

San Diego's Finest City Squares  
 8 August 2021 Board Meeting  
 Location: Phil Unitt's back deck



**Meeting Minutes**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Larry Sopher, President	Robert Swee, SDSDA Representative
Al Ouellett, Vice President	Rebecca Abisdreis, Student Representative
Philip Unitt, Secretary	
Tami Allemão, Treasurer	
Ed Jackson, Co-Caller Coordinator	
Kay Jackson, Co-Caller Coordinator	
Randy Dake, Media Coordinator	

- I. Larry called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.
- II. Special report by caller Andy Allemao: Suggestions for next class. One of primary problems is that a class takes 9 months to 1 year. Attrition for so long a term is steep, while stalling more established dancers until they drop out. The net result is no growth. The solution is shorter classes—at least 2 per year, providing more entry points for new dancers. Finding balance between new and experienced. Fifty calls can serve as base for a varied dance program (“SSD,” social square dancing) appealing to a broad audience. Lacks only 9 calls from traditional mainstream list. We have two halls available at War Memorial Bldg., which allows for simultaneous dancing at SSD and higher levels. The solution is a second caller to make this possible. The various clubs prefer to have classes coordinated so that people who miss a week can have other opportunities. Other IAGSDC clubs have already instituted the 50-call list successfully. Other straight San Diego clubs are taking up this program; only two in Riverside are resisting. The more successful IAGSDC clubs had instituted shorter classes before the pandemic. Having dancers prepared to enjoy the convention is one of Andy’s main goals. The only down side is not providing sufficient dancing at the upper levels, but if we can exploit the second hall in the building we circumvent that problem. Andy reminds us to encourage the dancers to speak up when they are missing something.

- III. Treasurer report (Tami):
  - 1. Balance (checking account plus cash) at end of July \$11,166. We received \$200 from All Join Hands (\$100 matched from 2 individual donations). Sixteen new members for 2020-21, not including those whose memberships were extended.
  - 2. Kay moved, Randy seconded that the that treasurer's report be accepted; passed unanimously.
- IV. Kay moved, Randy seconded that the meetings for the June meeting be accepted; passed unanimously.
- V. SDSDA report (Robert): None in Robert's absence.
- VI. Student report: None in Rebecca's absence.
- VII. Old Business
  - 1. Very positive response from all dancers but one on our vaccine policy.
  - 2. Annual picnic in Balboa Park went well, about 16 attendees.
- VIII. New Business
  - 1. Question of availability of second hall in War Memorial Building: Ed requested it through SDSDA, to request room 3 through 2022. SDSDA makes the request to the park authorities. On 3 November 2021, the auditorium is not available, but we will have room 3.
  - 2. Question of availability of second caller: Ed talked to John Maris, who declined (but willing to substitute for Andy occasionally as needed). Steve Moore is not available either. Other possibilities are out there but are not yet ready to commit. The question of the fee a second caller would be paid is still outstanding.
  - 3. The new system of dual dancing at two levels would begin in January.
  - 4. Open house (1 hour, 6:30 to 7:30) to precede first week of class.
  - 5. Open house on 8 Sep 2021, first night of class 15 Sep. Open house and first night of class free, regular price of \$5/week subsequently. Mike Hogan recommended paying a lump some up front, but Kay says a previous attempt at this system got no response, so not worth trying again.
  - 6. Graduation to take place at the end of the ~12-week class. We should probably charge something for the badges rather than giving them out free as in the past.
  - 7. Advertising/outreach to community: gay newspaper, Next Door app, Meetup, flyers in bars. Also SDSDA website.
  - 8. Development of a planning/marketing committee. Jim Blair, Steve Heyl, and Bill Carrick expressed willingness to be on planning committee. Phil and Larry also volunteer to be on committee. Ed will poll prospective committee

members about a time and date to meet later in August. Phil offered his place for meeting. Committee can also discuss social activities.

9. Andy's birthday 21 September. A card presented the preceding Wednesday will suffice. Kay will pick up a card.
10. Anniversary dance Saturday 8 January, Andy will call. The question of a theme is still open. Probably will be in Recital Hall, but the question is still open. Our insurance specifies Recital Hall, but could be changed.
11. Elections should be held 17 November. Need to be announced at the three preceding dances.

Date for next board meeting: 3 October 2021, 3:00 PM, Phil's house.

Meeting adjourned, 5:38 PM.