

## R5CCDA Executive 2018/2019

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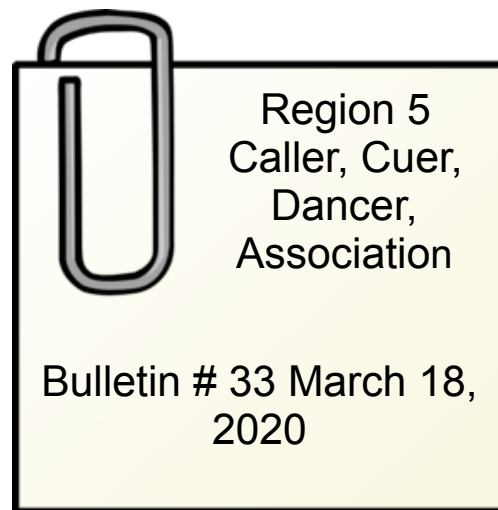
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## KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Mary Anne Turner, R5CCDA President

Hello again to all the dancers and leaders in Region 5. ***(If you paid your dance fees at the start of the dance season, you are a member of this organization.)***

From what I can tell, most of the club dance nights in our region have been cancelled due to the Corona Virus situation. A sad, but socially responsible decision.

At this point, it is not known if our 2 remaining region Jamborees will be held in May. I will try and keep you informed and up-to-date as best that I can.

As for the April issue of the Cariboo Connection, there is little point in printing hard copies of the newsletter since the clubs are closed down and will not have the means to distribute them.

However, Nick and I feel that, in these stressful and rather lonely times, it might be helpful to keep our square dance family in touch with each other and thinking of happier thoughts.

So we are going to put the April issue of the newsletter together and publish it on the Region 5 web page. By email, we will notify as many of you as we can when the newsletter is ready for reading.

You can help with this project by making sure that your club correspondent does send some news in for us to use in the newsletter. [nmtturner@telus.net](mailto:nmtturner@telus.net). We would appreciate it by the weekend (March 22) if possible but if you need a bit more time, just email us.

The last information sent in to the Cariboo Connection was January 20 so you can write about your activities for the past 2 months at least.

Also, any of the dancers are welcome to contribute some thoughts to the Cariboo Connection. I'm sure you all have some thoughts these days.

Although it sounds like a cliché - square dancers **are** a family of people who care for one another. So, let's definitely keep in touch with each other by what ever 'socially distancing' means we have available to us. You never know- even a quick email might cheer someone up.

Let's plan for the happy times we are going to have when this nightmare finally ends.

Our thoughts are with all the dancers and leaders in our region. We are looking forward to having you on the dance floors again - happy and healthy

Mary Anne and Nick  
President and Secretary, R5CCDA

Below you will find the newsletter from Jean wood, the president of the BC Square and Round Dance Federation.

### Advisory Relative to the Covid-19 Virus Pandemic

British Columbia Square & Round Dance Federation - March 18, 2020

#### ***From the Executive- An internal release for distribution within the membership***

The recreations of square, round and clog dancing that we enjoy so much will have to be sidelined at this point in time as the planet faces the challenges of the Covid-19 virus.

Ours is a very social recreation that's not compatible with the necessary technique of social distancing in avoidance of spreading the contagious virus.

On Tuesday March 17, under the authority of provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry, the B.C. government declared a public health emergency with 186 cases of Covid-19 and 7 deaths. See the details online at this link:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/b-c-declares-public-health-emergency-with-186-cases-of-covid-19-and-7-deaths-1.5500783>

Your B.C. Federation urges that its member associations and clubs immediately halt the operation of regular club sessions and cancel or reschedule any special dances upcoming.

The B.C. Federation's Directors on the Canadian Square & Round Dance Society, Pat Zeeman and Garry Dodds of Victoria, inform us that pretty much all dancing has shut down across Canada until further notice. They add: "our activity will weather

this storm and come out on the other side stronger and healthier."

Most clubs in our province have already taken the initiative to close. Thanks to our webmaster, Frank McNeil, a growing list of cancellations around B.C. is displayed on our B.C. Federation's Dance Connection home page at: <https://squaredance.bc.ca/> Please pass on to Frank any additional cancellations or suspensions that aren't on the list. Contact him by e-mail at: [fmcneil@shaw.ca](mailto:fmcneil@shaw.ca)

Note that the websites for Region 3 (Okanagan) and Region 9 (Thompson-Shuswap) display notifications of suspended or rescheduled dancing and cancelled events. See: <https://www.region3.squaredance.bc.ca/> and <https://www.region9.squaredance.bc.ca/>

Our annual B.O.D. meeting planned for Abbotsford on March 28 is being replaced with a video conference at 10 am on that date. An addition to the meeting agenda will be an exploration of the impact that the pandemic is having on our member clubs and associations.

An official announcement on March 16 declared that the annual competition known as the Pacific Northwest Teen Square Dance Festival has been cancelled for this year. It was planned for May 1 & 2 in Auburn, Washington.

By e-mail notice on March 16, the 69th National Square Dance Convention (in Spokane, Washington) stated that the event is still scheduled as planned for June 17-20, 2020. The sponsoring National Executive Committee states on their internet home page that "We believe that it is premature for us to be making any

decisions for modifying the June 17-20, 2020 Convention at this time.” See the web page: <http://www.nsdcnec.com/nec-home>

Organizers of our 21<sup>st</sup> Canadian National Square & Round Dance Festival tell us that they are monitoring the situation. That event, known as Festival 2020, is coming to Surrey July 29-August 1. Check the web page at: <https://squaredance.bc.ca/2020>

Our governmental health agencies are where to go for guidance during the pandemic. The B.C. Ministry of Health has posted an online “BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool.” Learn about symptoms, testing and more at: <https://covid19.thrive.health/>

See the Government of Canada’s web page regarding Covid-19 preparedness with specific sections for individuals and communities, among others (Learn about “social distancing” and proper hygiene under the “Prevention and risks” tab.): <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/being-prepared.html>

Be careful, think safe health practices. We look forward to seeing you on the dance floor again once the situation is resolved and the danger of mass viral infection has passed.

Contact your B.C. Federation at: [info@squaredance.bc.ca](mailto:info@squaredance.bc.ca) or the Toll-free Dance INFOLINE: 1-800-335-9433

