

NECCA Minutes

March 6, 2022, Hosted by Rich

Attendance: Bob Butler, Kevin Bersing, Rich Tobin & Sandi Silva, Gloria Vivier, Dave Perrault, Ken Ritucci, Denise Carbonell, Dottie Welch, Wendy VanderMeulen, Joyce Kutz, Al Rouff, Johnny Wedge, Ray Moskewich, Matt McGovern, Al Rouff, Ron Baldwin

Pre-Meeting: Johnny Wedge Reported before the meeting due to prior commitments. All necessary **permanent clerk** financial filings submitted and up to date as of 3/6/22.

Meeting started at 10:07 AM EST.

Secretary Report: Minutes sent 3/5/22. **Ken Ritucci Motioned** to accept the minutes as e-mailed, **Dave Perrault 2nd.** Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report: - Johnny Wedge & Dave Perrault met and completed paperwork to change treasurer and 2nd authorized signature (Gloria Vivier), New Checks ordered. Joyce Kutz noted that the original treasurer report needed to be updated to show the new updated escrow money set aside for the updated caller school scholarships as voted in last meeting. Joyce Kutz reminded us that initial Treasurer's report needed updated caller school figures: New CallerSchool scholarships: 4 @ \$300 Each, Existing CallerLab scholarships: 3 @ \$250 Each. Updated figures thus are:
Opening Balance: \$10,242.19 Expenses: \$125 (CallerLab Dues), \$15 (new Checks).
Income: \$0, Set Aside for Scholarships: **CallerSchool:** \$1,200, **CallerLab Scholarship:** \$750
Working Capital on hand: \$8,152.19

Motion to accept updated report: Joyce, 2nd: Wendy, **Vote:** unanimous

Delegate Reports:

Connecticut Callers: Ken Ritucci: Getting up and running. Dues are due, Rebuilding treasury

Green Mountain: Ray Moskewich very quiet, some Zoom, cancelled snowflake ball

Narragansett: Bob Butler reports , no Mtg, no Report.

Northeast Callers: Mike Duso/Denis: no report.

Old Colony: Dave Perrault: OCCA still meeting monthly (Zoom). Alternating between business and educational meetings. Latest EDU: Recording Industry.

Springfield: Gloria Vivier: Lost caller: Jay Bickford

Tri-State: Joyce: Actively Meeting. yearly ball scheduled for 4th week in February (28th), Still looking for a hall (Concord Recreation center still not available), think it will be Manchester this year. Level will be Basic. Clubs having classes: Bradford (numbers?), Heel and Toe (11 new), Riverside (9 new) Squares.

Callerlab: Ken Ritucci Reports: Meetings currently by zoom. Mainstream being reviewed. Convention still on. Wendy VanderMeulen voted in on board of Governors. Dottie reports looking at Std & MS definitions. **Basic program** (as of 9/1/2021) **now includes** Reverse Wheel Around and Lead Left. The on-Line teaching resource has been updated through the Plus List.

Membership: Dave Perrault: Lost caller: Suptei Rodgers. Current: 63 active members - Updated Membership List will be sent out (March). Replies & Updates expected in April - expect to pass info on to Co-Op Directory Chair (Steve & Steph Dionne) for Co-Op Directory and Web site update

Education: (Jim Mayo) No Report - Ken Ritucci expressed interest in this position. Mentioned that Jim has held this for many years, and if he is looking for relief. . . .

Callerlab Scholarship: Dave Perrault: **Prior winners** of lottery include: **Wendy VanderMeulen, Ted Lizotte, Carolyn Horn**. . . Each have been rolled over from prior years due to COVID, and these awards may now be used for the 2022 convention (This spring). Proof of attendance should be sent to Dave Perrault to collect.

Eligible callers may submit paperwork for next drawing before Nov. 1 for the 2023 convention.

Education Scholarship: - Don Bachelder (not present): - Joyce reports that Phil Pierce received check for scholarship last November. No current information regarding current applicants.

SDFNE: No Report yet, but Jonny at this meeting.

Co-Op: Gloria Vivier: Emergency Meeting last week. Discussed 64th convention and concern regarding Profitability. Sandi reported on the issue of concern (Clarifying the Hotel event cancelation policy.) Like other events held at a hotel, they have a scaled penalty for canceling an event. As of last week the penalty for canceling would have been \$30 K without a qualifying reason. . . earlier it was said that COVID was a qualifying reason, but what was meant was "If Massachusetts limited number of dancers in a room" under certain reasonable numbers. But Massachusetts did not. . . as such, we would be subject to the full \$30 K. Because of the controversy, the 64th NESRDC officially asked for a letter of support from Co-Op due to the controversy on the convention's profit/Loss potential. (has been done and received - all is well.)

62nd, 63rd & 64th NESRDC: Matt/**Sandi:** Matt reports that as of 3/06/22, 31 callers have been scheduled to call in 5 halls including Basic, MS, Plus, Advance/Challenge and Round dance. Special programs will be in the MS hall. Also, a room is available for the NECCA Clinic

Current Massachusetts (and hotel) **mask restrictions** are as follows: For Vaccinated dancers, mask not required. For unvaccinated dancers, mask suggested.

65th, 66th NESRDC: Denise for **Mike Dusoe:** Steve Parks sent the equipment list (with known serial numbers) to mike, along with copy of loaner form. Mike has consulted with Walt Bull. A trailer is available at Hyannis for equipment transport. **Mike is ready to store the equipment at his home**. Rich mentioned problem of storing Hearing Assist in certain temperatures. . Bob suggested that **Rich** send an email out to future sound chair, regarding hearing assist issues.

Permanent Clerk: John Wedge. All necessary papers filed - no further report.

Old Business: IRS: Joyce wrote up the IRS report as promised and distributed. Dave says he got the report and this will be a project for him in the coming year, consulting with USDA and others knowledgeable square dance folk in regards to IRS. Gloria asks who updates the NECCA Site. Kevin answered, says consulting with Patty Green. Gloria organizing the NECCA Clinic, and is looking for ideas. Ken Suggested SSD, Rich suggested Ray on recruiting and retention, Bob suggests Kevin on recordings. Gloria suggested that insurance might also be a topic. (see insurance discussion). A discussion ensued on Caller involvement on recruiting and retention. Dave started a discussion on Equipment insurance, mentioned the need for an insurance rider when storing NECCA equipment at a home. But we need an estimate for replacement cost. Dave said he could do that, would need help from various sound chair. Joyce volunteered help on getting a general quote on rider, Ken suggested that CallerLab use to provide insurance. . Joyce knew of callers that tried CallerLab insurance, but basically thinks “no”.

New Business: Gloria on NECCA clinic: (Also see clinic discussion above), can schedule for Saturday morning at Convention, Gloria asks Sandi if flyer can be created. Kevin to create Flyer, send to Matt. Matt to create Caller packet. Sandi says Flyer should inform callers: Clinic Saturday morning 9 to 10AM of date, location, Clinic topics and BYOC (Coffee. Flyers S/B put in the “Caller packet”, BYOC (Coffee). **Matt** to include Clinic flyer, calling schedule, and program booklet in caller packet for scheduled callers. Flyers should also go out to unscheduled callers attending convention. **Ken** announces new 4 day caller School specifically aimed at teaching. Gloria Reminds all that Rich sent out copies of scholarship application, and that all NE callers are eligible to apply. Also: **NECCA Equipment available for loan** between conventions. . useful if your equipment is down for some reason. (Helps to test out Equipment throughout the year. Bob reminds us that Elections will be held at next meeting. Nomination committee does have candidates for NECCA Chair, Vice Chair,

Treasurer, and clerk looking for a new secretary in that secretary has expressed a wish to step down for now. . As always, anyone can volunteer for most positions.

- **Next Meeting also will be online via ZOOM Sunday June 5, 2022 at 10am,**
- **Following meeting yet to be announced but in November of 2022**

Motion was made to adjourn by Joyce, seconded by Sandi. Passed unanimously
Meeting ended at 11:39 A.M. . .

Rich apologizes for not being able to meet NECCA needs for secretary reports due to many things including a number of demands completely overwhelming my time, including health family and house issues. I do hope to continue assisting where I can, but I am seriously cutting back, and wish all well going forward. . I am not disappearing. . . But. . .

It does turn out that I may or may not be available for the June 5th Meeting. . . I will do my best to be here but hope that Kevin can be my alternate for the June Hosting of the meeting as well as taking minutes - I will be on the road during that time, but Sandi and I are hoping to be at a campsite that gives us a good connection so that I may host and record minutes, but the uncertainties mean I can not promise. . .

My future should be less frantic. . . Hopefully the cutbacks will allow me to deliver promises in a more timely manner. But I do need to work harder at calling and teaching issues for square dancing, while helping Hearing assist, my home caller association and my commitments to my current home town as well as my health and family. . Thank you for this great learning opportunity. . . and I am glad to see that NECCA has a good replacement available.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Tobin – Still current Secretary