



## FRASER VALLEY SQUARE & ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting February 9, 2025

Chaired by Alex Galbraith; Zoom Host – Maureen Wilson

Meeting brought to order at 9:02 AM

Alex Galbraith welcomed everyone

Attendance:

1. **Century House Squares** (Mark Garstin)
2. **Abbotsford Grand Squares** (Wayne Tribe)
3. **Chuckwagon 8's**, (\*Sandi Poje),
4. **Circle 8's** (Janice Hiscott),
5. **Guys & Gals & Chilliwack Rhythm Reelers** (\*Dianne Wilson),
6. **Motiv8ors** (Ray Brendzy),
7. **Royal City Squares** (Peter & Nancy Slinn),
8. **Stardowners** (Mary Decario),
9. **Swinging Hubs** (Norm Cox),
10. **Surrey Square Wheelers** (\*Judy Remenda),
11. **Town 'n' Country Dancers** (\*Greg Dahlgren)
12. **Valley Promenaders** (Wendy Krueger),
13. **Wesburn Wranglers** (Caitlyn Brendzy),
14. **White Rockers** (Lyle & Diane O'Hara)

1. \*Don Allan,
2. \*Alex Galbraith,
3. \*Jean Galbraith,
4. \*Al Gibbs & June Fitchett,
5. Marion Freeman
6. Alexandra Lamb
7. \*Frank McNeil
8. \*Blair Wallace

Absent: **Brent's Bunch, Quicksteppers, Wheeling 8's**, John Corrigan, \*Bill Fex, Dave Hammer, \*Eva Matheson & Nelson Baranow

We have a quorum with 14 clubs and 6 executive members present (minimum 7 clubs and 4 executives required).

***Moved/Seconded: Nancy Slinn/Jean Galbraith -- to accept agenda as circulated -- CARRIED***

### Correspondence

The following have been sent since the last meeting (Nov 17, 2024) (4 cards)

1. ***Sympathy card to the family of:***
  - ***Nelson Baranow (brother – Nov. 2024)***
  - ***David McVige (Nov. 2024) – 3 daughters in Alberta***

***Moved/Seconded: Don Allan/Dianne Wilson -- To approve minutes of previous General Meeting (Oct 6, 2024) as circulated -- CARRIED***

**REPORTS –**

**A. Treasurer's Report – Don Allan (*financials are sent as an attachment to the minutes*)**

- 2024 added 109 new dancers – this year – 61 dancers returned – lost 44 people who joined last year
- We may get some new dancers who began in January and registered at a club

***Moved/Seconded: Don Allan/Sandi Poje -- To accept Treasurer's Report, as given – CARRIED***

**B. Vice President – Bill Fex (no report)**

**C. BC Festival 2025 – Wendy Krueger**

Venue: Langley Secondary, 21405 56th Ave. Langley)

Dates: Trail In dance July 30th 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. is included in price of the weekend.

Dancing starts at 1:30 Thursday July 31 till 10 p.m.

Dancing Friday and Saturday is 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. with breaks for meals at noon and 5:00 p.m.

Decorating and set up will take place Wednesday July 30, starting at about 10 a.m. Please contact Bonnie Hartup to volunteer to help with that. ([squarebon@hotmail.com](mailto:squarebon@hotmail.com)). The theme is "Under the Sea". Colours are teal/turquoise and sea green with white.

There will be summer school happening in some school classrooms till Friday afternoon, but it won't involve the gymnasiums or the dance studio, where we are. We plan to expand on Saturday to more spaces in the school. It will all be in the schedule.

The Brendzy's are scheduling the callers and cuers. Programming is from SSD through Advanced (maybe C?) for squares and Phase II and up for rounds (based on callers, cuers and dancers registering). Dancers, I suggest you be encouraging your callers and cuers to make sure they are registered and coming.

RV dry camping has just been set up. Wendy Krueger is booking the spots. ([wkrueger@shaw.ca](mailto:wkrueger@shaw.ca)) There is a large parking lot north of the school building, perfect for our needs. Security services will be hired to patrol the camp area and parking lots for the hours during dancing when everyone will be away from their rigs.

Langley businesses are being notified and engaged to advertise in the souvenir booklet. Please plan to patronize Langley businesses. Blair Wallace is doing the souvenir booklet.

There will be special demo events outside of the festival venue called Dangle Dances, and dancers who go to them will get a special little dangle.

There are still earrings available--see Maureen.

We currently have 240 registrants, many from outside the lower mainland and BC. These include Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Ontario; as well as some in the US: California, Nevada, South Dakota, Utah, and, of course, Washington state.

The nearest restaurant is at Langley airport— "Adrian's at the Airport" -- has really good reviews. We are going to find some food trucks that can come as well so we don't have to go far for food.

Advertising has been by word of mouth, and also largely digital with frequent emails by Jean, to her contacts far and wide, plus a signboard display taken to a few events, and posters that many clubs have put up permanently at their locations, plus our poster is on [WheresTheDance.com](http://WheresTheDance.com), an international square dance website. Please keep on encouraging all dancers to come. And just a reminder if you haven't already registered, the registration fee increases to \$80 per person as of March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The event ends at 10 p.m. Saturday, August 2nd. We ask many participants to please plan to stay and help as we clear out all our gear.

The next day will be a Trail Out Dance put on by the V&DCTA at Murrayville Hall in Langley. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Dancing from 2:00 till 4:30 p.m. \$10 each

Our next Festival 2025 meeting is February 16<sup>th</sup>.

**D. Valley Circle/Website – Blair Wallace**

- June and Al are distributing the Feb issue – pink cover
- US clubs and some other clubs in the rest of Canada don't want copies which will save us some money
- Subscriptions are currently at 155 -- up a bit from last year
- Frank is starting on March issue
- Website is up to date – obits added when received
- Need to upload some of the latest meeting minutes
- Only ads that are received are added.
- If you are only advertising on Facebook, you may be missing some of your dancers
- Great committee – even though they have never met for a meeting

**E. Promotion Committee – Frank McNeil**

- We have closed down the ad campaign for now – Alexandra is busy doing something else right now, but other things are happening
- It's coming up to the time to change over the chair – caller/cuer's turn to step up to the plate of committee chair
- We have discussed fresh ideas to reach out to the public to keep them aware that Square Dancing is still around and is a fun activity. (a separate proposal for funding this initiative will be presented by Lyle O'Hara)
- Facebook advertising has had varying success in different areas. Numbers of New Dancers are up at Chilliwack Rhythm Reelers, Surrey Square Wheelers and White Rockers.
- We have some good ideas to promote Square Dancing awareness and will be pursuing those ideas soon. The extent of the awareness program will depend on the outcome of our special request for funding from Lyle representing the Promotion Committee.
- Just printed 200 trifold flyers for advertising which will be handed out

**Promotion Committee Social Media report -- Greg Dahlgren**

**A. Update on new dancer classes for January 2025**

Club with New Dancer Classes	1 <sup>st</sup> night	2 <sup>nd</sup> night	3 <sup>rd</sup> night
Chilliwack Rhythm Reelers	25	16	x
Century House	5	4	5
Circle 8's	3		
Town 'n' Country	8	4	1
White Rockers	6	5	6
Wesburn Wranglers			

**F. BC Federation – Dianne Wilson**

- One meeting coming up for directors on Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9 AM via Zoom

#### G. Canadian Society – Dianne Wilson –

- Nothing new to report

#### H. Gala Committee – Dave Hammer –

The Gala committee is currently working on details for Gala 2025.

To date:

- Callers are Steve Edlund and Gary Winter
- Cues are Heather Reynolds.
- Theme: The Fabulous 50's
- Presently we are working on several dates which have not been finalized and a venue is still to be determined.

#### I. VDCTA – John report

- Please promote Brent's First Friday dance for March 7th.
- Also, Brent is doing an SSD dance on March 15th at Kennedy Hall with Adam Christman.
- The VDCTA is putting on a plus dance at Kennedy Hall on Sunday April 15th with
- Tim Merino from California.
- We are organizing summer dancing at Aldergrove and Kennedy Hall on Sunday afternoons.
- We have also taken on running the trail out dance for festival 2025.

#### J. 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](mailto:spoje@ymail.com)

***Moved Seconded: Lyle O'Hara/June Fitchett -- To accept above reports items C through J, as circulated -- CARRIED***

#### **CLUB CONCERNS-**

How are clubs dealing with dancers coming back the next year?

- Clubs need to have a friendly, inviting atmosphere
- If there is a dance where new dancers are invited, club should make sure that those single new dancers have a partner for each tip, instead of them having to look for one.
- Club should find out why some dancers don't return.

## OLD BUSINESS-

### 1. 65<sup>th</sup> FVS&RDA/Valley Circle anniversary – Jean Galbraith

I have obtained a venue in Kennedy Hall and a date of May 25<sup>th</sup>. The hall is booked for 1-5 pm, and the cost is \$250.00. I have asked some callers if they were available to call/cue on that date. I have not received a budget from FVS&RDA for caller contracts, but in the meantime, the V&DCTA have proposed an idea, with the help of the Promo Committee, I think, to combine the dance with New Dancer Jamboree, and make the dance level all-inclusive, so that new dancers could join the fun. At the last V&DCTA meeting, they agreed to accept this idea with full SSD program, with Ray Brendzy presiding as the MC. I feel that this is a great idea, a great opportunity for the FVS&RDA and V&DCTA to join in organizing a great event, and I fully support it. Of course, it's a good idea for all these things to be sent to me directly, so I can better control the overall organization of the event and get the input of the FVS&RDA Exec and Valley Circle Editor, who after all, are the main players. Anyway, I am excited by such great support, because my main concept for the dance was to involve as many clubs, dancers, callers and cuers as possible to celebrate an astounding 65 years.

#### Comments:

- Event coming along pretty well
- It will be partnered with the new dancer jamboree – new dancers will learn a bit about the association that they belong to and maybe they will subscribe to the Valley Circle, once they hear the history
- Dance level geared to all levels – Ray hosting
- Same cost as 60<sup>th</sup> – \$10 at the door; \$5 for those displaying their BC Festival 2025 ribbon
- Ray – at last VDCTA meeting it was decided that it should be a full SSD dance – not ones with January new dancers
- Crosstrail News will be putting out an ad --- maybe get some dancers from the Island
- Jean will look into a possible souvenir item – maybe order 110 – 120 dangles
- Suggestion -- use the company who did the Festival 2025 dangles – We Print company (Frank has source info)
- Admission at the door rather than tickets has been suggested
- Re: caller/cuer pay
- Suggestion that the FVSRDA make a contribution to the caller teachers in lieu of paying the callers
- Ray mentioned that callers usually volunteer their time at these type of dances

### 2. Joint FVS&RDA/V&DCTA meeting – Mar. 2, 2025 – need to confirm date as well as an agenda

- Time is not appropriate for all involved
- May have to change the date and/or the time of the meeting
- Lyle will look after the date/time after receiving the agenda (Jean will send it to Lyle)

## NEW BUSINESS –

### 1. Grants requested from clubs

Don presented a summary of the grants that have been submitted at this time.

#### A. DeSmit Fund – New Dancer Grants

The policy is that 10% of the fund can be distributed in a year.

RBC

\$2,908.99

TD \$23,281.99

Total \$26,190.98

10.00% **\$2,619.10 2025 Grant Limit**

### **2025 DeSmit Grant Applications**

So far, applications for four grants have been received from three clubs.

1. Circle 8's for a Square Dance New Dancer Grant
2. Circle 8's for a Round Dance New Dancer Grant.
3. Wesburn Wranglers for a Square Dance New Dancer Grant
4. Wheeling 8's for a Square Dance New Dancer Grant

### **B. Building Legacy Fund**

The policy is that 15% of the fund can be distributed.

Van City \$837.80

TD \$72,386.02

Total \$73,223.82

15.00% **\$10,983.57 2025 Grant Limit**

### **2025 Building Fund Grant Applications**

Only one club – Swinging Hubs -- has submitted a building fund grant application.

***Motion #1 -- Moved/Seconded: Don Allan/Dianne Wilson– We approve the four \$500 new dancer grants at outlined. -- CARRIED***

***Motion #2 -- Moved/Seconded: Don Allan/Sandi Poje – We approve the \$1000 building fund grant application from The Swinging Hubs -- CARRIED***

## **2. Promotion Committee Funding special request**

### **To: Vancouver & District Caller Teachers Association**

Our annual request for funding of the Joint Promotion Committee.

We request \$500 for 2025 and \$500 for 2024 which was overlooked

For a total of a \$1,000.00 contribution to the Joint Promotion Committee.

***Motion #3 -- Moved/Seconded: Don Allan/Nancy Slinn – We provide a \$1,000 operating grant for the Joint Promotion Committee (for 2024 and 2025 combined) from the building fund. — CARRIED***

## **3. Zoom Meetings vs Face to Face Meetings**

- Blair suggestion -- Venue to be held in Surrey/Langley area rather than New Westminster
- Greg – will check availability of their hall in Maple Ridge for a possible meeting venue

***Motion #4 -- Moved/Second: Blair Wallace/Nancy Slinn – That we have the AGM scheduled in May or June as an 'in-person' meeting. – CARRIED***

#### 4. Funding request for cuers' school (Lyle O'Hara)

Cuers' School be held at Murrayville Hall just before the festival and Lyle has requested funding from the FVSRDA. After a discussion as to the feasibility of providing funds, it was decided that there is enough money in the building fund to warrant offering some financial help to our association dancers who wish to participate.

***Motion #4 -- Moved/Second: Blair Wallace/Nancy Slinn -- That the FVSRDA provide a bursary to association dancers attending the cuers' school up to a maximum of 50% of the fee to an aggregate total of \$2000 -- CARRIED***

#### **GOOD & WELFARE-**

One of the members of the Quicksteppers passed away recently – June will check with Ellen as to name as well as an address for the family.

Blair – Heather's mom was moved to hospice recently

Jean – Alex's nephew passed away recently

#### **ORDER OF THE DAY-**

Upcoming events:

- Feb 17 -- Town 'n' Country– Heart and stroke benefit dance -Kennedy Hall -- Feb 17 – *(poster attached)*
- March 8 -- AGS – benefit dance – Starfish Pack – Sat. March 8 1:00-3:30 PM – *(poster attached)*
- March 29 -- SSW Happiness Dance – March 29 at BSC – (7:30 pre-rounds; 8-10 mainstream with plus tips) Steve Edlund and guest callers; Krista cueing *(poster attached)*
- April 6 -- Spring Fling Dance (sponsored by VDCTA)– April 6, 2025 – *(poster attached)*
- April 12<sup>th</sup> – CRR 3:30-9 PM – 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary – no flyer yet
- If Festival 2025 approached the clubs having special dances would that be okay? Those attending said that would be fine

**NEXT MEETING** – EXEC – March 30 @9 AM VIA ZOOM

GM – April 6 @ 9 AM VIA ZOOM

**ADJOURNMENT** @ 10:38 AM by Nancy Slinn

*~Respectfully submitted by Maureen Wilson~*

*Please forgive any typos -- they weren't intentional...*

