

SMOKY MOUNTAIN SHAGGERS
Minutes of Quarterly Board Meeting
March 14, 2009

Location: Dance Dimensions, 8373 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN

Board Members Present: President Dave Mitchell, Vice President Janice Davis, Secretary Red Lawson, Treasurer Dianne Linam, and Past President Chuck Kryder

Dave called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Mike Kuhn moved to accept the proposed agenda for the meeting. Approved by show of hands.

Red Lawson read the **Secretary's report** from the February 9 Board meeting. Approved as read. Red also stated she had extra copies available, and the report will be forwarded to Rich Kopels to be posted on our website.

Dianne Linam handed out copies of the **Treasurer's Report**. As of February 28, 2009, the balance in our Regular account is \$5,795.92; the balance in our Boogie account is \$18,519.18. Approved as submitted.

Smoky Mountain Boogie XI (April 9-11, 2009)

Bill Linam reported that we have 225 tickets sold to date, with others continuing to dribble in. Approximately 16 states are represented. Chuck has received calls/e-mails from eight more people this week. Bill stated that we have approximately \$8,000 left over from last year and that we may have to use some of that for this year. Last year, however, between the tickets sold at the door and the 50/50, we took in approx. \$4,000, so he is hopeful that we will not have to.

David Shaw (owner of Duck's at North Myrtle Beach) has offered to support us with a donation of \$150 and a case of vodka. Karen Sparks asked when is the deadline for getting corporate sponsors and do we have a sponsor yet for the cups. The sooner the better, but we have no deadline in place at this time. Dave has a potential cup sponsor.

Charlie Basler asked how many tickets we needed to sell to break even. Bill replied about 300.

Chuck Kryder stated that numbers are down because SOS starts the following week in North Myrtle Beach. The current economy may also be a factor.

Donna McCaleb asked what percentage of our club members have purchased tickets. Bill responded that we have only sold 51 tickets to our current club members, less than 50%. Dave encouraged us all to be pro-active in inviting members and other guests.

Dave recently attended the ACSC spring workshop in Danville, Va., where he promoted our Boogie. We need to keep our members involved; all members should support our annual fund-raiser, and maintain a positive attitude.

Mike Kuhn asked if the dance floor will be sized in proportion to ticket sales. It was stated that we do have some flexibility.

Dave said that at the Danville workshop, he was told by some of the other ACSC members that our Club has a unique marketing advantage because we have a central theme (Easter). We also currently enjoy a park-and-party facility, which eliminates some possible liability issues.

Chuck reported that we do have an informal agreement with the Holiday Inn in Pigeon Forge. All the rooms have been newly renovated, and they do have enough rooms to accommodate us. Red asked how long did we have to make a decision. Chuck said probably only a few weeks, as they only have us penciled in at this point.

We will have an Easter-Egg Hunt again this year. Be sure to wear a hat! Karen Sparks asked if we already had the eggs. Dave reported that we do, but that we need some more prizes and asked members to be on the look-out for small items to donate. Re-gifting is acceptable!

The Easter Bunny and Shag-E Bear will be in attendance again this year.

Chuck Kryder will be in charge of Registration. Members were asked to sign up to help him and the other committee chairs before they leave tonight.

David Bunch asked what efforts had been made to promote the Boogie. Responses were:

- Spring SOS “Carefree Times”.
- 900+ e-mails (sent five times).
- WOKI (at their events at the Holiday Inn).
- At the ACSC workshop, Dave wore his orange blazer and gave away a prize of “Tennessee Encouragement.”

Dance Lessons

Dave asked for a report from our Dance Committee (Pat and Gerry Anders, Jim Corbitt, and Anita Key). Gerry reported they have some ongoing problems which cause frustration:

- People are sometimes impatient and want to learn it all in one lesson.
- Some people just don’t want to learn.
- Club members need to attend in support of the teachers and to be considerate of the teachers (don’t try to override/add to what is being taught).
- They would like two more volunteers to help teach.

- We also have people who come to the lessons who don't join. One idea that is being considered is to charge a small fee for the lesson, including the members. Gerry also stated that some people join but are no longer active. We, as a Club, should put forth an effort to keep in touch with these people.

The present teaching schedule is for Pat and Gerry to teach Beginner steps one month, while Jim and Anita teach Intermediate. Then the next month they rotate.

Dave thanked our Dance Committee for their dedication and hard work and said that we were very fortunate to have them. Dave also encouraged all of our members to be willing to help. He also stated that membership cards are available tonight and that they can also be used as nametags.

Sandra Barker suggested that we promote our Club by advertising that membership includes four weeks of free lessons. This idea is to be considered further.

Review of By-Laws

Bill Linam introduced the Committee (himself, Gerry Anders, Debbie Campbell, Jim Corbitt, Red Lawson, and Johnnie Vann). Some of the specific issues that they are working on and will be formally proposing (hopefully soon after the Boogie) in time to implement before our next election:

- The new by-laws will officially establish who "the Board" is. (In the past it has just been presumed to be the four current elected officers and the Past President).
- All issues related to members and membership will be grouped together. Just generally re-organizing the structure and formatting of the by-laws.
- New election procedures, which may or may not provide for absentee voting.

Where the Committee has differing viewpoints, those issues will be presented to the membership for vote. The major areas for concern are absentee ballots and whether the Past President should automatically be a member of the Board or whether they should be elected as a "Board Member At Large."

Dave stated that the general consensus from the ACSC is that the Past President should be on the Board. If, however, the Past President chooses not to serve, the Board will then have the authority to replace him/her.

Dave also informed the members that an alternative election procedure may want to be considered: The members would **elect** the Nominating Committee (approximately five people). (In the past this committee has been appointed by the Board). This Committee would then gather names of candidates for each position, explain the duties of the position they have been nominated for, and advise who else has been nominated for that position. After consideration of all candidates, and responses from each of them, the Committee will then present a slate of officers to the membership on one night for vote of approval. In the event that the Committee has not reached an agreement on one person

for any given slot, more than one person's name will be shown on the ballot. Hopefully, with this method, we will be able to totally eliminate the need for absentee ballots altogether.

Membership Committee

Jill Long passed out new membership directories.

J.R. Foster moved that the meeting close. Motion carried by show of hands.

Respectfully submitted,

Red Lawson, Secretary

Approved (via e-mail) as: _____read ___x__submitted