



## FRASER VALLEY SQUARE & ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the General Meeting October 6, 2019  
Centennial Lodge, Queens Park, New Westminster

Meeting brought to order at 1:10 PM

### Welcome – Jean Galbraith

- Jean welcomed everyone to the first FVS&RDA general meeting of the 2019-2020 dance season. She introduced Maureen Wilson, the new FVS&RDA secretary, and re-introduced Barb & Guy Trysenaar, as FVS&RDA vice-president couple. John Corrigan, president of the Vancouver Callers' Association, Brent Mawdsley, new head of the promotion committee, and Lyle O'Hara were also acknowledged as being present.
- Jean expressed how sad she was to announce that Anni & Kris Christensen (not present) are stepping down from their position as Directors.
- Ron Fleck and Pat Gerbrandt were present as the new reps for Swinging Singles.
- Jean also reminded everyone to speak their name clearly when making/seconding a motion, asking questions, or discussing details, as the meetings are recorded. This helps our secretary immensely if everyone identifies themselves for the record. She said that she would try to acknowledge everyone all personally, but asked for forgiveness for any lapse of memory if she hesitates on one's name or club, as it happens every once in a while. And so, the first meeting of the 2019-2020 season began.

**Attendance:** Abbotsford Grand Squares, Motiv8ors, Royal Swingers, Stardowners, Surrey Square Wheelers, Swinging Hubs, Swinging Singles, Town 'n' Country Dancers, Wesburn Wranglers, Wheeling 8's, White Rockers

**Absent:** Chilliwack Rhythm Reelers, Chuckwagon 8's, Rhythm B's, Century House Squares, Delta Sundancers, Diamond Country Dancers, Quicksteppers, Squares Across the Border, Valley Promenaders, Brent's Bunch, Guys & Gals, TW Twirlers

With attendance taken, it was noted that a quorum was established.

**MS Move to approve agenda as presented -- Guy Trysenaar/Ann Melnychuk. CARRIED**

### Correspondence

- a) Thank you note from Sandi Poje was read by Jean
- b) Thank you card will be sent to Anni and Kris Christensen on behalf of the FVS&RDA for their long and faithful service to our association

**MS Move to approve minutes of May 26.19 general meeting as circulated -- Darlene Austin/Donna Lonneberg. CARRIED**

## REPORTS –

### a) **Treasurer's Report** – Don Allan ([attachment 1a & 1b](#))

- Don explained where the money from the Swinging Singles building fund is located in the bank accounts
- Norm mentioned that the money budgeted for the Promotion Committee has not been used in the past years, as they have not put in a request
- He also explained that fillable PDF versions of the registration forms, as well as paper copies, were sent out at the end of August. By next year, he hopes to go totally electronic for all clubs. This will lessen the cost of postage.
- Deadline is October 29<sup>th</sup>. Sylvia (Stardowners) was the first to submit the registration form this year.
- New dancers are covered for free until the end of December. As of January, they pay fees. Clubs need to send Don a list of the new dancers. After Dec. 31, they have to pay the standard dancer fees.

**MS Move to accept Treasurer's report as circulated Don/Lyle. CARRIED**

### b) **Vice President's Report** – Barb Tryssenaar

Summer dancing was alive and well in region 2. Dancers had the opportunity to attend many dances this summer. We were at the Rally in the Valley and several Abbotsford dances. At the Swinging Singles' 50th anniversary dance, we presented the club with a crest for their banner. Prior to the dance at the FVS&RDA and Valley Circle 60th anniversary, we attended the Canadian Society meeting, which went very well. A couple of their delegates were caller/cuers and they participated in the Sunday afternoon dance. At the dance, we presented caller Heather Reynolds with a 25-year dancer's pin and gave 60th anniversary crests to the FVS&RDA and Valley Circle. A great two nights of dancing, thanks to Brent Mawdsley and Heather Reynolds.

In reference to the presentation of special anniversary crests -- It is important that the clubs advise the FVS&RDA, BC Fed and Canadian Society of these special anniversaries in a timely manner. So it would be appreciated if all the club representatives and the club directors could please see that the clubs are advised of this. (As a side point, I order the crests on behalf of the FVS&RDA and the embroidery company -- a newer and cheaper one, I hope -- needs one month to complete a crest.) So you can see the importance of the clubs advising us promptly Please convey this information to the clubs. Thank you. Happy dancing.

### **Valley Circle/Webmaster** – Blair Wallace

#### Valley Circle Subscriptions

Blair reminded us that he needs the new dancer list for free subscriptions. These are members who have completed new dancer class, have graduated and registered with a club.

#### Valley Circle Report

- September done & out
- October done & being sent out
- Subscription renewals underway – due from clubs in October.

- I need the new dancer lists for the free subscriptions – only one list received (AGS)
- Directory done –
  - No update from Squares Across the Border
  - No update from the Delta Sundancers
  - Most clubs used online system to enter information (all but 2). Made is easier to put the directory together.
  - I received a call from a new dancer who told me in no uncertain terms that the directory was useless as it did not include a list of the addresses of the halls. I tried to explain to the person that they should read the directory in concert with the Valley Circle as the dances / club activities / hall locations are presented there in greater detail... Told that that was inconvenient...

I have extra copies of the directory for anyone who wants them.

Webmaster

- Site updated
- See attached memo

#### Valley Circle Website ([attachment 2](#))

- Blair explained the memo (attached) about how to add events to the calendar, so the information will appear immediately on the calendar
- He emphasized the importance of taking care to be accurate
- Suggestion: After putting event in and check that day of the week is correct
- Dates are checked at the Valley Circle end to make sure that the dates and days of the week match.
- Nancy Slinn thanked Blair who printed her entire story in the Valley Circle
- Jean thanked Blair for making submissions more streamlined, as well as for all his work on the directory.

#### **d) Promotion Committee – Brent Mawdley**

Jean thanked Brent for stepping up to the plate and taking over as promo committee chair.

#### **Summary of Promotion Committee Report presented to the FVSRDA General Meeting**

Thank you to Betty Langtry for being the past chair of the Promotion Committee.

I am concerned that several more clubs will be at risk of folding in the next few years due to lack of members. Therefore, I think the most significant challenge we face, and our top priority should be the promotion, recruitment, and retention of new square dancers. Consequently, I have agreed to chair the Promotion Committee for the next year.

The Promotion Committee is a joint committee of the Fraser Valley Square and Round Dance Association (FVSRDA) and the Vancouver & District Caller/Teacher Association (VDCTA).

I believe the Promotion Committee should be the catalyst and coordinating body to work with all clubs and leaders in the FVSRDA to promote square dancing, recruit new dancers, and help with retention of new dancers. However, the Promotion Committee is just another group of volunteers of dancers and leaders and can not deliver new dancers or members to your clubs. The joint Promotion Committee, the FVSRDA, the VDCTA, and all clubs in the FVSRDA need to work together to generate promotional activities and carry them out year-round, coordinate recruiting activities, and share ideas on the best ways to retain new dancers. **The Promotion**

**Committee needs more people willing to bring ideas and help carry them out; therefore, I request that each club interested in increasing the size of their membership have a representative join the Promotion Committee. Please ask them to contact Brent Mawdsley at [Brent.Mawdsley@gmail.com](mailto:Brent.Mawdsley@gmail.com) or 604-594-8622, for more information or to join.**

#### **Recent Activities of the Promotion Committee**

- Produced a **display “feather” banner** with the “Live Lively” logo and the [www.squaredance.bc.ca](http://www.squaredance.bc.ca) website address as shown at the FVSRDA meeting Oct 6. This should be displayed at public square dance demonstrations. Please contact Brent Mawdsley to borrow the banner for your next demonstration.

- **JR-FM Radio “9 Seconds at Noon” campaign** – Nancy Slinn organized multiple square dancers to call in September with a brief announcement about the fun of square dancing and that lessons were starting. Several of these announcements were broadcast by JR-FM until they realised we had an organized campaign. The radio station explained they are providing a public service to give many individuals and groups the opportunity to provide a “shout-out” about others or community events so could not accept such frequent messages about square dancing. However, we believe JR-FM would accept future messages from us on a less frequent basis and so plan to coordinate regular year-round messages from various dancers. These messages or “shout-outs” could be about special dances expressing what a great time they had and how many people attended, and / or how much money was raised for charity. Peter & Nancy Slinn will contact clubs after special events and help encourage someone to call in about it. If your club holds, or is planning, a special event that may give the public a positive impression of square dancing, please contact Brent Mawdsley. The Promotion Committee is also investigating the options and costs of paid radio advertising.

**Permanent signs outside various halls used for square dancing** – With input from the Promotion Committee and select hall committees (including Kennedy Hall), Wendy Kruger is coordinating the design and production of permanent signs that say “Square Dance Here” with contact info. The benefit would be a year-round reminder to the public driving by that square dancing is active in their community and provides a way to contact us for more info.

#### **Questions and Discussion After the Report**

- A question was asked about where to find the square dance promotional video that was made in BC. The **10 minute video is called “Dancing Keeps You Young”** and can be found on the internet at [www.takemedancing.squaredance.bc.ca](http://www.takemedancing.squaredance.bc.ca) and directly at [www.DancingKeepsYouYoung.ca](http://www.DancingKeepsYouYoung.ca). These website addresses are provided on the **tri-fold brochures** provided by the BC Square & Round Dance Federation called “Today’s Square Dancing You’ll Be Surprised” and “Your Prescription for Better Health”. These brochures should be provided at demonstrations and used for recruiting. Clubs can add their own contact details or info. Copies are available from the Promotion Committee by contacting Brent Mawdsley.
- **Discussion of the Use of FVSRDA Legacy Funds** – In my opinion, the FVSRDA priority should be to fund projects designed to increase the number of square dancers in our region. Reaching the public with significant promotional and marketing campaigns can take significant funds but would have the best long-term benefit for square dancing in our

region. Funding the continued operation of financially unviable clubs that do not have a plan to recruit new dancers, is only a very short-term solution that will reduce the funds available to increase the overall number of square dancers in our region in the near to long-term.

e) **Driscoll Award** – Ron Robertson

Erica Corsi was presented with Driscoll award at 60<sup>th</sup> in September, during square dance awareness week.

f) **BC Federation** – David McVige (absent -- read by Maureen)

My position as Delegate with the BC FED has been deleted.  
Therefore I have no report.

g) **Canadian Dancers Society** – David McVige (absent - read by Maureen)

The Canadian Society had their AGM on September 7 at Kennedy Hall, commemorating the FVS&RDA's 60th anniversary celebration. I was not in attendance.

Highlights -

- Annual Membership Fees remain the same
- Canadian Membership is down (I don't have the numbers)
  - There have also been some clubs closing.

h) **Festival 2020** – Norm Cox

Things are purring along quite nicely for Festival 2020. We now have over 500 Registered dancers with only 150 more to go to make our proposed Budget. Your September Newsletter gave a breakdown as to where the dancers are coming from.

The Banner Parade will be on Thursday morning (Sheraton hotel). Assemble at 9.15am and the Parade starts at 9.30am with Opening Ceremony at 10.00am and Dancing starting at 10.30am. Halls will be open 10.00am to 10.00pm daily. Trail In Dance Wednesday, July 29th at 7pm – 9.30pm and this dance is open to all Dancers at a cost of \$5.00 each for Registered Dancers and \$10.00 for Drop- Ins. Wear your Red and White Canadian Colours and Maple Leafs because we are representing Canada.

Hotel is taking your Room reservations now at 604-582-9288. Let them know you are part of the 2020 Square Dance Festival to get the price of \$190.00 per night and 1 Free Parking Space. All Rooms are Air Conditioned.

Check the Web Page for a list of the Great Callers and Cuers. We need more Callers for the Cloggers and also need more Clogging Dancers and hopefully we will be having a more Wheel Chair Dancers. June Fitchett is putting together a list of volunteers so please let her know if you are available and can spare 1 hour per day.

- room monitors - make sure callers show up - - see June

There was some discussion about parking. Norm encouraged people who were attending, to register at the hotel, as there isn't any other parking areas nearby. He also emphasized that, those who stayed at the hotel could experience what goes on before and after the dances.

i) **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – Norm Cox

60th Anniversary of Fraser Valley and Valley Circle Report

What a Party that was for the Fraser Valley and Valley Circle's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary held at Kennedy Hall September 7th and 8th 2019 – a Two Day Celebration. Just a non-stop time of Fun,

Fellowship, Dancing and meetings.

We welcomed the Canadian society and all of their delegates from across Canada and all were present except for Newfoundland as Roy Church has called it quits.

I must say that we showed West Coast Hospitality at its BEST. Thanks to the Dancers who showed up for the Society A.G. Meeting which was very informative and showing us that a lot of sometimes HEAVY Work goes on behind the scenes. Each delegate has a special job to do just to keep our square Dance Movement running smoothly.

The Saturday night Dance saw some 15 Squares on the floor dancing to our Special duet team of Heather Reynolds and Brent Mawdsley – WOW WHAT A NIGHT.

ERICA CORSI was presented with the Teen Driscoll Award and Heather Reynolds received her 25 Year of Dancing Dangle – Congratulations to both of you.

On Sunday the Delegates from the Canadian Society along with Ray & Christine Brendzy and Norm toured Sheraton Hotel Convention Centre. The Comment after the tour was: “We need to go home and tell our Dancers that they MUST sign up now for 2020 Festival.”

Blair Wallace also was M.C. for the Sunday Afternoon Dance which included a variety of Callers and Cuers from here and across Canada – What a Treat.

Presentations were made to the Fraser Valley and Valley Circle by the Canadian Society, B. C. Federation, and Fraser Valley Region. Dancing continued till 4.00pm with Heather and Brent doing the Last Call – what a Team. Brian Elmer from SquareUp B.C. then did a presentation on Social Media. The doors finally closed at 6.00 pm.

As Chair of this event I give Big THANKS to the Hard Working Committee:

Blair Wallace M.C., Sound Equipment & History

Betty & George Langtry,

Eva Matheson and Nelson Baranow

Sandi Poje for Guest Books, Dangles & Singles Board

Anni & Kris Christensen at the Door

Sylvia French for Invitations.

I must not forget the Dancers who came from Kamloops, Salmon Arm, Washington State, Kelowna, Victoria and our own Fraser Valley Region.

Pat Zeeman from Victoria, along with partner Garry Dodds for organizing accommodation & Transportation or the Canadian Delegates – What a Great Host.

The Parting Comment was – When Can We do This Again.

Thank you all.

**Gala 2020 – Dave Hammer (absent - read by Maureen)**

Date: Sat. Sept. 19th 2020

Location: Kennedy Hall, Surrey

Time: from 7:00- 10:00 pm

Callers: Steve Edlund and Kevin Thomaier

Cuer: Krista Baird

Theme: Fall

Level: Mainstream with plus tips

There will be an afternoon workshop from 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Level of the workshop will be left up to the discretion of the callers  
Price: \$20.00 includes workshop.

Some questions that came up regarding the Gala were:

- Is there a cost for the dance only? No
- Will there be plus tips? Yes
- It was explained that the main reason for holding the Gala 2020 in September is that many people on the gala committee working on other committees, such as Festival 2020. The September celebration of the FV's 60<sup>th</sup> was successful, so we would try it in September, plus weather, many of those weekends are already taken up with other dances. Also, the hall we often use (Burnaby) may not be available at that time.
- There was a concern about Kennedy Hall's capacity, but John pointed out that there is enough room for 20-25 squares, and that there is a separate area for eating.
- Regarding the level, Jean pointed out that the gala used to alternate between mainstream and plus. This year will be mainstream with plus tips and rounds.
- John stated that the parking lot holds over 150 cars. There is more parking around the back

**k) Vancouver & District Caller/Teachers Association – John Corrigan**

- The first meeting was in September. Around 18 people attended. There was also a callers' workshop in the afternoon and a callers' dance in the evening with Susan Heeley, from Washington state who is also Caller/Cuer Lab's executive secretary.
- There is another workshop on Oct 25-26 at Kennedy Hall. Gary Shoemaker will also be doing a plus level dance for Guys & Gals that evening. People encouraged to attend.
- Another meeting is planned for November
- Brent was nominated for chair for the promotion committee as he was kind enough to offer.
- Looking for some people to step up and help Wendy Krueger with sign design for the sign promoting square dance awareness
- Kennedy Hall and OAPO Hall in Aldergrove will have this sign displayed. There are a couple of other halls that will be asked if a sign to advertise square dancing can be displayed
- VCTA has a full slate of officers. Everyone stayed in their position except for Brian Penny (looking for someone to replace him). Everyone else was willing to stay on.
- There is a bursary for new callers/cuers but there were no nominees from this area. No one is interested in learning how to call or cue. Teens are involved as the caller/cuer association -- Nicholas Brenzy and Amanda Mawdsley belong.
- Everyone, including Wesburn Wranglers and Delta Sundancers, has been asked if they have kids who are talented and want to continue calling/cueing. They are encouraged to send the kids up to the VCTA. If they want to go, most clubs would be willing to let them get up on stage and call/cue, but it's up to them to come forward.

**l) Scroll Of Honour – Barbara Tryssenaar**

Barb encouraged everyone to go back to their clubs to ask the membership, not executive -- perhaps mention at coffee time -- for someone that they would like to receive acknowledgement of their work in the club. There is a list of criteria in the resource book.

- It was pointed out that the problem is that the recipients have to have served on
- Committees outside of their club.
- New people may have new ideas.

- It was also pointed out that clubs are having difficulty filling positions in their own club, let alone positions outside of the club.
- People who work hard should get acknowledgment but someone has to put in the application!

**MS Move to accept reports as given - Nancy Slinn/June Fitchett. CARRIED**

#### OLD BUSINESS –

##### a) **Square dance awareness week** - Sept 15-21, 2019

Swinging Singles made an announcement and had the proclamation on display for that week. It's a tough time of the year to get things into place.

#### NEW BUSINESS –

##### a) **Ratification of Secretary** – Maureen Wilson

**MS Move that Maureen Wilson be ratified as the new secretary. Barb Trysenaar/Darlene Austin. CARRIED**

##### b) **Financial Committee Report on Swinging Singles Building Legacy** – Don Allan

(attachments 3, 4a & 4b)

Don clarified as to how the building fund legacy grants would work.

- Money is not to be used to promote new dancers, but for operation of clubs who are having trouble maintaining their club
- Our concern - wanted to keep some principle of the fund in the bank - took 10% minus bank fees
- The breakdown for first time - \$2000 to promotion committee (not only promote new dancers, but all clubs), \$1000 each to each of the teen clubs as they are our future (need some help with their fundraising) - other \$6000 would go to 'as need requires' to other clubs that ask for some help in paying their operation costs
- Cap will depend on how many submissions there are and will be based on a 'needs' basis
- Don has made out a submission form for the clubs

Some concerns:

- Barb Trysenaar: When you have clubs apply and when you grant them the money - we go, as a committee en masse to present the cheques, as they need dancers, as a whole
- John Corrigan: A concern about giving money to clubs which are not financially viable. By giving them money, they don't have any incentive to raise their own money. Need to consider what they do now, to raise money in their club.
- If only one club applies, do they get all of the money? No - there is a cap on each of the grants
- John Corrigan: Concern about the Oct 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.
- Problem with presenting a paper at a meeting which isn't well attended, with a deadline so close
- Set of criteria for applying is not complete
- Jean Galbraith: We realize that this needs to be posted in the Valley Circle and online
- Chose Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> of this year because we don't want the funds to sit in the bank
- Peter Slinn: Can there be a stipulation that these funds could be used by a particular club only 'x' years in every 5 years, for example?
- John: Coupon project suggestion - \$10,000 -- money could be used for something like that
- Clubs who suffer a hardship should be given a chance to apply
- We don't want to give all of the money to only one club



- Donna Lonneberg: time frame not long enough -- Suggestion to move the date to Nov 30, as some club executives wouldn't be meeting between now and Oct 29th
- Barb Trysenaar: Hopefully only those who are in financial crisis would be applying and not those who are on solid ground
- Blair: Hopefully any application from any club is accepted at any date. We are developing criteria as we go.
- Nancy Slinn: Suggestion that the wording could be changed -- Oct 29 deadline would be for an expression of interest to see if there are clubs out there who may need this money. Once you have a list (if any) of clubs that need the money, then you can create a second deadline for completion of the paperwork to make this happen by whatever is the next deadline.
- We need to let clubs know that there is money, rather than worry about the deadline

**c) Report on BC Federation By-Laws – Blair Wallace ([attachment 5](#))**

After Blair's comments there were concerns about using proxies. He explained that clubs could choose to fill out the proxy with a) specific voting instructions or b) for the proxy holder to 'follow one's conscience and vote as they see fit'.

**d) Request For Contacts – BC Federation – Blair Wallace ([attachment 6](#))**

The BC Federation has asked for a contact person. They want to create a better way to communicate. Blair suggests we give them two names who can communicate with the clubs. There are plans to have a special meeting to discuss this further.

1) You, as clubs, are now members of the BC Fed

2) You will be asked, in the very near future, for a contact person for your club as a conduit for BC Fed to send information to your club.

Jean: There will be a special meeting to hammering out ideas on how to deal with proxy votes. Jean thanked Blair for all of his hard work with FV bylaws.

**GOOD & WELFARE –**

- John Corrigan is back calling.
- Barb Trysenaar reported that she saw Dan Adams and he is coming along quite nicely. Hopefully he will be back on the scene in the near future.

**ORDER OF THE DAY --**

- Caitlyn Brendzy - *Wesburn Wranglers* - Nov 17 - Benefit dance 3:00-5:15 PM - Mainstream with a Plus tip - Cost \$7
- Donna Lonneberg: *Surrey Square Wheelers* - Halloween Themed Dance - Plus level on Tuesday Oct 29 - Beginner /mainstream - Oct 30; Nov 23 - Hawaiian dance at Brookwood Senior Centre cost \$10 - pre-rounds 7:30-8:00; Mainstream with rounds 8:00 -10:00 PM
- Ann Melnychuk: *Abbotsford Grand Squares* - 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Nov 14 - details in Valley Circle
- Lyle O'Hara: *White Rockers* - Halloween dance Sun Oct 27 - 12:30-3:30 Halloween theme -- new venue (14560 High Street) by the Rec Centre. Dance with John. Dan Adams is coming too
- John Corrigan: *Town 'n' Country* - will be having their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dance in conjunction with the July 1 dance this year
- Sylvia French - *Stardowners* - Octoberfest on Oct 24 (has tickets) - Plus level - Cost is \$10; information about the November anniversary is in the Valley Circle

- Nancy Slinn - *Royal Swingers* - Muffin Madness on Nov 8; Christmas windup on Dec 13; Jan 24<sup>th</sup>, instead of celebrating 'Steve-uary', we will be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Darlene Austin - *Guys and Gals* -- Gary Shoemake - Kennedy Hall Sat. Oct 26 - pre 7:30 - 8 (cuer: Wendy Krueger) - Plus dance from 8-10 with one advanced tip at 10 PM -- Tickets are \$12.50 in advance - at door \$3 more; New Year's Dance Dec 31 - Tyler Wagner will be the DJ - old time dancing - new Doors open at 5 PM - potluck between 6 and 7 PM. Dancing at 7:30. Check Valley Circle for price of tickets. For more info contact Darlene Austin
- Pat Gerbrandt - *Swinging Singles*- pub night had to be re-arranged -- now on Oct 19; Tues. Oct 29 beginners night class - a bit of a Halloween party, but continuing with lessons - Beginners from other clubs are welcome (\$7) - Mainstream night (Brent) Halloween theme on Oct 30<sup>th</sup>
- Barb Trysenaar - *Chuckwagon 8's* - celebrating 50<sup>th</sup> on Oct 19<sup>th</sup> afternoon luncheon and dance
- Sandi Poji - *new contact information* below --can also be found in the Valley Circle:  
#11-19452 Fraser Way  
Pitt Meadows, BC  
V3Y 0A3  
604-459-3220

NEXT MEETING – **Sunday, Dec. 1, 2019** – Centennial Lodge, 1 pm

ADJOURNMENT @ 4 PM by Blair

*PLEASE NOTE – ALL CLUB REPS ARE REQUESTED TO BRING MUGS, PLATES, CUTLERY, AND PROMOTION FLYERS TO THIS AND ALL MEETINGS. THANK YOU.*