



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

CELEBRATING TWENTY SEVEN YEARS OF TWO-STEPPING
27th
Anniversary
1986  2013

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Third Quarter 2013

President's Report

by Rick Humbert

Email: president@nvcwda.org

Greetings from your new President of NVCWDA!

My name is Rick Humbert, and I am honored to have been elected and installed as the new President of the Association. It will be a challenge to live up to the past presidents such as Bo Marlin, Charlie Pierce, Gary Campbell, Bobby Orndorff, and all others who preceded them.

A little bit about myself: I currently live in Alexandria (about a mile from the Lincolnia Senior Center) and have been living in the Alexandria area since the end of 1996. I grew up in the Northwest Indiana suburbs of Chicago, then moved to Gaithersburg, MD, in 1991. I began country-western dancing on a whim back in 1994 and took dance classes in Montgomery County, MD. I've been to most of the past and present country nightclubs in the DC/Baltimore area. Out of curiosity, I began attending NVCWDA dances nearly 10 years ago. I served as Planning Director several years ago.

A new slate of officers was installed at the June 1 dance. Besides myself, Eileen Scott was installed as Vice President, Irshad Ali became Secretary, and Bill Wong is now the Treasurer. (Karen Johnson will be Bill's assistant.) Also, Luella Montgomery has taken over as the Steppers Representative. A very special thank you goes out to Kathy Fanelli for continuing her service as Dance Director, Kerie Hitt staying on as Communications Director, and Eric Vondra continuing as Membership Director. Also, special thank yous go out to exiting Board members Bo Marlin (although he remains as Past President), Gary Campbell, Pat McMurray, Karen Johnson, Steve Kinnett, and Susan Scott for their extraordinary service to the



NVCWDA Board members for 2013-2014 (L-R): Eric Vondra (Membership), Kathy Fanelli (Dance), Bill Wong (Treasurer), Rick Humbert (President), Kerie Hitt (Communications), Luella Montgomery (Steppers), Eileen Scott (Vice President), and Irshad Ali (Secretary).

Association. I hope the new Board will keep things going well.

We still are seeking "a few good people" to fill three Board positions. In short, we still are looking for a Planning Director, who secures venues for our dances; a Director at Large, who coordinates refreshments for the dances; and a Special Events Director, who coordinates dances such as the New Year's Eve Dance and the Benefit Dance.

Upcoming dances this summer include the Independence Day Dance/Ice Cream Social on July 6 at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church. Please wear your red, white, and blue outfits, as we serve cups of ice cream. Also, the Anniversary Dance/Steppers Reunion is scheduled for September 21 at a site TBD. Lynne Inman has agreed to head up this dance, and I'm sure we'll have more details to come. Please check the NVCWDA website for updates.

I know many members will be taking some vacation time this summer, and I hope those who do enjoy themselves and stay safe. That is it for now. I'll report again in the next issue.

Upcoming Events this Quarter

July 6 - Independence Day Dance/
Ice Cream Social

September 21 - Anniversary Dance/
Steppers Reunion



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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	Vacant
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.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Newsletter Coordinator Kerie Hitt
communications@nvcwda.org
 Newsletter Design Lydia Vitale
 Webmaster/Facebook Kerie Hitt
webmaster@nvcwda.org
 Hotline Mistress Diane Foster

Communications Report

by Kerie Hitt

Email: communications@nvcwda.org

I am happy to serve again as Communications Director. I also maintain NVCWDA's website and Facebook page. These are resources for YOU so please take advantage of them. Also, if you see someone new at a dance trying to learn some steps, please refer them to our "[primer](#)" for newcomers. The communications team also includes Diane Foster, who monitors the hotline, and Lydia Vitale, who lays out the newsletter. I thank both of them for their many years of service to NVCWDA.

I hope you enjoy reading the introductions to some of our new Board members in this newsletter. I always am fascinated to learn about the background of our members and to find out some tidbits about what they do in "real life" when they are not dancing. We have some very talented and interesting people in NVCWDA. We are lucky that some of them have chosen to use their talents by helping on the Board. You might notice that several people mention how they had to overcome some shyness or inhibitions when they started dancing. I am no exception. I never danced much until I went on vacation to Wyoming one summer in the late 1980s. After being in the wild west, I decided I wanted to learn to two-step. If I remember

correctly, my first country-western lessons were with NVCWDA Charter Member Bob Smith in the early 1990s. As they say, the rest is history!

I have been a member of NVCWDA since 1992. Back then I could bike ride 50 miles during the day and go dancing for hours the same night without sitting down. I must admit I am slowing down a little these days, and my body won't let me be quite as exuberant anymore. I've traded cowboy boots for more cushioned dance sneakers, and I try to do low impact dance moves that won't wreck my joints!

Even though I have been on the Board for quite a while, I never really realized how much "stuff" we bring to each dance and how much work this involves. The Treasurer has to make sure that all the supplies needed at the admission table (including a rather heavy cash register) get to each dance. Someone has to pick up ice and lug in the ice chest. We need paper plates, plastic utensils and so forth for the food and drinks. We even haul around our own large American flag and wooden stand for the national anthem! Because we do not have a full set of Board members right now, we have been trying to streamline what we do. I'm wondering if one way to simplify our lives would be to stop carrying so much "stuff" to each dance.

Northern Virginia Senior Olympics Team Line Dancing Competition

The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics are September 7-19 with the Team Line Dancing Competition on September 9 in Falls Church. Teams need to have 5-8 people. You must be at least 50 years old and live in one of the sponsoring jurisdictions to participate. The online registration deadline is August 30; regular mail registration must be postmarked by August 23. Details are at www.nvso.us. NVCWDA members have won this event several times over the years. Let's organize a team for 2013!

Dances Taught Second Quarter - Step sheets for most of these dances are available on our [website](#), under the "DANCE INFO" tab.

04/06/2013	Cruisin' LD, Mambo Shuffle LD, Waltz Across Texas LD
04/20/2013	Country 2-Step LD, Wooden Nickel
05/04/2013	After Midnight LD, Six Pack Summer
05/18/2013	Back in Time LD, San Antonio Stroll
06/01/2013	Boogie Woogie Rhythm LD, Basic Two-Step
06/15/2013	Bicycle Waltz LD, Sway

Membership Report

by Eric Vondra

Email: membership@nvcwda.org

First of all, I'd like to welcome the incoming Board members. We have a good percentage of new faces (although some have been Board members previously), and that usually means some fresh ideas. I'll be starting my fifth year on the Board soon, so I'm hoping someone out there might be interested in running the membership part next year so I can finally concentrate on learning to two-step!

NVCWDA membership has been holding steady for the last quarter. We currently have 168 members, with 31 having expired less than six months ago; many of these will renew. After six months, a membership is dropped from the books. So please renew as soon as you get your first reminder either via email or by letter. If you receive a letter, please consider providing an email address if you have one. When you renew, your new expiration date will be one year from the previous expiration date, even if that date has passed. We now keep a membership list at the desk at every dance, and you can look up your expiration date.

Let's look at some demographics. We have members in eight states and the District of Columbia as follows:

VA.....155	NC2	NJ1
FL3	MD2	NE.....1
SC.....2	WI.....1	DC1

Here's a breakdown by city for cities with three or more members:

Alexandria24	Springfield.....8	Fairfax Station...4
Annandale.....12	Vienna.....8	Centreville.....4
Fairfax11	Arlington7	Herndon.....4
Reston9	Manassas6	Lorton4
Dumfries.....9	Sterling6	Ashburn3
Falls Church8	Woodbridge5	

Alexandria, Annandale, and Fairfax have the highest individual numbers with a total of 47 people. But what's interesting to me is that most of the members live outside the Alexandria/Annandale/Fairfax areas (119 people versus 47). An additional 34 members live in cities with only one or two members, and 13 of them live outside of Virginia. Based on a map that Kerie Hitt produced recently, Fairfax County appears to be the geographic center of our membership base.

As a reminder, I send out the membership renewal emails on a monthly schedule. I send out reminders for memberships expiring in the next 45 days and for memberships that have expired between 1 and 90 days ago, which means you will get four reminders before the axe falls and you are taken off the books. If you don't provide an email address, you will get one mailed reminder when your membership is about to expire. Please renew promptly, either by filling out a membership form and bringing a check made out to NVCWDA to a dance or by mailing everything to our post office box (PO Box 384, Merrifield, VA 22116-0384).

Treasurer's Report

by Karen Johnson

Although Bill Wong is now officially the new NVCWDA Treasurer, I have offered to assist him as much as I can. Bill has been busily learning the ins and outs of the position, so we decided it made sense for me to write the Treasurer's article for this issue of the newsletter.

I can already tell that Bill is going to make a great Treasurer! He may not have an accounting background, but as a statistician, he knows numbers. He has already looked at past Association tax returns and Treasurer's reports and has a very good sense of where the Association has been financially and where it is headed. He also has already come up with some interesting ideas, including possible new procedures at the entrance door. (Read more about Bill in his bio in this issue.)

As last year's Treasurer, I am in the process of closing out the books for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2013. The Board has agreed that we should have at least last year's reports audited, so I will be obtaining quotes from a few CPAs. If you can suggest a CPA who does audits for non-profits, I would be interested in contacting them for a quote. Please send an email to info@nvcwda.org if you can suggest someone.

Although the figures shown below are preliminary and expected to change, they will give you a good idea of how we did last fiscal year. Once an audit has been done, the final figures and comparison figures for the prior one or two years will be available on the website or in a future newsletter.

Report for Fiscal Year Ending May 31, 2013

INCOME

DANCE ADMISSIONS	10,685.00
DONATIONS RECEIVED	6,305.40
MEMBERSHIP DUES	1,620.00
SPECIAL DANCE TICKET SALES	3,075.00
T-SHIRT SALES	232.94
INTEREST	0.46
	<hr/>
	21,918.80

EXPENSES

DJS	5,800.00
SPACE RENTAL	5,931.00
TELEPHONE & TELECOM	540.63
INSURANCE	268.00
DONATIONS TO OTHERS	2,892.00
OTHER EXPENSES	1,201.09
	<hr/>
TOTAL YTD EXPENSES	16,632.72

NET INCOME

5,286.08



Introducing our New Secretary

by Irshad Ali

As the incoming secretary for NVCWDA, I gather it is a good idea for people to know a little about me. My name is Irshad Ali and I go by "Ali." My wife Paula and I will be celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary later this year. We have two grown children and a couple of grandchildren.

One of the questions I get asked is how I got interested in country-western (CW) dancing.

Some years ago while on active duty with the U.S. Air Force, I was asked to serve on the [Air Force] Base Club Advisory Council. The Club was looking for ways to increase participation in its activities. One of the junior members on the Council suggested having CW night once a week and solicited my support to make it happen. He was a DJ during his off-duty hours and knew this couple who were CW dance teachers. He offered his services gratis and informed me that the instructors would do the same.

We made the arrangements and publicized the CW event and everything was a go. We must have had more than 100 people show up the first night, exceeding our wildest expectations. The instructors DeeDee and Betty were the nicest and friendliest people one can imagine. They started out teaching couples two-step and then went into line dancing.

Before I continue, allow me to set the stage. Dancing had never been my thing. Prior to being exposed to these lessons, I had never danced before in my life, if you exclude a handful of times of social dancing when Paula cajoled me into some free style dancing. On those occasions I stood in the middle of the dance floor with my feet firmly planted and moved just my head and shoulders up and down like a bobber at the end of a fishing pole.

I did terrible during the two-step lessons, and the line dance segment was even worse for me. If there was a competition for the worst line dancer, I would have easily walked away with 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes. I was like one of those metallic balls in a pin ball machine and kept bumping into other line dancers. When all was said and done, I was so embarrassed that after we got home that evening, I told Paula I was never going back again. Paula was not going to let me throw in the towel. She helped me move some furniture around in our house to clear a space and then helped me practice both the two-stepping and line dances we had learned earlier. That went a long ways in helping me build my confidence level to the extent that the following week when I went to the CW dance lesson, I did much better. And the icing on the cake? I didn't bump into any of the other line dancers and actually remembered the steps.

So that's how I got interested in CW dancing.

What are the main takeaways from this? First, as Bo Marlin has said from time to time, we were all beginners at one point. My experience can attest to that, and if it wasn't for Paula, coupled with encouragement from DeeDee and Betty, I would have missed out on all the fun and exercise benefits of CW dancing a long time ago. Second, if one wants to be proficient in CW dancing, practicing the dances is the key. The more you practice, the more comfortable you will be with the steps and the more you will build up your confidence.

Steppers Report

by Luella Montgomery

Email: steppers@nvcwda.org

The Country Steppers are looking forward to a great summer and the opportunity to bring country-western dancing into the northern Virginia communities. Earlier in June, the Steppers celebrated Springfield Days by performing at South Run Park. After our show, an extremely interesting police K9 demonstration was featured. (One should never follow a show of animals or children!) I hope many of you were able to view the Channel 10 TV "Communicating Today" show featuring our performance. It was interesting to see what goes into producing a TV show. Our annual performance for Celebrate Fairfax was especially exhilarating for the Steppers as well as for the audience. Even the weather was cooperative: no rain, no hot weather!

Everyone is invited to participate in the festivities at the Arlington County Fair and to enjoy the Country Steppers dancing there on August 10. Check out the team's [web page](#) for details of this show and for additional performances.

We are planning a Steppers reunion at the NVCWDA Anniversary Dance in September. For those Steppers no longer on the team: we have not determined a location for the reunion yet. We will post the information on the web page when we secure a location.

We welcome Ron Harding and Rosa Marino, who are the newest members of the Steppers. For all of you who enjoy dancing, come out and join your demonstration team! We practice every Saturday morning across from NVCC in Annandale, and we usually do two performances a month.

Volunteers Wanted

Door duty: NVCWDA Board members usually staff the entry table during dances. Please sign up for a shift to help at the table so that the Board members can take a break to dance or socialize. At least one Board member will be at the table to help you. You do not have to handle the money. Usually you would hand out the entry tickets.

Adopt an Event: We don't have a Special Events Coordinator, so we are asking people to "adopt" a special event and serve as the coordinator for that one event. Lynne Inman is heading up the Anniversary Dance in September. Rick Humbert usually handles the Halloween Dance. The next major event after that is the New Year's Eve Dance. If you would like to help organize a dance, please let us know.

Newsletter Deadline

September 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)

NVCWDA Raises \$3390 for Fisher House Foundation

Our Benefit Dance on April 20 raised \$1615 for Fisher House Foundation. NVCWDA was in a position to contribute another \$1000, and people also gave us checks made out directly to Fisher House. All in all, NVCWDA donated \$3390 to Fisher House this spring. Special thanks go to Ann Marlin and Beth Di Silvio for creating the wonderful quilts for the drawing, to Pat McMurray for running the silent auction, and to the Steppers for performing and donating \$200. Thanks everyone for contributing to this worthy cause.

Refreshments to be Reduced

After the July 6 Independence Day Dance/Ice Cream Social, NVCWDA will not be able to provide a lot of refreshments at our dances. Sorry about that, but until someone volunteers for the Member at Large position to coordinate snacks, we will not be able to provide this service at the level we would like. Our other Board members have enough to do without taking on the extra work. We assume since no one has volunteered to serve in this capacity, our members do not consider refreshments to be an important facet of the dances. In fact, in our survey last winter, 66 percent of the respondents rated food and drinks as being "not important." Feel free to bring your own eats and drinks, of course, and please clean up afterwards. Those of you who have grown accustomed to making a dinner out of food at the dances probably should plan to eat beforehand!

In Memoriam - John Cerisano

NVCWDA member John Cerisano passed away on May 24. John and his wife Linda had been members of NVCWDA for 7-8 years. Linda took lessons from Scotty and Lynne. John had a rare muscle disease and associated blood disorder that prevented him from dancing. He still liked to come to the dances as he always enjoyed watching others dance (especially Bernie and Lydia and Scotty and Lynne) and visiting with people. John was an Air Force fighter pilot and a United Airlines captain. He and Linda were married for 52 years. Our condolences go out to Linda.

Group Rates go Bye Bye

In the previous newsletter, we announced a group rate policy. The Board thought a group discount would be a way to introduce newcomers to our dances. We thought people would take advantage of the discount occasionally, say once a year. Unfortunately, the policy had unintended consequences in that the same group was asking for the discount multiple times instead of joining NVCWDA to get the member rate. In April, the Board voted to discontinue the group rate.



Introducing our New Treasurer

by Kerie Hitt

Bill Wong, NVCWDA's new Treasurer, brings a wealth of education and experience to the position. Bill spent his early years in Queens, NY, where he first discovered his gift for math, and he went on to earn a dual Masters in math and statistics at Purdue University. Beginning in 1976, he worked for several federal agencies before retiring in 2008.

Bill started line dancing way back in the 1980s when his Jazzercise instructor would teach a few dances after class. Several social groups he belonged to inspired him to take more dance lessons from 1998-2000. In 2003 he started dancing at NVCWDA dances. He also took lessons from Don Barger, who taught a class for Parents Without Partners. Bill credits Don for giving him a lot of line dance experience.

Finding a dance style that Bill has not tried would be a challenge. A few years ago, his favorite dances were four count hustle, cha cha, and line dancing. Recently he has fallen in love with west coast swing thanks to instruction by Ed Cottrell and Gail Crum. He also has taken ballroom dance lessons. Kathy Fanelli is teaching him more line dances. He is familiar with a multitude of dance styles, even belly dancing! A couple of years ago, he participated in a west coast swing

flash mob at the Herndon Festival, which is on YouTube.

Bill loves working with computers and posting on the internet. He maintains a Fairfax [dance website](#) and a YouTube channel and also is webmaster for two sites under the American Statistical Association. He is a member of the Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society. In addition, he serves as Secretary for his home owners association.

In his younger days, Bill completed 7 marathons, enjoyed hiking up Old Rag Mountain and Maryland Heights, and went white water canoeing in class three rapids. He dabbled in internet stocks and has experienced both the highs and lows of the market, including the downturns in the late 1990s and 2008. Bill is a fan of renaissance fairs and the theater. He has been on a journey of self exploration and improvement, with influences as diverse as American Indian spirituality, Rick Warren's "The Purpose Driven Life," Dale Carnegie's "How to Win Friends and Influence People," and the Bible. Bill says he learned to overcome decades of shyness. Are we talking about the same person? I've seen Bill on the dance floor, and I would agree that he has successfully overcome shyness in that area!

Bill is looking forward to serving in his first position with NVCWDA, although he admits he is a little nervous about it. I know he will do a great job. Please join me in welcoming Bill to the Board of Directors.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

July Birthdays

07/04 David Nichols
07/09 Jim Davies
07/16 Linda Buckle
07/18 Joan Deem
07/22 Carol Caruso
07/22 Kerie Hitt
07/27 John Gentile
07/28 Brenda Prestidge
07/30 Trish Grendysz
07/31 John Eastes

August Birthdays

08/07 Holly Harris
08/12 Cathy Crowson
08/16 Eileen Scott
08/19 Linda Kearney
08/19 Lydia Vitale
08/22 Sheila Jennelle
08/30 George Jones

September Birthdays

09/06 Keith Buckle
09/12 Mayrie Whaley
09/18 John Dever
09/18 George Morse Jr
09/24 Ella Broughton
09/26 Shirley Bennington
09/27 Carmella Repaci
09/28 Jerry Oweis
09/29 Naomi Little
09/30 Kathy Fanelli

Welcome New Members!

Susan Cheney
Ron Harding
Shela Schultz

Board Meeting Summaries

by Kerie Hitt

April 10: The Treasurer reported a bank balance of about \$8500 as of the March statement. Membership was 168. The web page showing resources for newcomers is up. We have secured Lincolnia Senior Center for most of our dates in 2013. A few dates, including both September dances, were not available at LSC or at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church. We would like to have a special location for the Anniversary Dance/Steppers Reunion if possible. We discussed logistics for the April 20 Benefit Dance. We voted to donate an additional \$1000 to Fisher House above whatever amount the Benefit Dance brings in. We discontinued the group discount. We discussed possible candidates for the Board of Directors.

June 12: The outgoing and incoming Board members met. We have about \$8000 in the main checking account. Outgoing Treasurer will do the year end report and will look into costs/details of doing an audit. New Treasurer will decide whether to keep using the same procedures at the entry desk. We voted to purchase Quicken to manage the financial data. The keys to the PO box have been transferred to the new Board, and new signature cards for the bank are being done. We need to arrange for more Board members to be "trained" by Lincolnia Senior Center in how to run dances there. Someone donated sound system equipment to LSC. Our DJs can use this equipment if they choose, which will free them from having to carry in their own. Dance Director is coordinating this with the DJs. Membership remained at 168. We still have not found locations for the dances in September, including the Anniversary Dance/Steppers Reunion. We will check with LSC about dates in 2014. The Member at Large position is vacant, so we discussed what to do about refreshments. We don't have much choice but to cut back to basics such as chips and drinks. We decided to give people advance warning that we will cut back on refreshments after the July 6 dance. We talked about different ways to arrange the tables and chairs at LSC to maximize dance space without reducing the ability to socialize. We need to review and update the Board position descriptions and other NVCWDA governing documents.

Send Us Your Email Address

Email is going to be one of 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.

VIRGINIA LINE DANCE FESTIVAL

**Aug 1-4, 2013
Richmond, Virginia**

Instructors

John Robinson • Joanne Brady • Junior Willis
Jill Babinec • Roz Morgan • Dancin' Dean
Dancin' Terry • Steve Lescarbeau
Sue Ann Ehmann

Event Directors

Olivia Ray • Nat Morgan

Details at www.gottalinedanceva.com

Some folks from NVCWDA plan to attend this event, which includes workshops and evening dances for all levels. Let's hope the people who go to the festival learn some fun new dances that they can teach to the rest of us when they get back.

Newsletter Sections on Website

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

STORES

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NVCWDA WEBSITE ADDRESS
www.nvcwda.org

NVCWDA EMAIL ADDRESS
info@nvcwda.org

 Visit us on
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website.



06/2012

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL/CHANGE FORM

Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association

P.O. Box 384

Merrifield, VA 22116-0384



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 _____