



Toronto Swing Dance Society

Canada's longest running swing dance group

TSDS 2019 Annual General Meeting Minutes **Monday 25 March, 2019, registration 7pm, meeting 7:30pm,** **Followed by refreshments & Dance until 10pm**

WELCOME- Dale welcomed everyone and introduced herself and Donna as secretary. Everyone in attendance has free dance ticket, agenda, and feedback form.

Dale acknowledged: "I am mindful that I am a guest on the traditional lands of the Mississauga of the New Credit First Nation, Anishnawbe, Haudenosaunee and Wendat, the original nations of this land, whose voices continue to call for justice."

MINUTES FROM AGM 2018- The minutes from 2018 were circulated for members to review. The minutes were accepted by Dan and Roger.

Dale began the meeting by stating that the strategic direction of the executive committee is fueled by the input of the members. Our core values/aims are:

- 1 to provide lessons in a variety of dance styles and non-competitive opportunities to practice in a casual & social environment; with an emphasis on swing dances.
- 2 support Social Swing Dance opportunities in fun-filled and relaxed social environment.
- 3 As a nonprofit volunteer run organization; all proceeds are spent on the membership.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS this year:

3 bands
More free food events
Promotional materials- shoebags
Volunteer appreciation event
Increased fees to teachers
Decreased Membership fee (\$15.00)
Sponsored TOSHC (senior Masters division)
Encouraged and accomplished repairs to the hall washrooms.

Established some policies for fairness and uniformity.

Updating our registration with Ontario gov't.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND DUTIES

We are active weekly and meet approximately every 2 months for planning meetings. Let us tell you what each of us do:

Dale -President – Oversees all roles & assist other board members in their duties
-Volunteer coordination, hire teachers and deal with facility issues in the hall

- Develop agendas & chair meetings
- Dan -technical support for teachers, dance events and bands
- Assists with some set up and most closings on Mon & Fridays
- facebook monitor & announcement communicator
- Jay -Webmaster, responds to info@TSDS
- Maintains membership list and mailing list & liaises with Michael on web & publicity
- Manages the on-line class registration and pay pal payment to our bank
- Prints membership cards, member lists, and name tags,
- Michael-sends email reminders of events to membership
- creates posters, schedules and all printed materials

- Diana -Monday & Friday Registration Desk supervisor
- Bookkeeper's connection
- Treasurer -pays the bills and deposits the money
- Donna- secretary at meetings and manages publicity distribution
- (thank you to everyone that takes the posters to advertise the dances)
- supervisor for close up at dances
- (thank you to all the volunteers that help with this)
- sends dance info to local newspapers
- Gib -sends dance info to local newspapers
- supervisor for set up & refreshment at both classes and dances
- hosts executive meetings
- researcher

Everyone acknowledged appreciation of volunteers on Executive Board by applause.

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

The entire current executive is willing to serve another year. However that does not mean that you cannot be on the board.

We generally move up through the ranks of helper/volunteer to a position on the executive. So, If you are interested we suggest that you get involved as a volunteer and show an interest in how the club operates.

We are accepting nominations for executive positions or any helper/volunteer portion.

There were no nominations at this time for anyone wanting to be on the committee. The committee will remain unchanged.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION-

Dale went through the list of volunteers:

Kristine- many duties, including research, facebook, announcements, shoe bag coordination

Claudine – electronic & close – up on Mondays and Fridays

Nel – DJ for Fridays

Carolyn- coordinates the Friday desk volunteers & finances, baker extraordinaire

Roger - set up, close up and often Friday desk helper
Sharon – odd job and close up helper
Andrzej –Friday desk helper
Linda T – Friday desk helper, baker
Joanne M – Friday desk helper
Alina – Friday desk helper
Esmond – Friday desk helper
Ron – helps with chair set up & close up
Lester- baker of so many yummy treats
Susan- Lindy research & assisting with Gero Celebration planning
Gillian- gift distribution
John- gift distribution
Johanne- meets bands at hall early
Slavka - facebook

Many volunteers help with table clean up on Fridays or putting chairs away on Mondays
Many post or deliver our posters and schedules and spread the good word about our club.

We thank you for your dedication.

All have given of their time out of the goodness of their hearts.

We all appreciate your efforts.

You have demonstrated the true spirit of volunteerism, and we are counting on your continued support. We showed our appreciation for all the volunteers by applause.

FINANCIAL REPORT-

Jay gave the financial report. He let everyone know that we analyze events, to see which events are successful.

The financial year end for TSDS has been changed to match the dance year. The end of July is the year end for TSDS.

Jay had the financial report available if anyone wanted to look at it.

Financially we are doing ok and making a small profit.

We are updating our legal registration with the bank and province so some legal fees are not yet paid.

We expect additional costs for the tribute to Gero.

We pay our teachers a very competitive rate to get the best teachers. There will likely be an increase paid to them again in September.

As funds are replenished we can occasionally offer free food and bands.

We have a bookkeeper who has been giving us a good deal but we should increase her fees (Mintzy Clement)

Motion to enlist the services of Mintzy Clement for another year with a modest increase. Motioned by Agnes and seconded by Claudine.

CHANGES FOR FALL 2019 Dale had two initiatives to discuss:

Starting Friday events earlier:

Doors open at 730

Lessons from 745 to 845

Dance finishes at 1145 (parking ends at midnight on side streets)

There were no objections to this change.

Limiting class size on Mondays:

We are considering limiting class size in the future to ensure that there is high quality teaching and sufficient space in the class. How to accomplish this; is the concern.

We are encouraging on-line preregistration to all future classes and need to develop the culture/habit of preregistration by everyone...or else take your chances of being disappointed at the door....not a happy situation for those that have to travel a long way to get to TSDS. Dale asked for ideas from the members and a discussion followed. Comments from many members gave the indication that the members do not find the size of the classes to be a problem.

Suggestions were given by various members as to ways to deal with the large classes:

- Use a different arrangement (on the floor) to deal with a large number of participants- teacher on the stage or dancers in three rows rather than a circle.
- Don't have intermediate dancers in the beginner class. This is often the most crowded class. Many felt that there is some advantages to beginner dancers to have some dancers in the class with some experience. Some intermediate dancers like to review the basics.
- Increasing the price of classes will limit the number of people in the class.
- Dancers forming their own groups and helping each other- teachers do not like this. They do not want the dancers helping each other.
- Up to 80 people in a class was felt to be manageable.

Jay put forward a motion that the club would not limit the class size but organize the classes better through teacher-student management. Seconded by Roger.

Another discussion followed about dancers in the intermediate level that don't belong in intermediate.

- Have dancers qualify for the class- some teachers do ask the dancers if they can do basic patterns at the beginning of the class.
- Dancers that don't belong- offer them a refund after they try one class.
- Issue a certificate to dancers that have completed the beginner level (does this mean they are ready for the intermediate level?)
- Have the teacher tell students they are not ready to take an intermediate class (teachers do not want to do this)

Dance styles: We have been rotating 4 dance styles thru our 7 sessions per year. Dale talked about the lessons we have had this year and asked members to indicate on their feed back form which dance styles they would like for next year:

Use 7 X's to indicate how many of each you would prefer.

For example this past year we had:

West Coast Swing **XXX** _____

East Coast Swing **XX** _____

Night club 2 step **X** _____

Hustle **X** _____

Name another dance you want more than a repeats of the above 4 styles. _____

OPEN DISSCUSSION / QUESTIONS

Dale reminded everyone to fill in the feedback form especially if they had other things we didn't get to talk about. The form can be handed in tonight or at the next class.

Volunteers are always needed. If you are interested in helping, include your name and email on the feedback form.

Everyone Please do the following:

1 On facebook, please choose 'Going', add a 'Comment', 'Like' us & 'invite' your friends to our events

2 Help on MONDAYS: stack chairs etc. and on FRIDAYS clear tables.

3 TSDS ambassador. Talk to and dance with new folks.

3 TSDS promoter. Take posters/schedules/business cards & post at other dance venues, work, gym

NEXT: CLASS -Mon NC2- Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Michelle Regal (Register ON-LINE)

NEXT: DANCE -Fri Apr 12 Lindy Hop by Mandi Gould (not Alana Hock) & Gero Tribute

-Friday May 10 SOULidified Band

There was a motion by Gib to adjourn the meeting at 8:40pm. Seconded by Gordon. The rest of the evening was spent chatting, eating and dancing.