



20th National Square & Round Dance

Convention 2018

July 19, 20, 21, 2018

London, Ontario

Canadian Square & Round Dance Society

AGM Meeting Report – July 20, 2018

The 2018 Convention has been several years in the planning. We have a great Committee, many of whom were also involved in the 2008 convention. That expertise has been invaluable.

Our initial estimate was for 1200 dancers. As time went on, it became evident that this number would probably not be achieved.

Reasons:

- Declining number of clubs
- Declining membership
- Age of membership
- Difficulty in attracting new dancers

With restructuring we were able to come to a break even of 800 dancers. We are optimistic we are going to achieve that number. Many people waited till almost last minute before registering; they were afraid they might not make it. Most already had reserved hotel rooms.

Programs Reduction:

Because of declining enrolment, some programs were not possible. We had only 3 wheelchair dancers, and no caller to lead them. We had no clogging dancers registered. Much to our dismay, these 2 programs were removed from the event.

We have few Basic dancers, but kept this program to encourage newer dancers. This is probably the first convention these people ever attended, and hopefully not the last.

Information Distribution:

A Web Site was setup and maintained on an ongoing basis, keeping dancers informed of all convention activities. A Q&A section was added to reduce the number of telephone inquiries. Several weeks before the event we were able to post all Square & Round Dance Programs.

We sent out a number of Newsletters with updated information to all registrants. Most of the information was sent by email to reduce costs (still a few by snail mail). The last newsletter went out 2-weeks before convention.

Major Expense:

The 2 major expenses of a convention are the dance halls and the flooring. It's almost impossible in this day and age to get a facility without carpeted flooring.

An American flooring supplier was used because it was less expensive than any Canadian supplier. This results in having to deal with shipping, Customs, Brokerage Fees, HST ?, and all the associated paperwork.

Registration Payment:

Most registrations were sent in with a cheque. The setup of PayPal proved to be difficult and expensive.

As an alternate we used the "Square". This small device attaches to a cell phone and enables credit card transactions. This proved especially useful for US registrations, since current exchange rates were automatically calculated.

All in all, we have put together a great convention, in a wonderful facility. Hope everyone enjoys themselves, and maybe even gets a chance to visit the City of London before you head home.

Special Thanks:

Lastly, I would like to thank the committee, the callers, and the leaders who make this event possible. Every one of them pays for their own travel, food, lodging, and registration fees, and yet is prepared to offer his/her time and talents to ensure you, the dancer, has a great time. You are the backbone of this convention, and without your generosity, none of this would be possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan & Rhetha Roy
Convention 2018
Chair Couple