

R5CCDA Executive 2019/2020

PRESIDENT

Mary Anne Turner
Williams Lake
nmtturner@telus.net

TREASURER

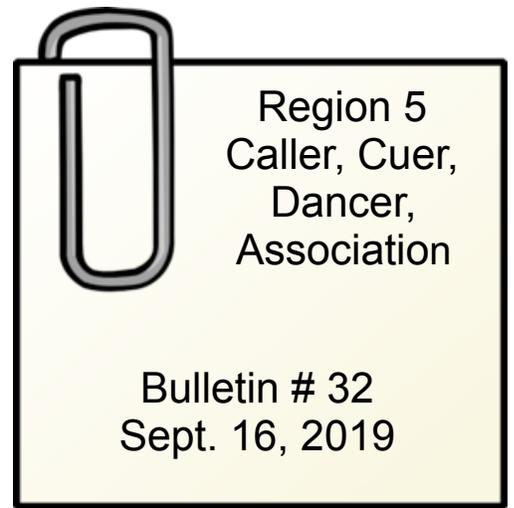
Jordi Guri
Williams Lake
(Contact the President)

VICE PRESIDENT

Sandi Jespersen
Vanderhoof
quilter333@yahoo.ca

SECRETARY

Nick Turner
Williams Lake
nmtturner@telus.net



KEEPING YOU INFORMED - Mary Anne Turner, R5CCDA President

(Sometimes I receive information that should not wait until the next Cariboo Connection to be passed on to you. In those cases, I send out bulletins. Please let me know if you wish to be removed from the Region 5 E-Mail list or if you know of anyone that should be added to the list.)

Happy Square and Round Dance Awareness Week! - Sept. 15 - Sept. 21, 2019

We hope all dancers and clubs have planned some activities that will be visible to the public and show our recreation in a positive light. *(You might also consider writing an article about them for the Cariboo Connection.)*

Below is a portion of an article written by Brian Elmer of SQUAREUP BC - the marketing initiative of the BC Square and Round Dance Federation.

MAKE AWARENESS-BUILDING A YEAR 'ROUND EFFORT

While it's wonderful to have a week in the province dedicated to building awareness of square and round dancing, your Federation encourages member clubs and associations to make it a year 'round effort to keep our great recreation in the public eye.

Identify a volunteer or volunteers with a passion for promoting our activity, preferably ones who are comfortable with today's social media avenues such as Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest and Twitter. You might think about posting promotionally-oriented articles to community Facebook pages.

Also, identify volunteers who are handy with capturing great photos that show the fun being had on the dance floor.

TELL EVERYBODY ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF DANCE... DON'T MAKE IT THE BEST KEPT SECRET

Not to be forgotten is the value to informing the press about events coming or past. They need local content that reflects their communities.

Consider press releases about things like special dance events, perhaps featuring guest entertainers, or even general club activities that might include a fundraising dance, recognition of long-time members or a public service display at a retirement facility. Remember, too, that today “the press” includes online news and information services and as well.

In example, back in September of 2015, a Central Okanagan square/round dance club submitted a press release about Awareness Week to an online news outlet. The remarkable result can be seen at the following link:

[https://www.kelownanow.com/.../Square and Round Dance Aware.../...](https://www.kelownanow.com/.../Square and Round Dance Aware.../)

A Note from Nick Turner

Our new season has arrived and hopefully our clubs are preparing to welcome new dancers.

Because the next Cariboo Connection Newsletter will be published long after classes start, we thought this Bulletin would be a timely way to remind our Square Angels of some of the dos and don'ts of angeling.

Advice for Angels by Bill van Melle (From an article in Stephen Noseck's News 'n Notes)

Please read through this list and keep it in mind, even if you think you've heard it all before, as the success of the class depends as much on the attitude of the club as on the talent of the students.

Much of this advice is appropriate in *any* square dance situation, but it's especially so with newer dancers. Your Lesson success starts here; don't blow it because of bad habits or because you did not know.

Callers, You are the Leader, do your part. Share this with your Club and Class Coordinator.

Be Friendly

We want new dancers to have a good time, so please make them feel welcome. Ask them to dance with you, rather than letting them fend for themselves. Talk to them during the breaks.

Don't Push

This is a special case of being friendly. If a class member is unsure of a call, some of you angels may experience a great temptation to grab the person and push him or her into position. Don't do this! Really. DON'T PUSH!

Gad, I hate to use all caps like that, but this is really important. At the very least, this is simply rude behavior. Remember, the object is not for *you* to get through the sequence; it's for the *class members* to learn. They don't learn by being shoved.

Do your best to be in the right position yourself, hold out your hand expectantly and/or exert *gentle* (I repeat, *gentle*) hand pressure consistent with the flow of the call, but never, *never* grab or shove. It is *far* better to let your square break down than to start shoving people around to fix it.

Squares breaking down is great feedback to the caller (you as the Caller should see this too) about what moves the dancers are having trouble with. If you observe others shoving people around (sometimes there are visiting angels who fancy themselves good dancers by the amount of pushing they do), please take them aside after the tip and encourage them to behave themselves.

If someone is already in the right position but is looking around frantically as if lost, the best thing you can do is nod and smile. Not that you shouldn't be smiling even when the square is breaking down...

Balanced Squares

If you can do so unobtrusively, attempt to balance the number of club and class members in a square. Experienced dancers in a square help to be good examples (please do), and reduce the likelihood that one dancer's error will take down the whole square, depriving the other dancers of practice.

The problem that arises time and again is that club members remember that it's important for class members to dance, and as result neglect to square up at all until they're dragged from the sidelines to fill out the last square. Of course, that square ends up being club-heavy, while the class members in their enthusiasm have already formed very class-heavy squares.

Don't let this happen--get out there when the music starts! One of the best ways to achieve balance is to preferentially ask class members to be your partner. Just think--if every class member was partnered with a club member, we'd automatically have balanced squares.

Class Members Have Priority

Remember, they're here to learn, and so they need to dance. But many are shy, or not completely comfortable yet asking for a dance. If you see a class member sitting out, offer to give up your spot in the square, especially if you're in a club-heavy square. Of course, if you all do your job of asking class members to dance with you, we won't need to go bumping club members like this.

Don't Play-Caller

Sure, you can whisper small hints to people who are momentarily confused, but while a tip is in progress, don't try to do any teaching or fixing on your own (and if you're on the sidelines, don't jump into the square trying to help). There's already a caller up front with a microphone, and we'd like to train new dancers to pay attention to him (or her). Reserve lengthier problem solving to breaks. Ask the caller for help with the move that was in question.

No Frills

Never initiate a frill with a class member. In fact, don't even do them with club members during class tips. Frills make dancing more fun but interfere with learning, even if a class member is not directly involved in your frill. Save your frills for the club tips at the end of the evening. Class members typically don't get interested in frills until December or January.

Examples of frills are the twirl on **Weave the Ring**, the highland fling **Do Sa Do**, and the swing in the middle of **Sides Promenade Halfway Round** and all the bad habits we use during **Grand Square**. And please dance hands up, at least for the class--it's still the standard styling for Mainstream and Plus in our area and across the country.

Mary Anne and I wish you all a great dancing, calling and cueing season. Now that Nick's knees have both been replaced, we hope to see you on the dance floor again.

Regards,

Nick and Mary Anne

Club Status

Sadly I am aware that the membership of some of our clubs has dwindled to such an extent that they are unable to put a square on the floor any more. As it is fee collecting time, please advise the Region 5 President, Mary Anne Turner of your wishes. (nmtturner@telus.net)

In order to receive 3rd party liability insurance, do you still wish to have your club and its members registered with the Canadian Square and Round Dance Society, the BC Square and Round Dance Federation and the Region 5 Caller, Cuer, Dancer Association?

For those dancers who wish to travel and keep dancing even though their club no longer exists, please know that you can obtain the 3rd party insurance by becoming a member of another club in our region. Just advise us of your plans so we can arrange this for you.

Cariboo Connection Newsletter

Again I remind everyone that the deadline date for sending information or articles for the first issue of the Cariboo Connection this year is **October 20, 2019**. With luck it will be delivered some time in early November.

Well, that's it for now. I hope you have a happy dancing season. I will talk to you again in the Cariboo Connection. Meantime, don't forget.....**your club treasurer needs to get the money and the forms to the Region 5 treasurer by October 25 so help out by paying your fees quickly. If you won't be dancing before then, contact your club treasurer and**

let him or her know your intentions for the season. We need to work efficiently to make sure our dancers and our clubs continue to be insured. Without insurance, many of our halls will not let us dance there.

Mary Anne Turner
President - Region 5 Caller, Cuer, Dancer Association