

SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE ORGANIZATIONS

QUICK SUMMARY

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*THE BIG PICTURE OF
SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE PROGRAMS*

SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE ORGANIZATIONS QUICK SUMMARY 2015

Local: Square Dance Clubs and Round Dance Clubs
Regional: Metro Square and Round Dance Association
Provincial: Square and Round Dance Federation of Nova Scotia
National: Canadian Square and Round Dance Society

Provincial Leaders: Association of Nova Scotia Square and Round Dance Teachers (ANSSRDT)
New Brunswick Callers Association, Round Dance Leaders of New Brunswick
Maritime Leaders: Maritime Callers and Cuers Association (MCCA)
Canadian Leaders: Canadian Western Dance Instructors Association (CWDIA) (dormant)
International Leaders: CALLERLAB and ROUNDALAB and CONTRALAB

DANCER ORGANIZATIONS

CLUBS:

Clubs, as we all know, are made up of dancers and one or more callers and / or cuers for the purpose of dancing and having fun. They are either Leader run or Executive run or some combination of the two. The main sources of funds are usually the profits from special dances run by the club and member dues.

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

In Nova Scotia each of the six provincial regions recognized by the Federation has the potential to form a regional association. Most of the regions have loosely formed associations that function only when there is a clear need, such as the organization of a Federation Festival within the region. Each region elects a representative couple. This couple attends the Executive Meetings and acts as the liaison between the clubs in the region and the Federation.

New Brunswick is divided into three zones and each has an association. They are the Southeastern, Southwestern, and Central New Brunswick Square and Round Dance Associations.

METRO SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION:

Metro Association is the local organization that coordinates square and round dance events within the Central Region, which is Halifax County. It is composed of representatives from each of the clubs in Halifax County and meets 3 - 4 times per year. Its main activities are organizing one or two fund-raising specials each year, coordinating summer dancing, organizing local demonstration dances, coordinating publicity for new dancers, and encouraging cooperation between its member clubs.

Metro Association has been in existence since 1968 which was well before the formation of the Federation in 1975. When the Federation formed, Metro took on the responsibility for the Central Region and changed its name from "Council" to "Association" to conform with the guidelines established by the National Society. See the separate article on Metro for more information on its functions.

SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE FEDERATION OF NOVA SCOTIA (SRDFNS):

The Nova Scotia Federation is composed of all of the square and round dance clubs in Nova Scotia who wish to join. Currently it has about 30 clubs as members. Its main purposes are to facilitate provincial communication between clubs and dancers by maintaining a Website including a page for potential new dancers and a Calendar of Events; to coordinate the collection of dues for the National Society including the liability insurance; to encourage and coordinate the marketing of square and round dancing across the province; to ensure that tourist information is available about summer dancing; and to attempt to assist clubs to find solutions to problems and thus better the activity for all. The web page is at <www.squaredance.ns.ca>. Each odd numbered year the Federation sponsors a Festival. These are intended to rotate through the six regions in the province. Those held in the past and currently scheduled are listed below.

1983	South Shore	Shelburne
1985	Cape Breton	Sydney
1987	Central	Mount Saint Vincent, Halifax
1989	Valley	Acadia University, Wolfville
1991	Fundy	Glengarry Best Western, Truro
1993	Highland	Saint Francis Xavier University, Antigonish
1995	South Shore	Bridgewater
1997	Cape Breton	Sydney
1999	Central	Mount Saint Vincent, Halifax
2001	Valley	Old Orchard Inn
2003	Fundy	Glengarry Best Western, Truro
2005	South Shore	Yarmouth, Burrige Campus of NS Community College
2007	Central	Cole Harbour Place
2009	Fed. Executive	Cole Harbour Place
2011	ANSSRDT	Cole Harbour Place
2013	ANSSRDT & Highland	NSCC Pictou, Stellarton, NS
2015	ANSSRDT	Old Orchard Inn

The Federation business is run by an Executive made up of representative couples from each region plus couples with specific tasks such as President or Marketing Officer. There is an Annual General Meeting during the fall of each year when representatives of all clubs are invited to attend. The main source of funds is the interest earned on the investment of the profits from the 3rd, 9th and 17th Canadian National Conventions held in Halifax in 1982, 1994 and 2010 respectively. Yearly club dues provide an additional source of income covering some of the annual operating costs.

DANCE NOVA SCOTIA or DANS:

DANS is a non-profit organization founded in 1974 to embrace all forms of dance in Nova Scotia. It is devoted to promoting dance activities in Nova Scotia and serves the amateur, recreational, and professional dance communities. In addition to offering resources and assistance to dancers, teachers and administrators, it is the official liaison through the Cultural Federations to the Provincial Government. Policy and direction is determined by a Board of Directors elected by the members at its Annual General Meeting. Square and Round dancers and leaders attempt to have at least one Board Member elected from our organizations at all times. The DANS contacts are web page <www.dancens.ca>, phone (902) 422-1749, and e-mail office@dancens.ca

The main sources of funds are Provincial Government grants, and profits from various ventures. Its funding is sufficient to pay the salaries of an Executive Director (now Megan Matheson Hamilton) and an Administrative Assistant (now Bonny Lee) and to maintain an office at 1113 Marginal Road, Halifax, B3H 4P7.

CANADIAN SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE SOCIETY:

All Canadian square or round dancers, callers, cuers, clubs, associations and federations may become members of our National Society by paying yearly dues. The main purposes of the Society are to coordinate dancing nationwide including insurance, to assist with publicity at a national level, to maintain the Society web page at <www.csrds.ca>, to liaise with the Federal Government, and to choose sites for our biennial National Convention.

The Society is run by a Board of Directors made up of provincial representatives nominated by the provincial federations. Its main sources of funds are 15% of registrations from National Conventions and individual dancer and organization yearly dues.

1978	Edmonton	1992	Winnipeg	2006	Montreal
1980	Ottawa	1994	Halifax	2008	London
1982	Halifax	1996	Edmonton	2010	Halifax
1984	Winnipeg	1998	Ottawa	2014	Ottawa
1986	Calgary	2000	Vancouver	2016	Regina
1988	Hamilton	2002	Saint John		
1990	Vancouver	2004	Calgary		

LEADER ORGANIZATIONS

ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE TEACHERS:

ANSSRDT is made up of Nova Scotia callers and cuers who wish to join. Its main purposes are to encourage and assist callers and cuers through workshop sessions; to liaise with the Square and Round Dance Federation of Nova Scotia and, when requested, to coordinate leaders and programming for provincial events. It is run by an executive elected from and by the members. Until recently, its only sources of funds were profits from special dances and member dues. In 2002 it took over the Alguire Memorial Fund with the understanding that those funds will be used to help provide quality caller education to active and new callers in Nova Scotia and the other Maritime provinces.

MARITIME CALLERS AND CUERS ASSOCIATION:

MCCA is made up of Maritime (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland) callers and cuers who belong to their provincial associations and wish to join MCCA. Its main purposes are to organize the Maritime Square and Round Dance Convention each fall where qualified members have an opportunity to obtain convention experience; and to hold a self-improvement workshop during the second weekend in June which is a "must attend" for callers and cuers intending to call at the November Maritime Convention. Other leaders are also welcome to participate in the workshops. The Association executive is elected from and by the members. Its only sources of funds are profits from the Maritime Conventions and member dues. For the last several years, the November conventions have rotated between Nova Scotia, PEI and New Brunswick. The maximum attendance was 1977 - 1979 when we had about 1000 dancers.

1970	Halifax, Lord Nelson Hotel	1993	Charlottetown, Prince Edward Hotel
1971	Halifax, Lord Nelson Hotel	1994	Saint John, Market Square T & CC
1972	Fredericton	1995	Halifax, World Trade & Conv. C.
1973	Halifax, Lord Nelson Hotel	1996	Charlottetown, Prince Edward Hotel
1974	Halifax, Lord Nelson Hotel	1997	Saint John, Market Square T & CC
1975	Halifax, Lord Nelson Hotel	1998	Halifax, Westin Nova Scotian
1976	Halifax, Lord Nelson Hotel	1999	Charlottetown, Prince Edward Hotel
1977	Halifax, Lord Nelson Hotel	2000	Saint John, Market Square T & CC
1978	Halifax, Lord Nelson Hotel	2001	Halifax, Westin Nova Scotian
1979	Moncton, University	2002	Charlottetown, Prince Edward Hotel
1980	Halifax, Lord Nelson Hotel	2003	Fredericton Inn, Fredericton, NB
1981	Halifax, Lord Nelson Hotel	2004	Old Orchard Inn, Greenwich, NS
1982	Fredericton	2005	Charlottetown, Prince Edward Hotel
1983	Halifax, World Trade & Conv. C.	2006	Fredericton Inn, Fredericton, NB
1984	Charlottetown, Prince Edward Hotel	2007	Old Orchard Inn, Greenwich, NS
1985	Halifax, World Trade & Conv. C.	2008	Charlottetown, Prince Edward Hotel
1986	Charlottetown, Prince Edward Hotel	2009	Fredericton Inn, Fredericton, NB
1987	Halifax, World Trade & Conv. C.	2010	Old Orchard Inn, Greenwich, NS
1988	Charlottetown, Prince Edward Hotel	2011	Charlottetown, Prince Edward Hotel
1989	Halifax, World Trade & Conv. C.	2012	Fredericton Inn, Fredericton, NB
1990	Charlottetown, Prince Edward Hotel	2013	Old Orchard Inn, Greenwich, NS
1991	Saint John, Market Square T & CC	2014	Best Western Glengarry, Truro, NS
1992	Halifax, World Trade & Conv. C.	2015	Fredericton Inn, Fredericton, NB

CANADIAN WESTERN DANCE INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION:

CWDIA was formed at the Edmonton National Convention in 1996 in response to a need to deal with SOCAN issues and Cross-Border calling and cueing issues. SOCAN is the Society of Canadian Composers, Artists and Musicians that controls the rights to the use of music in public places. Cross-Border issues involved the need for fair laws controlling the legal questions and customs fees imposed when crossing the international border between Canada and the United States for the purpose of calling or cueing in the other country.

CWDIA is composed of Canadian Western Dance Instructors involved with "modern western square dancing" in the broad sense, which includes square dance callers, round dance cuers, contra dance prompters, line dance teachers, and clogging prompters. At the 2000 Vancouver National this organization was put in a dormant state until it is needed to deal with another national leader issue.

CALLERLAB, ROUNDALAB and CONTRALAB:

There are three international organizations of leaders -- one each for square dance callers, round dance cuers and contra prompters. The members in CALLERLAB, ROUNDALAB and CONTRALAB each have had extensive leadership experience in their activity. All three organizations are based in the United States where the majority of their members reside. Their purpose is to coordinate their respective dance activities world wide. Our standardized lists of moves and definitions are the most obvious result of their activity. Once each year the organizations meet to share expertise, to discuss current trends, to attempt to resolve differences, and to search for new ideas to improve the activity. Each is run by a Board of Directors elected from and by the members. The main source of funds is member dues and foundation donations.

CALLERLAB is the International Association of Square Dance Callers. It has been in existence since 1974 with its primary goal to improve square dancing. Its members are leaders dedicated to recruiting and teaching new dancers to appreciate the joys of square dancing, to taking an active role in promoting and perpetuating our square dance activity, and to maintaining and preserving the square dance activity as known by those involved during that last 60 years. Callerlab's mission is "To foster the art of square dance calling, and improve caller skills". Callerlab also maintains a suggested list of dancing programs, from Mainstream through C-3A with definitions and other supporting material. The website is <www.callerlab.org>.

ROUNDALAB is a non-profit educational organization for round dance leaders world-wide. In 1976 round dance teachers established Roundalab to provide a framework for standardizing various aspects of the activity including dance figures, cue terms, cue sheet format and teaching methodology. Roundalab also serves as a platform for the dissemination of information pertinent to the round dance activity. The website is <roundalab.org>.

CONTRALAB was founded by a group of concerned contra dance leaders from both the folkdance and western square dance movements. The charter meeting was held in Indianapolis, in June 1986. The purpose of the organization is to promote and improve the contra dance activity by providing education and guidance to the leaders of our activity. The website is <contralab.org>.

THE BIG PICTURE OF SQUARE AND ROUND DANCE PROGRAMS

Square Dance Programs:

Callerlab has designated lists of moves that dancers in certain programs are expected to be able to execute without cues. Each of the following are danced by various groups in Nova Scotia.

Basic Program Part 1	-- about 30 moves
Basic Program Part 2	-- an additional 20 moves
Mainstream Program	-- an additional 20 moves
Plus Program	-- an additional 30 moves
Advanced 1 Program (A1)	-- an additional 40 moves
Advanced 2 Program (A2)	-- an additional 40 moves
Challenge 1 Program (C1)	-- an additional 100 moves
Challenge 2 Program (C2)	-- an additional 100 moves

Thus a Mainstream Dancer knows about 70 moves, a Plus Dancer knows about 100 moves, and an Advanced Dancer knows about 180 moves. Knowing a larger vocabulary does not automatically make a better dancer. At a Mainstream Dance, the most desirable dancer to meet in the square is one who knows the Mainstream moves well, dances in time to the music, and is having fun.

Round Dance Programs:

Roundalab has designated a list of General Terms, Directions, and Positions and lists of basic moves and actions that are used in dances of a certain Phase. Each Phase is further subdivided into several rhythms. The Phases go from I to VI in increasing difficulty of executing the basic moves. If you know the General Terms, Directions, and Positions and can execute all the basic moves and actions of a particular rhythm up to and including those in a particular Phase, then you should be able to dance a matching Phase and Rhythm dance from cues. The Rhythms currently include Two-Step, Waltz, Foxtrot, Jive, West Coast Swing, Mambo, Merengue, Cha Cha, Rhumba, Samba, Tango, Quickstep, Bolero, Paso Doble, and Slow Two Step. Each of the above are danced by various groups in Nova Scotia to some extent but most of the round dancing is in the Phase II to IV+ range.