

R5CCDA Executive 2018/2019

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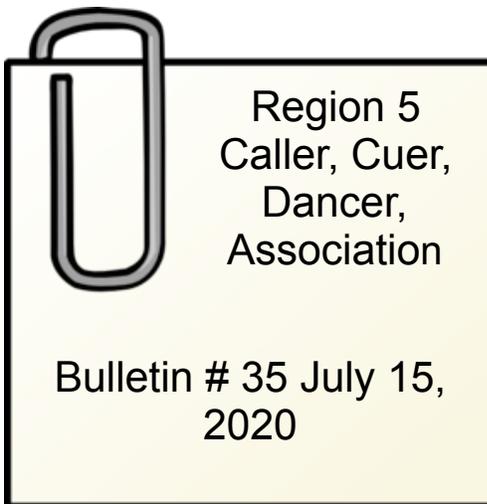
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KEEPING YOU INFORMED

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 last dance season, you are a member of this organization.)

I hope that you are all well and healthy and staying in touch with each other while we wait for the Covid 19 situation to be resolved. Many of our members are wondering what is happening in the square and round dancing world and so I have included below the most recent newsletter from the British Columbia Square and Round Dance Federation.

The BCS&RDF president, Jean Wood, and her executive members have been discussing this matter in depth and they have communicated some of the results in this newsletter. Please read it all and then read it again to be sure that you didn't miss anything. Then pass it on to all of your dance friends and leaders. Help me to spread this news around the Region.



BC SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER JULY 2020

The purpose of the BCS&RDF shall be to preserve, promote and perpetuate Square Dancing, Round Dancing, Contra Dancing, Clog Dancing and other related forms of dance in the province of British Columbia.

Whether you are a dancer, a caller, or a cuer, you may be asking yourself what is going on within our province. Rest assured that the Directors of the BC Square & Round Dance Federation are still working to better our recreational activity during these times of uncertainty.

The annual Directors meeting in March was held by way of a zoom video meeting. At that time, the directors had already held video meetings using this

program. Reports and minutes may be found at <https://squaredance.bc.ca/bc-federation/bod-reports-minutes>. The option of using the BCS&RDF zoom account to host meetings is available to its members. Please contact Jean Wood (jeanwood@telus.net) to find out more or to book a meeting.

Normally, the AGM would be held at Peachfest or at a major provincial event. Unfortunately, all these events were cancelled due to COVID-19. As a result, the AGM has been postponed until later in the year. The exact date has not been determined.

Our Treasurer and BC Representative to the Canadian Square & Round Dance Society, Pat Zeeman, has advised us that, *“If we are not able to collect membership dues in the fall because we are not able to get together for dancing, the CSRDS will continue insurance coverage for all those Federations, Associations, Clubs, Callers, Cuers, Leaders and Dancers who were insured for 2020. As the Federations, Associations etc. are able to meet, they will be expected to provide new membership lists, and to pay the dues that are owing, but the usual deadline of lists to the provincial reps by November 15th will not apply unless we are able to start dancing as usual in the fall.”*

The Bylaw Committee has continued to work on revisions. Chairperson, Dennis Sutton has provided a slide show to better explain BC’s New Societies Act. This is found at <https://squaredance.bc.ca/images/agm2018/Slide Show 4 Gen Mttg.pptx>. The final draft of the bylaws will be made available before the next AGM. That will allow the voting members with a chance to review it before completing their proxies.

The redesign of the website continues under the direction of 2nd Vice President, Bill Morey. This challenge has been taken on by a BC company, Trilogy Solutions, and will be live before the AGM. If you have suggestions, photos or videos you would like to see on the new website, please contact wh_morey@telus.net.

In March, an advisory from the BC Federation was posted on our Website, on Facebook and on Twitter. This document was prepared by Brian Elmer to provide information and suggestions on what we should be doing in the effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The basic message; **SUSPEND DANCING**. Since

then, we have learned more about the virus and how we can reduce the spread of it, and how we might return to dancing.

The **Fraser Valley Square & Round Dance Association** (Region 2) Executive formed the COVID-19 Return to Dance Committee to research the issues and provide information to clubs in the FVS&RDA on how COVID-19 would impact their ability to restart. We have obtained the committee's permission to share this information with you.

*BC is presently in Phase 3 of the BC Restart Plan which places specific restrictions on what we can and can't do. While we are in Phase 3, the key advice of the committee is - **DO NOT DANCE WITHOUT A COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN** in place, or you could expose participants to increased risk of catching the virus, contravene public health requirements, and void liability insurance. The plan must comply with all current BC health guidelines and WorksafeBC Regulations.*

The decision to return to dancing rests entirely with each individual dancer and club. For a club in BC that wishes to return to dancing, the "A Plan to A Plan to Get Back to Dancing Safely in BC Under COVID-19" document produced by the committee provides useful information for developing a plan and the committee is willing to assist all clubs in BC. A summary and full document are posted on the FVS&RDA website at

- <https://www.region2.squaredance.bc.ca/pdfs/COVIDPlantoaPlanSummary.pdf>
- <https://www.region2.squaredance.bc.ca/pdfs/APlantoaPlantoGetUsBacktoDancingSafelyUnderCOVID-Version4.pdf>

We encourage you to download and read the summary and full document, share this information with your club members so that the leadership of each club and as many dancers as possible are aware of the requirements to return to dancing safely and responsibly and can participate in the process if they wish.

For clubs that are interested in returning to dancing, here are some key steps that the committee suggests. Details are provided in the full document in Section 11.

1. Start the process when you are ready and be aware implementing a thorough plan could take a while.

2. Provide a club contact to liaise with the committee by email to valleycircle@shaw.ca.

3 Poll your members about their feelings on returning to dancing before BC reaches Phase 4 and under the restrictions required by the safety plan. Please let the committee know about the results as this could help adjust planning.

4. Obtain information from your hall about their safety plan – The committee suggests that clubs dancing in the same hall coordinate their efforts and assign one person to contact the hall and also consider if clubs could share barriers, signs or other supplies that could be stored at the hall.

5. As you work on your club and hall specific safety plan, contact the committee for assistance as needed.

Please send your questions and comments to the committee by email to covid-19-rtdc@googlegroups.com.

The following are recommendations from the [World Health Organization](#):

Protect yourself and others around you by knowing the facts and taking appropriate precautions. Follow advice provided by your local health authority.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- *Clean your hands often. Use soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand rub.*
- *Maintain a safe distance from anyone who is coughing or sneezing.*
- *Wear a mask when physical distancing is not possible.*
- *Don't touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.*
- *Cover your nose and mouth with your bent elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze.*
- *Stay home if you feel unwell.*
- *If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention.*

Calling in advance allows your healthcare provider to quickly direct you to the right health facility. This protects you, and prevents the spread of viruses and other infections.

Masks

Masks can help prevent the spread of the virus from the person wearing the mask to others. Masks alone do not protect against COVID-19, and should be combined with physical distancing and hand hygiene. Follow the advice provided by your local health authority.

More information can be found at [Canadian Government COVID-19](#) and the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#).

Remember; some of our dancers are more isolated than others. Give them a call or email so they know they have not been forgotten by their square dance family. A friendly voice may be all that is needed to make someone's day much brighter.

Please feel free to contact any of the BC Square & Round Dance Federation Directors with your concerns and suggestions.

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