

Report to B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation 2020 Board of Directors Meeting  
Region 1 – Victoria & District Caller Teachers Association

It has been a busy dance season so far for members of the Victoria & District Caller Teachers Association (VDCTA). In addition to their regular duties of calling and cueing at club dances, five callers and one cuer commenced new dancer classes in September 2019 and carrying on into the new year, with some classes also starting in January 2020. The total number of new dancers attending classes in the Region causes optimism that club efforts, and those of the callers and cuers as well, to attract new dancers are showing results.

Of concern to the VDCTA is finding dancers who wish to consider learning how to call and cue. In the recent past we have seen the retirement of two club callers (who also cue). An additional retirement in the near future is anticipated. The recruitment of callers and cuers is a matter that the VDCTA will need to plan for.

The joint VDCTA/WSRDA Leap Year Dance on February 29, 2020, was a great success. Ninety-one dancers were in attendance, with net proceeds available for donation to the BCSRDF coming to \$1,073.55. This includes funds raised through the gate, and from a brown bag auction.

*“Well, this has been an interesting year for our Association”.* This was the opening sentence from the VDCTA’s 2018 Report to the Board of Directors. Ditto for the remainder of the 2019/20 dance season and summer dances.

In a joint session on March 15, 2020, the VDCTA and the LVIWSRDA members present openly discussed the COVID-19 situation and how clubs, callers and cuers should respond with respect to dance and class cancellations. It was concluded that clubs, callers and cuers should make their own decisions in respect of cancellations, but should be guided by what is in the best interests of the dancers and guidance from provincial health officers. In the case of members of the VDCTA, they are not required to perform calling and cueing duties if they think their health is compromised or could be compromised.

As of date of writing on March 20, both the Royal Oak Women’s Institute Hall, and the Colwood Community Hall, are closed indefinitely due to COVID-19. Square dancing and round dancing activities on Lower Vancouver Island are indefinitely cancelled.

Kirk Rockerbie  
President, Victoria & District Caller Teachers Association