Fridays) August 19-September 9 (four Fridays)

The only set of consecutive Fridays before the dates above that are booked but involve only local talent (therefore more easily cancelled without affecting tours and travel plans): May 6 - 13 (Fetchin' Cat and Cis Hinkle: Tim Cape and Friends and Scott Russell) (two Fridays).

9. Sound 101: Eight people came to "Sound 101", organized by Bill Porter and Tim Cape – two true CCD heroes. The workshop was on 2/27, conducted by Tim Cape. Attendees were Ann Robinson, Brian Baker, Christin Whittington, Rob Harper, Robert Kwasha, Sandi Goldring, Steve Boudreaux, and Bill Porter. Covered basics of sound reinforcement, sound characteristics of room and ways to control slapback and reverberation, effects of room acoustics on caller clarity and music, use of delay to produce more coherent sound, specific equipment we now have and operational characteristics. More instruction is planned for the future, possibly no sooner than June. Did not get to use band for mixing examples due to running short on time, but Tim explained what Kahle was doing as he set up and did sound check for Cross Town Traffic, playing for the family dance.

10. Cheap Purple T-Shirts. Old T-shirts from a dance weekend several years ago will be sold for \$3.00.

11. Scheduling the Next Six Meetings

In the future, steering committee meetings will be held on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 pm.

March 28

April 25

May 23

June 27

July 25

August 22

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Vorder Bruegge