

Alberta Square and Round Dance Federation (ASRDF) report
Canadian Square and Round Dance Society AGM, Surrey, BC
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Submitted by: Bud Sedman, President, ASRDF

The latest report for Alberta CSRDS membership that we have shows a decrease of membership from 2018 as 89 members from 1458 members in 2018 to 1369 members in 2019. At the time of the report, zone 3's (Edmonton) reporting was not complete.

The 50th annual ASRDF convention was held in Lacombe on Sept 1 to Sept 3, 2018. It was hosted by ASRDF. There were 198 full-weekend registrants (197 adults and one student). Partial registrations on Saturday totaled 34 and on Sunday totaled 25 dancers.

The 51st ASRDF convention will be held in Lacombe on Aug 31 to Sept 2, 2019 and it will be hosted by the Central Dance Clubs (Zone 4). The 52nd ASRDF convention will be held in Edmonton on Sept 5-7, 2020 and it will be hosted by Community Dance Capital District (Zone 3).

The ASRDF committee usually meets three times a year in a central location which means we have the travel costs for each committee member to attend the meetings. Sometimes, the weather complicates each member travelling to meetings especially in March. So in March, 2019, we held the meeting by a telephone conference call. For the most part, it was successful and saved the members the travel time and the cost for the Federation.

ASRDF has been the administrator of the Hopkins fund. The fund was started about 40 years ago in memory of caller and cuer, Jim Hopkins. The Hopkins fund was to be used for Round Dance projects only. The fund has been sparsely used in recent years due to the strict rules. In discussions with the family of Jim Hopkins, it was decided to relax the rules and regulations and to deplete the fund at a quicker rate with full depletion to be within 45 to 50 years from the initial fund being set up. There are plans to use the funds for Round Dance instructor week-ends and the Round Dance portion of the annual conventions.

From all reports, the active zones within Alberta had a successful dance year in 2018-2019. The summer has been filled with week-end campouts, special dances, summer dances and workshops for new and experienced dancers.

The long time and international caller, Jerry Jestin, will be retiring at the end of 2019. Jerry will be missed by all those who enjoyed the challenges that he gives the dancer on the dance floor. The good news is that Jerry and Janice have indicated that they will be joining many of us on the dance floor.

For the most part, the Square and Round dance associations in Alberta are successful in providing a successful dance community for their members. Calgary and district are having its challenges though with members within the community who want to control activities without the involvement of the umbrella organization. This is a challenging situation and may mean changes for the umbrella organization and the Calgary dance community in the near future.

We look forward to the new dance year starting soon.