

Report from the OSRDA, Region 3, to the BC Federation BOD Meeting, March 28, 2015.
by Bill Morey, President & Chairperson

Since January of this year, the OSRDA has become positive, re-energized and focused upon revitalizing our region.

The number of member clubs has had a bump upwards. We now have 6 full member clubs, 2 associate and the Westside Youth Team Dance Club. Five of the clubs are square & round dance ones from Enderby, Vernon, West Kelowna, 2 from Penticton plus 1 full membership clogging club in West Kelowna. Also included are 1 associate clogging club in West Kelowna and the R&R Rounders in Penticton.

There was a perception by some in the region that the OSRDA wasn't being proactive in advancing our activity. That prompted a recent motion to disband but it was defeated.

The Association has struck a progressive communications and marketing committee to improve contact with members, such as through a semi-regular newsletter. It is also tasked with taking a proper marketing approach to growing our dance population. An institutional brochure for the membership is planned to help them learn about the organization in which they are registered and tell of the B.C. Federation and Canadian Society levels.

Various programs and projects are being identified by the Association that can be undertaken to address the most immediate needs. Those needs include that for callers and cuers and to better attract time-pressed newcomers through consideration of condensed programs, such as West Coast Square Dancing.

The OSRDA has realized that it should take advantage of top talent being in the area to call at dance parties. Many of the callers have years of experience and can teach the art of entertaining as a caller to both new and long-time callers.

Two Callers' Workshops, sponsored by the Association, are planned soon within the region in order to utilize the training abilities of two different callers coming to our region. We welcome those interested in calling, newly calling or accomplished at calling to consider attending one or both of the workshops. One is on [March 15](#) at Lake Country, just north of Kelowna, with Callerlab Accredited Caller-Coach Doug Davis from the Spokane area. The other will be on [April 11](#) at West Kelowna with Edmonton caller Gary Winter.

The itinerary for the [March 15](#) workshop by Doug Davis will include sessions on mechanics, working with modules, sight resolution, showmanship and teaching. Doug will also detail Callerlab's exciting new 12-session program that promises to attract the time-pressed Baby Boomers. It's planned that the learning callers will have lots of microphone time to put theory into practice.

The Association has applied for leadership funding but, for now, has set a fee for the [March 15](#) workshop at \$95/person, including breakfast and lunch. Partners or spouses attending and planning to participate in the breakfast and lunch are asked for \$25 each. Partial rebates may become available once the funding is finalized.

Bursaries for new callers or callers wishing to upgrade are available from both the B.C. Federation and the Canadian Society. For more information about that and to register, contact Brian Elmer at [250-768-2694](tel:250-768-2694), e-mail: brian@squaredance.bc.ca.

Most immediately, please make your intent to attend the first workshop known by contacting Brian. The deadline to register is Thursday [March 12](#). Cheques are to be made payable to "OSRDA"

and mailed c/o: 3377 Tarragon Court, West Kelowna, BC V4T1B3. Full refunds will be issued in the event of a cancellation.

The second workshop with Gary Winter in West Kelowna on Saturday [April 11](#) is non-sequential to the first. That evening at the Westbank Senior Citizens' Centre, Gary will call a Mainstream program dance for the Westsyde Squares after a ticketed roast beef dinner. Details on that workshop are forthcoming.

As long as you are dancing, you are meeting and making new friends!