**McNamara McCarthy School of Irish Dance Family Organization**

**Meeting Minutes 1-12-2023**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm.

Meeting minutes from 11-3-22 were discussed and approved. Bonni Fredrick motioned to approve and Dan Richards seconded. The motion passed.

President-

We currently have 77 dues paying families. We are continuing to invoice families through Paypal and this seems to be working well.

Treasurer-

Lori Stangberg reports the Holiday party raised $2,237.60 and all invoices paid. MMFO’s balance as of today is $2963.20, and feis monies are $13269.43, for a checking account balance of 16,232.63. Four large checks have not been cashed.

**Committee Reports:**

Feis Committee –

Bonni Fredrick reports the committee is beginning work for the 2023 feis, and expects/hoping attendance to be significantly higher than 2022. The committee purchased radios/walkie talkies for approximately $500, and is looking into purchasing a photo back drop. The estimated costs of this will be around $500.

The Feis Committee held a meeting, and a decision was made to keep a balance of $7500 for seed monies and other capital purchases. Being said, the committee requests any extra monies donated to MMFO to be used to pay the entry fees for dancers attending Nationals. Discussion was had regarding and we will present the idea for a vote at either the February or March meeting.

Bonni announced the committee is looking for new parents, as the current committee is aging out. This is a great opportunity to learn about how a feis is run and to give back to the dance community. If you or anyone you know would like to begin shadowing feis committee members, please reach out to Bonni Fredrick.

Holiday Party Committee-

We are planning on the same venue for 2023 and Janice Shoman will complete the contract and place the $300 down payment during the next two weeks.

Overall, the feedback was good. Merchandise sales and the silent auction brought in good revenue. Too much pizza was ordered this year, next year we will be able to gauge better using this year’s attendance numbers. Dan Richards wants to bring his own sound system for next year, as the VFW post’s system doesn’t reach the back of the hall. Bonni Fredrick noted we can put together an auction basket of left over Christmas ornaments used as feis awards. Janice Shoman said for 2023 she will reach out.

Mock Feis Committee –

The Mock Feis/educational gathering planning is going well. Janice will purchase squish mallows as awards for the dancers, and Natalie Walesa has volunteered to give the parent talk. The venue is secured for Sunday February 5th from noon to 4pm. Gibsons is the vendor who will be present for shoe/sock/feis needs.

**Old Business:**

Janice Shoman will donate approximately 26 chairs for the new parent room. However, the room still needs tables. One suggestion was purchasing plastic folding tables, they are easy to move and travel well. It was suggested to reach out to families and see if any families had a table or two to donate.

**New Business:**

Website-

Janice Shoman stated she would like to create more features for the website. Suggestions were to create a quick link to class calendars, information on feising (levels, etc), create an event calendar. Janice will begin to work on this during the next month.

St Pat Parade-

The Anderer’s Firetruck will be used in the parade, followed by a Jeep pulling a trailer with the MMFO 4x4 sign, banner, shamrocks and a sound system. Joe Anderer will build a frame for the sign to keep it from getting damaged from the wind. We will begin selling Shamrocks of support to put on the sides of the trailer and Janice will order additional festooning to decorate the trailer. The goal is to raise enough funds with shamrocks of support to cover the cost of decorations and any new wood/framing. Joe stated we should be able to re-use wood purchased last year. We currently have 24 hand held Irish Flags for the littles and regular sized flags that were purchased last year. Dan Richards suggested a gift card of $50 to cover gas for Joe and Janice, which they immediately refused. Joe Anderer stated we need to begin looking for new/additional parade committee members, as many hands make for light work.

MM Open House-

The MM school open house will be held on March 25th. It will be a similar format as last year, MMFO will provide coffee and cookies, and display school and solo costumes for prospective families. MMFO could use one or two parent volunteers to help cheerlead the school.

**Discussion**:

The golf course is booked for The Colleen on Thursday July 13th.

Laura Donaldson suggested to Janice if there were any additional MMFO funds, maybe they could be used to defray the cost of school costumes. A suggestion was made to create a program to resell school dresses, and some members suggested that would be best done by the school and not MMFO.

Lori Strangberg suggested now that MMFO has been established for a year and half, we should create a yearly budget. Membership agreed and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn by Bonni Fredrick and seconded by Dan Richards.

The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:31pm.