

# Region 3 – Okanagan Square & Round Dance Association Report to the Sun. April 25, 2021 B.C. Federation AGM via Zoom videoconferencing - Presented by Brian Elmer, Director-at-Large

## PANDEMIC STATUS OF THE REGIONAL ASSOCIATION

The B.C. Square and Round Dance Federation's Region #3, encompassing the membership of the Okanagan Square & Round Dance Association (OSRDA) has been dormant during the observance of pandemic safety protocols. We look forward to the time when we can congregate once again.

From the geographic north to the south, the OSRDA's membership is as follows:

Rhythm Rounds – round dance club – Vernon

Star Country Squares – square & round dance club – Vernon

Okanagan Cloggin' – clog dance club, Kelowna and West Kelowna

Got 2 B Cloggin' – clog dance club, Vernon, West Kelowna and Peachland

Westsyde Squares – square & round dance club – Central Okanagan (situated in West Kelowna)

Westside Youth Square Dance Club – basic square dance instruction around the Central Okanagan primarily at elementary schools with special service to Pathways Abilities Society, a handicapped group

The new Kelowna Contra Dance Club is not an OSRDA member but it does belong to the B.C. Federation

## CLUB CLOSURES

We regret the closure of our most northerly square and round dance club, the Enderby River Dancers. Former members, Bob & Grace Byrne of Vernon report that the B.C. Federation's treasurer, Pat Zeeman of Victoria, has been advised that the club closed on December 31, 2020.

Also unfortunate was the closure in the Spring of 2019 of the long-running Penticton Squares square & round dance club. The club was an amalgamation of two clubs, the Peach City Promenaders and the Wheel-n-Stars. Those clubs were highly regarded for presenting the annual summertime outdoor B.C. Square Dance Jamboree. At one time a sign outside the King's Park ballfield announced that Penticton was the "Square & Round Dance Capital of Canada."

Deserving of credit for anchoring the club with regard to calling and cueing up until its closure were, respectively, Ralph Halsall and Regine Anderson, both of Penticton.

## PASSING OF A TREASURED ROUND DANCE LEADER

Completely unanticipated was the sudden closure of Penticton's R & R Rounders round dance club led by cuer-teacher Regine Anderson (<https://www.rounders.squaredance.bc.ca/>). A heart condition suddenly took Regine away from us on January 28, 2021 causing the closure of the club that she started with husband Ron (R & R represents Ron & Regine). Ron predeceased Regine in 1995.

Regine fundraised through her Spring Windup Round Dance from which the proceeds were directed to the "Ron Anderson Memorial Fund," administered by the OSRDA. The fund supports new dancer initiatives.

We are grateful to the B.C. Federation for posting to their Facebook page on January 31<sup>st</sup> a tribute to Regine.

In the associated comments relative to that post, among the many loving condolences and remembrances about Regine was one by her brother, Dale Oelrich of Kingston, Ontario, who wrote “I am deeply moved by this post... you all were so much a part of her life, thank you for such a wonderful tribute.”

Notable in the post is a video from December of 2018 in which Regine is seen cueing a round dance to the holiday tune “Silver Bells,” accompanied with vocals by Dustin McGifford of Kelowna. It was a Christmas dance in West Kelowna with the Westsyde Squares dance club.

See the tribute to Regine on the B.C. Federation’s Facebook page, including her brother’s comment and others at the following direct link:

<https://www.facebook.com/BCSquareAndRoundDanceFederation/posts/3912268762151785>

## APPEAL FOR CALLERS AND CUERS

The OSRDA region is encouraging any callers or cuers considering relocation to the Okanagan Valley. We’re grateful to the few entertainers who currently support our clubs but should have more such talent in the area.

It would especially be nice to see a restart of both square and round dancing in Penticton. Our West Kelowna club, the Westsyde Squares is particularly in need of a cuer-teacher.

Please direct any inquiries about possibilities to [brian@squaredance.bc.ca](mailto:brian@squaredance.bc.ca) or call the toll-free Dance INFOLINE: 1-800-335-9433.

Respectfully submitted,

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