



Miami Valley Folk Dancers

Dayton, Ohio

December 22, 1996

Dear «First_Names»,

This is your official notice of the MVFD Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 12, 1997, 3:00 p.m. at the Michael Solomon Pavilion. The meeting will be followed by a covered-dish dinner. This notice is directed by our *Method of Operations*, Article VI, paragraph C, "The membership is notified in writing of the date, time, and place of the meeting at least two weeks prior to the meeting date."

A draft of the Agenda for this meeting is attached. This agenda includes several proposed changes to our *Rules and Regulations* and our *Method of Operations*. You will find these proposed changes attached to this letter. In summary, these proposed changes are:

- Proposed Change # 1: Change wording of references to Division of Recreation and Parks
- Proposed Change # 2: Delete the requirement to notify the ex-officio member (City representative) of the Council of the time and place of Council meetings.
- Proposed Change # 3: Delete the requirement to send copies of minutes to the City of Dayton
- Proposed Change # 4: Increase Dues and guest Fees

Changes to the *Rules and Regulations* and *Method of Operations* "... may be made at any called membership meeting, provided that a notice containing the time and place of the meeting, as well as the proposed changes, is delivered to the membership at least two weeks prior to the time of such meeting." (*Rules and Regulations*, paragraph Changes in Rules and Regulations; *Method of Operations*, Article IX, "... Changes to this *Method of Operations* document will be accomplished as specified for changes in the Rules and Regulations;")

The *Rules and Regulations* and *Method of Operations* will be available upon request and on Thursday evenings, as will some historical financial data for the club.

We conduct a full business meeting for the membership only once a year. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to provide input to how the club is managed. Your participation is essential for a healthy organization.

Sincerely,
Leslie K. Hyll, Chairperson
252-0638

Proposed Changes to the Rules and Regulations and Method of Operations

The MVFD Council proposes the following changes to the *Rules and Regulations* and/or *Method of Operations*. Each change is meant to be voted on separately.

Proposed Change # 1 to Method of Operations and Rules and Regulations:

All occurrences of current wording:

Division of Recreation and Parks

Proposed wording:

Division of Leisure Services

Rational: The City of Dayton has changed the name of this Division.

Proposed Change # 2 to Rules and Regulations:

Current wording:

ARTICLE IV: THE COUNCIL: A. Council Chair: Item 2.

2. Notifies the ex-officio member of the Council and the Program Committee Chair of the time and place of Council meetings.

Proposed wording:

ARTICLE IV: THE COUNCIL: A. Council Chair: Item 2.

2. Notifies the Program Committee Chair of the time and place of Council meetings.

Rational: We have not been in the practice of notifying the ex-officio member of the Council of Council meetings. This person is defined as a representative of the Division of Recreation and Parks in the *Method of Operations*.

Proposed Change # 3 to Rules and Regulations:

Current wording:

ARTICLE IV: THE COUNCIL: C. Secretary: Item 2.

2. Sends a copy of all minutes to the City of Dayton, Division of Recreation and Parks.

Proposed wording:

ARTICLE IV: THE COUNCIL: A. Council Chair: Item 2.

Delete Item 2 and renumber other items accordingly.

Rational: We have not been in the practice of sending minutes to the City. Also, the City interfaces to us through the Miami Valley Dance Council, and the MVDC has no requirement that we send them minutes.

Following are arguments FOR and AGAINST an increase in Dues and Fees.

Arguments FOR an increase in Dues and Fees:

The membership gets a lot of pleasure from the dance programs at a very low cost. For instance, the annual cost of using a car to get to the Pavilion probably far exceeds the cost of the dues.

Weekend workshops require large outlays of cash (in addition to a lot of effort on the part of some members) with no attendance guarantees. Plans for weekend workshops need to be made many months in advance. We need a financial cushion for both types of workshops, weekend and mini.

Assuming that workshops benefit the club as a whole, the entire membership should help pay for them - not just those who attend workshops. If dues are increased then the cost of the workshops can be subsidized, allowing us to charge the membership less for the workshops. If dues are not increased, workshop prices will have to be significantly increased, possibly fewer members will attend, meaning higher prices for future workshops and lower attendance, etc.

Mini-workshops, which are much less expensive than a weekend workshop, seem to be well received by the club, but long range plans cannot be based on them since we often only have a few weeks notice of the possibility of each workshop. Additionally, we lose money on mini-workshops, which cost \$150 - \$200, as we are not trying to cover the cost by admissions (currently \$1.00 for members and \$3.00 for non-members).

Even with a dues increase, folk dancing is would still be an inexpensive activity.

Arguments AGAINST an increase in Dues and Fees:

We should learn to live within our current income.

We should reduce the number of workshops or discontinue them altogether because we don't really need new dances. We already have many dances in our library which we don't use.

For those who feel we need new dances, many club members do attend special events around the country and they have been very generous in sharing with us the dances they have learned.

We are fortunate to have several excellent teachers in the club, so why do we need to pay money for outsiders to teach us dances?

Those who attend workshops should be the ones who pay for them. Workshop prices should be set so as to cover the cost of the workshop (i.e. let's raise the cost of the workshops).

Some members may not be able to afford the increase. Other members who attend club functions infrequently, may opt to pay guest fees when they come rather than annual dues, as a cost savings.