2020 North Dakota Square and Round Dance Clubs, Inc.

Combined Board of Directors and General Membership Minutes

Meeting held by email

Comments by Nan Connelly, President: this is the first time in the history of the North Dakota Square and Round Dance Clubs that the annual meeting will be held by email. There may be a huge learning curve so please bear with us as we conduct necessary business.

I have accepted the resignation of Art & Judi Bakken as the Insurance Chair. Gene & Nikki Paulsen have volunteered to accept that position; therefore, I have appointed Gene & Nikki to replace Art & Judi.

I have asked Bernadette McNeil to act as secretary.

**Roll call:** Nan Connelly, President; Pat Connelly, Vice President, Norene Braaten, Secretary, Wanda Huhtala, Treasurer, Ed Stallman, Past President; Tim & Debbie Schroeder, Valley Stars; Donna Alby, Saturday Fun Nite; Ray & Alana Gerszweski, L & M Squares: Jim & Rita Lizakowski, Circle 8 Plus; Tim & Doretta Bornemann, Belles and Beaux; and Duane & Gayla Haberlock, Minot Magic Squares. All have been made aware that the meeting will be held by email.

**Minutes:** Motion by Norene Braaten, second by Donna Alby to accept the combined minutes/treasurer’s report from the 2019 annual meeting as sent out by email. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s report:** Motion by Donna, second by Schroeder to accept the treasurer’s report as sent by email. Motion carried.

**Presentation of bills:** one bill was presented for payment. FMSDA submitted a bill for reimbursement for costs that cannot be recouped from the 2020 ND Festival that had to be canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Motion by Schroeder, second by Haberlock to reimburse FMSDA. Motion carried. Acting secretary’s note: eight of the 11 voting board members recused themselves due to a conflict of interest.

 **Reports: Northeast District**-Tim Schroeder

Valley Stars Square Dance Organization - Grand Forks

The Valley Stars began 2020 with 19 members (up three from last year) and hold dances every Thursday evening (weather permitting) at Lake Agassiz Elementary School in Grand Forks during the school year. Charley Huhtala is still our caller, Ed Stallman is our president, Nan Connelly is vice-president, and Aileen Stallman is our secretary/treasurer.

We only had one student for one day at last years’ Spring Blast held March 30th & 31st, so we turned the weekend into a plus blast. Our Fall Blast was held last October 26 & 27, where five new students were able to attend, at least on Saturday.

Valley Stars dancers also participated in the Heart Dance and also at the Minnesota and Wisconsin State Dances. Several dancers attended a round dance blast on March 2nd, 2019; followed by a workshop on March 7th; and another workshop held September 14th. Special dances, where costumes and decorations were utilized, were held at Halloween (Oct. 31), Christmas (Dec. 19), and also on Valentines’ Day eve (Feb. 13, 2020.)

Valley Stars also hosted the 67th State Square & Round Dance Festival on April 26th & 27th. Many comments from guests attending expressed that they had a great time that weekend. One comment regarding the festival was it was the best festival in the past 10 years. It was also stated the callers in the past were good but Noah was the best by far. The food was good plus ice cream both nights and four different kinds!

We held our once-a-month summer dances at Parkwood in June & August, but traveled to Mayville to the Lindaas Barn for our July dance. Demos for 2019 were held at Walmart’s grand reopening and Parkwood in Grand Forks, and the Carnegie Library in Crookston. For 2020, we held a demo dance in Hillsboro on February 16th, and have one scheduled at Edgewood Vista in East Grand Forks on March 8th.

**Southeast District**-Denny Resendahl

L & M Squares, Inc., Fargo – Donna Alby, President

L & M Squares meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at the Cash Wise Community Room (1401 33 St S) in Fargo, ND. Currently, there are 27 members in the organization. The 2020 board of directors consist of Donna Alby, President; LuWayne Barnes, Vice President; Bernadette McNeil, Secretary/Treasurer; and Roger and Bernadette McNeil, advisors. An average of two squares participate in the Tuesday evening dances.The group participated in the square Dance for Heart event in Waubun, MN in March, 2020. The Northwest Region hosts the dance and the member clubs provide refreshments and prizes for the silent auction. Participants dance to callers from around the region and state. Over $2500 is usually raised in this event. (Secretary’s Note: This report was submitted before the Virtual 2020 Heart Dance was held.)

On October 8, 2019, the organization sponsored a fund-raising event for FM Breast Friends, a group dedicated to bring awareness about breast cancer and to raise funds to assist their members. Forty-one dancers and guest attended the event. L & M Squares raised $487 for the FM Breast Friends.

Charley Huhtala continues to call some of the tips at the regular Tuesday dances. He is honing his skills under the direction of veteran caller, Roger McNeil, who is the organization’s caller. Charley is the organization caller for Valley Stars from Grand Forks. Bernadette McNeil is the organization’s cuer. Members enjoyed dancing to two guest callers in 2019: Tom Manning and Tom Allen. Both have been re-booked for 2020.

Saturday Fun Nite, Fargo – Bernadette McNeil, Vice President

Saturday Fun NIte dances on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month during the academic year and excluding holiday weekends. The organization dances at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Fargo. The alternate location is either One Oak Place in Fargo or the Journey in Faith Church in West Fargo.

The club has guest callers and, if applicable, a guest cuer for each dance. The annual meeting is held late summer/early fall.

The organizations officers for 2020 are as follows:

 President: Harvey Hegvick, 219 2 Ave W # 6, West Fargo ND 58078 701-388-5147

Vice President: Bernadette McNeil, 421 21 Avenue North, Fargo ND 58102 701-293-6620 bernadette@rogermcneil.com

 Secretary/Treasurer: Donna Alby, 1709 25th Ave S Apt. 327, Fargo, ND 58103 701-212-0977

donnajeanalby@gmail.com

The organization is an affiliate of Square Dance Minnesota and therefore an official 501(c)3 organization with a letter designating such from the IRS. The organization is also a member of the North Dakota Square and Round Dance Council, Fargo-Moorhead Square Dancers Association and the Northwest Region.

Circle 8 Plus – Jim Lizakowski, President

Nothing going on. Closing the end of May.

**Northwest District** – Duane & Gayla Haberlock

Minot Magic Squares - Gayla & Duane Haberlock and Wayne & Dorothy Lamon - Officers

The Minot Magic Squares have 17 paid members.  We had two dances in September of 2019, and one ABC dance per month from October to December. (By an ABC Dance we mean a tip of new dancers followed by a tip of mainstream.)   In January, we started something different.  We had a “Come and Try Square Dance” and had four squares of new people.  Lots of these were the new dancers that had been coming in the fall plus some of their friends. In early February, two of the squares were able to attend a morning/afternoon session.  Later that month, we held a similar morning/afternoon session with others who couldn’t attend the earlier February session.  The afternoon session was a dance format with some experienced dancers joining in (3 squares).  In March, we had nine people polish off what they had been learning, graduate and a three-hour dance!  Due to the Corona virus, dances for April were cancelled. We are hoping to get back to dancing as soon as possible.

Thank you to all the Square Dance callers that have called for the Minot Club!  These include Larry Pfennig, Charley Huhtala, Roger McNeil, and Jim Lizakowski.  A big thank you to Larry Pfennig who gave the lessons for the new people. He did a fantastic job!

The Minot Magic Squares are in the progress of planning for your 2021 State and Round Dance Festival April 23-24th.  We have Hunter Keller calling and Bernadette McNeil cuing.

“Why not Minot?... It’ll be fun in 2021!”

Flyers are available on the North Dakota Square Dance web sight  [www.squaredancenorthdakota.com](http://www.squaredancenorthdakota.com). See you there!

**Southwest District** – Tim & Doretta Bornemann

Belle’s and Beaux Square Dance Club – Tim & Doretta Bornemann

The Belle’s and Beaux Square Dance Club continues to be the only active club in the Southwest Region. We have one main stream dance a month from September to December and April and May. They are held the second Saturday of the month. We have also implemented a Plus dance once a month during the same months, held on the 3rd Friday of the month. We had to cancel the one scheduled in March due to weather and not enough dancers. Due to the impact of snowbirds we didn’t schedule dances in January and February. At this time our Annual Meeting will be held in April.

Our dance venue is no longer at the Senior Center in Bismarck. We are now dancing at the Edgewood Vista, in north Bismarck. We are currently holding lessons for new dancers twice a month. Minot is also holding lessons once a month. The turnout is promising.  (At this time lessons have been suspended because of Covid-19 -- March 26,2020) On dance nights we have round dancing from 7:00-7:30, and square dancing (which includes mainstream and plus calls) from 7:30-9:30pm.

Larry Pfennig has moved back to the Bismarck area and at this time, is calling for the plus dances. This past year we have had the honor of dancing to callers such as Arnold Strebe, Roger & Bernadette McNeil, Jim & Rita Lizakowski, and Hunter Keller.  Jerry Junck made his annual visit and called for us in August.

As of the writing of this report we are in the midst of the Covid-19. We have suspended all dances at this time.

Current officers:

President: Tim and Doretta Bornemann

Vice President/Secretary Gary and Diane Chepulis

Treasurer: Greg and Maryann Morford

**Website** – Rosella Vanek - This report has been prepared April 4, 2020 - The website www.squaredancenorthdakota.com was created in August 2017. It is a website powered by Go Daddy and appears to be working well. By the number of visitors to the site, it appears to be used well. During the last 30 days there were 130 page views and 25 file downloads. During the last seven days, there were 44 page views and 15 file downloads. This number is most likely the result of all the changes that are occurring because of the current health crisis. It has been a good medium to get the word out as to what is happening in the square dance world of North Dakota. I have made numerous changes to the website the past month due to the Corona Virus pandemic that has caused cancellations throughout the square dancing community.

The domain name squaredancenorthdakota.com is set to auto renew July 29, 2020 and the go daddy website is set to renew August 28, 2020. The cost for the 2019 renewals were $18.17 for the domain name and $189.77 for the go daddy powered website. There could be an increase to these figures but I would think relatively small. If the board is satisfied with the current website, these renewals will take place as scheduled.

I have made changes and additions the past year as I have been asked, usually within a day or so of the request. I encourage all clubs to keep me informed of current dancing schedules, officers and officer information. I can and have published special event flyers as well. Requests can be made using my email: nodakrose2008@gmail.com

**License Coordinator** – Gary & Diane Chepulis – USDA - Annual dues of $ 25.00 paid September 4, 2019

IRS - Annual filing as a nonprofit registered October 21, 2019

ND Sec of State - Annual 2020 nonprofit corporation dues of $ 10.00 - Report filed and dues paid December 19,

 2019

**Historian** – Tammie Clemens – There is not much to report this year. The Facebook page is still active with 17 followers. When I can, I try and post the club schedules but haven’t been successful. Anyone can post on the page and add comments as they you like.

Square dancing history is important to me and it will always be a part of me. However, over the last few years I have had some difficulties that have prevented me from doing the kind of job that ND dancers deserve. It is with a heavy heart that I am submitting my resignation as ND Historian. I feel the position could be handled by someone with less obstacles than I am facing. I am happy to keep the documents and other miscellaneous items that I have been given, until a replacement is found. Thank you for understanding. I am hoping to get back to dancing again soon and look forward to seeing you across the square.

**Insurance Coordinator** – Gene & Nikki Paulsen - Two clubs participate in the Insurance Program in North Dakota. The Minot Magic Squares club has 17 paid members. The Bismarck Belles N Beaux have 17 paid members, plus two members who have their insurance premium paid by the USDA and four members who pay their insurance premiums through the Minot Magic Squares.

The premium for the 2020 year was raised by ten cents this year, to $4.85 per member. The minimum fee per club is $45.00. The returned forms and monies have been sent to Elizabeth Sanders, the USDA National Insurance Coordinator

**Old Business:**

1.NDSU request – Dorothy Lamon: I tried to contact Adam Lake to touch base with him regarding his request for historical square dancing info in ND. At that time, he was no longer working at NDSU. I then contacted the NDSU Regional Studies Department to contact him and/or the people he was working with. This project is still a work-in-progress.

2. 2020 ND Festival – Bernadette McNeil, Chair – Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fargo Moorhead Square Dancers Association was forced to cancel the 2020 ND Festival. There are no words to express the disappointment of the FMSDA dancers. All of the registered dancers were contacted by email or phone and were given options as to how to handle their 2020 registrations. All refunds were mailed within a day or two of the request for a refund. The registrations that were rolled over to the 2021 ND Festival were submitted to that committee in mid-April. A bill was submitted to the state board of directors for reimbursement of the sunk costs i.e. printing, ribbons, dangles. The dancers who purchased disposable items i.e. coffee grounds, hamburger, etc were going to personally absorb those costs.

**New Business:**

1. Constitution and By-Law proposed changes: Motion by Donna, second by Gerszewski to change the Constitution/By-Laws as follows:

 a. Under III. Duties of the Officers D) Secretary, change the words “Prairie Squares” to “Webmaster”

 b. Under VII. Publications A) remove the reference to Prairie Squares

 c. Under VII Publications, A) move F) to III Duties of Officers D) Secretary and change “Webmaster” to “Secretary”

Motion carried.

2. Election of district directors: All four of the district directors have volunteered to stay on one more year. They are:

Denny Resendahl, SE; Tim & Debbie Schroeder, NE; Duane & Gayla Haberlock, NW; and Tim & Doretta Bornemann, SW.

3. The Minot Magic Squares are in the process of planning for your 2021 State and Round Dance Festival April 23-24th.  We have Hunter Keller calling and Bernadette McNeil cuing. The theme is “Why not Minot?... It’ll be fun in 2021!”

2021 ND Festival Chairs — Wayne and Dorothy Lamon, 711 11th St. NW, Minot, ND 58703 wlamon25@yahoo.com

Secretary/ Treasurer — Kathy Miller. 1312 28th St. NW. Minot, ND. 58703       millere@srt.com

Registration — Gene and Nikki Paulsen, 823  th St. NE  Minot, ND 58703    epaulsen@srt.com

2021 Square and Round Dance State Board:

President— Duane Haberlock, 1517 10th St. SE, Minot, ND 58701 hlock@minot.com

               Vice President – Gayla Haberlock, 1517 10th St SE, Minot, ND 58701     hlock@minot.com

Secretary / Treasurer — Gene and Nikki Paulsen, 823 8th St. NE Minot, ND 58703        epaulsen@srt.com

Due to the pandemic, we’ve not been able to meet. Flyers are available on the North Dakota Square Dance web site  [www.squaredancenorthdakota.com](http://www.squaredancenorthdakota.com). See you there!

4. Bismarck Belles & Beaux are going to submit a bid for the 2022 ND Festival. Due to the stay-at-home orders, the club has not been able to meet.

5. USDA has announced that they are going to be submitting the paperwork to the IRS to include their member clubs/organizations under an umbrella is those clubs/organizations wish to join. There is a $100 initial charge with a $50 annual fee per club/organization. Information will be sent to members. This will affect Circle 8 Plus, Belles & Beaus and Minot Magic Squares. Saturday Fun Nite, L & M Squares, Valley Stars and FM Square Dancers are under the 501(c)3 umbrella of Square Dance Minnesota.

6. Other – a) Tammie Clemens has submitted her resignation effective immediately and a replacement/disbandment of the office is required. Tammie will contact Mark & Hella Helfter to transfer the historian information to the State Board. The State Board is requesting a volunteer for this position. Gary Chepulis has submitted his resignation effective Dec 31, 2020. A replacement for him is needed or the duties transferred to a different officer. Preference for a replacement is definitely preferable for future continuity.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Bernadette McNeil

Acting Secretary

April 26, 2020