

General Meeting Minutes

October 31, 2015

Fargo El Zagel Club

Roll was called for all the clubs:

Belles N' Beaux represented by Vernon & Rose Laning, Ray & Rose Hall and Gary & Diane Chepulis.

Circle Eight and Saturday Fun Night represented by Allen & Carol Currie

Circle Eight, Saturday Fun Night, and L&M Squares represented by Merrill & Norene Braaten
Prairie Promenaders represented by Roger & Margaret Haglund

Grand Forks Valley Stars represented by Wanda Huhtala
Rita Lizakowski

The meeting was called to order by President Vernon Laning and he introduced the new slate of officers for the year: Vernon & Rose Laning, President; Gary & Diane Chepulis, Vice President; Art & Judi Bakken, secretary; and Carlyle & Sally Hillstrom, treasurer.

Rose Laning read the General Meeting Minutes in the absence of the secretary.

Gary Chepulis read the Board of Directors Minutes. Under the License Coordinator's Report, it says the IRS (non-profit status) was paid 10/2014. Gary said that nothing was paid because filing is the only requirement. There was no money paid out.

Bernadette McNeil entered the room from the callers meeting upstairs and wanted to know if they need to have the Square Dance Board's approval for changes made to the April 2016 convention. Because of the Caller's Workshop scheduled for October 2016, do they need the Square Dance Board's approval to change the April Convention schedule to dance Friday night, Saturday afternoon and Saturday night rather than the one day dance as is scheduled now? They are actually turning it into a Caller's Workshop, but there is already a second Caller's Workshop in October 2016. Do they need board approval to make scheduling changes? We discussed the changes. Allen Currie suggested they get their bid in early to El Zagel for the extra day of dancing and moved to approve the changes. Carol Currie seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Roger Hoaglund would like different wording in the Convention 2015 report. He said the cloggers wore the wax off the floor at the Bismarck Senior Center, but they did not "ruin" the floor.

Diane Chepulis moved to add the correction and then approve both sets of minutes. Norene Braaten seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Gary read the treasurer's report from Carlyle & Sally Hillstrom. As of April 25, 2015, the beginning balance was \$2650.29.

Income: \$300.00 repayment of loan by the Belles N' Beaux Club; \$476.21 which was 25% of the State Convention profits; interest of \$.12; and \$40.00 from the L&M Squares for dues for a total income of \$816.33.

Expenses: \$300.00 to Ray Hall for the website; \$400.00 for the ND Callers Association grant; \$375.00 grant to Charley Huhtala for a callers workshop; \$100.00 to USDA for total expenses of \$1175.00.

This leaves a balance of \$2,291.62.

Rose Hall moved to accept the report. Merrill Braaten seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SW Directors: Vern Laning gave a brief report, stating the Belles N' Beaux had a summer driveway dance at the Chepulis home. They gave a dance demo during a break at the Saturday evening dance at the Mandan Eagles and got one interested party. They are presently having lessons at Dan's Supermarket in NE Bismarck and have five women and one man taking lessons. They also had a special dance on October 18, 2015 with Dick Rueter.

No other director's reports.

OLD BUSINESS: It was stated that the 2016 Square Dance Convention will be at El Zagal in Fargo on April 30, 2016.

NEW BUSINESS: Wanda Huhtala informed the group that Grand Forks has now formed a club and will be called the Valley Stars. Vern reminded her that they are not "officially" a club until they have paid their dues. They have insurance, and EIN number, and Sandy Sathre has talked to the Lake Agassiz School getting permission so the Valley Stars can host the 2017 Convention.

Vern asked for discussion in changing the constitution to simplify the state convention stating there are so many regulations and by-laws that load up the clubs. He would like to modify the constitution for a one day convention the last weekend of April. It may be easier to get clubs to host the convention if we only have a Saturday afternoon and Saturday evening dance, but these were just his suggestions.

Rita Lizakowski said the callers aren't doing ribbons but are doing dangles which lessens some of the workload.

Allen Currie had discussed with Mike McCleary about having dangles but no ribbons, so he was in agreement. However none of that is in the constitution – only the requirement of Friday and Saturday dances. Vern suggested modifying the constitution to reflect a one day convention and leave it up to the clubs how they would like to put their convention together thus downplaying the formalities and duties. We would still have to share profits 75-25% to support the state.

Carol Currie would still like to see the Saturday morning meeting. Vern agreed but said it should be up to the host clubs discretion as to the time of the meeting.

Vern mentioned bringing in a National Caller for the evening dance – which would also be a host club decision. Gary Chepulis and Carol Currie said state callers are supposed to do state conventions. By-law #9 says state callers will be on “staff”. The word “staff” will need to be defined and provide clarification.

Gary said any recommendations or changes to the constitution have to go out 30 days in advance of the April 30, 2016 Convention, thus any changes voted on at the convention would take effect June of 2016.

Ray Hall said if the officers write the changes and give him the information, he’ll post it on the web.

Rita thought the hosting club should decide whether they want a one or two day convention and moved to give the officers authority to write up the changes to the by-laws and constitution posting them on the web 30 days prior to the 2016 Spring Convention but also allow the Valley Stars to proceed with the 2017 Convention with the new proposals in mind.

Rose Hall moved to adjourn the meeting. Merrill Braaten seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Note: There was no national convention report given because neither delegates Greg & MaryAnn Morford nor alternates Mark & Bina Krebsbach could attend the meeting. Merrill and Norene Braaten also attended the national convention and said there were traffic problems and their bus got to the meeting late, so they missed the meeting.