

## **2020 NCASDLA Annual Meeting**

Meeting held on June 14, 2020 online via Zoom  
Dick Otis opened meeting at 12:00 noon.

### Attendees

1. Robert Abdinoor
2. Nick Capozio
3. Christina Eum
4. Kenny Farris
5. Gary Felton
6. Bill Harrison
7. Brian Jarvis
8. Peter Kasper
9. Steve Lucius
10. John Marshall
11. Doren McBroom
12. Mac McCall
13. Mike McIntyre
14. Eva Murray
15. Ken Ryder
16. Dick Otis
17. Ken Ryder
18. Tom Sellner
19. Chris Stacy
20. Al and Betsy Taylor
21. Jim Wass
22. Ed Trever

3 members who could not attend sent proxies to the Vice-President (not used)

### Current Executive Officers

President: Steve Lucius

Vice-President: Dick Otis

Secretary: Vacant – Betsy Taylor stepped down earlier this year

Treasurer: Al Taylor

### Current Board of Directors (term remaining as of July 1, 2020)

Peter Kasper (Expired)

Tom Sellner (1 year)

Jim Wass (2 years)

There are 3 Board of Director positions. The position is held for 3 years. Only 1 Board of Director position is up for election each year.

The meeting minutes from the 2019-06-09 meeting were distributed in advance of the annual meeting. Every one was asked to read the minutes before the meeting. Dick Otis asked for a showing of hands, thumbs up, to approve the 2019-06-09 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved.

The treasurer's report as of 6-14-2020 was distributed in advance of the annual meeting. Everyone was asked to read the report before the meeting. Dick asked for a showing of hands, thumbs up, to approve the treasurer's report. The treasurer's report was approved.

Dick Otis asked if there were are questions or comments regarding the minutes or treasurers report. There was none.

Dick Otis reported on membership status. There are currently 28 members. Lots of new folks joined this year.

President Comments: Steve Lucius welcomed everyone and wanted to give special thanks to Dick Otis. His pursuit of Caller Education has placed NCASDLA on a new and exciting path. He is looking forward to the future and coming years.

Vice President Comments: Dick Otis – Excited for future of NCASDLA. Hoping to have quarterly meetings for 1 hour. He has new things he would like to do this year and if time, could discuss later as part of new business.

Nominations for Executive Board presented by Dick:

Dick Otis - President

Gary Felton – Vice President

Eva Murray - Secretary

Al Taylor - Treasurer

All above persons have agreed to serve if elected

Tom Sellner commented that the Board of Directors runs the elections, and that it was his floor for running the actual elections, per the bylaws\*. Dick stated that he set up polls for doing elections, that he could modify the polls any way needed, but that the zoom poll was needed in order to keep the elections anonymous.

\* Vice-President Note for the record: The By-Laws state that the BOD is responsible to "Appoint the Nominating Committee and suggest qualifications for the nominees" and that "The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Association and shall preside over all meetings of the Association and the Executive Committee."

Dick Otis asked if there were any nominations from the floor.

Tom Sellner stated that he had no objections to the slate of officers. He asked for a motion. Ken Ryder moved that nominations be closed. Gary Felton and several others seconded the motion. Tom asked all in favor? Multiple aye's and thumbs up received. This vote was for accepting the nominations. Tom asked all if favor of accepting the nominated Board

Members, say aye. Multiple aye's and thumbs up received. Tom asked any opposed. No opposition expressed. Tom stated Motion Carries. The new Executive Board positions are effective July 1, 2020.

Tom Sellner moved on to nominations for the 1 board of director position. Tom Sellner stated that Pete Kasper wanted to continue on the board and nominated him. Tom Sellner discussed Pete's history in the position and in the organization and that he was invaluable when Tom Sellner was president.

Tom Sellner asked for nominations from the floor.

Dick Otis nominated Bill Harrison.  
Tom Sellner asked for seconds. Seconded by John Marshall and several others.

Ed Trever nominated Christina Eum via the zoom chat. She declined.

Tom Sellner asked if any discussion.

Tom Sellner called for the vote. Dick Otis said the vote could be two ways. Tom Sellner stated he would call the roll for the vote. John Marshall asked if the vote wasn't generally done anonymously. Tom Sellner said it couldn't be done anonymously. Dick Otis stated that it could be done anonymously via the zoom poll.  
Dick sent out the poll. Dick received 20 responses out of zoom 22 attendees. It was suggested that Steve Lucius call in his vote since he was on phone.

Dick show the poll response on the screen:

3 voted for Pete Kasper: 14%  
14 voted for Bill Harrison: 70%  
3 abstained: 15%

Ken Ryder wanted to thank Pete Kasper for all his good service  
John Marshall made comments wanted to make sure Pete Kasper understood that this was no reflection on his work. Pete Kasper has done a great job and run the distance. Folks are just looking for some fresh blood.

Conversation with Pete Kasper: He served as president in the 1980's sometime and served on the board on and off for about 27 years. Thank you very much.

Dick Otis talked about the virtual square dancing. Dick Otis and Bill Harrison going to try to call a virtual merry notes dance sometime.

John Marshall commented that some dancers are saying that the zoom dancing is much harder than they thought it would be. He suggested dancers to watch youtube video to at least keep their mind active with the square dancing. He also said that's why callers are always telling them to touch hands. ,

Dick Otis went on to discuss OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Checking account signatures – completed last year to add new vice president Dick Otis to the account. Will need to do that again to add Gary Felton to the account.
- 2) Termination of NCASDLA –Betsy Taylor did a really good job of sending emails around and collecting information on what it would take to close the organization. We don't have a definitive answer on that but Dick Otis believes that this has been overtaken by events and is no long imminent.

Dick Otis asked for Thumbs Up to closing the Old Business items.  
Approved

Dick Otis asked for New Business Items.

Tom Sellner – brought up the idea of other options for folks to try dancing without touching hands, that he and others have come up with a way to do this. Call him for more information on how you can do this and start: 443-812-8048

Ken Ryder – wanted to know if anyone has any information about whether our groups would be able to access buildings for dancing; local schools, churches, community buildings.

Dick Otis commented that in the fall Fairfax County schools would open up for limited activities with social distancing. Not sure yet if extra curricular activities would be allowed. Senior centers still closed. He is expecting senior centers to open up to small groups of 10 or less. Dick Otis is working with the Herndon Senior center and will share information as he gets it.

John Marshall – Wondering about the name of the organization, NCASDLA, and that it does not specifically include round dance leaders. Why it wasn't named the National Capital Area Square and Round Dance Leaders Association, NCASDLA. Is there a reason and should we discuss that at some point.

Tom Sellner commented that originally NCASDLA included all forms of leaders, including club presidents and other leaders who were not callers representing the activity and did things. That's why it's called leaders.

Dick Otis: NCASDLA constitution talks about square dance callers. Bylaws talk about square dance callers and cuers and I think other leaders. Website includes both callers and cuers.

Dick Otis New Business: My goal is to get as many cuers involved as we can but I will say that in order to do that, we need to offer them something that makes it worthwhile for them to become a member. Dick Otis has talked to Christina Eum about what can NCASDLA do for cuers. We haven't come up with definitive answer yet.

Tom Sellner commented: in the past when we did clinics we included a caller and a cuer seminar. After awhile that went away as the number of leaders declined.

Dick Otis: He suggested a cuer clinic and even the names of some cuers who could do such a clinic.

Christina Eum: Roundalab does have accredited cuer coaches. Part of the question is who would be doing the clinics, just anybody or someone accredited. There are no local accredited cuer coaches. What are we looking for in terms of content, who would present it, what are we willing to pay

Dick Otis: This would be a good item to list for New Business for further study from the board.

Bill Harrison: Is there a round dance leaders association besides NCASDLA

Ken Ryder and Christina Eum: Round Dance Teachers Association (RDTA) of Greater Washington DC area. Ken Ryder is the president. Christina Eum is the secretary. Dom Filardo is the education chair.

Ken Ryder: they generally do 2 balls where cuers volunteer their time.

Bill Harrison: Suggested that maybe the 2 round dance organizations could coordinate and work together to see about putting on a longer education session, like 5 hours, not just 1 hour. He would like to see that happen.

Ken Ryder: He and Christine would raise this at the next RDTA meeting they have.

Dick Otis: Had proposed a different approach to calling by the NCASDLA Callers at the WASCA Festival and had it scheduled as such for the 2020 Festival. It was going to be 1 hour of PLUS and 1 hour of ADVANCE at 10am on Friday, and 1 hour of Mainstream/Plus and 1 hour of Advance on Saturday. This change was made to see if dancer participation would pick up.

Dick Otis: Proposing for next summer, an event with 3 halls, 1 hall for PLUS/Mainstream, 1 hall for advance, 1 hall for rounds.

Gary Felton: One idea would be to see how many volunteers there were for the activity and use that to determine which state to hold the dance in.

Dick Otis: In the past the dance location alternated between the states.

John Marshall: Thinks we could do a dance in each state.

Kenny Farris: It has been difficult to get crowds to attend the Jamborees. We do better with benefit dances. What if NCASDA does a benefit dance, one on each side of the river and join

forces with a benefit, ie cancer, and that could be our showcase. One in the spring and one in the fall.

Ken Ryder: We've lost the annual cancer dance we used to have for years. There are a number of associations, American cancer association, heart association, that might be willing to join with us in sponsoring. This might be a way to increase attendance. He thinks this is a great idea.

John Marshall: He thinks the term for this is Cause Marketing. He knows folks who are doing this for recruiting for square dancing in general. Results in bigger crowds, more excitement. Good Idea.

Tom Sellner: Baltimore does a Heart Dance.

Doren McBroom: The club that sponsored the Baltimore Heart Fund Dance has pretty much given it up, but, there is a club in Lancaster that does a Heart Fund Dance.

Bill Harrison: Suggested that you find a club affiliate to NCASDLA as well. Reason for this is that things are built on a good base. If it is a club with only a few squares, the event may not be as successful. If you find a club with 10 or 8 squares, at least they have a bit of meat behind their club itself, along with the callers and cues manning the microphone from NCASDLA to bring in the extra dancers.

Dick Otis: We could coordinate this by email.

Bill Harrison: Is NCASDLA prepared to give advice on how to re-start dancing. There are some clubs that have started up, no gloves and no masks. Others are dancing but with masks. Pennsylvania had a camporee where they camped out and they danced in early June. They danced normally. They had 2 squares. They would have been 4-5 squares normally. In Alabama they are dancing in garages and what have you because the halls they used to dance in will allow round dancing and line dancing because spacing can be maintained, but will not allow square dancing. It isn't as bleak as it might seem. Wondering if NCASDLA might want to put something out, or maybe wait for Callerlab to put something out. Talk about liability. Some groups had waivers. Also, some groups were asking sick folks, for any reason, to not attend.

Chris Stacy – NCASDLA probably should not hand out guidelines as that might be seen as a self interest in callers, that we might be trying to drum up business. Doesn't think NCASDLA should be handing out medical advice. It might look bad. Personally, would be hesitant to encourage anyone to go square dancing anytime soon. Potential for blow back or doing damage. As far as when it might be safe to return to square dancing, he thinks it would be when places like Green Springs allows square dancing to return because they have the concentrated vulnerable population and likely to be the most conservative.

Dick Otis – Sees validity in both what Bill Harrison and Chris Stacy have stated. Maybe there is some middle ground. We can state facts without liability. Dick's daughter doing lots

of research and predicts that we can return to “normal” next March. What is the suggestion here.

Bill Harrison: Lets think about it and maybe wait for Callerlab to see what they put out.

Nick Capozzio – Said WASCA is meeting later today that he planned to attend. He figured they might have the same discussion.

Dick Otis: Asked Nick Capozzio if he would talk to WASCA and suggest that maybe the two organizations could work together with what ever we are going to do, going forward. Nick Capozzio said he would and believed if the two organizations could work together, it would be a plus.

Nick Capozio: Referring to the benefit dance idea mentioned the Martinsburg Panhandlers benefit dances, Meals on Wheels, saying that he met lots of callers that way, callers he would have never met otherwise. Good dance.

Ken Ryder: suspects that round dancers will have a better time at getting back to dancing than square dancers.

Tom Sellner : Pete Kasper and Tom Sellner working on space dancing. Schools may not be available till January. The requirements to use the schools may be extremely difficult. Wife’s weight watchers group must clean the space before, clean during and clean the space after the event. This includes mopping the floors and the bathrooms. Have to make sure we comply with all requirements when come back so we can continue to use the hall.

Ken rider motion to adjourn

Tom Sellner seconded

Meeting concluded at 12:55pm

Meeting minutes written by Eva Murray, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Meeting video used as reference for completing the minutes.