

British Columbia Square and Round Dance Federation

Annual General Meeting, 11th July, 2019

First Vice President's Report

I am surprised to report that since the last AGM only a single grant application has been received. That was for a new caller to attend a caller school. This was approved by the Grants Committee and has been paid.

What is equally puzzling is that there was not a single request for assistance with funding new dancer classes. The deadline for receiving requests has passed, so no applications can be considered for the 2018-19 dance season. I shall welcome applications for new dancer class grants for the 2019-20 season. These can be submitted after 15th January 2020. The window will remain open until 1st March, 2020. When considering applications, particular attention will be given to a club's financial situation and the strain, if any, caused.

Since last year's AGM, the majority of my efforts have been to ensure the BCSRDF's re-registration under the new Societies Act was completed with the time limits and to consider the changes to the existing rules, policies and standing orders as well as any new ones, which might be required. Since the General Meeting in March a team was formed to work with me on this task. The original members are Bill Cave and Bill Wood. We have since been strengthened by the addition of Wendy Kreuger. Additionally, Jean Wood, as the BCSRDF President, is a member ex officio. So far, 6 areas have been reviewed and documents drafted. These have yet to be finalized. Each area of the existing handbook shall be scrutinized, and new drafts prepared. Even, as in many cases, no major changes are required, the layout and language will be revised so that all follow a similar format. The meeting's agenda provides an opportunity for more discussion of this subject.

As I am also responsible for Revitalization, I am including that in this report. With the concentration on corporate matters, almost nothing has transpired of any significance. However, there have been a number of requisitions which have been filled for the rack cards and three-fold flyers. That stock is now exhausted. I shall be asking for guidance on whether or not to re-order either or both of these. If ordered, they would be available by early August and may be used for new dancer recruitment campaigns.

Finally, over the last year the problems of adequate communication between the BCSRDF, the Associations and Clubs have become even more evident. In general terms, there are two broadly recognized communication formats (which also reflect management styles) these are Top Down and Bottom Up. In the former, the majority of initiatives come from the Board and are passed down the chain, for the latter the reverse is true. All too frequently neither works well because misunderstandings of what is proposed results from inadequate explanation and/or dialogue. Not-for-Profit organizations often do not work well in either of these scenarios – volunteers do not normally take kindly to being dictated to and the Board frequently is not in touch adequately

with where the “rubber hits the road” , namely the clubs or individuals actually at the operational end. To avoid falling into these traps, there has to be a constant two way flow of information covering needs, ideas and policies. I am hoping that members who have ideas or suggestions on improvement will come forward with their suggestions. The excellent newsletters sent by Ken and Jean are a substantial help in understanding what is happening at BCSRDF level but, in my opinion, they are a major link in a chain which has yet to be completed.

Dennis Sutton

First-Vice-President

19th June, 2019