

**South of the Border  
Contra Dance Trip  
Presidential Musings**

**Fred wrote a Haiku  
It's about contra dance  
You will enjoy it**

# NEFFA



# NEWS

Fall 2015 — Vol. XLI #3

**Mega Minutes  
Archival Photos of**



## Contra Dancing in Mexico — The Adventure Begins!

**I**t is a testament to the joy of contra dancing, that some folks will go to great lengths to make sure that they have opportunities to dance. Take Brooks Hart as a prime example. I had the good fortune to meet Brooks when he was involved with Village Contra in New York City. He volunteered many hours for that dance, and even did some calling. Since those days, Brooks has moved to Mérida, on the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. He is very happy there.....but he missed contra dancing. He realized that the only way to do some dancing close to home was to start a dance. So he did just that! For the last year, he has offered a dance series in Mérida, and some occasional dances in Oaxaca. Despite the challenges of finding good dance space, and the ups and downs of attendance, he has remained true to his vision of having contra dancing in his new home town.



*Brooks Hart*



Along the way, we started a very enjoyable email conversation, which included sharing dances, thoughts on music, suggestions for programming, as well as teaching, and lots of encouragement. As luck would have it, Brooks shared a dream he had of offering a dance weekend to which folks in the U.S. might be tempted to participate. His thought was that the influx of experienced dancers would be great for all his new folks, and the dance series might grow as a consequence. In addition, visitors would have a great colonial era city to visit and enjoy. This idea seemed wonderful to me, and I encouraged him to move forward with it.....and volunteered to help out by being his caller. Thus the **Mérida Dance Week** was born!

After considering various options, Brooks decided that, rather than a weekend, the dance sessions would be spread out over a week, allowing visitors to have their contra dancing, but also more options for exploring the cultural and historic offerings of Mérida and the Yucatan. And what a week he chose! The dates coincide with a three week long Arts & Culture Festival, which celebrates the founding of Mérida in 1542. Although the Festival schedule for 2016 has not yet been finalized, here is an outline of what the city has to offer:

- **Dance:** Contemporary dance, as well as traditional dances and events.
- **Theatre:** Theatre presentations, workshops and visits to various communities.

- **Conferences:** Talks, lectures and conferences with leading characters.
- **Literature:** Lectures, seminars, and presentations of books and magazines.
- **Visual Arts:** Movies, documentaries, exhibition of paintings, photographs and handicrafts.
- **Music:** Concerts, serenades, trips, dances, and traditional events.
- **Children:** Events directed especially for the whole family.

Brooks' plan is to have 2 or 3 contras dances, a waltz workshop, and a musicians' workshop during the week of Jan 16 to Jan 23, 2016. To sweeten things even more: Amy Larkin (fiddle), and Linda Henry (piano), will also make the trip, so that we can enjoy fabulous live music!

We are really looking forward to this trip! Since I speak Spanish, it will be fun to teach the dances in both Spanish and English. Brooks has been actually calling the dance moves in English. This seems to be the decision made by a number of folks who have begun contra/square dancing groups in locations outside the U.S., like in Denmark, for example. The idea is that dancers can then dance in many more places, if they know the calls in English. As a result, a number of Danes have attended Pinewoods Camp, and had a great time!



Brooks attended NEFFA in 2015, and brought a friend from Oaxaca (who fell in love with all things Balkan!), one of the contra dancers from Mérida, and her good friend from Louisiana. They all had a great time! We hope to tempt an even larger group from Mérida to join us at NEFFA 2016. I have offered hospitality to any who might be tempted, so we hope that dancers come and enjoy our Festival.

We hope that as many dancers as possible join us in Mexico for this adventure. Plans are not completely finalized yet, but you can be kept updated, and discuss travel, lodging and excursion options, by asking to join the FB group, which is called: **Mérida Contra Dance - January 2016**

You may also email me directly: [laleslierjg@comcast.net](mailto:laleslierjg@comcast.net)

Saludos! Linda Leslie

*Dancers cross the set  
A two-beat conversation  
Contradancing tweets.*

— Fred Wersan

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<b>Editorial Review: Terry Huffaker, Shelagh Ellman-Pearl, Lisa Greenleaf, Maureen Carey</b>												
<p><b>The NEFFA News</b>, a publication of the New England Folk Festival Association, Inc., is published four times a year to communicate with its membership and other interested persons. <b>Please send all editorial submissions to <a href="mailto:neffa_news@neffa.org">neffa_news@neffa.org</a></b>. Opinions of individuals are not necessarily the opinion of the NEFFA Executive Board.</p> <p><b>Publicize your events!</b> Display advertising is available for qualifying folk-related organizations. For more information, contact the editor.      Copyright © 2015 by the New England Folk Festival Association, Inc.</p>												



# MacFEST AND MORE!



Thoughts by Terry Huffaker

Last month I attended a dance in Peterborough, NH sponsored by the Monadnock Folklore Society to raise money for a scholarship in honor of Bob McQuillen. Appropriately called MacFest, it was a double contra dance and dinner. The scholarship will go to Contoocook Valley Regional High School (ConVal) students who need help paying fees for college or trade school. Bob taught at ConVal and helped many a kid who needed a friendly firm push.

Bob touched the lives of so many of us in the dance community and was one musician who you would always find at a NEFFA event, whether at the Festival or the Ralph Page Weekend. We have a photo of him from 1962 playing in the orchestra at Tufts. He believed in "passing it forward" before that term was ever coined. Just as Bob was encouraged and influenced by Johnny Trombly and established a scholarship in Johnny's name, it is so fitting that we encourage the future with a scholarship in Bob's name.

I have been encouraged to see the people, groups, organizations and the communities working, working, working on the now, shaping the future:

**YDW (Youth Dance Weekend)** has put a pay-what-you-can system in place and a weighted registration lottery to keep the new folks coming to the event.

**BIDA (Boston Intergenerational Dance Advocates)** has put some interesting writing on the wall. The signs, which present good dancer tips, don't have a lot to do with how to shake-your-booty. They inspire us to be just a little bit better of a community to those newcomers who walk in the door.

On November 7th, the **Country Dance Society, Boston Centre** is celebrating their 100th anniversary with an afternoon and evening of dancing and performances that is free to all. They are asking each of you to join the party.

<http://cde-boston.org/100th-anniversary.html>

Our folk music world is full of these examples, and I haven't even scratched the surface. Look around and lend a hand, a smile or whatever it takes. It isn't just the magic of summer camp that gives us a wonderful community— I think this magic is alive all year—we just need to open our eyes to see it.



If “elephant” was the word of my last message, then the word for this one is “assumptions”.

Assumptions. We work within their framework and they guide our actions. But what happens when you question the assumptions? The theme for the NEFFA Board retreat this year was just that. We questioned why we do the things we do – especially as they relate to the Festival and how we can work together as a Board.

It is hard to let go of the memories/historical past for the “old timers”, yet pass on the vital information that has been gleaned from all those experiences. Many Board members and other volunteers have spent many years volunteering their time, passion and energy to carry on a “tradition”. A few may realize that they have been shaping a future that differs from the assumptions of those that handed their historical view to them. But many times they do not. I can bet that Ralph Page (were he alive today) would have a hissy fit with “Zesty Contras” as introduced by Larry Jennings in 1983 in his book by the same name.

So, what is it that we need to pass on? Well, if I had a definitive answer I could make millions and solve one of the great dilemmas most of us will face one day- as all of us grapple with these thoughts and the material possessions in our everyday lives. Why, how can I part with Aunt Della’s crocheted tablecloth, Great-grand-pa Charles’ tools that he did his doctoring with from horse and buggy, or this baptism dress that is over 100 years old? Let’s not get too carried away with the stuff that I have tucked away in the closet and want to forget about. What about the stuff that is SO important to me- the stuff I have used or made or that carry memories for the life I am now living.

New folks come to the Board with ideas and energy. How do we harness the energy, and in fact realize that this transfusion of new blood will mix and we will be a better organization going forward?

But it takes work on all sides. I think that the one trait we share is impatience. With the retreat, I think we made steps forward in learning how to talk with each other. We questioned the words and the intent behind the words. We questioned the assumptions behind the words and wouldn’t you know - some of our assumptions are deeply imbedded in the way we use language.

Do we need a NEFFA Festival? Do we need NEFFA? Are crafts essential to the Festival? Does Bazaar have to be International in intent? Why do Committees work independently? Do we use volunteers well? What makes us work or not work? How do we make room for the new folks to grow in experience and have develop confidence in each other? To all of these assumptions and many more I believe that we learned something about ourselves in this process. I am so excited to be working with this talented team of folks for the upcoming year. Thank you for the willingness to be open in this dialog, and for the commitment to go forward.

Join us. Work with us. Want to talk?

Contact me or any Board member. Call the NEFFA Virtual office at (617) 299-1590 — Terry



## FROM THE ARCHIVES:

Photos, they can be wonderful triggers or reminders or records of wonderful events or they can be just a set of unidentified folks/ places doing something at an unidentified time. When I was able to date a set of photos in the NEFFA archives, I was pleased. They became more valuable. But it gets even better. I posted some photos on Facebook before the last Festival and the magic happened. Someone saw them, told someone else, and on down the line until I got a phone call.

What follows are four photos of the Ed Larkin Old Time Contra Dance Group. Founded in 1934 by Ed Larkin, they have been performing ever since and can be seen in Tunbridge, Vermont. They performed at the Tunbridge Fair on Sept. 17-20. They have performed twice at the NEFFA Festival, in 1960 and 1974. With the help of Lois Wakefield and all the current and past members of the group, all the folks in all the photos NEFFA has have been identified.

A very special thanks for the help. And we do hope to see them at Festival again someday.



Ed Larkin 1960:  
Folks identified on  
the photo.

NEFFA 1960 Ed Larkin # 427

Will Rapport - Photographer



Ed Larkin # 3 1974: Bill Roberts & Stella Waldo in front. Others visible left to right Mary Young, David Wakefield, Lois Wakefield and Burt Wheeler.



Ed Larkin # 21 1974: Arthur Wakefield & Dottie Olmstead front couple with Elizabeth Taplin & Ned Durkee behind.

Ed Larkin # 22 1974: Tophats (& Bonnets) in the Bleachers – L>R Arthur Wakefield, Ned Durkee, Merta Wakefield, Lucille & Burt Wheeler, Marjorie & Frank Brown, Charlie Olmstead and the last top hat of them all was Ray Hull.







Ed Larkin 2015 group photo....oops- they did not identify themselves!

Hello Fellow Organizers,

I wanted to share a new organizer resource that JUST came online... The 'Puttin' On The Dance 2' organizer conference archive is now available. I won't say anything more other than it's SUPER useful and worth looking through ... check it out!

<http://www.puttinonthedance.org/potd2-conference-notes/>

Related - if you want to see more images from the sessions, look here:  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/puttinonthedance/albums>

Additionally, these two archives of conferences are also available:

POTD1: <http://www.puttinonthedance.org/potd1materials/>  
SWROC: <http://cdss.org/swroc/post-conference/archive/>

Most any topic under organizing has been covered at one or more of these conferences.

Enjoy!

Emily Addison - for Putting On The Dance 2

## June 14, 2015 NEFFA Executive Board Meeting Minutes Summary

### President's Report (Terry Huffaker)

Since the Festival, I met with the nominating committee. We are in good shape; we have updated the new board member book. I will be communicating with the new board members.

### Treasurer's report (Ralph Jones)

We lost about \$9000 this year on the Festival. This is more than past years. Attendance appears to have been down a bit. The big expense I don't have yet is from Peterson Party Services. They had been giving us a discount that they did not include this year. I have not received ticket expenses either. Maureen: it is not significant. Michael Bergman indicated a few more expenses are outstanding but nothing major.

Linda: It occurred to me that we are using more rooms, which means we have more performers, which means we have fewer sold tickets. I am going to do some research on the number of performers and how much we have increased. By increasing the offerings at the Festival, we are certainly losing revenue. Our check-in list has more people on it than actually check in. I think a lot of these are the ritual teams, who are 1/3 to 1/2 of the names on our list. Jillian and I are going to work on this a bit. Jillian is convinced that most morris teams would be open to looking at tickets a different way. Shelagh: I have noticed people who used to have paid tickets who are now performers who are performing one slot.

Linda: yes, we have several very large groups. We have talked to the leaders of these groups about the issue. I think we need to reevaluate this. Is the NEFFA way something that we want to continue? Jillian is going to give us a proposal. Shelagh: it is bigger than just ritual. This should be a retreat topic. Linda: we are very aware that the Festival is a week earlier next year. This may not be the year to make a lot of changes. We need to carefully think about that. I need to hear from Mike and Harold about whether programming should be different on Friday night. We did not change it the last time we moved the Festival dates.

Terry: we need a finance committee. We need a committee to determine how to deal with the financial situation in a bigger way.

### Festival Committee Reports

#### Tickets

Caroline Bays: In general tickets went well. We had fewer volunteers. Will call line was way too long on Friday night. We will fix this next year.

Beth: I think we need to look at our accounting systems again.

Ann: there has been talk about using credit cards at the door. Caroline: it has hit critical time at tickets with people not bringing cash. We have to send too many people away to get cash. It is no longer doable. Bill: can you as the ticket committee come up with a system. Caroline: we need to know about what is accessible. Ann: People are using Square.

Ann: we need a technical committee. Dan: there are many companies with systems for iPads.

Nick: you can get inexpensive iPads online.

Dan: do our prices change in unpublished ways? Caroline: no.

Maureen: I think we have a huge problem. There is a large number of people who pay for Saturday Day, do not pay for Saturday Night and stay. There was a programming issue of the Contra medley happening just after the changeover. Dan: we made a NEFFA decision to allow these people to stay. Linda: this will not happen again. We take full responsibility for creating a problem. The issue becomes that we need to check tickets. This is a Safety issue. Dan: perhaps we can make an announcement in the hall. Maureen: I don't know if safety was understaffed, but there were many day tickets after changeover. Dan: safety needs to regulate admission. Terry: safety was understaffed. I talked to Alan about this. He gets most of his volunteers at the Festival and they don't like to be confrontational. We need to make it clear that they are sitting at the door. Also, when Linda sent out the schedule none of us caught that it was at this time. Somehow all of us should have seen it. We all missed this. I felt the same with Dan and felt we needed to allow them to stay this year.

Beth: I want to bring up the question about the policy of not selling Saturday evening tickets before the session begins. This caused a lot of bad will.

Linda: I think this needs to be a retreat topic. We need to look at things that are problems for us. We need to look at ways to make happy campers. Perhaps we need a Saturday ticket. Pat: maybe we need to simplify wherever we can and when it is responsible and safe. Terry: Vermont day thing has a prorated ticket price. Jessica: They reduce the price all day, selling the same ticket for different prices. Caroline: we used to have prorated prices and it made

everyone unhappy.

### Advertising

Bill: \$4000 about the same number as last year.

### Crafts

Ann: I submitted my report. Mostly it went well. We always have trouble getting the right number/balance of good people. We are really pleased with who we got. We have problems getting people to commit. We are thinking about changing our fee structure. We need to make a decision by the end of July. We are thinking of two tiers: a set price and a late fee (with the option of waiving it for someone we really want to get in.) We also need a clear policy about not refunding fees after a certain date (again with the ability to have desertion.) We want to be a bit tougher.

We would like to work with someone here to accept money by PayPal or whatever. Dan: we are already doing PayPal for food booths. Ann: we would also like to be able to charge for tables at the Festival.

I would also like us to think about the Margarita's Restaurant thing. They bring in Mexican crafts people. They bring in top notch craftspeople. This is why we had the mask carvers demo on Saturday. We could do this for the next several years. This would be a demo space. When I talked to the representative he had other ideas. He wanted to know if we had corporate sponsors. I don't want to reopen that whole discussion, but I am throwing it out there.

Shelagh: this is a policy discussion that has been discussed at length. Terry: we had a full discussion several years ago. Linda: there are many ways to have corporate sponsorships. Pat: do they have musicians? Ann: I will ask.

### Evaluations

Shelagh: I have some statistics. We are moving more away from paper. I had 550 printed. I have about 300 left. We received 102 paper evaluations total. 169 online.

The report has some statistics on locations. Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut and Vermont are the big numbers. Several of this year's special questions were not responded to.

Linda: Thank you for working with me on the performer question. We got some really good responses. I would like to keep that question with "please be specific." Folks spontaneously said "I would like to host performers." I was also impressed with the number of "this was my first NEFFA" responses. Sarah: any correlation with paper or online?

Shelagh: some of the old-timers have gotten mad with 20+ Linda: we will always have something that people get upset about.

Terry: Do we ask if performers are filling out evaluations? Linda: they often will say so and we know many of them.

Shelagh: the paper form had a line for name. I wondered how many people would fill it in. Quite a few gave their names. That question did not make it to the online form.

Terry: we did not get the table set up in the lobby in time for people to fill out from Saturday session 1 or Friday.

Shelagh: we never get many evaluations on Friday. Terry: there are a number of people who come only Session 1 sat.

### Folk Bazaar

We have 15 participants. There were 3 regulars who did not attend.

One new table came and left Early Saturday and said it was not busy enough to stay.

We had 5 ethnic groups, 5 Miscellaneous, and 5 other organizations. It may be time to consider why we call it the folk bazaar. Perhaps we need to think about how to make it more colorful as a folk bazaar.

We used to have lots of kids and now we don't seem to get their interest.

Ann: I think the folk bazaar needs a lot of rethinking. It has not been reworked since we moved to Mansfield. Jane: but we don't have much space. Ann: I get a lot of feedback from people who don't apply. People don't like being in rooms. I heard from one of your old-timers that they are not getting traffic. I will like us to encourage quality international crafts vendors.

### Food

Maureen: Michael and I were greatly involved when it became clear the Luke was not going to be there. I liked that Luke made an effort. He expressed what the job is really like. This is a very difficult job. A lot of what happened this year was regrettable. Julia didn't pass on good information to Luke. I am going to work really hard with what he worked on and move ahead.

Food is still an issue. The old Natick setup was greatly beloved, but time has moved on and we can't go back.

Everything changes. The two towns are different.

Maureen: I need another person to work on food with me. I would rather not be in charge, but I'm back on board. I would like to incorporate the food truck thing. We need to revisit pricing. What amount concession I can give new

people. I am determined to get people into the cafeteria. It is our central location. We need people there.

### Information

Terry: things went pretty well. We had some issues with the activity room. The transfer from Susan to the next person didn't go as well as we wanted. We worked it out, including "please lock the door" if no one was there. We need to have a volunteer at all times if it is open. I think there really should be two people there at all times.

IPhones don't work well in the lobby. We tried newer phones, different networks, etc. The police said there were so many phones in the building that it was impacting their networks. Max: we should ask AT&T and Verizon about that.

Pat: I have a booster that ups my signal. Who is the provider in the school system? Bill: Harold talked to them about that.

Beth: we need to talk to the school's IT person.

Terry: Unity church has taken it on themselves to talk to other churches in the area about extending the B & B offerings. We also filled a B & B in Easton who sent us a donation for filling her location for the weekend.

We staffed our tables with veteran volunteers and took a volunteer committee volunteer for the second slot. So we had people who knew how to answer questions.

### Outside Facilities

Dan: not much to say. The busses ran well. Early evening when the bus drivers change shifts there is a blank period of time. I will discuss this with them.

Porta potties did not appear to be serviced overnight. We may not need the overnight servicing. Essentially they are there to service people who arrive prior to doors opening.

### Inside Signs

Michael: Things went very well. There was some miscommunication with getting volunteers together. We had fewer volunteers. I had people knock off a little earlier. Somehow the poles for the lobby weren't ordered. Let me know if you have needs for next year. Bill: You've been doing this for how long? Michael: 26 years.

### Outside signs

Dayle: I got some new signs. Used my whole budget. I had no volunteers on Thursday. It all worked out. Beth: I did notice there was a lack of signs on Friday night. Dayle: We didn't have volunteers to load/unload the truck on Thursday.

### Parking

Bill: we have a report. No major issues except insufficient volunteers. Mishap with vendor not getting into the vendor lot.

### Printed Materials/Mobile App

Linda: there are numbers in my report. Cost was less because the printer gave us the grids for free because of an error in 2014. Dan: I had a lot of Festival flyers left over and I wonder why. Linda: I didn't see flyers at any of the cape dances. Dan: If you can get me better contact people for the cape dances I will get them out.

Dan: the mobile app seemed to have less use this year. It may be that people's curiosity was addressed. The people who use it seem to like it. It is a pain in the neck to populate and work with but the price is good and I recommend we continue using it. Bill: how much? Dan: \$99 Michael: did they fix the bug that causes a search to not show when a performer is on? Dan: no.

### Inside Operations

Harold: I thought everything went pretty well. There was minimum number of on the moment emergencies. Set up went well. Strike went extremely well.

Evaluations had 193 likes and 153 not likes. Bathrooms are always an issue. We make sure the facilities staff know that. They are responsive. There were some incidents of people going up the stairs, but they handled it.

No major injuries were reported by the EMTs.

Jamming in the hallways near the nap room came up. I never saw anything that looked like jamming down there.

People said they really wanted to take care of their dancing shoes between buildings. More shoe changing chairs are needed. We may not be able to put them by the actual exits, but we will ask about it.

Another issue that came up: there were more comments about handicapped access to the stages. We had a performer who fell. No injury but an issue.

Do we want to set aside wheelchair space in performance halls? I happened to be in a room for an extremely popular sing along and the safety people were brokering who could come in/out. We had some people standing which is a fire



code issue. People often don't see chairs in the middle.

Dan: Should we be asking on performer applications if anyone in the group has mobility issues? Linda: we can do that. Harold: it's often the big groups like Roaring Jelly or Rum& Onions.

The Police were very responsive about the hours issue. I will work with the Fire people to keep the EMTs to an 8 hour shift.

Linda: Since program starts in the fall, will being a week earlier change the number of rooms or when program starts on Friday night. Harold: it has worked out in the past. We have expanded our rooms since the last time. Certainly crafts, food, bazaar and the gyms are priorities to be operational. If we can put off rooms that demand stages it would help us focus on the other rooms. Linda: we can start folk music and song later. Let's put our heads together for that.

Harold: we can get them out of the halls but wait on getting them setup. Linda: sound would appreciate that as well.

Terry: I was sitting off the middle school auditorium when there was a dance on the stage and I was worried about the barrier. I would like to discuss the barriers. We had someone who was blind dancing on the stage. I don't know what the solution is. Harold: they are not designed to not move if someone crashes into them. They are more a visual clue. I don't know if the dance leaders are cautioning people. I don't think we could ever get them absolutely fool-proof.

Terry: do we have to think about limiting the number of people dancing? Harold: It's been an issue, even back in Natick.

Dan: is the front of the stage curved or straight. Linda: straight in the middle school, curved in the high school.

Dan: perhaps we could put a cable from the wings.

### Program

Linda: Some highlights. We are well aware of the room capacity problems. Try as hard as we can we will miss sometimes. Who knew that Pub Sing would be so popular? Who knew the last session on Sunday would be so popular? We try to put people in spaces that will work. Singers are going to go on the Auditorium stage.

We always need more/bigger dance spaces. Colonial dance having too many for the high school stage? The program committee study the evaluations. We had a very long meeting on Tuesday night.

Saturday dance performances may be reduced in time. This will give us another high school auditorium stage. This has not been a participatory dance area but it has worked out. We will share the time between large folk music & song events and dance.

Jamming space is an issue. People want to jam in the hallways. We have the happy occurrence that people have gotten used to rehearsal rooms. HS 101 will be shifted to rehearsal space.

Nobody wants to talk about more signs, but there is something to be said about well worded signs like BIDA. We are going to ask for feedback. We can't ask callers to talk about it on the mic. I want to ask us to be proactive about behavior issues.

We should not have anyone wearing wooden clogs at NEFFA on the dance floor. We have an individual who has been asked in the past. We need to talk about how to handle this. We need to talk about proper dance shoes. Terry: the board needs to step up and handle this.

Pat: how many comments were there on behavior? Linda: I didn't count, but I feel this is the tip of the iceberg. We need to figure out how to create a positive atmosphere. Michael: Traditionally there have been none, so the fact that there were any is an issue. Linda: there have always been a comment or two about the advanced medley. This was different that there were comments about dance in general.

Mac: Should we have door police for overcrowded rooms? Terry: this is our policy. One person per chair. Safety and the board should be monitoring this.

### Publicity

Dan: Apart from the flyer issue, social media and our Facebook group and page are growing steadily. The page is for people who just want information. Far and away the post that got the most reach was the tee shirt image. Tee shirts are a hot item and the best publicity we can have. I talked to Lisa about ordering more shirts. Pat: I think they ran out on Saturday. Mac: the designs are great. Beth: Courtney and Lisa do a great job! Dayle: I love the designs but I don't like the shirts. I would like to put the design on the shirt of my choice. Beth: why don't we have a Café Press or Zazzle account? Dan: our printer chooses the shirts.

Terry: there are a few people who have been higher level members who have not gotten their tee shirts. Beth: this has been an issue. Both for people who sign up at the Festival or don't attend the Festival.

### Volunteer

Dave: numbers were down. This might be related to attendance. This was the first year we did not send out postcards. We will try going back to that.

Scheduling, we will probably be moving toward less flexibility for people. We will be moving to a system more like the Flurry does. This could be less confusing in the long run.

Committee chairs please get me your problem volunteers and no shows. We especially want to know who are really good people. We are looking for new table managers. There are several levels of volunteers and we are missing the “mid-level” volunteers. Someone more than just a volunteer, but less than a chair or board member.

Most people enjoyed volunteering. There were issues with the children’s activity room. Sound scheduling had a major hiccup. Program didn’t get the right information to Sound, so they couldn’t get it to us in a timely manner. Carl: is there any filter for “ableness” in the system? I was running curtain crew and I had a volunteer with a walker. Dave: perhaps we need more information when you apply. Dan: what the job requires. “You need to lift 50 pounds. You need to be comfortable on a ladder.” Etc. Terry: are the descriptions on the volunteer page? Dave: some may need updating.

Beth: I think we have a yellow flag here. We need to communicate with our community that this Festival will not survive/thrive without volunteers. Dave: that’s why we need more buy-in from those mid-level people to make it clear that we need them. Terry: I told people that I was accepting no one from the Festival to cover. My volunteers covered and felt like a crew of people who were working together. That was very special. Dave: some committees we could really benefit from that kind of team thinking.

Linda: Program has worked out performer check in by having people on the committee sit at the desk.

Bill: can we make the Festival more efficient? Pat: and not burn out our long term volunteers? Dayle: we are generous with what we give our volunteers. 6 hours would get me a single session at most festivals. Terry: we are the same as the Flurry. Dayle: we are generous. Jessica: there are some dance weekends where everyone volunteers because they are part of the community. Linda: I met someone who was at a hammered dulcimer festival where everyone had to pay \$5. We do need to let ourselves brainstorm.

#### Outdoor craft demonstrations

People enjoyed it. We didn’t get clearance until Friday afternoon. The only publicity was stickers on the grids for Saturday.

#### Drum Circle

Bill: it was attended about as well as last year’s session inside. It did not draw a lot of non NEFFA Festival goers. His inclination was to not do it this same way next year. There were 30 people when I saw it.

#### New Business

Bill: We need to update our certified legal agent. Steve Moore is still listed. This would be who any actions being served against us would be directed.

James D. Henderson of Stow, MA.

Jessica: Moved to change our certified legal agent to James D. Henderson of Stowe, MA. Ralph seconded. Passed.

#### Rise up singing

These folks approached us in April for NEFFA Sponsorship. No money but sponsorship. They would like us to publicize their event on October 17. Dan: I will print whatever they send us.

# **PARTY? PARTY!**

## **Thursday Contras to Celebrate 25th Anniversary!**

It seems like yesterday when NEFFA took over stewardship of the Thursday Night Dance, but in reality, it has been 25 years, over 1250 dance evenings, and nearly 20,000 balance and swings.

Well, this is worth celebrating, we think, and we're gonna do it on Thursday October 22, at the Concord Scout House starting 7:30pm! Scheduled to call are Thursday Night Dance Committee members Lisa Greenleaf, Sue Rosen and Dan Pearl. Joining them is special guest Tod Whittemore, who founded and ran the Thursday dance as a family enterprise in the late 1970's.

The music will be provided by the Moving Violations Trio from western Mass. known for their slightly off-beat material expertly played.

Did we say this is a FREE dance? Did we mention REFRESHMENTS?

Come and help us celebrate!

-- Dan Pearl, Chair, TNDC



**N·E·F·F·A**

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