

2011 AACTMAD Annual Meeting

April 30, 2011

Agenda

Remarks: Hal Breidenbach

Finances: Brooke Ratliff

Acknowledgements: Hal Breidenbach

Questions and comments from the floor

2011 AACTMAD Committees (chairs):

Ann Arbor Morris (Carol Mohr)
Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association (Holly Ackerman)
Ann Arbor Young Contra Dance (Jefferey Ziemba)
Concert (Joan Hellman)
Dancing in the Streets (Peter Baker & Joan Hellmann)
Dawn Dance Weekend (Peter Baker & Bronwen Gates)
Facilities (Gretchen Preston)
First Saturday Contra (Richard Raymond)
Fourth Saturday Contra (Ed Vincent)
Library (Ruth Scodel)
Lindy Exchange Weekend (Jesse)
Membership (Robert Messer)
Old Time Squares (Marlin Whitaker)
Outreach and Fundraising (Gretchen Preston)
Pittsfield Open Band (John Lesko)
Scholarship (Greg Meisner)
Second Friday Advanced English (Fae Fuerst)
Sound (Joan Hellman)
Special Events (Greg Meisner)
Thursday Contra (Brad Battey)
Tuesday English (Shirley Harden)
Website (Robert Messer)

State of AACTMAD

Talking about AACTMAD is a lot like talking about Lake Wobegon – There have been some rousing successes, some things that could be better, but on the whole it's been a good year. I'd like to highlight some of the activities which AACTMAD and your AACTMAD Board have done this past year.

Our Annual Labor Day DITS was always a high point. We took over the downtown AA for a day with four stages, lots of bands, lots of dancing, and lots of community recognition for AACTMAD.

The other major event, the Ann Arbor Dawn Dance, continued a tradition for the 30th year with English and Contra dance to a couple of top-notch bands.

We hosted the CDSS regional board meeting, giving the CDSS board members a chance to taste our hospitality and see how vibrant the Ann Arbor dance community is.

We have our regular series of 1st Saturday, 4th Saturday, Tuesday English, and Advanced English Dances.

We've had a variety of 5th Friday/Saturday weekend events and even a couple of concerts.

As I looked through the list of committees while preparing these remarks, I was struck by the variety of activities AACTMAD and its committees take on. There is dancing in so many styles: Morris, Swing, Contra, Square, and English Country. There is the Pittsfield Open Band and concerts. In all 13 of the 20 committees are dedicated to keeping you busy and entertained.

The others are operational or helping our community:

We continue to help local dancers, musicians, and callers with scholarships to the Dawn Dance and to Pinewoods.

We operated Concourse Hall for the year, and although we did not take in revenues sufficient to pay all the bills, business increased to where rentals as of March are now paying the way on a trend that indicates we will not have a problem financially supporting this hall. Comments from users have been very positive, and we have nearly completed the improvements to make the hall a great place to dance.

So with all these committees, what does the board do?

The board has been active where needed for the programs AACTMAD supports, providing start-up funding to some of the dance series and annual events. New this year were the Thursday Night Contras, the Sunday afternoon squares, and the Young Contras which is an attempt to draw in new dancers. Additionally the board has been very involved in insuring that the KissME Lindy exchange is successful and profitable this year.

The board also handles some of the nuts and bolts of the operation, keeping the insurance in place and filing tax forms to support our non-profit status.

The board also has some programs in the works:

Establishing a way of encouraging dancers to bring friends to regular series,
Improving the discounts received at dances, including reciprocity at Kalamazoo dances, helping make your membership more valuable.

AACTMAD will be having a fundraising event September 23 to support our various activities. I invite you to mark that date in your calendar. We'll have some fun and raise some money to keep AACTMAD working for you by making the dance community in Ann Arbor vibrant.

Hal Breidenbach, President

AACTMAD (Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance)

Board Motions of the last 12 months.

June 12, 2010

Mark Hillegonds: motion to elect Carolyn and Brooke as Sec. & Treas. Hal Breidenbach 2nd. Approved.

Hal Breidenbach: motion to appoint Marty Wilson as Nominating Committee member from the board. Brooke Ratliff 2nd. Approved.

July 7, 2010

Marlin Whitaker : Motion: to elect Hal Breidenbach as President of the Board of Directors, Bob Messer as Vice-President of the Board of Directors, and to appoint Nelson Bacigulpo as the 2nd board representative to the Nominating Committee. Marty Wilson 2nd. Approved.

Marlin Whitaker: move to advance funds from the General Fund to the Facilities Fund. [no record of 2nd or approval]

Marlin Whitaker: Motion to authorize an email vote (5 affirmative required for approval) on transferring funds General Fund to the Facilities Fund. Hal Breidenbach 2nd. Approved.

August 25, 2010

Robert Messer: motion to authorize the facilities committee to propose rates categories with detail on amounts and list other issues that they feel that they could administer at the committee level. Mark Hillegonds 2nd. Approved. 9-0-0

Motion by Robert Messer to authorize transfer of up to \$3000 [from the general fund] by Aug. 31 to Facilities as an addition to the existing loan. Brooke Ratliff 2nd. Approved 8-1-0

Mark Hillegonds: Move to write a letter to the KissMe committee requesting a presentation on the event, including budget no later than the October board meeting. Brooke Ratliff 2nd. Approved 9-0-0.

MarlinWhitaker: move to establish a fund raising committee. Mark Hillegonds 2nd. Approved 9-0-0.

September 24, 2010

No motions of record.

October 27, 2010

Robert Messer: move to accept the KissME proposal subject to KissME meeting the milestones in the promotional plan and adhering to the budget they submitted. Marty Wilson 2nd. Approved

November 17, 2010

Motion by Brooke Ratliff to authorize transfer of up to \$2000 (from the general fund) to Facilities as an addition to the existing loan if needed during December or January. Nelson Bacigalupo 2nd. Approved

Motion by Robert Messer to disburse up to \$200 for consultation with Jean Berger on the direction we should take on fundraising and publicity. Brooke Ratliff 2nd. Approved.

Motion by Nelson Bacigalupo to establish the Salsa and Community Outreach Committee with a start up budget of \$150. Hal Breidenbach 2nd. Approved.

Motion by Nelson Bacigalupo that we accept the proposal from Swing Ann Arbor that AACTMAD be the steward for their grant from Comerica with an administrative fee to AACTMAD of \$150. Hal Breidenbach 2nd. Approved.

December 15, 2010

Motion by Marty Wilson: move to accept Marlin's proposal for a new square dance series at the Circus Bar. Brooke Ratliff 2nd. Approved 8-0-0.

Motion by Robert Messer: move that the Annual Meeting date be set for May 21, 2011. Marty Wilson 2nd. Approved 8-0-0.

Motion by Brooke Ratliff: Move to plan a party for the AACTMAD Dance Leaders. Nelson Bacigalupo 2nd. Approved 8-0-0.

January 26, 2011

Motion by Carolyn Texley: offer a 1\$ membership (through Aug 31, 2011) for new members joining at the Dawn Dance site. Hal Breidenbach 2nd. Approved 8-0-0.

February 23, 2011

Marlin Whitaker: move to appoint Cathie Breidenbach to fill the vacancy on the Nominating Committee. Cyndy Keesler 2nd. Approved 5-0-0.

Hal Breidenbach: move to appoint Cyndy Keesler to fill the vacancy recently left by Nelson Bacigalupo. The term ends in 2012. Marlin 2nd. Approved enthusiastically 5-0-0.

Marlin Whitaker: move that the board support the proposal by Ray Bantle to implement a "Bring one" coupon for free or reduced admission and set up a committee to implement it. Cyndy Keesler 2nd. Approved. 5-0-0

March 23, 2011

Motion by Robert Messer: to allow people to join AACTMAD or renew membership from May 1 through August 31 2012. Cyndy Keesler 2nd. Approved 6-0-0.

April 27, 2011

Motion by Carolyn Texley: approve Brad's request [for funding assistance in producing the Perpetual E-motion Thursday dance] for up to \$260 . The board requires a flyer by April 29 at 7pm and continuing promotion of the event. Brad will arrange for an announcement at Thursday, Friday and Saturday (April 28, 29 & 30) dances, the Young Contra dance group, and will contact CDK about promoting the dance, and promoting at all AACTMAD events before May 12. Cyndy Keesler 2nd. Approved 5-0-0.

AACTMAD Committee Reports 2010

Ad Hoc Events

We had a polka workshop and dance in July, 2010.

Earlier this year we held a 10-week Capoeira class culminating the drum and dance night. Capoeira is a Brazilian art form that combines elements of martial arts, sports, and music. This was a substitute for the planned Salsa program.

Brooke Ratliff

Advanced English

Advanced English has been fun this year! Attendance has been below average a lot of the time, probably because I haven't been working behind the scenes to get more people to come. In November, though, we had 54 people for the CDSS Board visit, an all-time record for advanced English. And in December, 34 enthusiasts braved a hefty snowstorm to enjoy Brad Foster's calling. January had great attendance too. We didn't run any side events under 2nd Friday's budget this year, but should be able to squeak by to break even at season's-end as usual.

This dance runs on subsidies: callers who call for no fee or pay their own travel expenses, free sound support, people donating refreshments, and dancers who pay extra admission or provide an occasional cash donation. Thank you! We've been paying our musicians a bit more this year and would like to do better. They deserve it! Fabulous music was provided this year by Debbie Jackson, Martha Stokely, Anne Ogren (these three are Childgrove), Steve Schneider, and Susie Lorand, all playing regularly, and Brad Battey and Judi Morningstar. In May special guests Susie Petrov and Reinmar Seidler are coming from Massachusetts (for the Scottish ball) and will play with Susie Lorand.

Our visiting callers this year were Helen White and Carl Levine (NY) in October, CDSS leaders Bruce Hamilton (CA), Jenny Beer (PA), Brad Foster (MA), Jill Allen (KS), Carol Marsh (NC), and Linda Lieberman (IA) in November, Brad Foster again in December, Kathy Anderson (OH) in March, and Nikki Herbst (IA) in April. Local callers, and some dancers who rarely call, led new dances learned over the summer in September, a regular program in January, and locally-written dances (among others) in February. So far this year Dan Blim, Greg Meisner, Shirley Harden, Bob Messer, Marty Wilson, Susie Lorand, Don Theyken, Marlin Whitaker, Mark Hillemonds, Ruth Scodel, and Lark Speyer have called, and Ray Bantle, Dan, Bob, and Will Jaynes will call in May. Just about everyone will lead the Familiar Favorites party the second Sunday in June.

Many thanks to everyone who helps run this dance! Our sound techs are David Kanistanaux and Don Theyken, lately with help from Karen Vander Weyden. Our main refreshment-bringers are Ruth Scodel, Marty Wilson, and me, with intermittent support from others. If you'd like to bring something, please do! (And let us know, if you can.) We also appreciate everyone who helps clean up the kitchen, bathrooms, and the hall. Thanks!

I'm always looking for feedback on what people think about the dance and what we can do better.

Fae Fuerst

Facilities Committee

2010 Review

Committee members are Catherine Kendall, Dick Fortune, Navin Shah, Hal Breidenbach, and Gretchen Preston. This committee is responsible for the management and operations of Concourse Hall. The hall opened for events in March 2010. During our first year of operations we established a lot of policy and procedure about things like: how to reserve the hall, keeping the hall clean, establishing rental rates, Keeping the web based reservation calendar updated, collecting and recording fees received, planning hall updates, etc. Major tasks completed in 2010 were:

- Establishing a good floor maintenance routine – buying a floor cleaning machine and hiring a person to regularly clean the floor
- Creating a floor machine storage place
- Setting up and placing the stage in its permanent location, includes purchasing stage skirting
- Obtaining rugs and furniture for the loft area and separating AACTMAD materials from the user space
- Making a table storage rack and purchasing chair racks for 160 chairs.
- Purchasing enough silverware and tablecloths for the hall tables and 160 guests
- Purchasing a hall sound system and installing it
- Adding Concourse Hall to the lighted sign in front of building
- Creating a more organized web presence for the hall
- Hanging the donor tiles on hall wall.
- Welcoming volunteers on the decorations sub-committee(Cathie and Hal Breidenbach, Arlene Kindel, Abby Liskow, Dawn Schwartz, Gretchen Preston, with assistance from Greg Meisner, Carolyn Texley, and James Windak) and beginning the two “forests” above the closet areas and planning for hanging of quilts above light trough.

Thanks to those who lent quilts for display: Gretchen Preston, Arlene Kindel, Dawn Swartz, Jan Wery, and Margaret Watson's sister Marie.

Projects for 2011 include:

- Replacing the 12 older round tables with new ones from Costco/Sams Club
- Replacing the lighting in the loft area (current lighting is very old and harsh)
- Installing new speakers above stage (current ones are on loan from David Kanistaneau)
- Finish installation of quilts above light trough and forests

The committee wishes to thank everyone who has given of their time and money to make our first year so successful and set the stage for a great year in 2011. The first 5 months of our second year -(March – July 2011) are fully booked for Saturday rentals (AACTMAD and others) and will bring in enough money to be self supporting for those months. We believe that the remaining 7 months will be very close to also being self-supporting. Our hope is that each year more AACTMAD events will be scheduled at the hall, with enough supplemental rentals to break even or even make money to support other AACTMAD activities.

Gretchen Preston

Outreach and Development

This committee was not active in 2010. It is hoped that interested individuals will contact Gretchen Preston as plans for 2011 need to be developed. Main activities for 2011 include:

- Planning and creating an annual fundraising event for AACTMAD. Funds raised will go toward supporting new dance and music activities and improvements to Concourse all as needed.
- Meeting with our local dance/music organizers to define the direction of activities in our area and how AACTMAD can support and encourage the existing and new activities.
- Creating a new long range plan for AACTMAD

Gretchen Preston

Concert Committee:

The concert committee had a slow year, presenting only one concert in June 2010, by the group Relative Harmony (Judy Greenhill, and Rick, Jon and Katie Avery). We collaborated with the First Saturday Dance to bring them to Ann Arbor from Guelph, Ontario. Another concert is coming up next Friday, May 6, featuring Jim Hall and Cindy Morgan from the Lansing area. We hope to continue to work with the dance committees to offer concerts by dance musicians coming through Ann Arbor, as well as to offer concerts by local musicians. Watch for more concerts in the coming year.

Kathy Gravlin, Joan Hellmann

Sound Committee

The Sound Committee maintains a sound system for use by AACTMAD and other events held in locations other than the hall on Concourse Drive. It resides at Pittsfield Grange and is available for use there and for rent to be used at other locations.

Joan Hellmann

First Saturday Committee

Mike Duffy, Joan Hellmann, Arlene Kindel, Drake Meadow, Pat Micks
Kate Moore, Daniel Peisach, Richard Raymond

We concentrate on presenting dances with top local performers, with regional talent when available, but are also open to newer (at least to Ann Arbor) performers. With the usual silent auction in January we strive to be approximately self-supporting, while paying performers as much as possible. We are increasing dance admission by \$1 to be in line with other Saturday night dances, but will keep the discount for AACTMAD members and student prices

Richard Raymond

Membership Committee

AACTMAD had 246 members from 184 households. This is a slight decrease from recent years (253 in 2007-08, 265 in 2008-09, and 276 in 2009-10). We received \$3159 in dues, \$2915 in donations, and \$1928 in contributions in support of the facilities project during its first year of building up its clientele of renters. This was a total of \$8002 in membership support for traditional music and dance in the Ann Arbor area.

The Board has endorsed a proposal by Ray Bantle for a New Dancer Program to publicize dance events in the Ann Arbor area and offer a discount to new dancers. Watch for details later this summer, and be thinking about locations and organizations where people will be receptive to this program.

Robert Messer

Website Committee

Last spring, we converted to PublicDrum as a database for information about dance events in Michigan, northwest Ohio, and northern Indiana. Organizers enter the information about their events in PublicDrum (maintained by Warren Armstrong in Lansing/East Lansing), and the AACTMAD events calendar calls up events for those organizations associated with the calendar. The information is then displayed in an up-to-date on-line listing. Joan Hellmann has been using the optional concise listing to print out calendars for the Pittsfield Grange.

Thanks goes to the dance organizers who have been diligent in entering the information for their events. We have handled a few glitches such as duplicate listings, but the process seems to be working fairly well. As an added benefit, PublicDrum can distribute information to websites and traditional media outlets.

Additionally, thanks are due to Annie Burhnam who has been sending a weekly email reminding dancers of upcoming Contra and Square dances.

Ray Bantle continues to handle the web pages for the Dawn Dance Weekend, and he updates the schedule and list of dances called for the Tuesday English Dance webpage.

AACTMAD now has a Facebook group. Everyone is invited to join, view some of John Newsome's videos, and comment on recent and upcoming events.

Robert Messer

Acknowledgement of Generosity

Contributors on the wall – These are people who have generously contributed through the years their financial support of the dream of a dance space of our own which is now realized as Concourse Hall.

Hal & Cathie Breidenbach
Frank & Annette Cafferty
Rhonda & Don Cardwell
Phil & Jan Coray in memory of Connie
Solari
Allen & Alisa Dodson
Jim Dowling
Dick Fortune
Carl & Fae Fuerst
Betsy Foote & Tom Gebhart
Linda Hanson in memory of Nightshade
Will & Joan Jaynes
Julia Jickling
Ruth Jones
Fred & Nora Karsch
Cyndy Keesler
John & Sally Lattuca
Lisa Mari Lemble
John Lesko
Abby Liskow
Donald MacGregor
Greg Meisner
Robert Messer
Nawal Motawi
Mei-Ying A. Moy in memory of Suzanne
Moy
Vanston O'Brien
David Pardy & Heather Sell
Gill & Jackie Peters
Gretchen Preston
Suzanne Schleuderberg
Ruth Scodel
Rick Szumski
Carolyn Texley & Rick Carter
Leon Trinkle
Philip Tuchinsky
George Wieland
Roger & Molly Williams

Thanks is also due to Nawal Motawi and Motawi Tile Works for the tile panels on the wall commemorating the generosity of our contributors.

Additional contributors in 2010

Thanks to those contributing goods to help support the operation and décor of Concourse Hall:

Hal & Cathie Breidenbach
Abby Liskow
Gretchen Preston & Greg Meisner
Don Theyken

A great deal of thanks is due to the many people who have helped make AACTMAD successful this past year. There have been many donations of time and effort, probably too many to list even if such a list existed. You know who you are, and we hope you feel the warm glow of our appreciation.

A final note of thanks is due to the staff of Gretchen's House, who have helped in a variety of ways, handling our mail, fielding phone calls, and even showing the hall to renters.