

April 2020 Newsletter

Hello everyone and welcome to the April newsletter. When we were writing the March newsletter at the end of February, none of us could have imagined where we would be at one month later. Classes suspended, workshop cancelled and no clear idea of when we will return to normal. That being said, we **will** get past this and we **will** return to normal at some point. Your Board Members are learning new tricks and having virtual meetings on line to try and stay abreast of directives from health officials and plan ahead!

HIGHLIGHTS:

AGM postponed | Membership Renewal | Casino Update | Class information | Calgary Events | Out-of-Town Events

DETAILS:

AGM Postponed

Our AGM was scheduled to take place at the end of May. However, with the provincial restrictions on public gatherings of any sort the board must delay our AGM until the fall.

We will still be looking for a few new board members to join the team as three current board members will be stepping down at that AGM. When we are able to reschedule the meeting we will give you more information about the role of board members at that time.

Membership Renewal

Thank you to those of you who have become new members of the Calgary Branch of the RSCDS. And as well a thank you to those of you have renewed your membership. The newsletter is now only going out to members. Your current membership year ends on June 30th, and we will begin accepting membership fees for next year (2020-2021) starting May 1, 2020. However, all who currently are members of this Branch of the RSCDS will be eligible to attend and vote at the AGM when it is rescheduled in the fall.

You may pay for your new membership after May 1 on-line at:

<http://www.rscdscalgary.org/membership>

RSCDS Calgary Casino Update – **CASINO POSTPONED**

We received the following message from the AGLC on March 24, 2020:

On March 17, the government of Alberta declared a public health emergency that resulted in various measures, including the closure of all casinos.

- *Charitable casino events in the second quarter (April 2 – June 30, 2020) will not proceed as scheduled. (editor note: This includes the RSCDS Calgary Casino scheduled June 29 – 30).*
- *Though casino events are disrupted, Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (AGLC) will ensure that groups scheduled for casino events in the second quarter 2020 are rescheduled and accommodated first when casinos open.*

- *When casinos eventually re-open, it will take a period of time for AGLC to reschedule all groups.*
- *We do not know when casinos will open.*
- *We will communicate details to groups with casino events when a plan is in place.*

So for now, we will wait for news of when our new Casino date will be. For those of you who signed up for a shift – THANK-YOU! We will let you know when we have information about our new casino dates and ask you to commit/recommit for a volunteer shift.

Calgary Branch Class News

For the time being, all classes have been cancelled due to safety concerns related to the novel corona virus and the need for physical distance.

If we are able to go ahead with Summer Dancing we will of course let the membership know but the earliest that might happen would be July. The City of Calgary has cancelled all events until June 30th and thus it would seem wise to follow suit.

As we really should continue practising—here is a brand new dance for you all to try.

The Pandemic Reel from Marla Bright

A 32-bar reel for any number of dancers in their own living rooms

1-8 Dancers cast off behind own couch, dance around the end & back to place.

9-16 Do-Si-Do around coffee table, then slip step away from the coffee table & back.

17-24 Dance down the hallway, into the kitchen, grab a beverage* & dance back to place.

25-32 Set while placing the beverage on the coffee table, turn on the spot twice (using Pas de Basque), then retire to the couch, sit, and enjoy.

*Wine, beer, whiskey, or other beverage of choice

For a bit of fun

Here is a link to an old documentary film from 1957. It was sponsored by Films of Scotland and the RSCDS. It runs for about 13 minutes and the title is “Scotland Dances”. Now that you have danced your beverage to your coffee table with the Pandemic Reel you can relax with this film!

<https://movingimage.nls.uk/film/2224>

Calgary events

Branch is looking forward to being able to reschedule our one day workshop we had planned for March to the fall. In addition, we had intended to have a mini-workshop on the same day as our AGM. It is our intention to proceed with this workshop also when we have a date for the AGM.

Out-of-Town Events

Red Deer Scottish Dancers One-Day Workshop – April 18, 2020 – POSTPONED

For more information go to reddeerscottishcountrydancers.weebly.com

The 57th Annual Gleneagles Ball – Sunday, December 13, 2020

Please joins us in the grand Pacific Ballroom of the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver at 1:30pm. This elegant event includes a lavish luncheon buffet, dancing to the acclaimed Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra and a decadent dessert buffet following the dance. For more information go to rscdsgleneagles.org

Workshop reimbursement:

Workshop reimbursement for workshops within Alberta but outside of the Calgary area is available to members again this year with a few changes to the guidelines. In January, the Board of Directors passed a motion to allow voting Branch members to be reimbursed for a maximum of \$200 per workshop to a maximum of \$400 per member per fiscal year. A member must attend a minimum of 2 hours of dance instruction taught by a Scottish Country Dance teacher per workshop to be eligible for reimbursement. This means that members can now get support to attend more than 2 workshops per year if the support requested per workshop is less than \$200/workshop.

For more information please see the RSCDS Calgary website under Member Support. In an effort to keep the reimbursements within the current fiscal year, (May 1-April 30), **please have all reimbursement claims into the board for consideration by April 25th, 2020.**

Board of Directors 2019-2020

President: Nancy Laing president@rscdscalgary.org

Vice President & Newsletter Editor: Ann Longair a.longair@hotmail.ca

Treasurer: Freda Osborne treasurer@rscdscalgary.org

Secretary: Karen McKenzie secretary@rscdscalgary.org

Membership Secretary: Sheree Iffla membership@rscdscalgary.org

Website Editor & Teacher Rep: Sharon Barker crossandthistle@hotmail.com

Other Board Members: Michael Begg Mona Baker Debby Henderson Duane Martin Graham Sewell

Feedback is welcome - please let me know if this information is useful to you and/or if there is anything you would like to see added or any corrections needed. Thanks.

Acknowledgements: We gratefully acknowledge the support of The Province of Alberta through Alberta Foundation for the Arts funding and Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission casino funding.

Happy Dancing!!

Ann Longair, Vice President RSCDS Calgary Branch

Cell: 403.818-5216

Newsletter@rscdscalgary.org