

President's Report  
BCS&RD Federation  
2017 Annual General Meeting

As President Couple we have had the honour of attending a number of club anniversaries including for the first time a club in this Province that has been in existence for 65 years. This is a marvelous accomplishment but every club that is marking an anniversary is to be congratulated. There are too many clubs that are finding it difficult to keep operating with aging membership and the difficult task of recruiting new members. We are definitely facing a shift of values that is particularly noticeable in the younger generations. Many of the people that we would like to invite into our activity do not look at recreation, socializing and healthy group activities in the same way that we did when we joined square and round dancing groups. We cannot give up and stop promoting. We need to look at ourselves and our activities to see if there are things that can be done differently. For example, if the public doesn't want to commit to a full season of classes we need to package and market it in another way. If we think 'outside of the box' and continue to work together we may find some the answers that have been eluding us in recent years. It is important, also, to remember that some things work in cycles and perhaps more success will soon be in the cards.

We have designated a week in September as 'Square and Round Dance Awareness Week' in the Province of BC for many years now and I encourage all clubs and dancers to make a special effort to make our activity more visible during that week. Every week should be considered for the promotion of square and round dancing but during S&RDAW we could make a special effort. This year we have requested September 17 to 23, 2017 from the BC government. We always ask for the declaration to be available by our AGM but this year it is likely we won't have it ready for distribution by that date. The office responsible in Victoria advised me some time ago that because of the election it may not be signed in time. The election results have left some things in Victoria a bit up in the air and we will get it when they get it done. In the meantime I recommend that all Regions plan their activities to go ahead, with or without a formal declaration.

I thank the Executive and Committees that have done so much for our Federation during the past year. Please read their reports and plan to attend the Federation AGM to be held at Festival 2017 in Cloverdale on July 7 at 9:30 a.m. in the Cloverdale Recreation Centre. I recommend that you also read the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting that was held on April 1, 2017 as there will be a number of items from that meeting schedule for discussion at the AGM.

There will be a number of Provincial and National Festivals coming up after Festival 2017. You should be able to get information at the Cloverdale Festival and plan your future Summer dance activities. In 2018 there will be a National in London, Ontario. In 2019 there will be a Provincial in Salmon Arm. In 2020 the National will be coming to Surrey.

I wish all members Happy Dancing and urge you to 'get involved'.

Ken Crisp, President, BCS&RD Federation