

Marge

April 6, 1981

Miami Valley Folk Dancers Council:

In March, 1981 the program committee submitted a questionnaire to members and guests of the Miami Valley Folk Dancers. Twenty-seven questionnaires were returned. A copy of the questionnaire is attached and the results are summarized below.

1. What do you especially like about the Miami Valley Folk Dancers?

- Friendliness, hospitality, and socialibility - 18
- Exercise and fun - 7
- Variety of dances - 6
- Organization and activities of the Club - 3
- The lessons and learning constantly - 3
- "Having a recreational mental challenge which one can pursue at one's own pace."
- The willingness of so many to help with the Club's activities
- "Everything"
- Relaxed atmosphere
- Enthusiasm
- The patience of teachers - although "some are more patient than others"
- "Willingness of people to laugh at themselves when everyone blows a simple dance."
- "The general format provides more dancing pleasure to our dancers than has been attained before. The format can be fine-tuned more. On balance, our most talented dancers have not been permitted to run away with the programs."

One negative response to this question:

"Children under 12 dancing on Thursday nites. People getting into dances they do not know."

2. What suggestions do you have for change in the Club, if any?

- Several had no suggestions and 2 said "Leave it as it is"
- Better identification of dances including the use of chalkboards - 4
- Handout info on the dances, their origins, etc.
- "As a newcomer I don't know which dances to try and which not to try. I think there should be some way to announce which can be done without instruction. A general rule seems to be that mixers are easy, but there is one that isn't."
- Reteach more older dances - 3
- "I'm tired of new, new, new."
- More emphasis on styling - 2
- ~~Two requested that more lines dances be taught from 7 to 8~~
- ~~More emphasis on styling - 2~~
- Relocate the New Year's Eve party
- Give instruction in the proper use of the record player
- Encourage couples, both of whom know a dance, to split up during teaching to help newcomers
- Recruit more men!
- Open a branch in Oxford, Ohio
- Make the 8 to 9 and 9:30 to 10 periods more accessible to newcomers
- "More consideration given to members during the dance time of 8 - 11. Someone should be responsible to announce at the beginning of each dance - unless you have learned this dance, please do not get in."
- "Somehow introduce an awareness that: 1. Our dance time is limited. 2. Some old-time dances that are time eaters should be taught only for experience and then dropped (the old classics?)."

3. Which dances or dance steps would you like to see taught or reviewed?

A reel similar to Mairi's Wedding
Salty Dog Rag - 4
Royal Empress Tango - 2
Waltz (and waltz turns) - 4
Couple dances from years ago
Newcastle
St. John River
Dargason
Reel of Mey
Trip to Bavaria
Polka - 2
Hambo
Scottish pas de basque (the Scottish way)
Jaegerquadrille
Red House Reel
At Va'ani
Toting
Bonfire
Black Earth Circle

4. Ethnic Sunday

There were several strong feelings about Ethnic Sundays -

"On Ethnic Sundays, I want ethnic. I came especially to review or learn dances from one country. When other dances are taught, the whole ethnic flavor of the day is ruined for me. It becomes just another Thursday night dance, which I like on Thursday nights, but I want something different on Sunday."

Do not teach all dances from one country "so that everyone coming to each Ethnic Sunday will at least be happy with one of the dances."

"Could you include 1 or 2 simple dances suitable for children (so that we may encourage their folk dance development.)"

"Dances should be a review of old dances, not new. I don't want a workshop."

"No more than 4 dances taught."

All - 8

60 to 90 % - 7½

50% - 5½

No preference - 0

I do not attend - 4

For the Program Committee,



Ed Anderson, Chairman