

Austin Ballroom Dancers

Annual Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm at Austin Uptown Dance.

Board Members Present: Margaret Melton, Mark Coughran, Fred Ferate, June Kelly, Lanette Bading.

Additional ABD Members Present: 11 additional members. Quorum (5 % = 4.6 members) was established.

Officer Reports

- 1. President:** Margaret reported that ABD was formed in 1981, and has been providing classes and dances for 38 years. It consistently offers the most affordable group classes in Austin. Although a “non-profit” operation, ABD came out with a \$4,386 profit and a \$52 profit, respectively, for the 12 months ending May 31, 2018 and May 31, 2019, including a small \$387 loss for our New Year’s Eve Dance, our last dance at Go Dance North. In January 2019 we moved our Saturday dances to Austin Uptown Dance, and have been doing well, including hosting a very successful Lunar New Year Dance, which gave a profit of \$458. Margaret’s personal initiative is to gather all the records she can from ABD’s many decades of existence, and convert them to digital form for the future.
- 2. Vice President:** Mark Coughran was recognized for his two years of service as ABD Vice-President.
- 3. Secretary:** Fred Ferate was recognized for his service over the past year as ABD Secretary.
- 4. Treasurer:** June Kelly was recognized not only for her service as ABD Treasurer over the past four years, but also for her roles in various ABD offices during 11 of the past 12 years. June gave a written summary of ABD Income and Expenses over the 12 months ending on May 31 for the years 2015 through 2019. For each of those time periods, starting in 2015, our net final balance as of May 31 was, respectively, -\$2,369.00 (2015), -\$3,514.00 (2016), \$809.00 (2017), \$4,386.04 (2018), and \$52.58 (2019). For those time periods, 2018 was our best year; for the 12 months ending May 31, 2019, ABD still lists a slight profit of \$52.
- 5. Program Director:** Lanette Bading was recognized for her service as ABD Program Director over the past two years, as well as her membership in ABD for almost the

entire 38 years of its existence. (She was previously ABD Treasurer for 5 years.) Lanette called attention to the upcoming Nightclub Two-Step workshop on July 2 by Laura Lekander, and the fact that there will be no regular classes that week due to the 4th of July holiday.

Election Committee Report

1. Vicktoria Resech, chair of the Election Committee, introduced the other two members of the Committee, Chris Ng and Bruce Uszal. She announced that nominations had closed on June 8, and that there was one candidate for each of the three open positions:

Vice-President: Mark Coughran

Treasurer: Fredric Rhoads

Program Director: Sonia Rhoads

Election: Under Vicktoria’s direction, the above ABD members were elected by acclamation, each of the ABD members present signifying their agreement by saying “Aye”.

New Business

1. Margaret announced ABD has signed contracts for our 2019 New Year’s Eve Dance. It will be held at Austin Uptown Dance, with the Nash Hernandez Septet providing live music. Tickets will be offered in early November. Maximum number of tickets to be offered is 140 (this is the fire code maximum, and will probably have to be lowered to accommodate tables and chairs in the space available). ABD members will have the first opportunity to purchase tickets at early bird prices.
2. The floor was opened to comments and questions from the members.
 1. One member asked what our present membership is (June: 92) and how that has changed (June: it was on the order of 125, but circumstances were different). It was admitted that larger membership should help ABD financially.
 2. The Board was asked to pursue ideas to increase membership, and it was further asked if it would help to hold a dance every week. June noted that dance studios are seldom inclined to give up every Saturday evening, and that during the several years ABD did have weekly dances, we lost money because of low attendance.

3. Another suggestion was to hold a membership drive. It was mentioned that the lack of a Publicity Officer makes that harder. Another member noted that a person had announced her willingness to fill this role, but was turned down because of the rule requiring an officer to have been a member for at least the preceding year.

4. Another suggestion was to try to locate persons who would be willing to make charitable donations to ABD (although Margaret noted that such donations would not be tax-deductible).

5. One member suggested that perhaps one or more of the stores selling dance shoes and dance apparel might be willing to donate to ABD.

6. One member complained that the DJ's tend to play music for several dances which are not ballroom dances, or that he didn't know. Others answered that ABD provides classes covering most, if not all, of the various dances played by the DJs.

Margaret welcomed the members to contact board members in person and/or by email with any additional comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.