



Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association **NEWSLETTER**

CELEBRATING TWENTY EIGHT YEARS OF TWO-STEPPING
28th
Anniversary
1986  2014

Vol. XXVIII, No. 3

Official Publication

First Quarter 2014

President's Report

by Rick Humbert

Email: president@nvcwda.org

It's difficult to believe that 2014 has already arrived. I hope everyone had a happy and blessed holiday season, and were able to spend some time with family and friends as I did.

The fall and early winter season provided some fun dances. I once again hosted the Halloween Dance on November 2. While the turnout was small, everybody had a great time. Unlike previous years, I kept the decorations to a minimum. The costume contest was closely contested, as a handful of votes separated the top three costumes. Kat won the ticket to this year's New Year's Eve Dance by dressing up as Michael Jackson. Bobby Orndorff was a close second as the Red-eyed Head Chopper, and Keith and Linda Buckle were a close third with their dual Kitty Cats costumes, complete with mice dangling from their mouths.

One of my aims when I became President occurred on 16 November. I conducted a brief town hall/membership meeting before the dance to follow up on the January 2013 meeting regarding the status of NVCWDA. The Association's financial situation has improved significantly over the past year, however, with the Lincolnia Senior Center possibly unavailable to the Association as early as Fall 2014 due to renovations, it remains to be seen if NVCWDA will remain solvent. A survey about venue criteria was also taken before the meeting, and most people decided location was most important.

NVCWDA collected plenty of toys at the Toys for Tots Dance on December 7. I was barely able to get the toys into my car to ultimately deliver them. Thank you to all who donated.

The New Year's Eve Dance was held at the Grand Hall of the Church of the



Inclement Weather Policy

Dances are cancelled whenever Saturday activities in the Fairfax County Public Schools are cancelled. The news media will announce any school closing. If we find out early enough, we will put the information on our website and hotline. You can also check for emergency announcements on the Fairfax County Public Schools website at: <http://www.fcps.edu/news/emerg.shtml>

Good Shepherd in Burke. A great time was had by everyone who attended. A special thank you goes out to Paula Ali, the Special Events Director, and Linda Buckle for their excellent leadership in making this dance successful.

As we prepare for NVCWDA's 2014 dance year, I hope that everyone will continue to attend and support the dances. NVCWDA strives to make everybody's experience at the dances the best it can be. Those who have concerns should express them to Board members.

Winter weather has already created some issues in the Northern Virginia area over the past month. I have a feeling that some of this weather may possibly occur from January until early March. In the event that weather closes schools in the Northern Virginia area on dance nights, then NVCWDA must also cancel their dances. Please call the hotline if in doubt.

Once again, I hope everybody has a happy and prosperous 2014, and keep on dancing.

Membership Report

by Eric Vondra

Email: membership@nvcwda.org

At the last board meeting, I noted to the other board members that membership renewals and new member applications have slipped a bit lately. This is a disturbing trend, and an indication that we are not attracting new members and are not doing the right things to keep current members. In fact, we had only 13 renewals and no new members for the entire quarter. As a result, we reinstated the policy of giving new members one free regular dance admission when they join. This applies to new members only, but hopefully will provide a little nudge for some of the people who have been attending dances but haven't decided to become members. As for retaining current members, we've always figured that the best we can do is make sure we have good dances with good lessons and good DJs. I think we have all that. Sometimes our locations aren't ideal, but with one recent exception, they are all fine for dancing. So if you've talked to anyone who hasn't attended a dance in a while, ask them why not. Maybe we can figure out how to keep people coming back regularly.

Another topic that came up at recent board meetings is the welcoming atmosphere at our dances. We've resolved as a board to do our best to

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2013-2014 NVCWDA Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President	Rick Humbert
Vice President	Eileen Scott
Secretary	Irshad Ali
Treasurer	Bill Wong

DIRECTORS

Dance	Kathy Fanelli
Communications	Kerie Hitt
Membership	Eric Vondra
Planning	Vacant
Special Events	Paula Ali
At Large	Vacant
Steppers	Luella Montgomery
Past President	Bo Marlin

The NVCWDA is a non-profit organization dedicated to teaching and promoting CW dancing for the enjoyment of our members and friends.

The NVCWDA Newsletter is published quarterly by the Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association, Inc.; P.O. Box 384; Merrifield, VA 22116-0384. Initial memberships and annual renewals are \$18 per year or \$36 for two years payable to NVCWDA at the address above. Advertising deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Advertising rates: camera ready full page display ads, \$160; 1/2 page, \$80; 1/4 page, \$40; business-card ads, \$20. Email prepaid advertising material (high resolution pdf if available) to communications@nvcwda.org. Mail check to NVCWDA, P.O. Box 384, Merrifield, VA 22116-0384.

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Dances Taught at NVCWDA Dances During 2013 - Step sheets for most of these dances are available on the [DANCE INFO](#) tab of our website.

01/19/2013	Circle 20 LD	-
02/02/2013	Red Hot Salsa LD	Red Hot Salsa Couples
02/16/2013	Copperhead Road LD	Basic Two Step
03/02/2013	Cry Cry Cry LD, Blue Night Cha LD	Blue Rose Couples
03/16/2013	Stealing the Best LD, Irish Stew LD	Forever Green LD
04/06/2013	Cruisin' LD, Mambo Shuffle LD	Waltz Across Texas LD
04/20/2013	Country 2-Step LD	Wooden Nickel Couples
05/04/2013	After Midnight LD	Six Pack Summer Couples
05/18/2013	Back in Time LD	San Antonio Stroll Couples
06/01/2013	Boogie Woogie Rhythm LD	Basic Two Step
06/15/2013	Bicycle Waltz LD	The Sway Couples
07/06/2013	Creepin' LD	Hotdog Boogie LD
07/20/2013	Footloose LD	Cowboy Up LD
08/03/2013	Jose Cuervo LD	Sixteen Step
08/17/2013	Hotdog Boogie LD	Sidekick Couples
09/07/2013	I Need to Know LD	Basic Two Step
09/21/2013	Hooked on Country LD	Charleston Bump
10/05/2013	Cheap Talk LD	Blue Rose Couples
10/19/2013	Fallsview Rock LD	Key Lime LD/Couples
11/02/2013	Chomping at the Bit LD	Santa Fe Stroll Couples
11/16/2013	Hideaway Cha LD	-
12/07/2013	Swamp Thing LD	West Coast Swing Couples
12/21/2013	The Shaggers Tush Push LD, Jingle LD	-

Summary of Recent Board Meetings

by Kerie Hitt

October 5—The Board met briefly during the dance to discuss whether to book the Grand Hall of the Church of the Good Shepherd for our New Year's Eve Dance. Several Board members had visited the Grand Hall and reported their findings. We wanted to make a decision before the next scheduled regular Board meeting. After reviewing the rental fees and other requirements and what the Hall has to offer, we decided to proceed with renting the Grand Hall. The room is about 5,400 square feet total. The location has ample parking and is near the intersection of Braddock Rd. and Olley Lane. We will need to end the dance a few minutes earlier than in the past (about 12:15 instead of 12:30 a.m.) to allow for clean up so that we can vacate the room by the time specified in the contract.

October 9—The Treasurer reported that our total bank balance is about \$10,340. We have paid Lincolnia Senior Center (LSC) for 24 dances in 2014, although several dances cannot be held there because LSC is closed for Federal holiday weekends. All of our current DJs will return in 2014, and the Dance Director is lining up their contracts. The New Year's Eve contract with Church of the Good Shepherd will be signed next week. Current membership is 158; 29 memberships have expired.

The Treasurer reported on the efforts to bring us into compliance with Virginia requirements for soliciting donations and Fairfax County requirements for BPOL. The Treasurer also discussed the liability insurance estimates we have received. Our current insurance expires on December 17, and our rental contract for New Year's Eve requires us to have a policy in place by Nov. 30. We need to set up a policy quickly.

We tabled a request from a member for a donation to LSC, for lack of detailed information.

The President formed a committee to review the Standing Rules and Rules of Order. He is calling a General Membership

Meeting before the dance on November 16 to fill people in about what has happened since the last membership meeting in January 2013.

We discussed upcoming Halloween and Toys for Tots Dances. The Special Events Director outlined her plans for the New Year's Eve Dance. We set the ticket prices for the NYE dance and confirmed that no alcohol can be served on the premises.

December 4—The Treasurer was able to get the insurance liability policy signed and delivered a copy to the Church for the New Year's Eve Dance. He contacted Virginia about our application to solicit donations; although they have not yet processed our paperwork, we are allowed to solicit donations at this point unless told otherwise. Fairfax BPOL paperwork has been submitted. The balance in our main bank account is about \$8,650.

We have not yet found a replacement location for Lincolnia Senior Center for January 18, February 15, or July 5, 2014 (Federal Holiday weekends). Acting Planning Director has requested to use Herndon Senior Center, but has not heard back. She will find out if Accotink Church is available. Membership is 146 with 21 expired, which is down from our last meeting. We are becoming concerned about low attendance at our dances.

We briefly reviewed some proposed changes to the Standing Rules and Rules of Order.

We discussed arrangements for the New Year's Eve Dance. Linda Buckle is the contact for food.

We discussed how to make our dances more welcoming for newcomers and what benefits we could offer members as an incentive to get people to join NVCWDA. We voted to give new people who become members at a regular dance free admission to that dance and to give new people who join by mail or at other functions a free pass to a regular dance. (We used to offer this type of benefit, but discontinued it when our finances were in poor shape.)

Membership Report

—cont. from pg. 1

make new attendees feel welcome and included. I'm perhaps ill-suited for the Membership Director job, in that I'm not particularly outgoing, but I've tried to say hello and strike up conversations with people I don't recognize. We all need to keep in mind that some people who attend don't know anyone else there and could use some conversation and especially dance partners. A common complaint we hear periodically is that it's tough for single people without partners. So if you see someone sitting alone, why not ask the person to dance or just talk a little with them.

Bill Wong, our Treasurer, really deserves a special shout out this time around. He spent a great deal of time and effort in the last couple of months to take care of some business critical to our existence. This includes finding a new insurance carrier and getting a policy written, filing the proper documentation with the Commonwealth of Virginia to allow us to solicit donations, keeping the books, and working with other board members to make sure we have places to dance. So please make a point to thank him personally when you see him at the next dance. I'm sure he'll appreciate it.

As for membership numbers, we currently have 146 members in good standing, with another 19 whose memberships have expired within the last six months. Compare this to last quarter's numbers of 157 and 28. Recently I ran a report from the database showing that since our inception in 1986, NVCWDA has had a total of 3,753 members, including the current members! So over the years, we've brought country-western dancing to a lot of people, and I hope we continue to do so for many years to come. With your help and enthusiasm, we will.

Classes with Eileen Scott

Monday nights, except for holidays, CW line dance class 8:00 PM to 9:15 PM at American Legion in Springfield Post 176. Class starts January 13, 2014.

Tuesday night at Franconia Elementary School on Beulah Street in Franconia. 6:30 PM Intermediate CW line dance class. 7:30 PM Beginning CW Line Dance class. Classes start January 14, 2014. Registration thru Fairfax County Park Authority is required.

Treasurer's Report

by Bill Wong

We have filed the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Exemption Application for a Charitable or Civic Organization. This allows us to solicit donations while it is being processed, so we have resumed that practice. I wish to thank Karen Johnson for assisting in this effort.

Due to problems with our previous liability insurance carrier, we have switched our General Liability policy to Nationwide. This provides for general liability insurance for our dancers and our dance team, the Country Steppers, including the dances at Lincolnia Senior Center and the New Year's Eve Dance at the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Attendance at regular dances had started slipping in November to around 40 but went back up to near 50 in December. It was this decrease and the need to provide a benefit to encourage people to become members that caused us to resume our policy of one free regular dance for new members. Except for three dates, we have booked Lincolnia Senior Center for our dances this year.

For this fiscal year, which began in June, the association's funds increased from \$8,045.12 on May 31, 2013 to \$10,423.36 as of December 24, 2013. Below is the current quarterly report:

CATEGORY	6/1-8/31	9/1-11/30	TOTAL
INCOME			
Admissions	2,967.00	2,575.00	5,542.00
Donations Received	623.00	317.00	940.00
Interest Inc	0.22	0.21	0.43
Membership Dues	846.00	324.00	1,170.00
TOTAL INCOME	4,436.22	3,216.21	7,652.43
EXPENSES			
Bank charge	25.90	176.41	202.31
DJ (1099 payee)	1,550.00	1,800.00	3,500.00
Donations to Others	300.00	300.00	600.00
Dues, Fees, Licenses	25.00	10.00	35.00
Insurance	0.00	496.06	496.06
Phone	89.18	137.58	226.76
Space Rental	483.00	765.00	1,098.00
Space Rental - Off. Mtg	0.00	10.00	10.00
Website	0.00	179.64	179.64
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,473.08	3,874.69	6,347.77
OVERALL TOTAL	1,963.14	-658.48	1,304.66

Bank charge includes printing new checks.

Space rental incl 1/2 NYE rent (\$375) + \$150 security

Total balance (all accounts 12/24/13) 10,423.36



Steppers Report

by Luella Montgomery

Email: steppers@nvcwda.org

The weather has not been very cooperative for the Country Steppers. The performance at the Armed Forces Retirement Home had to be cancelled because of the icy conditions. It was a great disappointment to have the performance at the National Christmas Tree festivities on the Ellipse also cancelled. Hopefully the Country Steppers will have a more successful 2014. The NBC4 Health Expo gave our dancers a workout and exposed us to other exhibits which encourage us to eat healthier.

Thanks to all of you who came out to support us over the past year. The Steppers look forward to another year of representing the Association and to the many hours of fun-filled practices and entertaining performances. As always, we encourage anyone interested in joining the team to let us know. If you are currently dancing to country western music and know the two step, waltz, east coast swing and our specialty dances, we can teach you the sequences for choreographed routines.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

January Birthdays

01/01 William Garrison
01/04 Ruth Swart
01/05 Dave Shrader
01/10 Teri Henry
01/16 Ann West
01/16 Susan Scott
01/17 Susan Hesser
01/19 Ann Marlin
01/21 Patricia Kelley
01/27 William Wong
01/30 Pat McNees

February Birthdays

02/06 James Birnbaum
02/08 James Raney
02/14 Rosa Marino
02/16 Beth Di Silvio
02/18 Robert Smith
02/22 Beverly Card
02/24 Peter Trelogan
02/27 Bill Markland

March Birthdays

03/08 Matt Goodman
03/17 Steve Martin
03/29 Shirley Rayner



Newsletter Deadline

March 15 for articles, reports, ads and news items

Email to: communications@nvcwda.org

Send Microsoft Word or Text Files. Ads may also be sent as press-ready pdf files (if able, make them high resolution with fonts embedded)

Send photos separately as tif, eps, jpeg, or bitmap files (high resolution)

Newsletter Sections on Website

[NVCWDA Dance Schedule](#)
[Dance Event Calendar](#)
[Upcoming Steppers Performances](#)
[Looking for Lessons?](#)
[How Do I Get There?](#)

STORES

Sal's Shoe Repairing

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Annandale, VA 22003

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W. J. Colt & Company

703/971-7555
2832 Dorr Ave. #B
Fairfax, VA 22031

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NVCWDA membership card*

**Call ahead to make sure discount is still in effect.*

Send Us Your Email Address

Email is our primary means of communicating with members. Please let us know your address so that you don't miss any important messages from us. Your email address will be used only for official NVCWDA notifications, including membership renewals and announcements. Please send your information to membership@nvcwda.org.

NVCWDA HOTLINE
703-860-4941

NVCWDA WEBSITE ADDRESS
www.nvcwda.org

NVCWDA EMAIL ADDRESS
info@nvcwda.org



Scan this code with your smartphone to open our website.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL/CHANGE FORM

Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association

P.O. Box 384

Merrifield, VA 22116-0384

06/2012



Individual Members Only

Name _____ NEW ADDRESS
check here ☐

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birthday: Month _____ Day _____ (Must be 18 years of age)

Phone: 1st _____ 2nd _____

Email _____

Membership Category

New _____ Renewal _____

_____ 1 year . . . \$18.00

_____ 2 years . . \$36.00

Membership # _____

Make check payable to NVCWDA

Cash ☐ Check # _____

Your email address will be used only for official NVCWDA notifications, including membership renewals and announcements.

Please check your preferences on the following questions:

Would you be willing to help with some of our activities during the year? Yes _____ No _____

Would you like your birthday listed in our newsletter on your birthday month? Yes _____ No _____

Today's date _____