



FRASER VALLEY SQUARE & ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the General Meeting February 4, 2024

9:00 AM (via Zoom)

Zoom Host – Maureen Wilson, President – Alex Galbraith

Meeting commenced at 9:05 AM

Attendance:

1. Abbotsford Grand Squares (Norma Ridler), 2. Brent's Bunch (Bill Fex), 3. Chilliwack Rhythm Reelers (Michelle Thiessen), 4. Century House Squares (Pat Gerbrandt), 5. Circle 8's (Janice Hiscott), 6. Guys & Gals (Dianne Wilson), 7. Motiv8ors (Ray Brendzy), 8. Royal City Squares (Peter & Nancy Slinn), 9. Stardowners (Mary diCario), 10. Surrey Square Wheelers (Judy Remenda), 11. Swinging Hubs (Norm Cox), 12. Town 'n' Country Dancers (Greg Dahlgren) 13. Valley Promenaders (Wendy Krueger) 14. Wesburn Wranglers (Caitlyn Brendzy) 15. White Rockers (Lyle & Diane O'Hara)

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

Absent:

Chuckwagon 8's, Wheeling 8's, John Corrigan, Brent Mawdley

We have a quorum with 15 clubs and 9 executive members present (minimum 7 clubs and 4 executives required).

Moved/Seconded: Diane O'Hara/Nancy Slinn -- to accept agenda as circulated -- CARRIED

Correspondence

The following have been sent since the last meeting (November 19, 2023) (4 cards)

1. ***Sympathy cards*** to the family of:

- Mort Fromson
- Bud Schaffer

2. ***Thinking of you cards***

- Ray Brendzy – surgery
- Steve Edlund – surgery

Approval of Minutes of previous General Meeting (November 19, 2023)

Moved/Seconded: Don Allan/Dave Hammer -- To approve minutes of previous General Meeting (November 19, 2023) as amended—CARRIED

REPORTS –

- a) **Treasurer's Report – Don Allan** (*financials are sent as an attachment to the minutes*)
- Nothing dramatic
 - Distributed the cheques to all but two of the club. He is waiting for more information from those two.

Moved/Seconded: Don Allan/Dianne Wilson -- To accept Treasurer's Report, as circulated -- CARRIED

b) **Vice President – Bill Fex**

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

Valley Circle

- February issue is now out
- Subscription numbers are increasing. Since Blair and Frank have been on the team, they have published 200 issues of the Valley Circle
- There have been many people working behind the scenes as was pointed out in the February issue of the Valley Circle:
 - Thank-you to the great current Valley Circle Team—**Frank, Anni, Sandi, June & Al**. A thank-you to the past members of the team—**Archie & Mary Kennedy, Doreen Frisson, Linda Earl, Roy Ballum, John Connolly, Wendy Krueger, Jack & Mavis Polmans, and Lee & Dennis Brawn**
 - Blair noted that all but one of the above Valley Circle team members has been a recipient of the Scroll of Honour. Obviously a dedicated, hard-working bunch of people!

Website –

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**

- A Facebook administrator has been hired and has created several Facebook posts promoting New Dancer classes for various clubs in the Region.
- Our web page – danceforfun.ca has received 500 visits as of January 2024.
- We are hosting the Spring jamboree for New Dancers on Saturday, April 27th, 2024 (Poster attached separately).
- Volunteers are always welcome to help promote our activity. Our next zoom meeting will be on February 4th, 2024 @7 PM
- To be included in the email invite, contact Maureen mw.fv.promo@gmail.com

First Friday Modern Square Dance Party (Surrey/Delta) – Brent Mawdsley

- I have been running a No Experience Necessary First Friday Modern Square Dance Party (Surrey/Delta) each month since Oct 2023 at Kennedy Hall in Surrey. I have advertised it to current square dancers that I know, through my Facebook Public Pages (<https://www.facebook.com/SquareDanceWithBrent/> and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/firstfridaymodernsquaredancepartysurreydelta>), and up to 33 Facebook Community groups.

- Attendance in squares dancing at once each month has been 6, 13, 10 & 14 at our last dance Jan 5 with nearly 120 people in the hall. Each time approximately 75% of the people have been non-square dancers and many of those have attended several times.
- Unfortunately, I'm not available on February 2, so the next dance will be Friday, March 1. The attached poster has all the details.
- I would like to thank all the square dancers who have helped spread the word of these events to their friends and have brought non-dancers to the dance with them and the many dancers who have helped with check-in, set-up, food & drink & clean-up.
- I understand Facebook spreads posts that generate engagement with more people and that people who see the posts about square dancing will judge the popularity of the events which may influence their decision to attend based on the number of likes & positive comments. Therefore, I encourage all square dancers to like and follow my pages (above) and other relevant square dance club pages, and like the square dance posts they come across, add positive comments, and share the posts to their friends or community groups on Facebook.
- At each dance, I ask those who are interested in further info on square dance opportunities to provide their name and email address. Over the past few months, I've accumulated a list of about 100 emails for non-dancers who are interested in square dancing
- On Jan 4, 2024, I emailed all of these contacts the following message:

For those of you who may be interested in square dancing regularly and learning more movements each week to increase the flow of the dance and challenge yourself a little more, there are several clubs and other talented caller/teachers offering weekly lessons starting in early January or February. Most clubs offer lessons in 12-week sessions where you would learn at least 50 movements and then can continue to dance those moves regularly or learn more moves if you want to. I have attached a list of clubs offering weekly lessons at nine locations across the Lower Mainland on different days of the week. If you are interested in any of these, please contact them directly or let me know if you have any general questions.

- I provided them all with the attached list (also posted at www.DanceForFun.ca) of new dancer classes starting in Jan / Feb and referred them to www.DanceForFun.ca for updates & danceforfun@squaredance.bc.ca for general questions.
- I have heard that some people who attended my First Friday Modern Square Dance Party (Surrey/Delta) have attended new dancer lessons in White Rock and Langley.
- I think that a regular opportunity to try square dancing is a good advertising & promotional opportunity. However, many Facebook community groups limit event announcements to those who live in the local area or hold the event in the local area and people will be more likely to attend events in their community. I believe the majority of non-dancers that attend my First Friday dances are from North Delta & Surrey, then maybe adjoining communities of New West, Burnaby, Langley, & White Rock. Therefore, I think additional callers could try this type of dance event on other nights in different areas of the FVSRDA to increase this promotion across the FVSRDA area.

- I encourage the FVSRDA & PROMO Committee to ask all clubs for their new dancers' first-night attendance and how each person found out about the class to help us know what methods of advertising are effective, and how successful the combined promo efforts are.
- The unique attendance of non-dancers at each of the introductory class nights is the key measure of the effectiveness of our promotion, location, time and day offered.
- The percent that registered for the class is a measure of how much they enjoyed the introductory session including the instruction, music, dancing, entertainment, and social aspects.
- The percent of those who registered who completed the class (retention) tells us how well we have engaged with them over this time and who found that the square dance product we provided fits with their life. When we know the percent retention, we will know how many people we need to start with to have a viable class. Then we will know more about how much effort we need to put into promotion and retention and if we need to adjust our approach with either one to obtain the results we desire.

e) BC Federation – Dianne Wilson

- Caller school coming up (Lyle O'Hara has more information)
- Next AGM is Sun. April 28 -- Dianne will be attending
- Norm reported that they are looking for treasurer and first vice-president

f) Canadian Society – Dianne Wilson

- The 23rd Canadian National Festival is being held in July in Calgary
- Frank reported that 650 people have registered and they have been sold out since December

g) Gala Committee – Dave Hammer

- The 2024 Gala committee held its first meeting on Sat. Jan. 27th at the home of June Fitchett and Al Gibbs.
- Gala 2024 will be on Sat. Nov. 23rd, 2024.
- Details of the cuer, level, location and time is still to be determined.
- The committee welcomed a new member Pat Hill.
- Tony Oxendine (verbal contract) and Ray Brendzy will be calling
- No venue yet
- Price TBD

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

(ask for report)

- December dance was a well-attended with 54 dancers and 8 caller/cuers including 2 honorary members Chuck and Marguerite Jordan
- Caller school will be held in Salmon Arm June 9-14, 2024.
- If anyone knows of anyone interested, please let Lyle know
- Gary Winter and Steve Edlund will be the featured callers.
- It is being held before Chase the Fun and right after Radium in the hope that it will draw people who are already attending one or both of those events.

i) Scroll of Honour – Sandi Poje

The Criteria required for the Scroll of Honour, as stated in the Resource Book:

“This Award is usually presented to one Dancer Couple or Person and one Caller Couple or Person annually, within the Fraser Valley Square & Round Dance Association and Vancouver and District Caller/Teachers Association. The Honour is in recognition of the people who have gone above and beyond the call of duty and have dedicated their service to the Square Dance Community. This goes beyond the Club level and they have shown leadership to the FVS&RD Association or B.C. Federation or Canadian Society”.

So **please** look around your square and round dance venues and see if you recognize anyone that you feel has fulfilled the obligations above, and **please, please** submit a note 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

Query: Can it/should it be awarded to the same person more than once? This will be brought to a future executive meeting.

J) BC FESTIVAL 2025 – Wendy Krueger

- The BC Festival 2025 committee last had a meeting on January 7th, 2025. About 12 people comprise the committee in these early stages.
- Our venue of Langley Secondary School will be used for the Trail In dance and the 3 days of the Festival, July 31, Aug. 1 and 2, 2025.
- The committee received a start-up loan of \$5,000 from the BC Square and Round Dance Federation and sent our thank you note for that loan.
- Our treasurer Yvonne Hebein has the bank account open.
- Jean Galbraith is heading up the advertising and promotion and has published ads in the Cross Trail News (for Vancouver Island) and in the Valley Circle.
- She is in touch with Washington State and Alberta publishers of square dance magazines. Advertising on social media is coming.
- Our registrar is Maureen Wilson. She finalized the registration form and registration opened on schedule on January 15th. Eleven are registered to date.
- Camping is not determined yet as the Township of Langley has us waiting till nearer the date to sort out that detail. More information will go out when we have it.
- Ray Brendzy oversees the programming and has a team turning out to work with him on that.
- The website is overseen by Frank McNeil and is being built and expanded as we go.
- Blair Wallace is the Souvenir Booklet Publisher and has just gotten us great prices on badges, ribbons, and danglers. We are deciding on the colours.
- Alexandra Lamb is working on theme and logos and everything to do with graphic design and Facebook.
- Our decor committee is in its infancy, as the theme is being developed.
- We are putting a call out to clubs, looking for one to host the Trail Out dance on Sunday, August 3rd, 2025.

- Please contact any one of the chairs if your club will consider hosting this fun event to cap off the Festival weekend.

Moved Secoded: Lyle O'Hara/Norm Cox -- To accept above reports items C through J, as circulated -- CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS-

- 1) Grant of \$1,000 to each member club – Don Allan still sitting on two cheques, but rest have been distributed
- 2) Query – about how many squares on average – ask directors to mention this in their reports for the FV exec meetings
- 3) Need to clarify the \$15 – covers the membership fee to FV, BC Fed, Canadian

NEW BUSINESS –

- 1) Building Fund Grant – Don Allan – decided to form committee to review the grant program
- 2) New dancer query – send names of new dancers to Don
- 3) Need certificate of insurance if required by the hall – instructions are on the website – email address where they can apply
- 4) Clubs should register new dancers as soon as the new dancers have committed for the rest of the year. Clubs do not need to register dancers who show up for just one or two nights to checkout square dancing and who then do not return.

GOOD & WELFARE-

- Mitzi Hall – in hospital – club sent card wishing her well – Dave Hammer will send the address to me
- Town 'n' Country/ Royal City Dancers member – Lil Macdonald celebrated her 90th birthday
- Norma Ridler – recovering well from major surgery
- Guys 'n' Gals – on Sunday January 28, Sandi Poje and Dianne Wilson presented *Ginette Grenier* with her Four Score and More badge, and *Alvin Kipling* with his Four Score and Ten badge.

ORDER OF THE DAY-

- Feb 3 -- SSW had a successful recycle sale this past weekend
- Feb 13 & 14 – SSW is having their Valentine-themed dances
- Feb 25 -- Town 'n' Country – Heart and Stroke dance on Feb 25. There will be a recycle sale as well as a special presentation
- March 8 –Royal City Dancers are holding a special dance featuring caller, Gary Winter.
- March 16 – CRR will be hosting The Brent and Steve Show, a special dance with a party afterwards. The hall will be open until 11 pm that evening.
- April 27 – Spring Jamboree (jointly sponsored by FVS&RDA Promo Committee & V&DCTA) will be held at Kennedy Hall (7-9:30 PM) \$8 per person at the door
- May 17-19 -- Campbell River Ripple Rockets are having their annual blast off weekend – contact Wendy for details.
- July 2025 -- USA West is holding their next convention in Spokane in July 2025 – the weekend before our event.
- August 3, 2025-- BC Festival 2025 committee is looking for a club to host the trail out dance.

NEXT MEETING –

- General Meeting: Sun. Apr. 7 @9 AM
- Executive meeting Sun. Mar. 24 @ 9 AM

ADJOURNMENT @ 10:02 AM by Nancy Slinn

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



