**NECCA MEETING MINUTES**

**NOVEMBER 6, 2022**

**Meeting called to order by Chairman Kevin Bersing at 10AM.**

**Motion made by Bob Butler to accept the June meeting minutes, seconded by Rich Tobin. Motion passed.**

**Sandi Silva mentioned that her complete report on the Pandemic should be included for historical purposes. Sandi will send the report to Ken for NECCA records.**

**Chairman Bersing thanked past Chairman Bob Butler for his hard work leading the organization during the “pandemic years.”**

**Ken thanked Rich Tobin for recording the meeting because of Ken’s travel.**

**Treasurer’s Report-Dave reported that the current balances (as of November 6, 2022) are as follows:**

**Savings Account $8,713.94**

**Checking Account 536.13**

**Total $9,250.07**

**A transfer of $400 was made from Savings to Checking**

**INCOME: .88 Interest, $100.00 from 4 callers associations for dues (Old Colony, Tri State, Narragansett, Northeast Callers) A check from the 64th convention for $2,115.00**

**EXPENSES: A check (#155) to Ken Ritucci for $95.56 for a full zoom account, a check (#156) paid to Joyce Kutz for Callers School Scholarship for $300. Check #157 paid to Denise Carbonell for a caller’s school scholarship for $300.**

**Total Expenses: $695.56**

**NEW BALANCE: $9770.39 broken down as: SAVINGS-$9,429.82//CHECKING-$340.57**

**Three associations still owe dues (SACA, CT Callers & Green Mt Callers)**

**It was noted that there are no CALLERLAB Scholarships that need to be paid.**

**Motion made to accept the treasurer’s report made by Rich Tobin and seconded by Bob Butler. Motion passed.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **Connecticut Callers-Had a successful dance (Halloween Howl) Sunday October 30th in conjunction with Springfield Area Callers (SACA) and the Ct Dancers Association. About 8-9 squares, Callers and Cuers from Ct/Western MA volunteered their time. The dance program was Mainstream and Plus with Rounds.**
2. **Green Mountain Association-NO REPORT**
3. **Narragansett Callers-NO REPORT**
4. **Old Colony Callers-Last meeting was an education meeting pertaining to callers’ judgment. Various discussion regarding what to call at an open floor. Old Colony recently had a Sight Calling Seminar led by Charlie Trapp as well as Bob Butler and Steve Park. It was well attended with 11 callers.**
5. **Northeast Callers-NO REPORT**
6. **Tri State Callers-Recently had a meeting, they have some new associate members and they are in the process of organizing their annual Winter Ball.**
7. **Springfield Area Callers (SACA)-Gloria reported on the “Halloween Howl” joint dance. The energy was very high, many dancers were in costume. Another joint dance will be held in February. SACA is looking for a list of the NECCA Specialists.**

**CALLERLAB- Ken reported that the annual convention will be held next April 24-26, 2023 in Reno Nevada. All committees seem to be very active; Reno is a popular site for the convention and there is hope some New Englanders will attend. Small discussion concerning SSD and what is happening out in the square dance world. There might be some confusion as to what calls are on the SSD list VS the Mainstream list. It was concluded that there is not many calls that are separate from the two. Rich Tobin indicated Gate City is using the SSD Program.**

**MEMBERSHIP- Dave Perrault indicated there are 69 callers from 7 callers associations. A complete list has been sent to Mike Dusoe for eligible callers to call at the convention. Mike questioned about one caller (Paul Cote) from Tri State who is eligible but was not on Dave’s list. This caller will be added and the list will be updated. Discussion centered around whether he was formally voted in as a member. Al Rouff mentioned that Paul’s membership was approved at the recent Tri State Callers Meeting.**

**EDUCATION- Sarah Mager asked if she can join the meeting to discuss the Connecticut Dancers recruiting process and how it is working for them. (Sarah did not make the meeting)**

**SCHOLARSHIP-Don Bachelder indicated two applications were accepted and they attended the Northeast Callers School.**

**CALLERLAB SCHOLARSHIP-Johnny Wedge said he will send out an email to those who might be interested in being considered for the scholarship. Johnny will be looking for three $250.00 scholarships from NECCA for this coming year. (Will be discussed in new business)**

**SQUARE DANCE FOUNDATION-They currently do not have a treasurer, if anyone is interested, please contact Johnny Wedge**

**CO-OP-There is a meeting later in the day (November 6th)**

**64th NESRDC-Last report for Hyannis, the $4,000 was paid back to CO-OP. The surplus money from the convention was divided up to the organizations. The BMI/ASCAP bill was not received, so, but in the event a bill is sent, all the organizations will be notified to contribute towards the bill. Each association (NECCA, NECORTA AND CO-OP) each received a check for $1,115.00. Once the checks are cleared, the bank account will be closed out.**

**66th NESRDC-Mike Dusoe reported that the Kick Off Dance is scheduled for November 20th in Old Orchard Beach. Registrations are coming in. Mike is working on getting caller registration forms out so scheduling can begin. Rich Tobin indicated he has purchased three “ear speakers” totally 16 now and he will get them to Mike Dusoe. Dave Perrault indicated that the MA 220 that had some issue, was used by Bob Butler and it seems to have issues. Dave will check about the warranty repair of the machine. Discussion centered on where to get the machine fixed. It was mentioned that someone from Western Mass can possibly fix it as they have worked on Hiltons in the past.**

**Chairman Kevin Bersing had to leave the meeting so Bob Butler took over the meeting.**

**Permanent Clerk-Johnny Wedge indicated he filed some corporate documents to the Secretary of State in Massachusetts.**

**Chairman Bersing rejoined the meeting**

**OLD BUSINESS- Bob Butler discussed the broken MA-220, can we send it to the Western Mass (Agawam) person, or first find out if the machine is in fact under warranty? The serial # needs to be determined. It was decided to ship it to the individual in Western Mass. Bob will work with Don to get it to the individual. Motion made by Gloria Vivier to have it sent to Western Mass, Rich Tobin seconded. Motion passed.**

**NEW BUSINESS-Don Bachelder-Scholarship registration form was sent out to the Executive Committee. Don discussed the criteria and changes are being made. One issue was “$250.00 guaranteed.” Depending on the balance of the treasury, he has the jurisdiction to decide between 250/300/scholarship. Don is asking to make these changes on the application. Don indicated he has been working as Scholarship Chairman since 1994 and gave a brief history of the committee. Don is asking the application be changed to make it current. A discussion took place concerning the amount of funds which are allocated each year for the scholarships. Changes were made in 2004 and in 2011 more changes were made pertaining to the CALLERLAB Scholarships (which were made separate). In 2016 more discussion ensued and an applicant would have to wait five years before they can apply for another scholarship IF they have already received three previous ones.**

**A motion as made by Rich Tobin to approve the changes Don has made on the scholarship guidelines and application. Gloria Vivier seconded the motion. Discussion followed that 250.00 is guaranteed, but it could go up to 300 based on the treasury. Discussion also involved that the treasurer is slowly shrinking and moving forward caution needs to be applied because of this. It was mentioned that the CALLERLAB Scholarships do not have any guidelines and $750.00 can be allocated each year. (That does not mean it would be). Discussion also took place of who can make motions for the Scholarship Committee, consensus is that NECCA Delegates at the meeting can make motions. Discussion also included should we just go back to $250.00 as opposed to having a range of 250-300 etc.**

**The original motion was defeated and a new motion by Gloria Vivier and seconded by Bob Butler to read “A stipend of 250.00 will be awarded. As well as approving Don’s application/guidelines changes” Motion passed.**

**A motion was made by Bob Butler to approve The Scholarship Committee’s request for $750.00 (3 scholarships) for next year’s scholarships. Rich Tobin seconded it. Motion passed.**

**Johnny Wedge made a motion to award two $250.00 scholarships for CALLERLAB for this coming year. Gloria Vivier seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Should we have one scholarship (due to funds getting low) or do away with the scholarship. Johnny defended the scholarships as a great opportunity for caller education. Discussion centered around the mp3’s that come out of the CALLERLAB sessions, Johnny Wedge does get them each year. Don Bachelder spoke in favor of Johnny’s motion. Motion passed.**

**Do will send out the updated scholarship application and guidelines to the delegates.**

**It was mentioned that NECCA Meetings are now posted on the web site.**

**Discussion centered around the NECCA handbook. It is old and needs updating. Bob Butler said he would scan it and send it to the Secretary. Johnny Wedge also has a PDF copy of it.**

**Discussion centered on where NECCA gets their money from. The biggest amount comes each year from the surplus gained from the New England Convention (divided into the three organizations-EDSARDA, NECCA & NECORTA)**

**Delegates in attendance:**

**Ken Ritucci (for a short time), Al Rouff, Kevin Bersing, Bob Butler, Sandi Silva, Rich Tobin, Don Bachelder, Johnny Wedge, Gloria Vivier, Dave Perrault, Dottie Welch\***

**\*My apologies if I missed anyone….Ken**

**Meeting adjourned at 12:15**

**Next MEETING is March 5, 2023.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Ken Ritucci**

**NECCA Secretary**