

RSCDS VANCOUVER BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
7.30 pm FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2018, SCC CAIRNGORM ROOM

Recorded by: Gillian Beattie

- 1. Call to order:** 7.32 by the Chair Peter Richards
A package of materials was posted on the Vancouver Branch Website prior to the meeting including the Agenda and reports from the Board of Directors, Appointees and Committees, Events, White Cockade Editor, the Revitalization Committee, the Demonstration Team and the Nominating Committee.
- 2. Confirmation of a Quorum:**
A quorum is 25 members. There were 56 members in attendance, so a quorum was declared.
- 3. Safety Announcement:**
The safety announcement was given by Sue Sochasky, indicating the exits, the emergency assembly point, the locations of the AEDs, and that a First Aid kit was available.
- 4. Approval of Agenda:**
The agenda was included in the information package, posted on the wall of the meeting room and 6 printed copies of Agenda were available (5 copies remained at the end of the evening).
Motion: *to approve the agenda.* Donna Main, Vicki Downie. Carried.
- 5. Approval of the Minutes of September 15th, 2017 AGM:**
The minutes of last year's AGM were included in the package and posted on the wall of the meeting room.
Motion: *to accept the minutes of the September 15th, 2017 AGM.* Gerry Stensgaard, Denise Cunningham. Carried.
- 6. Business arising from the Minutes of the September 15th, 2017 AGM.**
Amendment - the meeting was held in the Cairngorm Room not the Caberfeidh Room. Noted.
- 7. Treasurer's Report:**
The Treasurer's Report and the Financial Statements from the year June 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018 were both included in the information package, posted on the wall and were circulated on the website prior to the meeting.
Stewart offered the members the option of having him read his report or accepting that members had read and understood his report. The latter option was generally accepted. Stewart stressed that Finances are important and that all members should read his report and study the Financial Report. He stressed the following paragraph from his report -
"The total of all these additional expenses amounts to over \$10,500. They should not reoccur, but there does remain the normal expenses of running the Branch operations. Overall, the exclusion of these unusual and non-recurrent expenses will make the financial results for the current year of 2018/2019 much more satisfactory. Again, please be assured that our finances are in good order and the Board will continue to look for ways to reduce expenditures and increase revenue so that we may continue to offer a full range of classes and events."
There being no questions, Stewart proposed that the Financial Statements for the year ending May 31st, 2018 be adopted. Seconded by Donna Main. Approved.
- 8. Appointment of Accountants for the coming year:**
Due to the changes made in the Bylaws, and to coincide with the year end of the RSCDS, the financial year of the Vancouver Branch will, in future, be from July 1st to June 30th. To make this move there will need to be a one month year (June 1, 2018 to June 30th, 2018) that will be followed by a normal 12 month year from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

Motion: *to Appoint Telford and Associates to review the financial statements for the 2018/2019 Financial year.* Seconded Hamish Jackson. Carried.

9. Chairman's Report:

Posted on the web and on the wall. Mentioned Patsy's very final year and that Barbara Kisilevsky is taking over. Offered thanks to many (see Peter's report) (I asked him to send over the one he read out as it was slightly different to the one on the web!!)

10. Reports from Board of Directors:

The reports from the Board of Directors were included in the information package on the web and posted on the wall.

11. Reports of Appointees and Committees:

The reports of Appointees and Committees were included in the information package on the web and posted on the wall.

Fran Caruth commented that the report of the Revitalization Committee made her sad, and wondered if a broader base of people to discuss the topic might help with revitalization. She requested that this should be brought back to the Board and discussed further. Peter agreed, commenting that this seems to be a worldwide problem. In Scotland, Reeling is now the most popular dance activity.

12. Reports from Area Clubs:

The reports from Area Clubs were included in the information package on the web and posted on the wall.

13. New Bylaws:

Heather Hankin was introduced to discuss the reasons for the new Bylaws. She thanked the members of her committee - Sandy Caruth; Francis O'Farrell; Peter Richards and especially Stewart Cunningham, for his expert knowledge and attention to detail.

The two main reasons are the passing, 2 years ago, of a new Societies Act in B.C., which gave societies 2 years to comply. The Vancouver Branch complied with the new requirements a year ago, but our Bylaws were reviewed and found to need to be updated. The Province produced a set of model bylaws, which showed where our Bylaws needed changing. The Bylaw work started in September 2016 and was completed on July 2018. The process was completed in August with a vote from the Board.

Bylaws are very important as they are a living document, not belonging to any one person and they protect from many problems. "They are the tree that holds up our Branch". Heather applied for and got free legal advice from the Law Clinic at UBC, which pointed out discrepancies. The Board can no longer have Officers - this is the name for staff. The Board now has Executive Directors. A question from the floor asked if the new Bylaws conformed to the requirements of the RSCDS, which they do. Stewart asked what were the major changes. These are the change of the Branch year end, and the name changes from Chair and Vice Chair to President and Vice President.

Peter called for a vote and read the Special Resolution -

Be it RESOLVED, as a Special Resolution, that the existing Bylaws of the Society be cancelled and the form of Bylaws attached hereto be adopted as the Bylaws of the Society in Substitution of the existing ones.

Seconded by Donna Main. Passed.

14. Presentations

There were two Branch Award Presentations this year.

To Jack Vlug from Powel River for his work teaching Scottish Country Dancing in all the schools there. He teaches up to 900 children a year, starting in Kindergarten. He has been teaching in Powell River since 2002, and told us how he started in the schools.

To Isobel Hyde who joined the RSCDS in 1957 and still dances, often 3 times a week, at age 96. Kay Sutherland made a special presentation to Cathrine Conings from the Demonstration Team. Cathrine joined the team in 1987 as a dancer, accompanist on the piano and more recently as events co-ordinator. She is retiring after 31 years and was made an Honorary Life member of the Demonstration team! She received a certificate and a Bonsai.

15. Announcements:

Brian Corbould thanked Mary Ann McDevitt for her great work on the White Cockade.

Kathrine Shearman was invited to be a member of the Demonstration Team for her week at RSCDS Summer School in Scotland this year.

The North Shore Children's Group will be forming themselves into a Club, instead of being under the auspices of the Branch, and will maintain the same relationship to the Branch as Gleneagles and Deep Cove.

16. Nominations:

The list of Nominees and returning Board Members was introduced by Fran Hillier of the Nominating Committee. This list had been included in the information package on the web and was posted on the wall.

17. Election of Directors and Executive Directors for 2018/19:

Fran Hillier read the list of returning and nominated Directors for 2018/19. Fran asked 3 times if there were any further nominations. Hearing none she declared the slate elected by acclamation.

Fran read the names of the 3 Executive Directors, who were also elected by acclamation.

18. Appreciation:

Peter handed over the meeting to Heather Hankin, the newly elected President. Heather thanked the out going Directors - namely, Patsy Jamieson, Anne Brand, Hamish Jackson, Francis O'Farrell and Denise Cunningham . Each received a small gift.

19. New Business - items from the floor

Stewart gave a vote of thanks to Peter Richards and moved a vote of thanks to Peter from the Membership.

Jennifer Shearman gave a pitch for the importance of joining the Vancouver Branch in thanking the Board for their work on behalf of the Branch Members.

Heather thanked all the members for electing her President. Her motto will be "Grow the Branch" and she offered a challenge to all members for each person to persuade ONE other person to join the Branch. (Copy of Heather's report to follow)

20. Adjournment:

Motion: *to adjourn.* Donna Main. Vicki Downie. Time 8.23 pm.