

# LCFD BYLAWS

Revised March, 2003

## I. Purpose

- A. The official name of the group is "Lavender Country and Folk Dancers" (LCFD).
- B. LCFD organizes and runs dance camps, which are multiple-day events usually occurring at a rustic site.
- C. LCFD promotes and supports gender-free traditional dancing (contra, square, English country, and folk) primarily, but not exclusively, for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and friends.
- D. LCFD is a not-for-profit organization which will occasionally raise money for the purpose of supporting LCFD activities.
- E. LCFD will promote gay, lesbian and bisexual dance leaders and musicians, and others who support gender-free dancing, whenever possible.

## II. Members

- A. Anyone may join LCFD regardless of sexual orientation.
- B. Membership status, benefits, terms, and fees, if any, shall be determined by the board of directors.

## III. Member Organizations

- A. Local Dance Groups: LCFD will support local dance organizations which sponsor gender-free traditional dance. The relationship between the LCFD board and the local groups will be marked by the following:
  - 1. LCFD will assist a local group with financing (if available) and expertise. Requests for monetary assistance should be forwarded to the treasurer. Decision to grant or loan money will be made by the board.
  - 2. LCFD will advertise the local dances to a wide audience via LCFD publications (calendar, newsletter, etc.) and other traditional dance publications.
  - 3. The local dance groups will be asked to assist LCFD in advertising LCFD activities in its area.
- B. Dance Focused Groups--LCFD will be supportive of related gender-free traditional dance groups (Western square dancing, country & western, ballroom, English Country, etc.) and include the activities in LCFD events where possible and be a resource for more information.

IV. Leadership

V.

A. The activities of LCFD will be managed by an 11 person board of directors elected by the membership at its annual meeting. The board selects a nominating committee for purposes of soliciting a slate of candidates from the membership and running the election according to organizational guidelines. The term of office is two years with six positions elected in odd years and five in even years. The board may not be more than 2/3 of one gender, unless no other qualified candidates are available. An attempt will be made to achieve balanced geographic representation of membership on the board.

Because 2003 is a transition year with 7 expiring one and two year terms but with only 6 two year term directors to be elected, there will be one director elected with a one-year term. (This paragraph is to be removed from the By-Laws in 2004.)

B. The board of directors will appoint the following officers from among its members at its first meeting following the annual election to serve for one year:

1. Two Co-chairs, one female and one male: Facilitate the organization, lead meetings, assign tasks.
2. Treasurer: Keeps account of all monies. Pays bills and manages income. Sets budgets for coming year. Responsible for an annual financial statement which will be published in the LCFD newsletter.
3. Membership Coordinator: Maintains the membership list and the general mailing list. Sends out membership packets to new members Updates the mailing list. Mails out informational packets.
4. Newsletter Editor: Produces and mails the LCFD newsletter to all members. Responsible for collecting input from officers and members, formatting, printing and shipping.
5. Members-at-large (6): Generally assist in carrying out the work of the board, by serving on committees and providing input to the board from the membership. One member-at-large, on a rotating basis, will take the meeting minutes and will mail them to the board members.

C. The board of directors will appoint board members or general members to the following committees:

1. Dance Camp Coordinators (3 for each camp): Named by the board one year in advance, the camp coordinators will be in charge of all aspects of running the dance camps, including staffing, location, advertising, registration, recruiting of camp helpers, etc. The coordinators must be represented at board meetings.
2. Newsletter Committee(2): Assist newsletter editor in all activities.

D. Filling LCFD Board Vacancies Outside of the Annual Board Election Process

In the case of vacancies, the board of directors may appoint a member to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting when an election will take place.

## V. Meetings

### A. Meetings of the general membership

1. An annual meeting of the membership will be held at winter dance camp, usually scheduled on the last weekend in February. The members will elect the board of directors at the annual meeting and transact any other business that may come before the membership. Members unable to attend the annual meeting will have the opportunity to vote by absentee ballot or by proxy.
2. One-fifth of the total membership will constitute a quorum for membership meetings. A simple majority of members present is necessary to carry a motion or transact other business.

### B. Board of Directors

1. There will be a minimum of three board meetings per year.
2. Quorum: An LCFD meeting has a quorum if at least one co-chair and one half of the remaining board members are present.
3. A simple majority of those present at a board meeting is necessary to carry a vote. The board will attempt to reach decisions by consensus.
4. All LCFD members are welcome to come and participate in any meeting.
5. Agenda items must be sent in to one of the co-chairs one month before the meeting date and a proposed agenda will be sent to all board members and meeting participants two weeks before the meeting date.
6. Minutes of the meeting should be sent to board members within one month after the meeting and summaries of the meeting will be published in the next LCFD newsletter.

## VI. Outreach/Publicity

### A. Regional Level:

1. LCFD will send information on local and LCFD activities to its mailing list.
2. Mixed dance community outreach: LCFD will work to broaden awareness of gender-free dancing in the mixed dance community and of the gay, lesbian and bisexual community within the dance community as a whole. These activities may include:
  - a) Advertising LCFD activities in the mixed dance publications and also providing flyers for placement at mixed dances.
  - b) Promoting gender-free dancing at the New England Folk Festival (NEFFA).
  - c) Organizing gender-free dances aimed specifically at the mixed dance community.
3. Mailing List: Means of advertisement of activities and other information about LCFD to the public at large. The four segments of the mailing list may be:
  - a) LCFD members
  - b) Lesbians and straight media and contradance publications.
  - c) Lesbians organizations.
  - d) Individuals who sign up for the mailing list.

VII. Amendments and Changes to the Bylaws

- A. The bylaws may be amended or changed by a 2/3 vote taken and announced at the annual membership meeting.

VIII.

- A. No part of LCFD's assets or net earnings may inure to the benefit of any individual. This does not preclude the payment of reasonable amounts for goods or services provided to LCFD.
- B. Upon dissolution, the assets of LCFD shall be distributed to the Country Dance & Song Society, Inc., or to another non-profit organization that is exempt under sec. 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.
- C. LCFD shall not, as a substantial part of its activities carry on propaganda or otherwise attempt to influence legislation, except to the extent permitted by section 501(h) of the Internal Revenue Code, nor shall it participate to any extent in any political campaign for or against any candidate for public office.
- D. it is intended that the organization shall be entitled to exemption from Federal income tax under sec. 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code and shall not be a private foundation as described in sec. 501(c)3 of the code.
- E. LCFD subscribes to the general purposes of the Country Dance and Song Society, Inc.