

Region 5 Caller, Cuer, Dancer Association 2023-2024 Status Report in Lieu of AGM

Submitted by Mary Anne Turner - President, Region 5 Caller, Cuer, Dancer Association

In times past, the AGM was usually held in conjunction with a Region 5 dance event but since the Covid pandemic, the few clubs left in our region are struggling just to rebuild. At present, they do not have plans to hold any large dance events and very few dancers are willing to travel any more. Some clubs in other regions have folded or are struggling also, so it would be difficult to attract enough dancers for a dance event to break even.

As president of the region, I have compiled this document as a means of passing on information to the Region 5 members in lieu of the 2024 AGM .

1. Minutes of previous meeting - There has not been a full AGM for a number of years now due to the Covid crisis and the drop in the number of dancers willing to travel to a meeting.

If you wish to read minutes of past meetings, you will find them posted on the Region 5 webpage at http://www.r5ccda.squaredance.bc.ca/r5ccda_business.html

2. Correspondence

The correspondence received was primarily to announce various dance events as the BC clubs started to rebuild again. Other correspondence was to inform us of BCS&RDF meetings to be held using Zoom technology. BCS&RDF available grants and bursaries were announced. All this information was passed on to the members in emails.

3. Reports & Business Arising from Reports

A. The executive members of the BCS&RDF continue to work for us. They have held meetings and posted their reports on the Federation website. The meetings were held online using a program called Zoom. The results of the meetings were posted on the BCS&RDF website and can be read at <https://squaredance.bc.ca/reports-minutes/>

B. Treasurer's Report - prepared by Mary Anne Turner

Basically the only transactions we have had this dance season were.....

- to collect and deposit membership and insurance fees from dancers, callers, cuers and clubs
(Vanderhoof \$171.00 + PG Northern Twisters -\$646.00 +Williams Lake \$456
+Johnston for Dawson Creek \$38.00)

- to pay the fees forward to the provincial treasurer and the R5CCDA treasurer
 (Vanderhoof \$135 to BCS&RDF, \$36.00 to R5CCDA)
 (PG Northern Twisters \$510.00 to BCS&RDF, \$136.00 to R5CCDA)
 (Williams Lake \$360.00 to BCS&RDF, \$96.00 to R5CCDA)
 (Dawson Creek \$30.00 to BCS&RDF, \$8.00 to R5CCDA)

- to pay monthly bank fees. (6x 2.50 = 15.00)

- Because meetings are now held electronically, there were no Directors-at-large travel expenses or other expenses

Therefore, as of May 6, 2024 the R5CCDA bank balance sits at \$5115.22
 (Most of this amount has been in the bank account from the years when our region earned money from sponsoring a provincial festival.)

\$246.00 was the profit for the 23/24 dance season.

(Business arising from this report - does anyone have any projects, ideas etc. that you would like to see the region undertake with the use of some of this money?)

C. Region 5 Caller, Cuer, Dancer Report - prepared by Mary Anne Turner

For the April BCSRDF AGM, each region was asked to send in a report. I emailed each club and asked for information. I then used this information to compile a Region 5 Report. Below is this report.

Region 5 Report for 2024 BCS&RDF AGM
 Submitted by Mary Anne Turner April 16, 2024

Region 5 continues to struggle following the years of Covid shut down. The region has 4 clubs still dancing and some continue to deal with smaller membership numbers as well as financial difficulties . We have 60 members registered with the BCS&RDF.

Our clubs are so far apart that there is very little interaction between them (Dawson Creek, Vanderhoof, Prince George, Williams Lake). No special dances or Jamborees were scheduled during this 2023/2024 season.

Region 5 continues to maintain a website at <https://r5ccda.squaredance.bc.ca> (Webmaster: Mary Anne Turner). The Promotions page on this website has been accessed by people across the country. It

contains a collection of flyers and certificates that are editable as well as 2 documents written by Nick Turner to assist newer callers with the teaching of the SSD program.

CLUB INFORMATION

Dawson Creek Mile Zero Grand Squares

Dawson Creek is dancing 2 squares, once a week. They had 3 new dancers this year. The caller is Brian Johnson. Dawson Creek has little interest in BCS&RDF activities. Only the club and the caller are registered as Federation members. None of their dancers are registered.

Vanderhoof Drifting Squares: - Lorna Beatty, Secretary

Dolores Young is the Caller. The Drifting Squares have a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/VanderhoofDriftingSquares/>

Vanderhoof Drifting Squares is still surviving. We can barely make a square most nights but are persevering. Dolores Young continues to call and cue for us. We advertised a 6 week beginner class and got three new members, but only one stayed. She did, however, talk her mother, father, and as of Friday, her son into joining her, so hopefully they will stay. We taught some two step classes and also ran a 6 week jive course and got 2 people for this, but they were not interested in joining the squares. There was a request to add some contra so Dolores has added this, too. We are attending a rec fair next Saturday and will use the videos that MaryAnne has posted on the website and with luck will get more dancers. We did have a wonderful Xmas party dance and potluck with an entire square coming from Prince George. It meant we got to dance some mainstream instead of beginner! We will continue to hang in, see you all in Calgary

Prince George Northern Twisters Square Dance Club:- Loretta McKinnon

Gys Koops is the club caller and Gary Dean is the cuer.

Prince George Northern Twisters have a facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063660574592&fref=ts>

Our finances were getting very low and we thought we would have had to end our season end of March. But the money we received from the Larry Mann memorial fund was a huge help. I was able to get our monthly rent down to \$25 per night instead of \$50 per night. This too is a huge help. If all our members return in the new dance season and if we can possibly recruit at least 10 new dancers we should be okay. And if our 25+ year dancers agree to pay the full season rate instead of the special \$25 season rate that they were paying in the past - we should be okay to continue for a full season.

We tried recruiting new dancers for January. We did end up with some new dancers but the only problem was that we had to start all over at the beginning lessons and it was a bit frustrating for some of our seasoned dancers to have had to start from the beginning. We will try to continue to recruit new members for September start up. Our plan is to start sending out posters throughout the month of August and September.

We try to keep our dances fun and entertaining each month. We have had a Hot Chocolate and Cookie Bar night, a Tartan Dress and appy night, a Valentine's Dance, a St. Patrick's Dance, an Easter & Goofy Hat Dance, and a 50/60s Dance with Goofers and an ice cream float bar.

We have 2 members that telephone all the dancers to remind them of what is coming up. We are hoping to continue to recruit new members and keep them interested so they will attend each week.

We are also hoping that, maybe, some of our new members will come forward and either take over our roles as President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer as we all have been in this role for quite some time now. I have been treasurer for more than 4 years now. Our President bounces back and forth from Glenda to Dolores. Thank you to Julie who stepped up to be our Secretary.

Williams Lake Stampede Whirlaways: -Mary Anne Turner

Nick Turner is the club caller with assistance from Bill Cave when he is in town. Mary Anne Turner is the Round Dance Cuer. We meet once a week on Thursday nights for Phase II Round dancing at 7:00 PM and SSD and/or Mainstream at 7:30 PM.

The 2023/2024 season ended on April 18. It was a somewhat more encouraging year. We added a square of new dancers and so we were able to dance 2 or 3 squares throughout the season. That was a nice change from the 1 square we had for most of last year. Our new dancers completed the SSD Program and they were well supported by all the club members. Most of these new dancers have said that they were looking forward to joining us again in the fall and some of them have even volunteered to take an executive position next season..

To pass information around and for advertising purposes, Mary Anne Turner maintains a website for the Whirlaways at <https://wmslk.squaredance.bc.ca> and a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/williamslakesquaredancers>

4. Other New Business

A. Region Website

Reminder to contact Mary Anne re: any information you want changed on the R5CCDA website. We need to keep our club information accurate and updated. Mary Anne is the Region 5 webmaster. <https://www.r5ccda.squaredance.bc.ca>

B. Recruiting

Although the recent dance season is coming to a close, it won't be long until we think about recruiting new dancers again.

With this in mind, I remind you about the editable posters available for people to use in their promotion campaigns. You can find these posters on the Region 5 web page at https://www.r5ccda.squaredance.bc.ca/r5ccda_promotion.html

When you get there, scroll down to the bottom of the page for the new posters. You will see a small sample of the poster and then you are able to type your own text in on the large one. You can then download the poster in several formats. They could be used on your Facebook page or your Twitter account, etc.

C. Region 5 Officers

As previously mentioned, because of the closure of our clubs during Covid and the absence of any of our large dances such as jamborees for us to gather at, we have not had any recent AGM meetings for our region. Those of us who were elected or acclaimed to a position at the last AGM have just voluntarily continued to do our jobs whether you wanted us to or not. All of the terms of office have expired or are vacant.

This is where we stand.....

President - Mary Anne Turner has completed her 11th year in this position.

Secretary - Nick Turner has completed his 11th year in this position.

Vice-President - This position is vacant

Treasurer - Mary Anne Turner has been filling this position for 2 years now.

Since my term of office ran out many years ago, I am feeling like an unelected imposter. I would really like to have a R5CCDA meeting to get some feedback and hear some thoughts from others. I really don't feel comfortable any more handling the R5CCDA business year after year without some direction or approval from the membership. Am I keeping you well enough informed? Do you have ideas for improvement? Are there other people who would like to let their names stand for an executive position - including that of president?

I feel that it would have to be a Zoom meeting so we can avoid a lot of travel. I know that some people do not have computers or know how to Zoom but perhaps one knowledgeable person from your club could assist others. Two or 3 people could sit around one computer perhaps. It can be done if the will is there.

I don't want to go to the effort of organizing such a meeting, however, if no one is going to attend. I would appreciate having some representatives from each of our clubs. Could you let me know if you are willing to participate in such a meeting or if you have other thoughts on the matter.

I know that most of you are not in the least bit interested in square dance politics but I feel that it is useful for us to keep the R5CCDA functioning for several reasons. Perhaps the main one is, that each year, more and more of the dance venues that square and round dancers use are demanding proof that the club and dancers have 3rd party liability insurance. Without that insurance, they will not let us use their halls. Our membership fees give us that insurance for a very low cost and very little fuss.

Another good reason is so that our clubs can avail themselves of any grants or bursaries, etc. that the BCS&RDF offers to members of our region. Last year the Stampede Whirlaways were able to get 2 grants to assist them in starting their new dancer class and to advertise. I informed all the clubs but I did not hear if any of them took advantage of this offer.

The BCS&RDF also offers website space to our region. That allows Region 5 to have a website where each of the clubs may post their information through the region webmaster (that's me).

That is the end of my report. I hope you found this Region 5 update useful. If you have any questions or comments, don't hesitate to contact me at nmturner@telus.net (I really would appreciate some feedback now and then.)

Mary Anne Turner - President R5CCDA

