

BC SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE FEDERATION NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY, 2023

This is the first newsletter in three months and there is now a real reason to be excited about square dancing once again.

The final numbers for those registered with the Canadian Society in this dance year are now available. We are registering 10 associations, 49 clubs and a membership of 1028 dancers. Whilst this is approximately half the total of dancers registered prior to the COVID pandemic, almost every club offering mainstream or SSD has had, or is planning to have, new dancer classes. The initial reports are that these have been received with enthusiasm and strong support from angels. Given the demographics of our society, this is probably the best we could hope for. Whilst rebuilding is inevitably a slow process, indications are we are on the right track and I urge every experienced dancer to give the fullest backing possible to their club in this endeavour. Certainly, the callers and cuers have been at least as enthusiastic as club members, if not more so.

The last few months have seen an increase in the number of grant applications which are being processed as quickly as we can. This is a final reminder that applications for Restart Grants expire within the month. Your executive's estimate is that the total dispersed will be substantially less than the amount originally budgeted. It has considered the need to train new callers, cuers and leaders given the number who have retired, moved away or quit for other good reasons. We believe the problem requires immediate action. For this reason, using the surplus available from Restart Grants which have not been applied for, it is expected that a motion will be put before the Annual General Meeting to increase the grants made to applicants who wish to take training courses taught by approved teachers. We depend on an available cadre of callers, cuers and teachers for our very existence.

All members are welcome to attend our Zoom Annual General Meeting which is scheduled for April 30th at 1:00 PM. Every attendee has the right to be heard on any matter subject to discussion. To the best of my knowledge, all the executive is eligible for re-election for another year and are willing to stand. However, every position on the executive is open for new nominees. The chair of our nominating committee is Norm Cox (e-mail marymcox@telus.net or phone 604-584-5506) who should be contacted by anybody interested in having their name put forward. He can explain the commitment required and answer any questions about involvement.

It is my personal belief, I believe supported by the executive, that none of us has all the best ideas. We are always looking for ways to improve and welcome input from any member on any subject related to our favorite activity. This includes such things as the policies, procedures, layout of forms, use of the website, and anything else which may make our dancing better and more attractive for ourselves and for others. This is an invitation to contact the Executive either through your associations, directors at large, or individually with any ideas you may have. No idea is a bad idea, because even if not adopted, it may well lead to another idea which is viable.

An analysis of the BCSRDF Zoom Meeting Log for 2022 shows a total of 49 meetings held – by the BCSRDF, 10 by Associations, 13 by clubs, and 20 by others. The latter were all by an experienced caller coaching new callers. My understanding is that this worked well and may be a template for the future. A reminder; use of our Zoom is available to all clubs, associations and for teaching purposes. Bookings are made through Alex Wotherspoon at ajwotherspoon@shaw.ca and are first come-first served subject only to the Executive and Board being given preference if there is a clash.

May the rest of this dance year go well and be a precursor for an even better 2023-24.

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