



## FRASER VALLEY SQUARE & ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the General Meeting October 1, 2023

9:00 AM (via Zoom)

Zoom Host – Maureen Wilson, President – Alex Galbraith

Meeting commenced at 9:02 AM

Alex Galbraith welcomed everyone.

Attendance:

1. **Abbotsford Grand Squares** (Norma Ridler), 2. **Chilliwack Rhythm Reelers** (Michelle Thiessen), 3. **Century House Squares** (Pat Gerbrandt), 4. **Chuckwagon 8's** (Sandi Poje), 5. **Circle 8's** (Janice Hiscott), 6. **Motiv8ors** (Ray Brendzy), 7. **Royal Swingers** (Peter & Nancy Slinn), 8. **Stardowners** (Mary diCario), 9. **Surrey Square Wheelers** (Judy Remenda), 10. **Swinging Hubs** (Norm Cox), 11. **Town 'n' Country Dancers** (Greg Dahlgren), 12. **Valley Promenaders** (Wendy Krueger), 13. **Wesburn Wranglers** (Caitlyn Brendzy), 14. **White Rockers** (Diane O'Hara)

Don Allan, Alex Galbraith, Jean Galbraith, Al Gibbs & June Fitchett, Dave Hammer, Eva Matheson & Nelson Baranow, Frank McNeil, Lyle O'Hara, Blair Wallace, Dianne Wilson, Maureen Wilson

We have a quorum with 14 clubs and 11 executive members present (minimum 7 clubs and 4 executives required). ***What a great turnout!!!***

Absent:

Brent's Bunch, Guys & Gals, Wheeling 8's, John Corrigan, Bill Fex, Brent Mawdsley, Tyler Wagner

***Moved/Seconded: Norm Cox/Nancy Slinn -- to accept agenda as circulated -- CARRIED***

Correspondence

The following have been sent since the last AGM (May 13, 2023) (6 cards)

***Sympathy cards*** to the families of:

1. Walter Witt
2. Brian Bond
3. Craig Dauncey
4. Jim Sadlo

***Thank you cards*** for their FVSRDA service

1. Betty Langtry
2. David McVige

***Approval of Minutes of previous AGM meeting (MAY 13, 2023)***

***NOTE: error in date (year) -- Page 3 --should read 360 dancers registered -- Dec 2022 (not 2023)***

***Moved/Seconded: Peter Slinn/Pat Gerbrandt -- To approve minutes of previous AGM meeting (MAY 13, 2023) as amended -- CARRIED***

**REPORTS –**

**a) Treasurer's Report – Don Allan (*financials are sent as an attachment to the minutes*)**

- Registration is well on the way
- New dancers covered for free up to end of December – however clubs need to send him a list of the new dancers
- Clubs need to provide information about their club for the directory
- People can belong to many clubs but only need to register for FVSRDA at ONE club

***Moved/Seconded: Don Allan/Sandi Poje -- To accept Treasurer's Report, as amended (with date error noted above) -- CARRIED***

**b) Vice President – Bill Fex (absent)**

**c) Valley Circle/Website – Blair Wallace**

**Valley Circle**

- Mail renewals are out and are due on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>
- Club renewals are out – if club didn't get them – probably has old email address
- Due Oct. 15
- Directory info request is out – need info onto region 2 website – update as soon as possible – also due on Oct. 15
- October issue is printed and will be delivered to AI and June very soon

**Website** – info comes from clubs – up to date as far as received.

- Email calendar items to Blair

**Online links**

- Valley Circle – See our work at <http://www.region2.squaredance.bc.ca>
- Valley Circle Online (website) – See our work at <http://www.region2.squaredance.bc.ca>

**d) Promotion Committee – Frank McNeil**

- Our radio ad campaign ran for 6 weeks from August 5<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup> on 104.3 The Breeze. We had several responses through danceforfun.ca web site to the ad.
- More clubs are using Facebook to advertise as a result of the Social Media Initiative, and they are seeing results in New Dancer attendance.
- Five sidewalk signs have been purchased and distributed to clubs that wanted them. The sign is on the cover of the September issue of the Valley Circle.
- Watch for the “First Friday Modern Square Dance Party” at Kennedy Hall. Visit [danceforfun.ca](http://danceforfun.ca) to view the flyer.
- We are investigating the possibility of restarting Square Dance programs in Universities and Colleges in the Lower Mainland. The institutions we have contacted are not receptive to having a non-student group come in to do the program, so we are rethinking our approach to the idea.
- Promotion ideas from the past are being looked at and we may repeat some of these.
- Friday dances by Brent 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month, which promote square dancing are on the danceforfun.ca website
- 5 signs were distributed: White Rockers, Town 'n' Country (at their new location), Brent's Bunch, Wheeling 8's (at Guildford Rec Centre), Century House
- Wesburn Wranglers and Circle 8's would like a sign, as well, for the community centre.

- Lyle has ordered two more but would like to have more orders put together before ordering any more.

**e) BC Federation – Dianne Wilson**

- The 3 grants expired March 31, 2023
- It was moved the Class Advertising Grant of up to \$500 per member club be made available to all current member clubs of BCSRDF who are planning to attract new dancers and who submit an application for the Class Advertising Grant.
- The Restart Grant and Association Promotion Grant are not extended.

**f) Canadian Society – Dianne Wilson**

- The last meeting was in Lacombe, Alberta which Wendy attended
- Minutes are posted on their website
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Canadian national is in Calgary, Alberta – July 17-20 – 450 are registered (600 max)

**g) Gala Committee – Dave Hammer**

- The committee had a very successful meeting and workshop for the decorations for Gala 2023 at Sandi Poje's home.
- All preparations have been made: the date Sat. Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> has been confirmed, the times have been confirmed, the callers and cuer have been confirmed, the Confederation Senior Center Hall in Burnaby has been confirmed, and tickets are now on sale.
- See the ad in the Sept. issue of the Valley Circle page 15 for details.
- Tickets are available from all committee members and callers
- Due to Krista's back injury, Maureen will contact her re: her ability to cue at the Gala

**h) Vancouver & District Caller/Teachers Association – Lyle O'Hara**

- not doing much
- meeting regarding new dancers
- callers – Lyle (BCSRDF 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president)– asked to run callers school
- anyone interested in calling please contact him
- VDCTA sponsored midterm dance will be on Dec 30 afternoon (time TBA) at Kennedy Hall)
- Dance is for new dancers, but everyone is invited
- Notice will be sent out later

**i) Scroll of Honour – Sandi Poje**

- We will be presenting the "Scroll of Honour" recipients, at the upcoming **Gala**, on **October 21, 2023**.
- If you wish to nominate a person or couple for this Honour, please submit a letter highlighting their endeavors. Nominations must be received **before February 28**, of the year of nominations and they are held for 5 years.
- Please be sure to include **your name, address, phone number or e-mail** along with **your recipient's name, address, phone number or e-mail**.
- Please send it to Sandi Poje #11 – 19452 Fraser Way, Pitt Meadows, V3Y 0A3, B C. Phone number 604 459 3220 or email [spoje@ymail.com](mailto:spoje@ymail.com)

#### j) 50- & 60- year pins – Sandi Poje

- As I mentioned before in a previous FVS&RDA meeting, that this was not my job, but I have continued on, as I felt it was important (now that dancers are back dancing), that they should receive their 25-year dangles, or their 50 and 60 year pins.
- I also mentioned the cost, and since then, the cost is more than what was approved. So, I mentioned to Don that I have the invoice and I would speak on the Executive meeting. The invoice is for **\$414.40**, but when I started handing out the applications forms, I received more dancers who qualified for their pins. To date we have a total of **8 dancers** for their **50-year pins**, and **2 dancers** for their **60-year pin**. I did order more than was first approved for a total of **3 – 60-year pins** and **12 – 50-year pins**. I have handed the pins and the application forms to Alex for distribution. Hopefully I don't have to pay the balance out of my own pocket!!
- I have attached the invoice, the list of dancers who should receive their pins (see below), and a copy of the letter I sent to Don Allen, treasurer.
- Also, I have written to *Sandy Badges* about the **25-year bars**, and she doesn't have a distributor any more. So a couple of dancers have requested their bar, but... the cost of these 25 year bars were \$4.00 each from *Sandy's Badges*, so I asked how much one of these bars would cost when I had the Scroll of Honour Badge engraved, and she said approximately \$15.00 with the graphics, but the price might depend on how many you were purchasing. I have their business card if someone would like to do the work on this project.

#### k) BC FESTIVAL 2025 – Ray Brendzy

The committee has had some challenges:

- Date--
  - Many festivals competing in July which conflicted with our first choice. As a result, we are moving dates July 30-Aug 2 which is the BC Day weekend
  - Still waiting to hear back from the school as to confirmation of dates for the venue
- Venue--
  - LSS has some changes because they're hosting summer school which ends on that weekend
  - We will have 3 rooms available that won't be affected by summer school
- Parking—
  - We need to check to make sure that there is ample parking for the new date
- Trail-In/Trail-Out dances
  - Venue still to be determined

***Moved Seconded: Diane O'Hara/Pat Gerbrandt -- To accept above reports items C through K, as circulated -- CARRIED***

OLD BUSINESS – None at this time

## NEW BUSINESS –

1. FVSRDA EXECUTIVE moved by Maureen Wilson/Seconded by Jean Galbraith to support the following motion:

- Norm – background
- In 2018 – received \$100,000 from Singles dancing fund to support dancers in the valley  
Committee members: Alex & Jean Galbraith, Sandi Poje, Norm Cox, Don Allen).
- The intention was to \$10,000 each year that needed the money
- 2018 – Since then no money has been given out.
- Proposal: To give \$1000 to each club for their startup
- every club will receive it – form not required
- will be coming at the beginning of November when the 90 day term matures
- Clubs must be registered for the 2023-24 dance season
- Cheques will be made out to the club's name (can't write cheques to a personal name)
- Ray suggested that clubs receive money PER NIGHT – should this be considered?
- Don – there is still an application if club's wants to apply
- New dancer grant is also available – deSmit grant (FV – one each for the new dancers squares and rounds!!) also one from BC FED (Diane can give info) – both are annual grants

***Moved/Seconded: Norm Cox/Sandi Poje-- that the FVSDRDA give the sum of \$1000 to each club registered with FVS&RDA in 2023 to assist their dance season startup and continuation. – CARRIED***

2. Zoom meetings vs. face-to-face meetings –Should we consider some meetings to include face-to-face contact, as was done in the past?

### Suggestions:

- Face-to-face at least one or two meetings
- Hybrid – works well/those who can't make it, stay home
- Due to the return of COVID – would have to check into restrictions on hall rentals and insurance
- Rotate the face-to-face meetings around the different districts
- Centennial lodge has a good rate but very few days available -- check with halls as to availability
- Do survey to see how many people would be attending the AGM in May, if we had it in person – May
- Contact those who were absent for this meeting to find out if it was a technical issue which is challenging
- Did they receive the email and link, or do we have an incorrect email address for them?
- Perhaps the directors could contact the clubs not participating in the zoom meetings to find out why they aren't doing so

***Motion Norm Cox/Michelle Thiessen – move that we continue zoom meetings during the 2023-24 dance season – CARRIED (Motion opposed by Eva Matheson & Sandi Poje)***

- 2b) **Addition to the agenda:** Facebook ad Report: Greg Dahlgren

The Facebook Group ads for this September new dancer classes did very well this year.

### Town 'n' Country

- week 1 -- 19 new dancers showed for our 1 free night
- week 2 -- 13 new dancers returned for our paid classes

### **Circle 8's**

- week 1 had 5 new dancers, 4 from our FBG ads. 1 from the radio ad

### **Valley Promenaders**

- week 1 had 5 new dancers, 4 from their FBG ads which they are doing on their own

### **Chilliwack Rhythm Reelers**

- 16 new dancers. I believe Michelle noted all came from Brent and My posting the ads for the club in the final 3 weeks before their restart.

### **Surrey Square Wheelers**

- As best I can gather, SSW has about 16 new dancers this year. I also posted a couple FBG ads for their club as they had trouble getting a volunteer to staff the position. Maureen took that on as well so I thought it prudent to help out as she does so much for square dancing already.

### **Abbotsford Grand Squares**

- As best I can gather it looks like they have 10 new dancers this year. I did all their FBG advertising for them and will continue until such time as they can staff that position.

One note worth mentioning:

- Town N Country and Chilliwack has 3-4 times the Facebook Groups to advertise on as the other clubs. As such those two clubs' success with ads on Facebook will be better than the other clubs. We can however extrapolate potential for the other clubs from their results. More on this as I gather their data from their new dancer classes.

It is my opinion that this form of advertising is hands down by far, the best way to recruit new dancers. More work needs to be done to find additional FBGroups to advertise on for the clubs that only have a few from my original efforts with this project. The goal was to prove (or disprove) that this form of advertising works. In my mind it clearly does so much better than anything else that we cannot ignore its potential. Based on that and the positive feedback from this meeting, I will pursue finding a permanent hire for pay to run the project. I have asked the FVSRDA minutes to reflect that we should try first with any square dancer that would like the position as they would have the most to gain from the work. (reviving square dancing to a healthy level of dancers for every club). I will continue to gather data on its effectiveness AND issues plus monitor emails for square dancers that may want the job. The Promotions Committee will work in step with me to further the project.

#### **1) Valley Circle Flashback editor needed**

- Anni Christensen was our flashback editor
- This is a unique position – the Flashback Editor receives a set of VC that go back to 1960 and chooses an article that might be of interest and submit one for each month
- Bonus – the committee never meets in person – all done electronically
- Anybody present willing? Michelle Thiessen may consider it later
- Norm suggested Peter and Nancy Slinn – He will contact them

### **GOOD & WELFARE –**

- Krista Baird is recovering from a back injury. Steve Edlund and Brent Mawdsley are filling in for her. As a result, round dance teach has been postponed until January 2024
- Re: COVID return
- Are masks mandated? No, only for health facilities, at the moment
- Some dancers may volunteer to wear masks at their clubs
- Clubs should be providing hand sanitizer

- Suggestion that there be signs posted at the Gala reminding people to use sanitizer and that a box of masks be purchased for those who wish to use them

#### **ORDER OF THE DAY –**

- Norm reports that the **Swinging Hubs** (A1 level) have been asked to move their time at the OAP HALL to Monday 4:15-6:15 PM due to a conflict with another group who wishes to use the hall on Monday evenings
- Ray Brendzy reports:
  - Mondays 7-9 Challenge 2 lessons (Ray C's) Wesburn CC
  - Tuesdays 7-9:30 SSD lessons and dancing (Circle 8's) Burnaby Lake
  - Sundays 3-4 SSD Lessons Family Club (Wesburn Wranglers) Wesburn CC
  - Sundays 6:30 - 8:30 Round Dancing Intro to Walt (Circle 8's) Charles Rummel
- 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall **Gala (October 21<sup>st</sup>)** -- Sponsored by the FVSRDA
  - tickets are still available from different committee members
  - Singles board
  - Scroll of honour will be presented
  - Mainstream with Rounds
  - BC Boys and Krista Baird will be calling/cueing
  - tickets available from various people
  - No tickets at the door
- **Oktoberfest** put on by **Stardowners**
  - SSD/Mainstream level
  - Fundraiser
  - Centennial lodge New West – 7:30-9:30 plus food
- **Town 'n' Country** PLUS dancing
  - Friday afternoon 2-4 PM
  - Venue: Pitt Meadows Community Church Hall @ 19109 Harris Rd (corner of Ford Rd and Harris Rd.)
- **Surrey Square Wheelers**
  - Hawaiian Dance Nov 28 – Plus level
- **White Rockers**
  - Oct 29 -- Halloween dance with costumes
  - please contact first because of COVID issues

**All dances are posted in the Valley Circle**

**NEXT MEETING** – Nov 19 @ 9 AM via Zoom

**ADJOURNMENT** @ 10:47 AM by NORM

*~Respectfully submitted by Maureen Wilson~  
Please forgive any typos -- they weren't intentional...*

