

Country Sunshiners Annual General Meeting – April 14, 2023

Duggan Community League Hall at 6 PM

2022-2023 Executive

President: Carman Dufresne

Secretary: Faye Malsbury

Past President: Fern Zurawell

Social Convenors: Anita Spronk

Vice President: Barbara Rehn

Monroe and Ellen Kinloch

Treasurer: Eileen Szakacs

Webmaster and social media: Mary

(all present)

and Brent Hagstrom

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Call to order

Carman called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

2. Approval of minutes

Faye moved that the minutes of the last AGM of April 8, 2022 be approved as distributed. Seconded by Phil Wertzler. Motion carried.

3. Country Sunshiners Executive Member Reports on the 2022-23 year

President's report by Carman Dufresne

So here we are. It is my fourth year in this role but not my fourth year in the role of president of an active square dancing club. We did have COVID in between. The 2019-2020 executive continued throughout COVID and we started dancing in the spring of 2022. At our AGM last year, we added executive members, and had a full slate of people willing to use their skills and talents to make this club one of the best in the district. And personally I think we succeeded. Not only did we have a great executive but we also are blessed with a membership of people willing to support the club in whatever way they can. This is such a welcoming group of people.

There is no doubt in my mind that this was a fantastic year. We went from a shortened dance schedule in the spring of 2022, to a full dance season in 2022- 2023. Often our meetings were a little long because we had so much planned and so much to coordinate. Teamwork was paramount. Lots of new and fresh ideas and the commitment necessary to make these things happen. Our new dancers contributed right from the beginning and those who had been away from dancing for as much as 2 or 3 years were very happy we offered the Fast Track Program, even though we did not have the required number of new dancers. Our special dances were well attended. But this probably would not have happened if Mary had not made a concerted effort to make use of every avenue of advertising available to us including seeing that the other clubs

got flyers delivered to their clubs. Barbara's idea of having two callers on special occasions gave everyone the chance to dance to different callers and therefore be more comfortable going out to other clubs. Each and every executive member took on duties above and beyond their basic commitment. I am so grateful to the executive for their contributions, ideas, and willingness to go beyond where we have been before. The kingpin of our activity is our caller. We worked with Murray throughout the season and enjoyed his support. He not only called for us, helped us to regain our skills buried deep in our muscle memory, but also supported everything else we decided to take on. We definitely appreciate the fact that he is member of our team. You will hear from each of the executive members. You can be sure that everyone did a lot more than they mentioned in their reports. It took all of us working together to bring about the results we enjoyed this season. There will be some changes in the executive for the coming year, as there should be. I am confident that the same teamwork will continue and Country Sunshiners will be the model each of the other clubs will want to emulate. I was well supported by this executive, past executives, and the membership as a whole both as president of your club and in my personal life. It has been a challenging year for me. I am extremely grateful for the support of this club. The executive made my job easier by taking on the tasks that made this year so successful.

Stephen served this club as an executive member for many years and we are still using some of the templates he provided. I am grateful for his contributions and feel he was appropriately honoured at the Celebration of Life this group orchestrated. I was also blessed by the caring and compassion expressed by so many and by the additional help in facilitating my move. It took the whole community and I was blessed to have this community to support me.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your president. It has been an honour. There is one executive member I want to acknowledge tonight because she is giving up her position. Fern took on the role of Vice president in the 2014- 2015 dance year and has slowly moved through the different positions. She was social convenor the year before. As a Country Sunshiner and an executive member, I am grateful for her support all these years. In closing, I read something I wanted to share. Ivy Ross, who is vice president of hardware design at Goggle and co-author of the New York Times best seller "Your Brain on Art: How the Arts Transform us" said "that even just 15 minutes of dance reduces stress and anxiety". The activity causes the brain to release "feel good hormones like endorphins, serotonin, and dopamine." Great news. Sounds like this hall on a Friday night is the place to be.

Vice President's report by Barbara Rehn

As Vice President and to assist our President Carman, I was the liaison with Murray Few as our Club caller as well as any visiting callers. We are very fortunate to have Murray as our Club caller. There are benefits for our dancers to dance to other callers – at times callers use different terminology for the same call and then there is always the necessity to adapt to a different voice. I feel this is beneficial for dancers and can make them stronger dancers – and more importantly able to feel comfortable visiting other clubs whether that be in Edmonton area or when you are out travelling. Remember calls are always done in English so you can dance wherever you may go! Therefore on two occasions we chose to have two callers Murray and Gary Winter and then

for High Tea Murray and Dan Lemoine. Both dances were successful – we did not make as much money but I do feel it brought more energy to the room. So for next year we will have to look at the economics of having two callers on occasion. We also brought in live music for the Western Night – again with extra cost. Are these extra costs worth it? Feel free to speak to me or any of the Executive on your thoughts.

In addition a few visitations were organized – in particular one to Country Cousins and one to Double Diamonds to return their mascots which had spent the COVID years in our white box. The taking and retrieving of mascots is not really being done now – but nevertheless I feel visitations to other clubs have value – again our dancers hear other callers, you meet new people and we support other clubs – they certainly do support us for our special dances. So it is a win/win. On that note we have been invited to go to the Country Cousins last dance of the season on April 25th to bring our mascot home before the dance season ends.

Treasurer's report by Eileen Szakacs

Report of Revenue and Expenses from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

Expenses

Caller Fees \$ 5,850.00
 Special Dance Expenses \$ 411.29
 Christmas Dinner \$ 1,652.00
 Supplies and Snacks \$ 857.34
 Badges \$ 126.75
 CSRDS Insurance and CDCDA Membership \$ 437.00
 Badges \$ 126.75
 Hall Rent \$ 2,960.00
 Advertising \$ 355.96
 Total Expenses \$ 12,777.09

Income

Dance Fees Members \$ 5,309.00
 Dance Fees Visitors \$ 1,553.00
 Fast Track Fees (5 new dancers) \$ 875.00
 Christmas Dance Tickets \$ 1,770.00
 Membership Fees \$ 735.00
 Badge Fees \$ 90.00
 Donations \$ 182.25
 Total Income \$ 10,514.25
 Net Income less Expenses -\$2,262.84

Opening Balance from March 31, 2022.

Bank Account balance: \$ 10,187.79,

Special Offer GIC: \$ 2,122.05 (increased Aug. 25, 2021) and will next mature Feb 21, 2023

Cash Float: \$70.00

Total: 12,379.84

Closing 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

Notes:

We have applied for and will receive funding in the amount of \$1,970.00 from the Community Dance Capital District Association (CDCDA) to support our club.

We increased the membership fee this year to \$15.00 from \$10.00 which includes insurance of \$5.00 which is paid to the Canadian Square and Round Dance Society (CSRDS) and \$3.00 which is paid to CDCDA for membership. Do we want to keep our membership fee the same for next year?

Our fee for regular dances is \$7.00 and special dances are \$8.00. Do we want to change this?

Badges: Current cost of badges is \$10.00 for a magnet badge and \$11.00 for a badge with a magnet and a pin (this price included the "new dancer" dangle). We also purchased milestone year dangles at a cost of \$6.00 per dangle. There is GST of 5% and shipping on top of these prices. One badge including shipping was \$13.50. We charged members \$12.00. Do we want to increase our fees for badges?

The compiled financial information for the period ended March 31, 2022 was reviewed by a former member, and we will request that the financial information for the period ended March 31, 2023 be independently reviewed in due course.

Eileen moved that the treasurer's report be approved as distributed. Seconded by Dave Morgan. Motion carried.

Assistant Treasurer Report by John Younie (read by Eileen)

I volunteered to become badge secretary about two months ago. In that time, I have handled 2 badge orders. The first was ordering a replacement badge for a badge with a name spelled incorrectly. The second was a special event badge for our High Tea. Our badge supplier is Daryl Caswell Engraving in Calgary. Daryl completed both orders very efficiently, so I plan to keep ordering badges from him.

My official title is Assistant Treasurer which is an elected position. I will be helping the treasurer at the first few dances each year when there are new member forms to fill out and badges to order for new members. In addition, I will attend monthly executive meetings via zoom and undertake a variety of tasks requested by the executive.

Secretary's report by Faye Malsbury

I have been the secretary for two and a half years. My job is to record the minutes of the executive meetings and the AGM and to distribute the minutes to the members. I also write the club news for The Promenader.

Webmaster and social media representative by 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. Thank you to those who have participated in taking photos either in my absence or just to have a different perspective. It is much appreciated.

Another part of my role is to create posters for our special dances and then find creative ways to promote outside dances, display the new dance moves, and any other pertinent information.

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 convenor's report by Ellen and Monroe Kinloch and Anita Spronk (read by Ellen)

We had a full year of dancing...beginning with our fast track dancing September 16, 2022 and then our normal and special dances. We enjoyed Halloween Hoot, Western Night, Christmas Dinner and party, Fast Track Graduation, Hawaiian Night, Valentine's dance, St Patrick night and the High Tea dance.

In September we had many individually wrapped treats because of Covid however later in the year we were able to enjoy many homemade treats.

The cupboards with our supplies have been cleaned out and restocked with some supplies for our next dance season.

Thank you to the many people who have helped with our dances, either by coming out early to set up tables and chairs, decorations, greeting as the dancers arrived, making coffee, making special treats/sweets, donating food and helping with clean up after dances.

This fall we will have new social convenor's coming on the executive as the 3 of us will be stepping down. We wish the new social convenors all the best.

Past President's report by Fern Zurawell

Dear Country Sunshiners,

I've missed all the fun dancing and I've missed each one of you too! As I look at all the wonderful pictures on the website, I know I missed a lot of socialization and fun! I missed seeing you, sharing good times, and your hearty laughs of course!

I have attended all our executive meetings and hear of all the dances and plans for future dances. Our special dances have indeed, been very special. Our executive has worked hard all year to make our dances memorable, so I want to thank Carman and the rest of the executive for all your efforts and hard work. From my point of view, this has been an excellent dance year! Thanks to each executive member on our Country Sunshiner's executive for making this a wonderful dance year. Thanks to all of you who have come to enjoy all these wonderful dances. Thanks to Murray and other callers who sang all those beautiful songs to bring all our dancing alive!!

I remind you to check our website because Mary posts new photos very often. Who knows, you could find YOU!!

It has been an honour to serve on the Country Sunshiner's Executive. Keep on dancing!!

New Business

4. Survey results by Barbara Rehn

Barbara thanked those who completed the survey.

She said there were a number of things that jumped out of the survey.

The number of people who would dance on Good Friday was enough to dance on that day next year.

Our members wanted to start dances promptly at 7 PM and dance to 9:30 PM. Murray said that if a group wanted to dance until 10 PM, that would be OK with him.

There was a need expressed to pick up the speed in mainstream dancing.

Everybody loves the web site.

We will go ahead with the outdoor social on July 23, and see how it goes.

Everyone loved the special dances. Thanks were given to Debbie and Warren for the decorations for the special dances. And thanks were also given to all who contribute to these. Our members agreed that a special dance about once a month works well.

Our members were split on Fast track dancing. About half wanted to keep our present format with the Fast track dancing first followed by mainstream. The others wanted to have alternating tips between Fast track and Mainstream dancing. It was decided that we would wait until we see how many Fast track dancers we have in the fall.

There seemed to be agreement that we have three different sign-ups for hosting: setting up the hall, coffee and kitchen, and greeting.

5. Dance schedule for 2023-24 by Carman

Carman noted that the special dances have not been named on the schedule. That will be decided at a later date so that the social convenors can have some input. She also said that the hall has been booked for all the dates on the schedule.

Debbie Johnson moved that the draft schedule be approved. Seconded by Marian Jenkins. Motion carried.

6. Fast track program by Carman

Carman noted that we have cut the hours of the Fast track program to 42 hours in order to have shorter hours on Saturdays and the first two Fridays.

Liz Barter moved that the draft of the Fast track program be accepted as presented. Ellen Kinloch seconded. Motion carried.

Donna Lee Randon said she knows of a dance newsletter where we could post information about our Fast track program. She will forward the information to Mary.

7. Possible minimal rent increase at Duggan Hall by Carman

Carman spoke with Michel about this possible increase, pointing out to him that the Country Sunshiners provide most of the community's volunteers for bingos and casinos. Michel said that the rent will not be increased. Marian Jenkins and Keri Gladwin said that for the last casino that we did, our club provided most of the volunteers. Carman said that the Duggan Community does 3 bingos and the Country Sunshiners does two of them. Barbara Rehn pointed out that the rent for most halls on a Friday night costs \$350-\$450 per night. We rent the hall for \$80 per night. Barbara suggested that we might only do casinos, since bingos are such hard work. Phil Wertzler added that, because of age, our members might not be able to put in a full evening of bingo. He also suggested a different evening of renting the hall might be less expensive. Carman said that the executive would take the comments into consideration, but will leave it up to the executive.

8. Fees

Membership fees

Les Duxbury moved to keep the membership fee at \$15. Seconded by Lorraine Baker. A question was asked about the membership fees of other clubs. At least 2 other clubs have the same membership fees as we do. Marian Jenkins said that CDCDA has funds should we need them. Kerri Gladwin suggested that our club try to get a casino on our own. Carman said that CDCDA gets a casino and we have access to those funds. This spring we received \$1970 from CDCDA. Eileen said that the funds provided by CDCDA can only be used for the caller fees and the hall rental.

The motion to keep the membership fee at \$15 was carried.

A question about submitting bills for special dances

Debbie Johnson asked why bills are submitted for special dances. Carman said this was originally introduced to encourage people to participate in special dances. Mary said that it helps us to know what was needed. Donna Lee Randon said we should give people the choice to submit a bill or not. It was decided to give people a choice in submitting bills.

Dance fees

Donna Lee Randon moved that we increase our dance fees to \$8 for regular dances and \$10 for special dances. Seconded by Debbie Johnson.

Murray suggested that we check with other clubs to see what they are charging. Country Cousins charge \$7.50 per dance. Several people spoke in favor of raising fees. Cathy Robinson suggested a special rate for youth.

The motion to raise the fees to \$8 for regular dances and \$10 for special dances was carried.

Carman added that the executive will see if this is a hardship for anyone.

Fast track fees

It was decided that this fee will stay the same.

Badge fees

Eileen said that badge fees are based on a cost-recovery basis. The badge secretary will look after this.

Angel's fees

Our members will continue to not pay for the first two dances in the fall, nor will they pay for the Saturday sessions. This continues current practice.

Promenader

This is not scheduled to be printed at this time. It is available online at no cost.

9. CDCDA summer dances and other summer events by Barbara

Taste of square dancing events are being held on May 26 and August 25. The cost will be \$5 for everyone.

Barbara has a sign-up sheet to volunteer to set up for CDCDA dances. Our club is responsible for July 4 and August 16.

The handout for CDCDA summer dances and other summer events is available at the back of the hall and on our web site.

There is a sign-up sheet at the back for those who want to participate in summer promotional events. This is being coordinated by Fran Webster.

The Country Sunshiners summer open house will be held on July 23 at Mary and Brent Hagstrom's house. The format will be similar to last year.

10. Election of officers for the 2023-2024 Country Sunshiners dance season - Les Duxbury replaced Fern as chair.

This is the 2023-2024 executive:

President: Barbara Rehn

Vice-President: Brent Hagstrom

Treasurer: Eileen Szakacs

Assistant treasurer: John Younie

Secretary: Faye Malsbury

Webmaster and Social Media Representative: Mary Hagstrom

Social Convenors for special dances: Debbie and Warren Johnson

Social Convenors for regular dances: Reiner and Amy Loewan, Cathy Robinson and Ron Kulak, Marianne and Tony Ouwehand

(And Carman Dufresne will move into the post of Past President)

11. Awards

Carman announced that long-term member and service awards will be presented at the dance.

12. Cross-over meeting

The date for the old and new executives to meet at a cross-over meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2023 at Brent and Mary's. This will be a pot luck.

13. Adjournment

Debbie Johnson moved we adjourn. Motion carried.