

2021 AGM Vice Chair & Volunteers Report (Paul Barber, Vice-Chair & Director)

Owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, activities of the Association were severely curtailed during the 2020-21 year.

One encouraging trend, amidst the difficulties of the past year, is that a number of social groups have continued with online classes. Teachers offering these classes have included Keith Bark, Deirdre MacCuish Bark, Arlene Koteff, Moira Korus, Halyna Sydorenko and Alma Smith. Members of the social groups have provided support to the classes.

2021 AGM Communications Report (Sheena Gilks, Dir.)

In these current challenging times, the Set & Link committee is doing a great job; they continue to receive praise from several sources, including other branches, for the interesting and informative content of the newsletter. Published 10 times a year, it is emailed to the majority of our members, as well as to branches around the world. Our thanks go to the Set & Link committee: Donald Holmes (editor), Judy Williams, Marian White, Rob Lockhart (website manager) and Teresa Lockhart. Through their dedicated time and skill, they strive to include new content wherever possible, in order to produce an informative and interesting publication. The Toronto Association is grateful to the Set & Link team for continuing to keep us focused on Scottish country dancing during these difficult days.

Following monthly Board meetings, eNotes are now sent directly to all members, keeping everyone up to date with current Board information. Liaising with Edinburgh, important information regarding TA is forwarded to our contact there. Articles highlighting our activities are also submitted for possible inclusion in the Scottish Country Dancer. To that end, Toronto Association will be mentioned in the Spring edition of SCD.

AGM Report by E&T (Tony Szeto, Director)

Association Classes

Due to COVID, no in-person association class has taken place since the last AGM. However, virtual classes have been offered via our website, thanks to Keith Bark and Alma Smith.

Teacher Candidate Course

Sufficient numbers were gathered for a Teacher Candidate Class to take place in 2020-2021. Unfortunately, the class had to be cancelled due to COV-19.

Youth Events

No event to report since last AGM due to COVID.

Tutor Succession

TA Board struck a panel in Summer 2020 to identify “Tutor Shadows”, in anticipation of a Teacher Candidate Class scheduled in the 2020-2021 dance season. While that course had to be cancelled, we take this opportunity to recognise the two individuals who have been selected. They are David Booz and Alma Smith. We thank Jean Noble and Fiona Alberti who joined me in forming this selection panel. We also thank Toronto area teachers who contributed to the selection process.

Committees

I appreciate the continued support of the E&T Executive Committee. Membership consists of Sue Ann Bryce, Moira Korus, Halyna Sydorenko, and Vicky Zeltins.

The Youth Committee now has Halyna Sydorenko and Erica de Gannes as co-chairs. Halyna additionally assumes the role of Secretary.

The Teachers Panel is a body with which TA Board cooperate through my portfolio. TP now has Keith Bark as an interim chair. Arlene Koteff remains as Secretary.

2021 AGM Membership Report (Bill Barber, Director)

There was a significant decrease in membership for the 2020-2021 year as a result of the pandemic and the cancellation of classes and events. Even so, there was a strong show of support. Membership stands at 229 full members with voting privileges. Junior memberships stand at 12. Keep-in-Touch associate members number 16.

This year, we welcomed 4 new members, 2 of whom are Young Adult members.

Our beginner classes in January 2020 had a good enrollment. Due to the pandemic, these did not convert to memberships. However, we are hopeful that once we resume dancing this year, many of these new dancers will join as members.

Many of our members completed the membership survey. This will be a very useful tool to improve and strengthen our operations in the coming months and years. Thanks for all the feedback.

Bill Barber
Director Membership

2021 AGM Outreach/Marketing Report (Ron Macnaughton, Director)

RSCDS Toronto Association

Outreach Report for April 24, 2021 Annual meeting.

Few things have happened involving outreach / marketing since the pandemic hit us. Normally there would be promotion for Dancing in the Park, Association & Millennial Classes, Dufferin Grove, Culture Day, Family Ceilidh Day and also for social groups in general. Not this year, but files with minor adjustments for dates are ready for promotion once we restart.

The Demo Pool usually showcases Scottish Country Dancing in many venues, but again the pandemic has stopped everything.

We have maintained our subscription to Meetup and we still run a 245 member Facebook group.

There have been many posts from Kendra Beliveau, Theresa Malek and John Clark.

Ron Macnaughton Outreach Marketing Director

2021 AGM Program Report (Kevin Moloney, Director)

Programs-Directors Report 2020-2021

RSCDS members, like everyone else around the world, felt the full force of the Covid 19 pandemic. It is hard to believe that the Tartan Ball of February 2020 was the last live event run by our organization before the lockdowns started. Last year's Beginners' and Volunteer dances were cancelled due to Covid19. Cancellations have continued to date with the monthly dances, Dancing in The Park, Workshop and the 2021 Tartan Ball.

Thankfully our dedicated teachers quickly adapted to dancing on line and have filled a void, to not only help keep everyone in dancing mode, but also to help with social interaction, so important during this lockdown.

There is now light at the end of the tunnel, with vaccinations starting, and a possible return to dancing maybe towards the end of the year. We continue to evaluate our plans for a restart of events, ways to improve our programs and taking on board your responses to our survey.