

NBDS 2019 REPORT PACKAGE

President's Report

First and foremost, I would like to start with a big shout out to our dedicated volunteers that work silently and tirelessly in the background to successfully host our Island Fantasy Ball year after year. Thank you to the hard-working members of this year's Board for all the expertise and organizational skills you bring to the table, as well as your inspiration and creativity, and for sharing with us your creative expressions and new ideas. It takes volunteers at all levels to make an association or society strong. To all the members that say "Yes" when called upon time after time to help out by filling all the jobs needed to successfully host our events and dances. You are amazing, thank you all so much. I would also like to recognize Nelson Wong and the NBDS formation team. Nelson and the team spend copious amounts of hours practicing being ready to promote our club out in our community. Last year a dancer came up to me and asked "So, how do you get on the formation team?" That was our newest member, Brian Jacobs. Just last week at the beginner plus class, a dancer told me their goal is to dance well enough to join the formation team. So, not only is the formation team doing an excellent job of promoting NBDS, but they are also an inspiration to our up and coming dancers. Thank you to this year's Nomination Committee – Marilyn Metcalf, Bill Jackson, Lynn Peachey and Sergio Mastroianni for making the calls and encouraging members to run for a Board position or join a committee. For those of you here today please consider letting your name stand if nominated. As your President I just want to say it has been an honour to work with such a dynamic and supportive group of people, all sharing the love of dance.

Carol Fleming

Treasurer's Report

During my many years as treasurer, it has been my pleasure to report that the financial well-being of our society continues to flourish. This year our operating surplus has benefited from the following:

- 1) The generous donations of time, money and resources by our core of volunteers.
- 2) The dedication of our DJ's.
- 3) The high quality of our workshops now offered free at our monthly dances.
- 4) The sale of 50/50 tickets – the proceeds being used to offset the workshop fees.
- 5) The "bring a snack to monthly dances to share with others".
- 6) A record level of grant income.
- 7) Income from investments.
- 8) Surplus funds generated from all of our operations.

The key to our success is to keep our events high quality, and yet fun and affordable. This is only possible due to the dedication of our many volunteers. Equally important is the provision of open practice space twice a week for dancers taking classes. Part of the cost of this space is provided by grant money but the majority of it is paid by the participants. In our financial statements the revenues

and expenses for the open practice space is shown on page 4 and is booked under the Island Fantasy Ball (DanceSport drop in fees and hall rental).

For a second year we have provided financial aid to our formation team for costumes. This support is important and offsets only a small portion of the actual cost. The team has given dancers an activity situated between the fun of social dancing and the challenge of competitive dancing. Performing before an audience gives dancers the motivation to take their dancing to the next level.

I am very pleased to say this past year (due to a more reasonable venue rental) we have been able to restore the monthly dances at Bowen. These dances have been well attended and are operating between revenue neutral to a slight profit.

We have sufficient working capital in our two operating accounts (IFB and general accounts):

- 1) To fund our open practice.
- 2) To operate our monthly dances and special events for the 2019 - 2020 fiscal year.
- 3) To pay our ongoing administrative costs.
- 4) To have money in reserve for new endeavors.

Our investment account at the Coastal Community Credit Union totals \$37,919. These funds consist of rate rising GIC's (cashable once a year).

Our financial duties were handled his past year by the following persons:

Deborah Wilson – Island Fantasy Ball, revenues and expenses.

Nelson Wong – AGM Financial Statements and Grant submission financial reports.

Stephen Gower – CIBC General Account, Grant submissions and event evaluation reports

I thank them all for their time, enthusiasm and contribution of resources. These are the people who have collectively volunteered hundreds of hours to keep our Society and our finances in good order.

Our financial statements indicate cash revenues for the fiscal year of approximately \$82,700. The Consolidated Statement of Operations for the year ending June 30th 2019 shows an operating surplus of \$6,239

However, just as important as the cash component of all our activities are the services and resources freely given by our members and friends of our Society. Without these contributions, nurturing and sustaining our society would be very difficult.

Volunteered components (In Kind Contributions):

- 1) Island Fantasy Ball – Labor & Materials \$29,835
- 2) Nanaimo Based Dances – Labor & Materials \$4,559
- 3) Nanoose Dances - \$2,674
- 4) Summer Dance Festival - \$6,530

Total contributions - \$43,598

We can all be proud of our accomplishments this past year and reflect on the excellence and diversity of the dance experiences we offer our community. Once again, we have met our objectives to offer a yearly dance competition and festival, monthly dances with free workshops and subsidized open practice space, all priced to be fun and affordable to our community.

We can congratulate ourselves on a job well done!

Stephen Gower

Dance Fest 2019

A total of 96 people attended this year's two-day Summer Dance Fest on August 16 and 17 at the Lighthouse Community Centre at Qualicum Bay. The event featured two evening dances, five dance workshops plus a BBQ dinner which was enjoyed by some 80 people including paid patrons, NBDS invited volunteers and sponsors.

I would like to thank my wonderful team of volunteers, all 31 strong, who donated many hours to make this fabulous event possible. Special mention to those who contributed multiple hours to the event (in no particular order): Pinky, Ulric, Sharon, Judy, Debbie, Vicki, Michael, Keith, Deborah, Bill, Barbara and Perry.

Thanks also to Andy, my co-chair, who donated the use of his audio equipment for the whole event, provided DJ service for the Saturday evening dance, administered ticket sales and pre-orders, coordinated the hall rental and also taught a workshop.

All food for the BBQ was prepared by volunteers. Some volunteers shopped and cooked for days. Ulric, Sharon and Albert donated a whole pig for the BBQ. They even had to bring a special gigantic BBQ to grill it. The display of the whole BBQ pig alone was worth the admission. Judy spent many hours selecting and preparing healthy cooking ingredients, with everything having to be organic according to Dr. Judy. Some members also brought salads and desserts to share, making the 2019 Dance Fest a true community event.

According to the interim financial summary prepared by Pinky, our revenue was \$3,647 with an expense of \$2,263, thus resulting in a net profit of \$1,384, inclusive of \$584 of NBDS volunteer BBQ cost and admission discounts.

We received many positive comments and congratulatory remarks at this year's Dance Fest as the result of many dedicated volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scene. I would encourage our members to continue the spirit of the Summer Dance Fest into the future for all to enjoy.

Nelson Wong

Dance Floor News 2019 report

Dance Floor News is a free service provided by the NBDS to anyone who wishes to receive it, whether a member or not. It continues to be sent out by email on or about the 1st of each month, giving details of upcoming NBDS activities, dance events across the Island from Victoria to Campbell River, dance related buy, trade and sell, dance partners wanted and local dance classes.

There has been a year on year increase in subscribers since the News started being published. There are currently 95 subscribers, a healthy figure which supports its continued operation.

Andy Mundy

Demonstrations

This year was not as active in terms of demos. We had our annual Valentine's Day demo at Oak Tree Manor but, otherwise, Nelson was primarily in charge of the larger demos (Canada Day, Dance Fest, etc.) as I wasn't available most of the summer. I did have one booked at another senior's residence in August but, unfortunately, had to cancel due to an insufficient number of dancers (that was really too bad; we will try again).

My next task is the Christmas Dinner/Dance.

Shiloh Durkee

DJ's and Workshops

The last two years of working with the DJ's and instructors has been a learning curve.

The first year we lost a number of DJ's and this year we lost Harald Mueller as a DJ. His music was 5 Star and I certainly have missed his assistance. This means I have had to call on the remaining DJ's to put in more time filling the gaps for our yearly 24 dances.

Colin Hooeyberg has offered to DJ for NBDS. He DJ's the Seniors' dances at Bowen so his music is slightly slower, and he plays true ballroom era. There is a large music library available to any new DJ and I have offered Colin the use of that library to build his repertoire.

As a fairly new DJ myself, I have attempted to play slower music for the inexperienced dancers to try their steps and gain some confidence. Then I have played the regular tempos for our experienced dancers. Hopefully, the evenings have felt balanced by the end of each dance.

"If you like the music, tell your friends, if you don't –Tell me!"

The instructors have been wonderful filling in the dates, and I can only give a heart-felt "Thank you". For workshops, during the first year, I asked our instructors to focus on the Beginner to Bronze level steps only. The idea was to help the new dancers gain more knowledge as well as confidence in order to have fun at each dance. This also was a "refresher" for all other dancers where they could pick up technique tips and improve their movement.

This year I expanded the dance instruction from beginner to Silver level steps for all our dancers. This included technique as well as combinations.

I specifically need DJ's. I am willing to help anyone who would like to learn how to do this. If you love music and have a laptop then you are more than half way there. Take a chance and come talk to me. My thanks go to everyone who helped set up speakers, made all those wires make sense. (I'm useless), solved any computer problems, and then put all the equipment to bed at the end of each dance.

I look forward to working with our DJ's & teachers for another year.

Elaine Thompson

*****The issue we all have at this point is: "We need help".***

Help for our set-up and tear-down, help with providing music, help with all our committees –Bowen, Nanoose, Christmas, and IFB.

Get involved and see what it's all about!

E-News / Promotions

Thank you to NBDS for asking me to take over the e-news in November 2018. It has been a blast putting together the newsletters and finding creative ways to make them interesting to read. Feedback has been extremely positive. If anyone wants something added to the next newsletter, feel free to email me the details. I would like to include the DVD library info in future emails. The name of the law firm has been removed from the newsletter, but the address remains as it is a requirement by law. Also, I have taken over advertising on Facebook and Instagram and posting our event info to dance groups from Victoria to Cowichan to Comox Valley.

Sarah Au-Yeung

Equipment (Audio & Video)

No new audio equipment has been purchased since our last AGM. However, we did receive a donation of laser light effect equipment worth over \$1,000 from Brent Jeffery who moved to Nanaimo from Edmonton last September.

With the assistance of Michael, we used the lights a few times in our dinner and dance events and achieved great results. The only drawback being the set up time is rather extensive and might not be practical for our regular dances.

Audio set up for the Bowen regular dances remains a small challenge for our aging members as the portable equipment is quite heavy for a single person to place on the stands. I would like to thank Brian Hicks for his assistance in setting up our portable audio system during most of the Bowen dances.

During the year, we tested the idea of combining the in-house sound system at Bowen with the subwoofers from Nanoose and the result was quite remarkable. The most cost effective method of upgrading Bowen's sound system would be to have a couple of subwoofers permanently mounted. We did contact Bowen's administrator with the thought of introducing, and possibly donating, the subwoofers to Bowen. However, we were later informed by Bowen that they already have a plan in place for upgrading their audio system in the auditorium sometime in 2020. For now, we will just have to sit tight and wait.

Each year for the IFB, we borrow the powered speakers from Nanoose Place to supplement the NBDS sound system.

Nelson Wong

Formation Team

After many successful performances and demonstrations at our community events and the IFB for two years, the members of the Latin Formation Team desired additional challenges. The concept of creating a new Standard routine for the Formation Team emerged in the beginning of this year.

A new Standard Formation Team was formed with a target debut date in May at the 2019 IFB. There was only a very small window of time to get the team prepared. There was uncertainty as to whether the team would be ready for IFB, but everyone worked hard and were totally determined to make it a reality. The new Team consisted of most of the Latin members plus a few new members, including some young members with little ballroom dancing experience. At one point, the Team had a total of eight couples including Peter/Carol, Jacob/Sarah, Alan/Shiloh, Bill/Daphne, Brian J/Vicki, Keith/Deborah, Evan/Kaishala and Ulric/Sharon. There were also a few other interested individuals who had inquired about the Team but, unfortunately, they were unable to commit their time.

Then it came time for costume selection which turned out to be a bit more expensive than the Latin costumes. The Team approached NBDS with the hopes of getting a subsidy towards the cost of the costumes. The Board approved a subsidy of \$1,600 (averaging \$100 per team member) which accounted for approximately 25% of the total costume cost.

Although the Team only finished learning their routine four days before the IFB, they were eager to prove their skills at the event. The Team had a blast performing at the IFB and it was enjoyed by all. The team also performed at the 2019 Canada Day celebration in July and the Summer Dance Fest in August. Our next and upcoming performance will be at an event organized by Adam Henna in Victoria on October 19th 2019.

We always welcome new couples as well as single leads. Currently we have more girls than boys. If anyone is interested in joining the team, please contact me or one of our team members. Michael has recently joined the team and Lynn has always been a reliable fill-in should other team members become unavailable.

I enjoy coaching the team and we always have lots of fun in our practices. Vicki, Shiloh and Daphne, my three assistant coaches, are always willing to help other team members. I would like to specially thank Daphne who, despite her long distance travel from Courtenay, always makes herself available to work with the other team members who require extra help.

Nelson Wong

Island Fantasy Ball

Year after year the IFB delivers Ballroom Magic. Every year is different even though so many of the elements of the event are the same.

We have had the same core group of committee members for some years now and I'm happy to report that we have new committee members this year, and that's good! It's good because fresh ideas and energy for jobs are always welcome. In fact, I would like to recruit a couple of more key organizational members this coming year for 2020.

Last year Shiloh Durkee joined the IFB committee, and Lynn Peachey is and has been learning to tackle the role of inviting high level competitors (which I imagine is somewhat like herding cats!). Also joining us for the first time last year was Judy Palipowski. She is a culinary genius. She, Shiloh and Chris did amazing things with the food for the judges and volunteers. It is my sincere hope that she will join the committee again this year. Carol Fleming, as our president, was involved as well and we are very happy to have Andrea Paris as part of our team too. She learned the marshaling job from our out of town support Melvin Wong and Paul Huang. We also welcomed the help of Leona Kyrytow to organize our drivers, and Sarah Au Yeung who is doing our social media and other jobs.

All our volunteers are wonderful, giving, talented and needed, no matter if they give 4 hours or 40 hours! We try to acknowledge everyone in the program, in person and via email. If we missed you, I apologize.

Here is our total list of volunteers (I hope):

Vicki Linfitt	Paul Huang	Brian Hicks	Nettley Mark
Nelson Wong	Melvin Wong	Diana Smith	Miss Nanaimo
Pinky Wong	Judy Palipowski	Bill Bailey	Miss Nanaimo
Keith Wilson	Lynn Peachey	Wayne Smith	Miss Nanaimo
Deborah Wilson	Jane Walters	Carrie Smith	Marion Headrick
Lesley Tombs	Andrea Paris	Kapri MacDonald	John Maher
Elaine Thompson	Perry M.D.	Sebastian Legault	Daphne Simpson
Sara Treutler	John DePfyffer	Russ Thomson	Alan Ciesek
Chris Linfitt	Dominique Tin	Leona Kyrytow	Minnie Beaman
Mike Linfitt	Claudette Quinn	Bill Jackson	Judy Hancock
Stephen Gower	Sung Kang	James Carter	Rooney Dumler
Shiloh Durkee	Tom Crawford	Cheryl Tellier	
Cynthia Palin	Peter Ciceri	Tina Maher	

Vicki Linfitt

Library

This year the executive decided to negotiate a different barter deal with our supplier Dancevision.com. Dancevision again posted a full-page ad in our 2019 Island Fantasy Ball brochure and, in exchange, provided NBDS with eleven thirty-day subscription vouchers. No new DVDs were added.

These days there are many options like YouTube and streaming for viewing instructional videos, hence interest in DVDs and borrowing them has declined.

That said, the NBDS video library has over 80 instructional DVDs covering international ballroom dance, West Coast Swing, Night Club, Salsa, Hustle, etc. The complete list is available on the NBDS website at www.ballroomnanaimo.ca, from the door people at the NBDS dances, or by contacting the librarian at brucejoiner@yahoo.com

Approximately 5-10% of the membership use this service.

As in the past 19 years, the library operates with a zero-dollar budget.

Bruce Joiner

Membership

In 2019, NBDS membership remained steady at 103 members, up one from last year. Our total membership, after a surge which followed and could be attributed to the popularity of Dancing with the Stars TV series in 2005, fell off in 2013-2014 and has in fact stabilized at about 100 members over the last six years. The membership composition in 2019 was 92 general members, 11 honorary members and no junior members. Honorary membership has increased over the years and is currently just over 10% of current members.

This year we added 37 new members, which more than made up for the 36 members from last year who did not renew. This turnover rate of 35% is somewhat higher than our long term annual turnover rate, which has averaged 30% over the past 23 years.

Of the 37 new members, 7 were past members from previous years who rejoined this year. Currently our e-news circulation stands at 258 and consists almost entirely of current and past members. This rather large circulation shows that many past members remain interested in NBDS activities and some continue to attend as non-members. Several past members also continue to contribute significant amounts of volunteer hours to our larger events.

Keith Wilson

Nanaimo Dance Committee

Carol, Vicki, Barbara and I form the Nanaimo Dance Committee. My role was mainly to take care of venue booking, audio equipment set up, and ticket printing and seating layout for the dinner & dance events.

We made a significant change in venue for the Friday dances by moving from Legion 256 back to Bowen. Initially when we moved the Friday dances to Legion 256, it was due to the escalating rental cost of \$810.25 per dance at Bowen including the added costs of RESOUND and SOCAN fees. Although the Legion is centrally located with a built in bar service, their dance floor is a little too narrow on the short side. This is not as desirable for International Style of ballroom dancing when the more popular dances are the travelling dances such as Waltz, Tango, Quickstep, Viennese Waltz.

After some further enquiry, we found out that Bowen does offer a 4-hour activity rental of \$422.86 which is significantly less. We ran two trial dances with the 4-hour block at Bowen. We also had to raise the dance admission by \$2 per person to cover the higher rental costs. It was hoped that the larger floor will attract more bona-fide ballroom dancers back to our dances. Both trial dances resulted in larger turn-outs despite the added admission cost. According to Stephen's report, the dances held at Bowen so far have been financially self-sufficient. It is apparent that Bowen has proven to be a more popular dance venue.

For those who were aware of NBDS' history, Bowen is not just a dance venue, it is also the birthplace of our dance club years ago. With the proposed improvement to Bowen's in-house audio system in 2020, I'm hopeful that the Bowen auditorium will continue to be the desired dance venue for our members.

Nelson Wong

Nanoose Dance Committee

Nanoose Community Centre continues to be a valuable resource to host monthly and Theme dances, NYE Gala and Tuesday night open practice sessions. The facility is central to the mid-Island and an easy drive from Nanaimo. The sound system is easy to use and requires no moving of speakers. The DJ just plugs a laptop or iPod into a jack and the music flows. We made a one time donation of \$500 in support this sound system and are the only group trusted with it's own set of sound box keys. In addition, NBDS contributes \$500 per year towards the maintenance of the installed equipment (and our cubby space) as well as paying an hourly or daily venue cost.

The attendance at our monthly dances is sufficient to pay the venue rental costs and often returns a slight profit. These dances feature a very popular free one hour workshop and a successful "bring some snacks to share with others" food table. The NYE Gala was reasonably well attended but could accommodate up to twice as many attendees. Even though the cost of the gala is only \$20 per person and the entertainment exceptional, the number of dancers wishing to be out on NYE appears to be diminishing each year. The bar service is only lightly utilized as most attendees limit their alcohol intake for the evening to the complimentary champagne toast.

Nanoose features great management for us to work with, affordable pricing, a modern heating system, full kitchen with gas range and oven, fridge and freezer, wall curtains, our own storage cubby and, best of all, a competition sized dance floor with a hardwood floor.

There is abundant outdoor parking, and a road surrounding the facility provides access to every room. Assets inside the building also include stage lighting and a mirror ball, two sizes of tables, hundreds of chairs and two well equipped washrooms.

A gentle reminder to all, when removing items from the cubby to take off site, please use the sign-in and sign-out sheet posted on the inside of the cubby door, and make sure to repack the items in the boxes they came in. As an example, we have lost the burgundy table cloths but still have the empty container they should be packed in.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the Nanoose Committee and mention in particular Sara and Max Treutler, Andy Mundy, Sergio and Liz, Bill Bailey and Barb Benson. Thank you also Elaine Thompson for sponsoring the cost of and the making of decorations, and providing food and looking after the kitchen. I would also like to say "Thank you" to the many kind people who stay behind after the dances to put away the tables, chairs and decorations.

A special thank you to the DJ's (who prepare the splendid variety of music we dance to) and to the instructors who teach the workshops to a consistently high standard.

Stephen Gower

Volunteer Appreciation

In appreciation of their efforts, all volunteers who helped at NBDS dances and events or who participated in the administration of the society over the past year, were invited to a special barbeque at our Summer Dance Fest on August 17th 2019. They were also given a \$10 discount to Dance Fest workshops/dances. The barbeque was organized by Nelson Wong, with many others donating food and kitchen labour to make this a huge success.

In addition, NBDS decided to award free tickets to one of the three upcoming dinner dances (Anniversary, Christmas or Spring Fling) to the volunteers with the highest number of hours contributed in four areas: Nanaimo/Nanoose Dances, Island Fantasy Ball, Dance Fest and Board/Committees work. Also, one volunteer will be selected at random from all volunteers without regard to hours, for a total of five awards.

The total volunteer hours amounts to 3,978 compared with 4,394 last year. This time is equivalent to two "person-years" of work and is vital to the continuing ability of NBDS to offer high quality ballroom dance events to the community.

Keith Wilson
