



**Gay Callers Association
ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Minutes
Wednesday July 4, 2018**

**Time: 4-5 PM Location: Cirrus Room 35th Floor Sheridan Hotel
Seattle, Washington**

I. Call to Order and Introductions:

- A. President Ett McAtee called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM. She welcomed all and introduced the current members of the Board of Directors, herself, Kris Jensen Vice President, Harlan Kerr Secretary, Bill Eyler, Treasurer and Kent Forester, IAGSDC Rep. She also introduced Allan Hurst, Editor of the Call Sheet, and Ken Sale, Convention Calling Coordinator.
- B. Prior to this a sign-in sheet was passed for members to register their attendance.
- C. Initial Announcements – Ett announced that:
 - Convention callers photos will be at 3:15pm Thursday
 - GCA Membership photo will be at 4:25pm Friday
 - Support your fellow GCA callers at their tips
 - Ett also introduced Gordon Macaw and Pam Clasper of All Join Hands and All Join Hands Canada respectively and thanked All Join Hands for their support of the GCA Callers School.

II. Approval of Minutes of 2017 Meeting:

Harlan Kerr, Secretary, gave an overview of the 2017 minutes, which had been distributed earlier via email and posted on the GCA website. It was moved and seconded to approve and adopt the minutes as presented. This motion was passed unanimously.

III. Annual Reports:

A. Treasurer's Report (Bill Eyler):

1. Overview

- Bank Balance 9/1/17 \$ 8,539.03
- Bank Balance 6/29/18 \$13,025.54 (reconciled through 6/8/18 statement)



Included in our bank balance are liabilities and receivables for:

- Prepaid future membership dues thru 2022: \$1,455.00
- Prepaid 2018 GCA School Registrations: \$1,425.00
- Reimbursement due from former board member \$1,300.00 (see note 1)

As many of the expenses for the year happen in the period between the convention and the end of our fiscal year (8/31/18), a final report will be available in a future issue of The Call Sheet.

Thanks, as always, to the All Join Hands Foundation (both U.S. and Canada) for helping us keep GCA school tuition low without depleting our cash reserves. All Join Hands Foundation currently covers the caller coach stipends and hotel rooms for the coaches and teaching assistants.

2. Membership Dues:

Membership is from September 1 through August 31 annually. The easiest way to pay dues is online through www.gaycallers.org or at convention--cash or checks (made out to GCA) for \$15. Dues can be prepaid up to 3 years, as per our bylaws.

3. Summary of the Treasurer's Report:

Cash In

AJH Funding 2017 school	3,161.65 (see note 2)	
PS S&M Refund 2017 school	1,359.39 (see note 2)	
Current and Future Year Memberships	1,095.00	
<u>School Registrations (17 current*)</u>	<u>1,275.00</u>	\$ 6,891.04

Cash Out

CALLERLAB dues/insurance	122.00	
IAGSDC dues	25.00	
Website expenses	377.75	
Administrative expenses	370.65	
2018 Callers School to date	132.04	
Bank Fraud, net	1,300.00 (see note 1)	
<u>PayPal Service Charges</u>	<u>77.09</u>	2,404.53

GCA Bank Balance 9/1/17	8,539.03	
-------------------------	----------	--



Cash In	6,891.04
Cash Out	2,404.53
GCA Bank Balance 6/24/18	13,025.54

Note 1:

It was discovered on May 29, 2018, that a former board member gained access to the bank account through mobile banking. Over the course of two weeks \$1,300 was withdrawn from the account. The former board member acknowledges this, claiming it was a relative who accidentally created this situation; we are currently in process of collecting this amount and returning it to the account. When the treasurer discovered this issue, he immediately went to the bank and worked with a representative at the Cathedral City branch of US Bank to identify where the funds were going to. When it was found to be a former board member, that person was blocked from making any other transactions on the account. Nothing further has occurred in the account since then. Legal and reporting action will take place if this is not resolved.

Note 2:

Normally, all GCA Callers School expenses have been reimbursed from the AJH grant by the end of that current fiscal year. In this case, the process was dragged out a very long time until PS S&M was able to close their books on the convention. We received a final reimbursement from PS S&M for the cost of the Hilton classrooms on February 6, 2018. We then submitted the grant request to AJH. After receiving the grant funding on February 20, 2018, we were able to close our own books on the 2017 GCA Callers School.

B. GCA Callers School Report (Kris Jensen)

19 students were enrolled in this year's GCA Callers School. Coaches Ross Howell, Anne Uebelacker, and TA Arlene Kaspik did a great job and there was much positive feedback.

There were four squares in attendance at the GCA Callers School Graduation dance and the school callers did a great job.

Circle Back to Seattle provided excellent support for the GCA Callers School.

Next year Barry Clasper will be the coach and Harlan Kerr will be the TA. Betsy Gotta will be added as a second coach if we receive 12 or more registrations. In addition, Lisa Lincoln will serve as voice coach next year, and will be part of the staff for two days.



C. IAGSDC Delegate Report (Kent Forrester)

Kent provided a detailed report, which is summarized below:

Summary of the Current Convention:

- Flooring was laid on time
- There is a need for volunteers to take up flooring at the end of the convention
- No grand march
- No national anthems due to concerns about getting into a political situation
- The convention is financially close to edge but expected to end in the black.

Summary of Meeting Reports and Business:

- Minutes of the meeting will be posted within a week
- The Treasurer's report indicated a loss due to the amount of funds committed for the archive project
- A 501 IRC C6 application for not-for-profit status has been filed and we are waiting for a response from IRS
- IAGSDC currently has 60 clubs, 11 affiliates members, and one associate member
- Individual membership up about 40
- Desert Valley Squares has had a 40% growth in membership
- Redwood Rainbows is now the largest club
- Six new banners have been purchased with a slight change in logo to be more inclusive. This was funded by a donation from Andy Shore.
- There were 4 banners dances held this year
- Club development grants are available
- Open discussion meetings are planned on Recruitment of New Members on Friday and Retention of Members on Saturday
- A new subcommittee on Retention and Recruitment has been established and includes a consultant.
- A Facebook group on retention and recruitment has also been established
- New website for IAGSDC

Kent gave an overview of the situation with the ARTS logo, and a request that was denied for a gender-neutral version.

An overview of the progress of digitizing and archiving the Karl Jaeckel history items was also given.



The full report and minutes of the meeting will soon be available on the IAGSDC website. Please refer to it for additional detail and information.

D. CALLERLAB Report (Harlan Kerr)

As usual Harlan began by saying “If you are not a member of CALLERLAB, you should be.” He then summarized and emphasized the importance of CALLERLAB membership in terms of insurance and music licensing.

1. Big things that occurred this year in CALLERLAB:

- The Basic and Mainstream programs were separated in two stand-alone lists and there is a new emphasis on Basic as a destination program. The next step will be lifting up a new focus on Basic.
- This is a Triennial Review Year

The Basic and Mainstream reviews have been completed and Plus is underway. Advanced will be in August and Challenge will begin in October:

The Basic Triennial review resulted in the Thar family and related calls being dropped and moved to Mainstream.

- Allemande Thar
- Allemande left to and allemande thar
- Shoot the star/shoot the full around
- Slip the Clutch

The Mainstream Triennial Review resulted in 1/4 tag and 3/4 tag added. As a result a new section called the Tag The Line family is being created by the Definitions Committee.

- The Mainstream definition rewrite process is ongoing with 4 more calls to be done before it is complete. It should be done by October.
- Also, the CALLERLAB Code of Ethics has gone through a huge revision and rewrite to bring it into line with current wording and thought on this topic. You may review it at:
http://www.callerlab.org/Portals/1/CodeOfEthics_Committee%20Approved%20April%209,%202018.pdf



2. Overview of the CALLERLAB Convention itself:

- The convention was held in Albuquerque
- GCA MEMBERS presented, moderated or chaired 19 sessions or committee meetings.
- We made up nearly 10% of people attending.
- Kris Jensen was host and moderator for the Tuesday Night Banquet and did an excellent job.
- At the opening of the CALLERLAB convention, Harlan was sworn in as a member of the Board of Governors and at the Final BOG meeting the Board of Governors elected Harlan to the 2019 CALLERLAB Executive Committee.
- Bill Eycler did the GCA presentation at the general meeting and Kris Jensen did the IAGSDC presentation.

CALLERLAB is a great convention and Harlan encouraged everyone here to attend it. Next year the CALLERLAB will be Richmond, Virginia. You can register on the CALLERLAB website.

3. In closing all GCA members are encouraged to take advantage of all the great resources on the CALLELRLAB website and most of all—if you forgot to join CALLERLAB—do so. Aside from all of the resources, licensing and insurance it provides to you, it gives you a voice in CALLERLAB decision-making

Barry Clasper pointed out the great resources that are provided in the CALLERLAB Knowledge Base and encouraged members to check it out.

E. The Call Sheet Report (Allan Hurst)

There was been a lot of interest in what we are doing, and several folks have asked for copies of articles or permission to use and share them. The Call Sheet has definitely become an important source of information in the greater square dance community.

F. GCA Calling at Convention Report and Credentialing for GCA spots (Ken Sale)

All GCA calling spots are filled and in the program with the caller's names.

Ken pointed out that at this time the criteria for calling in GCA slots is to be registered at the convention and be current dues-paying member. It is possible that other criteria may need to be used in future situations where a different format is used for scheduling GCA callers.



IV. **Suggestions for use of GCA Funds (Ett McAtee):**

Ett entertained a discussion on identifying additional uses for GCA funds. This year they were used to provide advertising and signage at the Seattle convention

Future uses could include scholarships for callers schools that are not GCA sponsored, possible stipends for GCA Callers School attendees and badges. The board is seeking member input on ideas for positive uses of our funds and appropriate projects.

V. **Lifetime Membership Proposal Update (Bill Eyler):**

Bill Eyler proposed establishing a Lifetime Membership category which members could purchase at a cost of \$150 or 10 times the current annuals dues fee.

There was significant positive support for this, and it was moved and seconded to establish this category of membership. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. **Projects for 2018-2019 Business Year:**

A. Mentoring Project (Harlan Kerr):

Historically we have offered great callers schools, but what we have not been as good about is providing a system of support and mentoring for newer callers after they have completed callers school.

Harlan proposed that we provide a mentoring coordinator who will contact members and recent calling school graduates and help them identify a local mentor to work with or provide long distance mentoring when a local support is not forth coming. He further volunteered to be the coordinator.

1. This would entail having the coordinator contact new graduates, and other newer callers and recent graduates, ascertain the support they need and help them seek someone to provide this support. This support includes answering questions they may have, giving direct support or just some encouragement.
2. Helping newer callers and developing callers identify and get into contact with potential mentors
3. Identifying GCA and other callers who would like to be mentors
4. Contacting new and developing callers on a regular basis, checking on how they are doing and identifying support that they need. This would include checking in on a monthly or bi-monthly basis to see how they are doing.



After positive discussion it was moved and seconded to establish a new and developing caller mentoring program with Harlan Kerr as coordinator. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Developing means of assisting in making it easy to locate and identify GCA Callers. (Ett McAtee)

Currently there is a list of callers on IAGSDC website, but this is not driven by GCA in any way, and not all are GCA members. Ett proposed we look into ways to assist people in finding and booking GCA callers. It was pointed out that you can list yourself as a GCA caller in Vic Cedar's site. A question was asked if we need to request a clear list of GCA callers on the IAGSDC site. This is an area for continued exploration and development.

C. By-Laws Update (Harlan Kerr):

The GCA By-Laws are in need of significant revision. Harlan has done an initial pass at this, but we need an Ad Hoc committee to undertake and complete the task. Since the By-Laws specify that we operate as a not-for-profit organization, the Ad Hoc committee will also explore the possibility and feasibility of becoming an official not for profit organization as well.

Therefore, Harlan proposed a motion that we form an Ad Hoc committee to review and revise the By Laws, and to explore the possibilities of becoming an official not-for-profit organization. Further, that the committee have a final report prepared for the Board of Directors by May 1, 2019 and that the BOD present the report for review and adoption at the meeting in Philadelphia.

There was some discussion on this matter. Alan Hirsch proposed the By-Laws and the question of not-for-profit status be separate committees. Kent Forester pointed out that for many reasons the two are deeply intertwined. Alan withdrew his suggestion.

At that point It was moved and seconded that we establish an Ad Hoc committee as described above. The motion passed unanimously. Harlan will send out an announcement calling for members to express interest in serving on this committee, and he will establish a committee of 5 to do this work.

E. Communications (Allan Hurst):

We need to explore other ways for the membership to cross-communicate during the year. There are a variety of possibilities including an electronically hosted forum. Allen emphasized that this is an area that we can explore and take advantage of to broaden the type and variety of communications we have among GCA members.



VII. New Business:

A. Migration of Server (Michael Wills)

Michael reviewed the mitigation and the details involved, this included how to list individual members. Sign up for access.

B. Philadelphia GCA Welcome Dance 2019 Proposal (Will Hamp)

Will began by pointing out that all callers on the Belles Run staff are GCA members. He then went on to say that the DFI committee has decided to not have “Top of the Hour” or other non-staff GCA calling spots during their convention. They have created a schedule that gives staff callers 1/2 hour, or more, between halls, and the DFI committee feels that the GCA non-staff slots are not needed in their schedule. He also mentioned that he feels that the top of the hour slots do not provide the best vehicle of exposure for GCA callers.

The DFI committee proposed the alternative of having the GCA host a 3 ½ hour GCA Welcome Dance on the afternoon of the afternoon of July 3, 2019. This dance time will include three halls.

GCA will have full control of scheduling and planning the GCA Welcome Dance, and the DFI committee will provide the space and sound, plus full advertisement to all attendees.

In the discussion that followed it was pointed out that it is the propogative of all convention committees to schedule their convention as they see fit, and that GCA could decide to accept this offer and hold the GCA Welcome Dance, or to not accept it. It is not our place to present counter proposals. After further discussion, additional clarification of the details of the proposal, and the fact that we could either accept it or reject it, but not modify it, it was moved and seconded to accept the proposal.

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Election of Officers:

The following are the positions that were open for election, and one nominee was presented for each position:

- Vice President: **Darren Gallina**
- Treasurer: **Richard “Rusty” Johnson**
- IAGSDC Delegate: **Allan Hurst.**
- IAGSDC Alternate Delegate: **Abe Feldman.**



Ett called for additional nominations. There were no nominations from the floor.

Since there was only one nominee for each office that was open, President Ett McAtee called for a motion to vote by acclamation.

It was moved and seconded to elect the slate of officers by acclamation. The motion passed unanimously. Ett called for a vote by acclamation which was unanimous. Ett then welcomed the new officers and thanked the outgoing officers for their dedication and hard work.

Next year the offices of President and Secretary will be open for election.

IX. Next Meeting:

The next Annual General Membership Meeting of the GCA will be at the Philadelphia Belles Run Convention, on July 3, 2019, the time of the meeting is still to be determined.

X. Adjournment:

Ett called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was moved and seconded to do so. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted on July 9, 2018

Harlan Kerr
Gay Callers Association Secretary