

Country Sunshiners Annual General Meeting – April 12, 2024

2023-24 Executive

President: Barbara Rehn

Past President: Carman Dufresne

Vice President: Brent Hagstrom

Treasurer: Eileen Szakacs

Assist. Treasurer: John Younie

Secretary: Faye Malsbury

Webmaster and Soc. Media Rep: Mary Hagstrom

Social Convenors-special dances – Debbie and Warren Johnson

Social convenors – regular dances – Reiner and Amy Loewan, Cathy Robinson and Ron Kulak, Marianne and Tony Ouwehand

All present except for Debbie, Warren, Amy, Cathy, and Ron.

37 members of the Country Sunshiners attending, which is a quorum.

Minutes of the Meeting

1. **Call to order**

Barbara called the meeting to order at 6:25 PM.

2. **Approval of the agenda**

Marian Jenkins moved that the agenda be accepted as distributed. Seconded by Fern Zurawell. Motion carried.

3. **Approval of the minutes of the last AGM April 14, 2023**

Faye moved that the minutes of April 14, 2023 be approved as distributed. Seconded by Les Duxbury. Motion carried.

4. **Country Sunshiners Executive Member Reports on the 2023-24 year**

President: Barbara Rehn

I was President of this Club many years ago – now as a recycled President, I can say of the executive as well as the club members to step forward and help or contribute whenever there is a need. One of the changes this year was the way we handled Special Dances. Last year a few people provided the food for our Special Dances. This year we put out sign up sheets and various club members came forward to bring

one of the food items and this seemed to work well and was much appreciated. What did not change was the atmosphere in the hall – the decorations provided by Debbie and Warren with help from their daughter Mandy were spectacular. Thank you to the younger able bodied people such as the Hagstroms, Spronks, Les and Tony who came in to do tables and chairs and the many others of you who made the coffee or acted as greeters.

I would like to acknowledge our new dancers and hope you will stay with us for the upcoming year – you have made such progress and I can assure you that it only gets better. Please try to attend as many summer dances as possible – meet other people enjoying the same activity. It is as much about the social experience as the dancing. To recap on one of my announcements after the Fall General meeting of the CDCDA, the various club representatives at that meeting determined that the idea of stealing mascots as a way to encourage dancers to visit other clubs has gone by the wayside. Some of the newer clubs do not even have mascots and more members are visiting other clubs for the joy of dancing, meeting other people and listening to a variety of callers.

You have probably also noticed that in the bi-monthly emails from CDCDA there is a link you can click on to visit the CDCDA memorial page where you can read the obituaries of previous dancers which often includes their dance history. Thanks to Charlie and Rose Dalton who are looking after this Memorial Page. Mariel Wertzler is working on providing information to them on past Country Sunshiners who are not yet shown. Earlier this year the executive did send out a request for input from the members on what they would like to see for next year. Thank you to those of you who responded. In building our 2024-2025 program we have tried to take those responses into account. I would also like to acknowledge Carman who as served in many capacities. I found out a few weeks ago that for the past 14 years Carman has been opening the hall for our dances or ensuring that someone was there to open the hall.

I will end my report acknowledging that we are fortunate to continue to have as our caller – Murray Few – both Murray and his wife Barb are here with us now. Thank you Murray for your guidance and teaching.

Vice-President: Brent Hagstrom

This first year in my role of Vice President, I have taken over the role of booking the Duggan Hall as needed, coordinating club visits and performing duties to assist our Club President such as make announcements and assist with club promotion.

Treasurer: Eileen Szakacs

Report of Revenue and Expenses from April 1, 2023 to April 10, 2024

Expenses

Caller Fees \$ 5,550.00

Special Dance Expenses \$ 638.28

Christmas Dinner \$ 1,847.08

Supplies and Snacks \$ 685.81

Badges \$ 466.38
 CSRDS Insurance and CDCDA Membership \$ 461.00
 Hall Rent \$ 3,760.00
 Advertising \$ 285.17
Total Expenses \$ 13,693.72

Income
 Dance Fees Members \$ 5,861.05
 Dance Fees Visitors \$ 2,408.00
 Fast Track Fees (7 new dancers) \$ 1,225.00
 Christmas Dance Tickets \$ 1,050.00
 Membership Fees \$ 721.00
 Badge Fees \$ 35.50
 Donations \$ 197.00
 CDCDA Donation \$ 1,970.00
Total Income \$ 13,467.55
Shortfall for the year \$ -226.17

Opening Balance at March 31, 2023
 Bank Account balance: \$8,522.24
 Special Offer GIC: \$2,137.92 maturity date is August 20, 2024. The interest rate is 4.5%.
 Cash Float: \$70.00
Total: \$10,730.16

Closing Balance at April 10, 2024
 Bank Account balance: \$9,996.66
 Special Offer GIC: \$2,137.92 (principal) maturity date is August 20, 2024. The interest rate is 4.5%.
 Cash Float: \$70.00
 Less Outstanding Cheques: \$191.09 Caller fee April 5 and High Tea expense
Total: \$12,013.49

Notes: The \$1,970.00 from CDCDA was for the 2022 year. We expect to receive a similar amount for 2023 and 2024. The financial records will be turned over to Rosemarie Coyne for review in due course.

The 2023 – 2024 square dance year included 37 dances consisting of: 2023 AGM; 6 Fast Track Saturdays; Christmas Dinner Dance; 7 “Special Dances”; Taste of Square Dancing; and 20 Regular Dances.

We cancelled the dance scheduled for January 12, 2024 on short notice due to the extremely cold weather and we still incurred the cost for hall rental.

40 members of our 56 paid members and 1 visitor attended the 2023 Annual General Meeting on April 14, 2023. We have 61 paid members for 2024.

We held 2 “Taste of Square Dancing” events. 22 members and 16 visitors attended on May 26, 2023; and 20 members and 13 visitors attended on August 25, 2023.

Highest attendance at a regular dance was 63 including 45 members and 18 visitors on October 13, 2023.

Lowest attendance at a regular dance was on February 2, 2024 with 20 members and 2 guests. Average attendance for a regular dance is 36.

Our cost to hold a regular dance is approximately \$255.00 which includes the caller fee of \$150, hall rent of \$80 and \$25 for supplies which I determined by dividing the costs incurred this year for cups, coffee, cream, cookies etc. by the number of regular dances. In order to break even on a regular dance night we would need to have attendance of 32.

Saturday dance attendance ranged from 13 to 19 attendees.

Special Dance Attendance:

October 27, 2023 Halloween Hoot attendance of 62 included 38 members and 24 visitors.

November 24, 2023 Western Night attendance of 76 included 41 members and 35 visitors.

December 15, 2023 Christmas Dance attendance of 72 included 58 dinner and dance attendees plus 14 dance only.

January 26, 2024 Hawaiian dance attendance of 51 included 33 members and 18 visitors.

February 9, 2024 Valentine's dance attendance of 56 included 31 members and 25 visitors.

Singing Call Night Dance: 34 members and 14 visitors attended the dance on March 1, 2024. Our revenue was \$480. We paid out \$300.00 for the 2 callers, and our hall rent is \$80.00, no receipts for reimbursement were handed in (so far) that relate specifically to the singing call night. We did use some supplies (cups, plates, forks, napkins, coffee cream). If we include \$25.00 for supplies, it appears that we made a profit of \$75 for the Singing Call night.

36 members and 29 guests attended our St Patrick's Dance on March 15, 2024 we took in \$640.00. Less the caller fee of \$150 for our guest caller, Ken Sipe hall rent of \$80 and allocation of \$25.00 for supplies, it appears that our profit was \$385. 18 members of Double Diamonds (Ken's club) attended.

High Tea Dance: 41 members and 13 visitors attended the dance on April 5, 2024. Our revenue was \$560.00, which includes a donation of \$20.00. We paid \$150.00 for the caller, and our hall rent is \$80.00. One receipt for reimbursement was handed in (so far) that relates specifically to the High Tea. It appears that we made a profit of \$263.91 for the High Tea.

Eileen moved approval of the Treasurer's report as circulated and presented. Seconded by Ellen Kinloch. Motion carried.

Assistant Treasurer (Badges): John Younie

This is my second full year as Badge Coordinator. I volunteered for this position because most of the work does not take away from dance time at a dance. The work is primarily done at home with flexible time. I have handled ordering badges for new members, special purpose badges and bars and replacements for members who lose their badge. By the end of the first year, I had to find a new source because the business we had been using moved on. I am now using Leduc Trophies which also uses the name, "Balloons and Things". They have been extremely reliable and efficient to work with. My next major chore will be ordering club badges and bars for new dancers next year in September. I designed a special badge for the High Tea dance a year ago. The majority

reaction was, “Why would I want another badge to add to my large collection at home”. Only 3 people ordered one, so I will not arrange other special dance badges.

On two occasions, there were extra costs because of an error. Because it was my error in both cases, I paid the extra cost myself.

I enjoy this position and am willing to continue in the position next year.

John moved acceptance of his report. Seconded by Joe Lang. Motion carried.

Secretary: Faye Malsbury

My main job is to record the minutes of the Executive meetings and the AGM and distribute the minutes to the members. I also write the club news for the CDCDA website and formerly for The Promenader.

Webmaster and Social Media Representative – Mary Hagstrom

My role as Webmaster is to maintain our Country Sunshiners website on both our own Country Sunshiners.com site and the CDCDA site. The website is updated weekly or as needed to keep our information inviting and informative to both the public and our members.

I take photos during our special dances to post on our website and social media. A special Thank you to those who have participated in taking photos either in my absence or just to have a different perspective. Fran, Dave, Norm & Anita and Dwayne. It is much appreciated.

Another part of my role is to create posters for our special dances and then find creative ways to promote our events to the appropriate audience. The blue banner seems to work out well in promoting our dances as well as keeping you informed of outside dances. Thank you to those who participate in setting it up and taking it down. Especially Carman

I think you will agree it is important to share the fun we have each week as well as inspire new dancers.

I enjoy tinkering on computers and iphones and if you need assistance navigating our website or have ideas to make our information more user friendly, feel free to reach out to me.

Social Convenors: Reiner Loewan on behalf of Amy Loewan, Marianne and Tony Ouwehand, Cathy Robinson and Ron Kulak

- Cathy and Ron have not been attending for some time because Cathy had a foot injury from a fall, but now has made a good recovery. Ron is recovering from his surgery and making good progress. They are hoping to continue with us in September.
- The basic tasks are to
- set up the chairs and tables
- Set up the coffee and refreshments

- To be greeters
- To ask other members to help out when necessary
- Walter has been buying supplies.
- We always had sufficient help and generally speaking, the Social Convenors have done a fine job. Both Barb and Christine have started to help with the coffee preparations.

Past President: Carman Dufresne

Greetings.

I hold the only position on this executive that is not an elected position. As Past President I serve in this capacity by first serving as your President. And I will only lose this position when we elect a new President. Therefore, I will oversee the elections later in this meeting.

Working with the Country Sunshiners' executive over the past ten years has been a joy. Every opinion is listened to, discussed, and dealt with. Each of us counts and the work is shared among those who have the skills to carry out the various tasks – or those who are willing to learn something new. Communication among the executive members is excellent and we work together to make each square dance a fun event. We gather and support our regular dances, our special dances, our Catered Christmas event, our ventures to other clubs, and our less choreographed gatherings that have been hosted by the Hagstroms at Christmas and during the summer. And still most executive members have found time to fit in personal holidays. I personally believe that Country Sunshiners square dancers are so fortunate to have such wonderful support within their executive.

Sometimes my role is to share a little about our more recent history, especially for those taking over new responsibilities.

For example:

I have been the main person to open the hall for each event for the past ten years and Faye has graciously taken on this role recently and I will be the backup. For this I am grateful. I have also been the main contact person with Michel, the hall coordinator, booked your dates, supplied the schedule once it has been approved, reviewed and signed the contract with the hall, and made sure the proof of insurance was delivered to the hall at the beginning of each year. Gratefully Brent has taken over this role and my position now is only as the advisor when required. So far, he has just looked after the bookings, but he will follow up on the other activities. By the way, we have been dancing at Duggan Hall since 2000.

This year, I began the process of putting together the schedule for our next dance season. We start with a template in January and talk about and revamp at each meeting until we decide how we as an executive want this schedule to look. The final presentation is always the work of our talented media person, Mary.

Sometimes I fill in for Eileen at dances when she cannot be here. This is comfortable for me because I was treasurer for a few years. And I am almost always here to help with set up and clean up each week.

I have also been a member of the Umbrella club for all the square dance clubs in Edmonton and surrounding area (CDCDA) so I was able to bring back information to our executive from that organization. The success of our club as well as the contribution of many of our members to CDCDA over the years is greatly appreciated. Many of our successes have been copied by CDCDA as well as some of the other clubs.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the new dancers who not only have worked hard to learn the various basic and mainstream moves of Square Dancing but have also pitched in to help wherever they can. I have danced with many of them and am impressed by their progress. I

am looking forward to their continued participation. And special thanks to our regular members who support the executive and volunteer to make things flow smoothly. Serving as an executive member of this friendly, supportive, and remarkable club is an enriching experience. I am grateful for the opportunities and learnings these different positions have afforded me.

5. **New Business**

New Dancer Program and Schedule for 2024-25

The schedule

There was a last-minute change to the dance schedule: the workshop listed for October 19 had to be cancelled and it was replaced by a workshop on October 5. The copies of the schedule handed out at the AGM included this change.

Ellen Kinloch asked when graduation would occur. The answer was at the end of the dance year.

We will use alternating tips for all of our dances next year. This was a move that was requested on our member survey. Barbara indicated that our dancers will need to listen to Murray when he announces a mainstream tip.

Ellen said she was pleased to see that we have reduced the number of special dances. Barbara suggested that we could visit the special dances of other clubs.

Barbara also noted that we have fewer workshops on Saturdays. It was hoped that this would appeal to new dancers.

Fees and special dance receipts

Regarding fees, our fees for a dance will remain the same (\$8 for a regular dance and \$10 for a special dance)

The cost for our new dancer program was reduced to \$150 per person. Our goal is to have a minimum of 10 new dancers for the program. Barbara encouraged everyone to get their friends to sign up.

A question was asked about how many dances the \$150 fee for new dancers would include. The answer given was all dances up to and including December 7. Starting in January, new dancers will pay at the door like everyone else.

Barbara added that if someone is buying refreshments for a special dance, such as a fruit platter, that person can submit a receipt to be reimbursed.

CDCDA Summer dances

CDCDA dances will be held on Wednesdays from June 19 to the end of July. For August, CDCDA has asked clubs to see if they can book their halls. These August dances will be free to all dancers. You can invite your friends to the first part of the evening. This will be followed by Mainstream dancing.

Club hosting of summer dances

The Country Sunshiners are hosting the dance on June 26. If you can help with the set up and clean up, let Brent know. He needs 4 or 5 people.

Taste of square dancing events

Our first dance is on May 3. Mary has some cards for this dance that can be picked up at the door. She also has a digital copy that you can send to your friends. There is a poster on the banner that you can photograph.

The second dance will be sponsored by CDCDA. It will be held at Duggan Hall on August 23.

Country Sunshiners Open House

This will be held at the Hagstrom's on Aug. 4

The CDCDA casino

There is a sign-up sheet at the entry way for a CDCDA casino. They are looking for volunteers for August 16 and 17.

6. Election of Officers for the 2024-2025 Country Sunshiners Executive: Carman Dufresne

The following positions were declared:

President: Barbara Rehn

Vice-President: Brent Hagstrom

Treasurer: Eileen Szakacs

Badge Coordinator: John Younie

Webmaster and Social Media Representative: Mary Hagstrom

Social Convenors: Reiner Loewan, Amy Loewan, Marianne Ouwehand, and Tony Ouwehand

No one was willing to let their name stand for the Secretary position. Faye Malsbury said she was willing to act as Secretary until the position could be filled. Les Duxbury moved that the Executive have the power to name someone Secretary before the next AGM. Seconded by Anita. Motion carried.

Debbie and Warren Johnson were not at the meeting, but they indicated that they were willing to continue decorating for our special dances. According to our by-laws, this is not an Executive position, but is a volunteer one. We decided to refer to them as Special Dances – decorators.

7. Banking Resolution

John Younie moved that the President, Past President and Treasurer have signing authority. Seconded by Marian Jenkins. Motion carried.

8. Club representative attendance at CDCDA meetings

At the spring CDCDA meeting there will be a proposal that a representative from each club be sent to the CDCDA meetings. This will allow the clubs to have more input plus they will be able to bring information back to their clubs. Barbara said she would make sure that one of our Executive members attend each meeting.

9. **Cross-over meeting**

This is tentatively scheduled for June 4, 2024 (subject to the availability of any new Executive members).

10. **Motion to adjourn**

Chinh Truong moved we adjourn.

Long Term Member Awards were presented during the dance

5 year badges went to Anita and Norm Spronk

10 year badges went to Rosemarie and Norman Coyne, to Fran Webster and to Mary and Brent Hagstrom

One 20 year badge went to Carman Dufresne

30 year badges went to Rita and Joe Lang

One 35 year badge went to Pat Condrotte (John will make sure she gets this as she was absent)

40 year badges went to Mariel and Phil Wertzler