

British Columbia Square and Round Dance Federation

AGM April 28, 2024

Presidents Report

This is my last report as your President and my first, and very important task, is to thank all members, whether members of Board or not, who I have had the privilege and pleasure of being in contact and working with for their support. Without taking anything away from my opening comments, there are three people whose help, advice and support I must acknowledge specifically. Two of them are mentioned in my last newsletter as retiring from the Board. Pat Zeeman has decided she will serve for another year.

Norm Cox has been a stalwart not only of the Fraser Valley clubs but has served the BCSRDF without stint and in several capacities for more years than probably any other current member. He will be missed by everyone who has worked with him and sought his advice and benefitted from his directness.

The other two people I am directly recognizing are the backbone of any volunteer organization to which I have belonged. The Secretary and Treasurer are the key Board members around whom everything and everyone else revolves. Pat Zeeman and Wendy Krueger have filled these positions with diligence, imagination and have contributed to the team's spirit.

Over the time I have been a *Board* member there have been many challenges which the Federation has faced. Without going into details on any one of them or implying this is a complete listing, these have included re-writing our Constitution and Bylaws to meet the requirements the new Societies Act (this remains an ongoing project as both the Act and Regulations change from time to time), changing our website contractor, dealing with COVID including offering guidance and managing our finances to offset its effects whilst increasing club support and refunding 2 year's dues, making Zoom Meetings available to all associations, clubs and leaders, receipt of a \$100,000 donation from the former Building Fund Committee and being conservative in its usage, helping clubs with "marketing" our product and working to establish our own caller/cuer training programs.

Rebuilding membership is going to be the major ongoing challenge and effort for the foreseeable future. What we have achieved so far is a stabilization after COVID's very negative impact. Any member with what she or he think could be an effective new approach that should achieve good results is invited to share it with the Federation Executive.

Finally, thank you once again for the opportunity you gave me to serve you.

Dennis Sutton

20th April, 2024