

Based on this tremendous response, Web Chats have clearly been meeting a need for organizers in our communities, especially during the pandemic. Here are topics we addressed this year:

February 12: *Diversifying Income: Thinking Outside the Money Basket* provided a variety of valuable fundraising strategies for creating financially healthy dance communities. Guest organizers shared successful approaches from their ECD and contra groups. One guest also offered a presentation of questions and suggestions to help each group assess which strategies would work best for their community. (Link to this and many other Web Chat resources online at cdss.org/web-chats.)

April 29: *Yes We CAN Keep in Touch! Connecting Our Communities During the Pandemic* was our first Web Chat for bringing together organizers from dance, music, and song communities. Guests from ECD, contra, morris, song, and music communities, plus callers and musicians, shared creative ways for helping their groups stay engaged during COVID-19. This Web Chat was also our first foray into using breakout rooms, allowing participants to connect and share experiences from their communities.

July 8: *Let's Talk About Reentry: Recommendations and Q&A for Organizers* was our largest Web Chat of the year, with 447 participants! We addressed the big questions on all participants' minds: How can we keep our communities safe in a pandemic? When can we dance and sing in the same place again? What does it mean to be a dance/music/song organizer when we can't be together? Guest speakers included a dancing MD, a COVID contact tracer, a professional freelance musician, and organizers of music, dance, and song communities.

September 16: *Supporting Song Communities Across the Continent*. Our first guest started us off with a song and shared tips for leading songs online. Two other organizers shared aspects of their experiences with hosting thriving online singing groups, including creating a welcoming atmosphere, communicating the order of singers, and handling tech issues: muting, sound spotters, hand signals, sound settings, etc.

October 21: *Let's Talk About Reentry 2: Working Together Now for a Strong Return to Dancing* was our most recent Web Chat for dance organizers. Katy German shared perspectives about evolving expectations for reentry, changes we need to prepare for, and the important role organizers can play in preparing our communities for a bright future. We allowed extra time for organizers to connect during longer breakout sessions, followed by an open Q&A.

Check out cdss.org/web-chats for videos and materials generated by the above and all previous CDSS Web Chats. Questions? Email resources@cdss.org.

Next Web Chat on January 13, 2021 Organizers of song and music communities will share their successes with new technology to enable their groups to sing and play music together online in *real time!* Stay tuned for further details.

“ I really appreciated the suggestion to focus less on “when can we dance” and focus more on finding new ways to safely connect with the community and work on tasks that we normally don't have time to focus on.” —Maeve Devlin (MI)

