



NEWSMEMO

&

COUNTRY WESTERN DANCE CONNECTIONS

96.04-05
MAY 1996

FROM THE PREDITOR

This will be a quick single page edition aimed at preparations AGM '96. A report and or results from Calgary may be available for the next issue.

On the topic of Calgary, the new venue in the form of the Convention Centre was rather impressive and was on most counts an improvement over the previous facility. With the Radisson as the main bunkhouse, the quality factor went up again but the convenience factor for getting in and out of the place was not a plus. Parking was a price consideration.

Having two workshop sessions running in one room was a serious problem and having to pass through one area to get to the other was also awkward and annoying. Other than that, the facility seemed to work well. A number of 'innovations' were tried and met with mixed reviews - change bothers some and keeping things the same irritates others - which only goes to show that one can't please all of the people all of the time. More on that another time.

Medicine Hat's CWDI affiliated event is definitely not going to happen this year but plans are now in place to go for June 1997. With one more out of the running for 1996, there are rumours of another surfacing. There is talk of an event in Saskatoon in October but there are no details available.

ALBERTA BOOTS (CALGARY) OFFERS DISCOUNT

ACWDA members will be offered a discount at the factory location in Calgary. The discount will be 20% off regular retail Alberta Boot prices and 10% off all sale prices and other merchandise. Even better pricing may be negotiated for group and volume orders. Current membership cards will be accepted for this discount beginning June 1, 1996.

MORE TOWARD A CODE OF ETHICS

Any more thought on this matter? It is a topic worthy of, in need of consideration. It is scheduled for debate in June so we need to put as many ideas as possible in front of each other now. Here are some other suggestions that have been offered

Dress western when you teach country western
Dress better than your students - set an example
Talk well and be positive

Practice good manners, set an example, be best in the house
Instructors, coaches and dancers have a responsibility to ensure that dancers are aware of and enter into the appropriate divisions at dance contests.

Instructors need to teach/emphasize good floor etiquette and dancers need to follow the rules on the social dance floor by avoiding those competition type moves that break the rules.

1996 ACWDA ELECTIONS

Elections are required for Zone Reps for the Edmonton and Southern zones, and for Association President; all three are for two year terms. The Northern zone requires election of a rep for one year. Zones need to make arrangements to provide for elections of a rep by June 30th. The President (and one or more Vice Presidents if this position is added) will be elected at the AGM.

The executive positions can be demanding and time consuming upon occasion, requiring willing and dedicated members. Full day executive meetings usually occur five times a year in Red Deer. In addition to this, Zone reps are responsible for representation and coordination in their respective zones. Be on the lookout for some candidates who will serve for the benefit of the Association, its members, and its goals. Interest, support, and commitment are necessary qualities.

Something To Think About: Points To Ponder

-->>Seen on a signboard as a commentary about the recent weather - "If Mother Nature doesn't smarten up, there won't be any Mother's Day flowers for her."

-->>This is only a test. If this were your real life, you would have been issued with a much better set of instructions.

NTA Teaching Manual-Syllabus Available

The NTA teaching manuals are now available for \$48.00 Canadian or three for \$135.00 'over the counter'. Shipping costs vary but all three can be mailed parcel post for about \$6.00 or shipped Greyhound Express for \$6.75. Contact Jerry Smith at 146 - 2nd Street NW, Medicine Hat, AB, T1A 6J3; phone 403-527-8852; fax 403-526-2018.

Manuals will be available in Red Deer at the AGM weekend as supplies last. Additional orders will be taken at that time.

EVENTS CALENDAR : WHAT'S HAPPENING , WHEN, AND WHERE

The EVENTS CALENDAR is offered as an open, non-partisan listing available to members and non-members alike. It's purpose is to provide notice of dance related events provided to us or that we become aware of for the benefit of our membership and any other readers of NEWSMEMO. It also offers the function of a clearing house to planners of events to check other future events for potential conflicts of dates.

JUNE 8: ACWDA's 5th AGM and dance is scheduled for Red Deer along with the 4th Annual Instructors' Forum. The AGM and Instructors' sessions plus the annual dance will be held Saturday June 8. Plans include workshop sessions for Saturday. Mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend. Don't miss in '96. It's ACWDA's 5th birthday. Come and be part of the party.

JULY 18-20: The 10th Canadian National Square & Round Dance Convention comes to Alberta in the city of Edmonton. Call Allan or Norma at 403-466-3564.

AUGUST 16-18: The 4th Annual Red Hot Festival goes in Red Deer with the same big venue for competition, social, and related activities. Call 403-346-5484 for details.

OCTOBER 19: The 3rd Annual C.D.T.A. Alberta Cup featuring the Alberta Open Amateur Championships (sanctioned by AASDA) will be held in Calgary. Call Lawrence @ 403-285-1020 or Stuart @ 403-282-8564.

NOVEMBER 15-17: River City CW Dance Festival IV goes in Edmonton with competition, workshops, social stuff, and more. Details later. Call Rob or Sherry at 403-439-5773.

CHARITY EVENT SERIES: Alberta Boot in Edmonton is sponsoring a series of dances, the proceeds of which will go to various charities. Scheduled dates are June 7, August 9, October 18, December 13 with the first two at the Regency Hotel. Call John for details at 403-469-1764.

ZONE REPS:

NORTHERN: Karen Gorman - 403-539-4201
EDMONTON: Gord Villumsen - 403-487-3477
CENTRAL: Rob Ironside - 403-346-5484
CALGARY: Ian Munroe - 403-640-9123
SOUTHERN: Diane Smith - 403-527-6852

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

President: Jerry Smith - 403-527-6852
Secretary: Kathy Koebel - 403-343-6501
Treasurer: Cathy Estabrooks - 403-475-8033
Membership Secretary: Kathy Koebel - 403-343-6501
The Executive Officers and the Zone Reps form the Board of Directors or the Executive of the Association.

EVENT DIRECTORS:

Member directors / events are listed for easy access and communication by all members. Listings are in order of occurrence.

Red Hot Festival: Rob/Bonnie Ironside - 403-346-5484
River City Festival: Rob/Sherry Tovell - 403-439-5773

NEWSMEMO is a publication of the ACWDA and belongs to its members. Opinions expressed are those of the writers and the ACWDA does not necessarily share the views stated in the various comments, letters, or submissions printed. Name, address, and phone number must be provided with all items for publication. Names will be withheld upon request.

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The end of May is the tentative editing date for the next NEWSMEMO. If you have events or items that you would like to appear in an upcoming issue, please send them as soon as possible to Jerry Smith, Editor, 146 - 2nd Street NW, Medicine Hat, AB T1A 6J3; phone 403-527-6852; fax 403-526-2018.

Verna Duffy
782-6412

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By appointment



Dorothea Thielmann
Manager

Ph: (403) 488-4022
Fax: (403) 482-1826

NEWSMEMO

96.06se
MAY 1996

NOTICE OF AGM

TO ALL ACWDA MEMBERS

FIFTH ANNUAL ACWDA GENERAL MEETING
FESTIVAL HALL (MEMORIAL CENTRE) 4214 - 58 Street, Red Deer
At 13:30 hrs (1:30 PM) Saturday June 8, 1996

AGENDA

[For details, see Special Events Calendar on back of this page]

FIFTH ANNUAL ACWDA DANCE AND SOCIAL

*Hosted by the Central Zone, this fun and funding event will be held at
20:00 hrs, June 8 at Festival Hall, 4214 - 58 Street, Red Deer.*

[For details, see Special Events Calendar on back of this page]

INSTRUCTORS AND INTERESTED OTHERS ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE FOURTH ANNUAL INSTRUCTORS' FORUM

8:45 hrs Saturday June 8, 1995 at Festival Hall, 4214 - 58 Street, Red Deer

[For details, see Special Events Calendar on back of this page]

DANCE WORKSHOPS

Some of Alberta's very own and very best will teach four workshops **Saturday**
Workshops are 'Beyond Beginners' level emphasizing 'Social Survival Stuff'
and are intended to serve the needs of both dancers and instructors

[For details, see Special Events Calendar on back of this page]

******FRIDAY EVENTS CANCELLED******

**Time and tactical problems have led to the cancellation of the planned
Friday evening activities. Sorry for any inconvenience.**

MEMBERSHIP AND THE TIME FOR RENEWAL

Current memberships other than those taken out by new members since January 1, 1995 expire as the AGM is called to order. Renewal or new membership applications should go to your Zone Rep or the Membership Secretary well in advance of the meeting (mail by May 21). To ensure current membership status at the meeting, applications can be hand delivered to the Zone Reps or Membership Secretary prior to the meeting. Forms for your own renewal and for your recruitment of new members are enclosed. If you have already renewed, use your extra form to draft another member. **Bring a new member to AGM '96.**

ALBERTA COUNTRY WESTERN DANCE ASSOCIATION **SPECIAL AGM '96 EVENTS CALENDAR**

WHAT'S HAPPENING, WHEN, AND WHERE
ALL SESSIONS AT FESTIVAL HALL, 4214 - 58 ST, RED DEER

*****PLEASE NOTE THAT FRIDAY EVENTS ARE CANCELLED*****

INSTRUCTORS' FORUM

Doors open at 8:30 hrs and the forum portion of the session will begin at 8:45. Topics on the agenda will include discussion on a code of conduct, status and directions of CW dance and instruction, accreditation, cooperation, and more.

SATURDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS

10:00 hrs : East Coast Swing
with Randy Blackburn

11:00 hrs : Cha Cha
with Sabrina Hammond

Fees for the workshops will be on a sliding scale.

No. of workshops:	1	2	3	4
Memers pay:	\$4	7	9	10
Non-members pay:	\$5	9	12	15

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

13:30 hrs (1:30PM)

AGENDA

Reports, Financial Statement, Appointment of Auditor, 1996-97 Budget, Status and Direction of Country Western Dance, Status and Direction of ACWDA, Decision on Vice-President(s), Code of Ethics, Other Business, Election of President (and Vice-Presidents??)

SATURDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

15:00 hrs : West Coast Swing -
with Rob/Sherry Tovell

16:00 hrs : Triple Two Step -
with Gary Bilyk / Lynne Perrault

Fees for the workshops will be on a sliding scale.

No. of workshops:	1	2	3	4
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ANNUAL SOCIAL AND DANCE

Hosted by the Central Zone, this fun and funding event will be held in Red Deer on June 8 at the Festival Hall located at 4214 - 58 Street, Red Deer.

Doors open at 20:00 (8:00 PM). There will be a cash bar, a lunch, and lots of prizes and draws. Trophies are up for grabs for the zone that has the highest percentage of its membership in attendance and for the zone with the most new members since January 1, 1996. The price is \$6.00 per person or \$10.00 per couple.

COUNTRY WESTERN DANCE CONNECTIONS NEWSMEMO

96.03(4)
APRIL 1996

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Had at least some response to the philosophizing done about supporting Canadian events - a little is better than the none that is usually the norm for comment and reaction. The matter of prices was raised but the figures provided were correct. A three day pass at 'Calgary CDS I' was \$45.00 and at 'CCDS V' it is \$50.00 without GST - that is an 11.1% increase, an increase but not exactly exorbitant.

The fact of the matter is that, at this time, we can count on only ONE Canadian event in 1996 - nothing else is locked in or guaranteed. Event directors do not make bundles of money - at least not in Canada. Most of the 15 festivals held in Canada to date have either made no money or have lost money. That doesn't go on forever. If it looks like there is not enough interest, there will be no more events.

That doesn't mean that we have to give the event directors carte blanche in terms of what they do. If we are fair, firm, and forthright in our comments and our complaints, and if the comments are made to improve rather than simply to put down, they have a chance of being heeded. If the message is strong enough and reasonable enough, any director who wants to survive and stand a chance of improving will listen. Anyone who doesn't deserves the consequences.

By the same token, the 'voting' or 'supporting' CW public deserves the consequences of its actions. Should they be unreasonable or unthinking, the results could be drastic in nature - like no events within easy driving distance, with no expenses in Canadian dollars. Let's make certain we do what is necessary to ensure the type of events we want. If we don't want any, the solution is easy. If we do, the answer is slightly more difficult - but within our control. Think on it - and act accordingly - we do affect each other with our individual and collective actions.

A new line dance is offered this month, via Rick Tippe, Country Pride, and Rob Ironside. There is news of NTA looking at a Canadian zone - a nice idea but I wonder if the planners have looked at their geography lately. One zone for Canada is like one zone for Fairbanks and Chicago, or one

for the entire 'original 48' - may need a little more planning. Canada West and Canada East may be more realistic.

The events column is shrinking. Are the activities slowing down, drying up - or are they just not being promoted in every possible way? Is there a relationship between the two?

For those of you who may not have heard, the Alberta - and Canadian - CW community welcomes a new member - new but not brand new at this point. Matthew Thomas Gorman is rumoured to have Mother's smile - we'll have to wait a bit to see if he can fill Dad's hat and boots. Congratulations Karen and Tom.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Where is everybody?.....anybody?.....somebody? Is there anyone out there?.....really?

Something To Think About: Points To Ponder

-->it is difficult to find anyone suffering from eye injury due to looking on the bright side of things.

-->Two aims in life: Make a little money first, then make a little money last.

-->If you want something different in your life tomorrow, then you will have to do something different in your life today.

-->The true value of our ideas rests not in their existence but in our willingness to use them.

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TIP : TEACHER TALK - INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

TEACHING HINTS: *Adapted from the NTA's Teacher's Manual*

1. Keep it Simple - use language that is easily understood. Terms understood by one person might be misunderstood by another.
2. Emphasize the benefits of learning good technique right from the start. It is difficult to unlearn bad habits.
3. Be positive and give students much encouragement, but keep it sincere.
4. Smile, be genuinely interested in your students, remember their names, and be a good listener.
5. Follow-up on all questions, even if research is needed to find the answer.
6. Start class on time.
7. Prepare lesson content in advance. Don't try to teach too much in one session. This could result in an overload of information and not much will be retained.
8. Start from the simple and move to the complex.
9. Students must first master the basic footwork, balance, rhythm, timing of a dance. Fundamentals must come first.
10. Students will make mistakes. No one learns without making mistakes. Don't expect perfection. Teach them how to recover from mistakes and keep on dancing.
11. Allow students to talk, ask questions, but avoid arguments. Show respect for their opinions.
12. Learning to dance should be fun. Relax and enjoy it with your students

TERMINOLOGY AND STANDARDIZATION OF LANGUAGE:

Use of a common language or at least recognizing and interpreting differences in terms lends credibility to the CW dance form. Whether we use the common terminology or just make ourselves and our students familiar with it, we and our chosen dance form all stand to benefit. Continuing this month, another page of Dance Terminology is included.

NTA PROPOSES A CANADIAN ZONE

Established in 1986, the National Teachers' Association for Country Western Dance was organized to provide for communication and common concerns and interests among CW teachers on a countrywide basis across the US. From the beginning, instructors from anywhere, inside or outside the US, were welcomed. As it was set up to operate as a national organization, there have been a few problems recognizing and responding to non-American members and placing them in Zones. The problem continues as NTA

grapples with the problem of operating on an international basis from a national framework. Most recently, Canadian provinces have been attached to the American zone bordering to the south. Alberta, BC, and Saskatchewan are part of Northwest, Manitoba is linked to Midwest, Ontario is with Central, and the five eastern provinces are part of North. The current nine zones in the US have just now been joined by a European and an Australian zone. A question will soon be put to Canadian members to see if they are in favour of having a Canadian zone.

HEART LIKE A WHEEL : A New Line Dance

40 Count , 4 Wall Line Dance

Music: "The Wheel of Love" by Rick Tippe

Choreographed by Max Perry

<u>COUNT</u>	<u>STEP</u>
1,2, 3,&,4	(Rock step, coaster step) Rock fwd Left, step in place Right, step back L, together R, step fwd L (Shuffle rhythm)
5,6 7,&,8	(Rock step, coaster step) Rock fwd R, step in place L, step back R, together L, step fwd R (Shuffle rhythm)
1,2 3,&,4	(Side rock, cha cha in place) Rock side L, step in place R, cha cha in place L,R,L, or spin 1/2 or 360 degrees left.
5,6 7,&,8	(Side rock, cha cha in place) Rock side R, step in place L, cha cha in place R,L,R, or spin 1/2 or 360 degrees left.

Note: If you opt to do the spins, start to turn as your weight is transferring to the 'in place' steps (Rock side, step in place)

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1,2,3,4 | (Vine w/ chaine' turn left) Step side L, cross behind R, turn 1/4 L as you step fwd L starting spin, bring feet together completing the 360 spin (3/4 more), weight on R. |
| 5,&,6
7,8 | (Shuffle, rock step) L shuffle to L (L,R,L), rock back R, step in place L |
| 1,2,3,4 | (Vine w/ chaine' turn R) Step side R, cross behind L, turn 1/4 R as you step fwd R starting spin, bring feet together completing the 360 spin (3/4 more), weight on L |
| 5,&,6
7,8 | (Shuffle, rock step) R shuffle to R (R,L,R), rock back L, step in place R |
| 1,2,& | (Syncopated chasse' L) step side L, hold, together R on "&" |
| 3,4,& | Step side L, hold, together R on "&" |
| 5,6,7,8 | Turn 1/4 L as you step fwd L, step fwd & turn 1/2 L as you step fwd on R, step in place L, together R. |

REPEAT ENTIRE SEQUENCE



WANTED

Positive thinking, community minded CW types interested in cooperative effort for the benefit and improvement of CW dance.

Your presence is requested at

AGM V AND FORUM IV
In Red Deer
June 7 and 8, 1996

ACWDA will celebrate its 5th birthday with workshops and social events open to all an Instructors' Forum open to all the AGM for all members and a birthday party.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - PLAN TO BE THERE



CHECK OUT THE ACWDA SPONSORED WORKSHOPS AT THE CALGARY COUNTRY DANCE STAMPEDE

SUPPORT HOMEGROWN LOCAL, REGIONAL, CANADIAN EVENTS
****SUPPORT ACWDA****

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APRIL 12 - 14: Calgary Country Dance Stampede V is set to go, offering social, competitive, and workshop activities. Call 403-252-5525 for information.

April 20: The Peace Country Western Dance Club offers its 3rd Annual Spring Workshop and Dance in Grande Prairie. Call Dave at 403-538-1710

MAY 4: ACWDA executive meets in Red Deer.

MAY 4: Join the Funtime Cloggers in Calgary for an extended basics to easy intermediate workshop with Janice Jestin from Yuma. Contact Doris/Mel @403-242-1630 or Mary/Steve @ 403-271-6381

JUNE 7-8: ACWDA's 5th AGM and dance is scheduled for Red Deer along with the 4th Annual Instructors' Forum. The AGM and instructors' sessions plus the annual dance will be held Saturday June 8. Plans include workshop sessions for portions of Friday evening and Saturday. A social session is planned for Friday evening as well. Mark the date(s) on your calendar and plan to attend. Don't miss in '96. It's ACWDA's 5th birthday. Come and be part of the party.

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AUGUST 23-25: The Medicine Hat Dance Festival offers competition, workshop, and social activities. Contact Matt Kozenko at 403-893-3741.

NOVEMBER 15-17: River City CW Dance Festival IV goes in Edmonton with competition, workshops, social stuff, and more. Call Rob or Sherry at 403-439-5773.

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Calgary Dance Stampede - Garry Nanninga - 403-283-3149

Red Hot Festival: Rob/Bonnie Ironside - 403-346-5484

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By appointment

Dorothea Thielmann
Manager



Ph: (403) 488-4022
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**Keep the 'Memo' Events column informed of events
You, your event
and all those who might attend
stand to gain
if people know about it.**



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T² : TEACHER TALK - INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

TEACHING HINTS: *Adapted from the NTA's Teacher's Manual*

1. Keep It Simple - use language that is easily understood. Terms understood by one person might be misunderstood by another.
2. Emphasize the benefits of learning good technique right from the start. It is difficult to unlearn bad habits.
3. Be positive and give students much encouragement, but keep it sincere.
4. Smile, be genuinely interested in your students, remember their names, and be a good listener.
5. Follow-up on all questions, even if research is needed to find the answer.
6. Start class on time.
7. Prepare lesson content in advance. Don't try to teach too much in one session. This could result in an overload of information and not much will be retained.
8. Start from the simple and move to the complex.
9. Students must first master the basic footwork, balance, rhythm, timing of a dance. Fundamentals must come first.
10. Students will make mistakes. No one learns without making mistakes. Don't expect perfection. Teach them how to recover from mistakes and keep on dancing.
11. Allow students to talk, ask questions, but avoid arguments. Show respect for their opinions.
12. Learning to dance should be fun. Relax and enjoy it with your students

TERMINOLOGY AND STANDARDIZATION OF LANGUAGE:

Use of a common language or at least recognizing and interpreting differences in terms lends credibility to the CW dance form. Whether we use the common terminology or just make ourselves and our students familiar with it, we and our chosen dance form all stand to benefit. Continuing this month, another page of Dance Terminology is included.

NTA PROPOSES A CANADIAN ZONE

Established in 1986, the National Teachers' Association for Country Western Dance was organized to provide for communication and common concerns and interests among CW teachers on a countrywide basis across the US. From the beginning, instructors from anywhere, inside or outside the US, were welcomed. As it was set up to operate as a national organization, there have been a few problems recognizing and responding to non-American members and placing them in Zones. The problem continues as NTA

grapples with the problem of operating on an international basis from a national framework. Most recently, Canadian provinces have been attached to the American zone bordering to the south. Alberta, BC, and Saskatchewan are part of Northwest, Manitoba is linked to Midwest, Ontario is with Central, and the five eastern provinces are part of North. The current nine zones in the US have just now been joined by a European and an Australian zone. A question will soon be put to Canadian members to see if they are in favour of having a Canadian zone.

HEART LIKE A WHEEL : A New Line Dance

40 Count , 4 Wall Line Dance

Music: "The Wheel of Love" by Rick Tippe

Choreographed by Max Perry

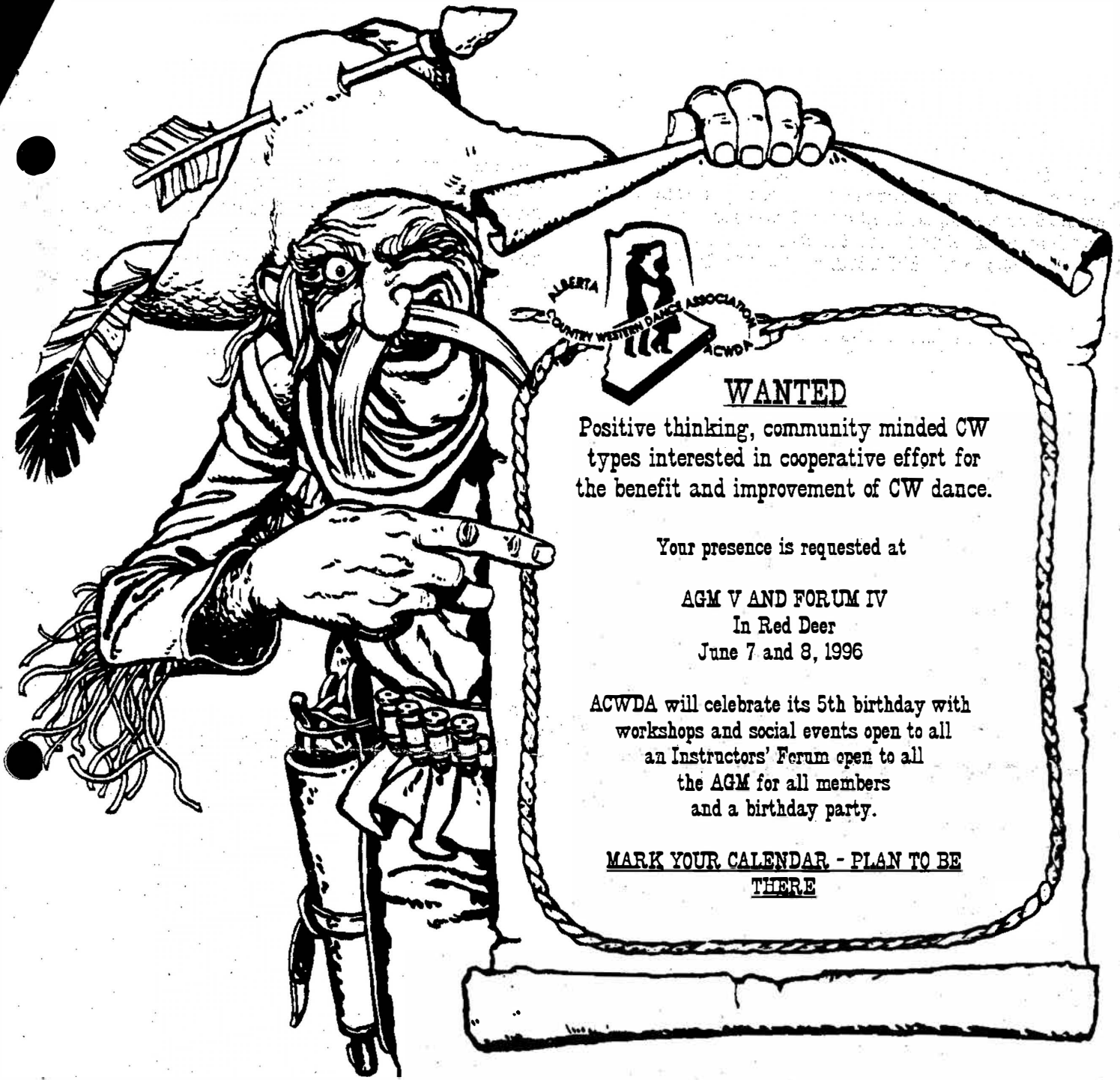
COUNT STEP

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 1,2, | (Rock step, coaster step) Rock fwd Left, step in |
| 3,&,4 | place Right, step back L, together R, step fwd L
(Shuffle rhythm) |
| 5,6 | (Rock step, coaster step) Rock fwd R, step in place |
| 7,&,8 | L, step back R, together L, step fwd R (Shuffle
rhythm) |
| 1,2 | (Side rock, cha cha in place) Rock side L, step in |
| 3,&,4 | place R, cha cha in place L,R,L, or spin ½ or 360
degrees left. |
| 5,6 | (Side rock, cha cha in place) Rock side R, step |
| 7,&,8 | place L, cha cha in place R,L,R, or spin ½ or 360
degrees left. |

Note: If you opt to do the spins, start to turn as your weight is transferring to the 'in place' steps (Rock side, step in place)

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 1,2,3,4 | (Vine w/ chaine' turn left) Step side L, cross behind
R, turn 1/4 L as you step fwd L starting spin, bring
feet together completing the 360 spin (3/4 more),
weight on R. |
| 5,&,6 | (Shuffle, rock step) L shuffle to L (L,R,L), rock |
| 7,8 | back R, step in place L |
| 1,2,3,4 | (Vine w/ chaine' turn R) Step side R, cross behind
L, turn 1/4 R as you step fwd R starting spin, bring
feet together completing the 360 spin (3/4 more),
weight on L |
| 5,&,6 | (Shuffle, rock step) R shuffle to R (R,L,R), rock |
| 7,8 | back L, step in place R |
| 1,2,& | (Syncopated chasse' L) step side L, hold, together
R on "&" |
| 3,4,& | Step side L, hold, together R on "&" |
| 5,6,7,8 | Turn 1/4 L as you step fwd L, step fwd & turn ½ L
as you step fwd on R, step in place L, together R. |

REPEAT ENTIRE SEQUENCE



WANTED

Positive thinking, community minded CW types interested in cooperative effort for the benefit and improvement of CW dance.

Your presence is requested at

AGM V AND FORUM IV
In Red Deer
June 7 and 8, 1996

ACWDA will celebrate its 5th birthday with workshops and social events open to all an Instructors' Forum open to all the AGM for all members and a birthday party.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - PLAN TO BE THERE



CHECK OUT THE ACWDA SPONSORED WORKSHOPS AT THE CALGARY COUNTRY DANCE STAMPEDE

SUPPORT HOMEGROWN LOCAL, REGIONAL, CANADIAN EVENTS
****SUPPORT ACWDA****

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MAY 4: ACWDA executive meets in Red Deer.

MAY 4: Join the Funtime Cloggers in Calgary for an extended basics to easy intermediate workshop with Janice Jestin from Yuma. Contact Doris/Mel @403-242-1630 or Mary/Steve @ 403-271-6381

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Secretary: Kathy Koebel - 403-343-6501
Treasurer: Cathy Estabrooks - 403-475-8033
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- Practice Shoes

By appointment

Dorothea Thielmann
Manager



Ph: (403) 488-4022
Fax: (403) 482-1826

**Keep the 'Memo' Events column informed of events
You, your event
and all those who might attend
stand to gain
if people know about it.**



COUNTRY WESTERN DANCE CONNECTIONS NEWSMEMO

96.02
MARCH 1996

FROM THE PREDITOR

'96 CANADIAN COMPS COMMENCE IN CALGARY

The first in the series of Canadian competitions and festivals gets 'out of the chute' April 12 to 14 with the Calgary Country Dance Stampede. The 1996 season had a potential of six events in the Canadian circuit - and that is really the western Canadian, prairie, or Alberta with a touch of Saskatchewan circuit if one wants to get quite specific and technical. From that promising potential, there may be only three left. There seems to be a message in there somewhere.

For years, the only opportunity for Canadians to participate in CW festivals was to be found south of the border. From 1989 to 1992 there were just four such events in Canada, one per year. 1993 spawned four events, 1994 had four, 1995 saw a high of five events in Canada (in Alberta to be exact), and 1996 appears to slipped back to three - looks like that is all we get, IF WE ARE LUCKY.

Politics, personalities, and economics can get twisted around until it's hard to remember why one is involved with - or indignant about - something. Canadian festivals have a tenuous grasp on existence at best and we need to be careful if we want them to survive. We have to decide what is really important and what we want to have available to us.

Money is always an issue - there's never as much as we would like and things keep going up in price. When looking at the cost of attending events, one does have to be honest and realistic about what one can afford. It is only fair and just as necessary to be honest and realistic about what it costs to put on an event. Anyone with elementary arithmetic can do a quick, if not completely accurate calculation on the dollars brought in at the door - and that looks good on the surface. Far fewer have any real idea or appreciation as to the expenses of putting on a festival. The other festivals have not yet posted their 1996 rates but the Calgary Country Dance Stampede's rates for a three day pass this year are only \$5.00 higher than in 1992; the others will most likely be similar. Compare that with a long drive - or flight - and paying most of your expenses in American dollars.

The perennial politics and personalities are always a factor but these also must be tempered if we want to keep home grown events on our calendar. Complaining over the fence to our neighbour or over a beer to our buddies does nothing to resolve anything. If there are perceived problems, they need to be addressed - but addressed in an appropriate manner and an opportunity must be provided for a response.

We do vote with our feet and our dollars. We need to be very careful that we don't vote ourselves out of Canadian festivals.

We need to support ourselves. If there is a problem, be fair, honest, and open with the people involved. Do it individually or collectively. Do it appropriately. Allow time for the problem to be addressed. Be positive and offer suggestions. Be a part of a solution rather than part of a problem. Support Canadian events unless you want to see them disappear.

ON TO OTHER ITEMS

- >>Take note of the idea for teams in Just Wanna Dance and respond if you are interested.
- >>Ian Munroe has another column for Teacher Talk and there is another page for the standardization of terms.
- >>An example of an existing code of ethics is provided.
- >>Items from the last Executive meeting are included.
- >>Remember and attend AGM weekend June 7 - 9. Plans are to promote our own as instructors and to make a move toward the 'Social Survival Stuff' as a direction for instruction.
- >>'The Goose' is an interesting and thought provoking little item that came to my attention again lately and it seemed to relate to so many things that are going on around us.

JWD TEAM EVENTS PROPOSED

It has been suggested that it is difficult for a number of Just Wanna Dance competitors, especially the 'first timers', to qualify for Overall awards. One solution is to have three couples form a team with each couple doing their best dance and their points going toward a team Overall award. This could bring on some friendly team rivalries. If you are interested in this concept for Calgary, please contact Wayne Knight at 403-526-0201 (weekends) as soon as possible.

T²: TEACHER TALK - INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

About two years ago I was dancing with Beth Emerson, a Master Division dancer from St. Louis. Afterwards, as we sat and talked, she mentioned that every Canadian man she has danced with starts the leads for turns LATE!

Being a typical male dancer, my ego wouldn't let me accept Beth's statement. I thought she must be referring to beginning dancers, not us accomplished competition dancers. **WRONG!!**

Two months ago, while teaching a lesson on turn technique

for ladies, I had the most unsettling revelation hit me like lightning from the gods. Virtually every one of us, including myself, lead late. And this time, I really understand what that means.

As an instructor, here is a simple exercise you can do with your class. Have all the ladies line up in a single line across the floor. Line up the men about six feet behind the ladies, as if they were doing some sort of line dance. Get them to stand in "third position" with the right foot behind and at 45 degrees to the left foot. Their weight is on the front foot. Now ask them to rock their weight backward onto the back foot, then forward onto the front foot. Repeat this ten times or so until a rhythm is established of transferring weight without changing foot position. (This by the way is the footwork for pivot turns).

Now ask them to start again, but this time rock back, rock forward, rock back, and as they do, do a 1/2 turn to the left AS THEY ROCK BACK. Without breaking rhythm, rock forward, rock back, rock forward, do a 1/2 turn to the left as they rock back.

When done correctly, your students will be spinning on the ball of the right foot AS THEIR WEIGHT IS BEING TRANSFERRED ONTO THE RIGHT FOOT. Since all turns start in the upper body first, the shoulders need to be turning BEFORE the weight is fully on that back foot.

Now picture a man and a woman dancing two step together. They are in closed frame position. He preps her on beat 3 and leads an inside turn to cuddle or sweetheart or whatever (*Ed. ACWDA and NTA guidelines suggest 'Wrap'*) on beat 5. The lady steps on her right foot on beat 1 (same as our backward rock above). She steps on her left foot on beat 2 (same as our forward rock above). The man preps her as she steps beat 3 onto her right foot again, then leads the turn on beats 4,5 AFTER HER WEIGHT IS FULLY ON THE RIGHT FOOT!. But we saw in our exercise that she needs to be turning her shoulders BEFORE the weight is fully on her right foot. So how do we do this, you ask?

Easy, once you, as an instructor, understand the mechanics of movement and time. A beat in music is a instantaneous moment in time when the drum stick hits the drum. But when we take a step, we do not step instantaneously; we move through a period of time. For dance purposes, we can pretend that a beat is a small period of time through which we move. Now stand with your feet together, ready to step forward. Beat 1 starts as soon as you can start to move one of your feet. Beat 1 ends when you step down onto the floor with that moving foot and start to put weight on it. Beat 2 starts as you continue to weight the first foot and start to move the second foot. Beat 2 ends when the second foot hits the floor and starts to become weighted. Beat 3 starts immediately as you continue to put all your weight on that

second foot and start to move the first foot again. This is when the prep should start. Beat 3 ends AS THE FOOT HITS THE FLOOR AND BEGINS TO RECEIVE WEIGHT. Beat 4 starts while you are still transferring weight to that first foot and starting to move the second foot again. This is when the lead for the turn has to start - before the first foot is fully weighted.

After understanding this, when I watch Canadian men lead turns, I can clearly see that they wait until the lady's foot is fully weighted before they start their lead and then the ladies have to work to get turned instead of it being the effortless motion that it should be. A man should be able to lead his partner using only a single fingertip touching the lady's hand. He should not have to push or crank her through the turn. And guess what, men, 99 times out of 100 it is our fault, not the lady's.

I believe this whole situation got started back in the days when two step was taught using the terms: "quick, quick, slow, slow" or "slow, slow, quick, quick", instead of numbers: "1, 2, 3, 5". The problem is that "quick, quick, slow, slow" only does one thing. It tells you only how long the foot is weighted. It does not give your students the timing for each step, or the timing for leads. Most of us who are currently teaching, learned from instructors who either taught "quick, quick, slow, slow" or who were taught themselves with that terminology.

Here is a short example of what happens. The instructor says "prep on the first slow and turn the lady on the second slow". So the student preps as he steps first slow, holds the prep through the slow, then starts his lead as he steps second slow. Guess what the student just did. He prepped on beat 3, held the prep on beat 4, and started the lead on beat 5. He is a full beat late. The lady has planted all her weight on her right foot and now has to work to get turned. Think about this, play with it, and discover it for yourselves, and your students will thank you. And Beth, I thank you.

Ian Munroe : Prairie Winds Country Dancing

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MORE TOWARD A CODE OF ETHICS

The Country Western Instructors Cooperative -CWIC- is a small and relatively new organization that was "born from a desire to retain the country western dance styling that has become known as an American folk tradition", and to "keep the country in country dancing". There is no doubt as to the philosophical differences that permeate the CW dance scene and this item is not intended to enter into that particular

debate. The pertinent issue is one of conduct and ethics which is critical to any organization or community. CWIC has a Code of Conduct for its instructors that reads as follows:

- 1: Prepare for all classes
- 2: Teach dance floor etiquette
- 3.: Dress in western attire
- 4: Never become intoxicated
- 5: Never criticize other instructors
- 6: Keep classes fun and relaxed
- 7: Observe authentic/traditional country style dancing

CWIC also makes a statement on ethics. While it relates more to line dancers, there is a message for all. Reference is made to choreography, striving for creativity, and the pride of seeing one's own work on the floor being done by others. Bragging is not kosher. Taking credit for one's own effort and materials is acceptable; taking credit for that of others is not. Give credit where it is due when others' input, effort, and contribution is involved. The statement ends with a reminder that CWIC has an Ethics Committee and how nice it would be if the members had a minimum of work to do.

NOTES FROM THE MARCH EXECUTIVE MEETING

>>Draft copies of rules for line dance and team competition in smaller venues from the November rules meeting in Edmonton were distributed, discussed, and left for further work.

>>The status of further NTA workshops (for but not restricted to instructors) was discussed. The initiative involving a cooperative effort in Calgary in conjunction with ACWDA and other parties involved has apparently stalled. Efforts will continue to carry on with the next levels of workshops.

>>Lammle's has agreed to provide a 15% discount off regular priced items to members beginning in April. The last of the membership cards should be out by then.

>>Zone activities have been at a low level. Attendance at meetings, including that of Zone reps to provincial executive sessions, has been less than outstanding.

>>ACWDA will start exploring an instructor accreditation program using NTA materials as a primary guideline.

>>Consideration of a 'Hall of Honour' concept will be explored to recognize and honour those who have contributed to the development of CW dance in Alberta.

>>The plans for 'June Annuals' are looking for things to be centred around workshops, two dances/social sessions, the AGM, and the Instructors Forum - and the 5th birthday/anniversary party. The goal is to highlight and promote 'home grown' instructors focussing on 'Social Survival Stuff' in the workshop sessions.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Where is everybody?.....anybody?.....somebody? Is there anyone out there?.....really?

Something To Think About: Points To Ponder

>>>The length of a minute is often determined by which side of the bathroom door you are on.

REMEMBER

AGM V And Forum IV

*June 8 (7-8), 1996
In Red Deer*

ACWDA CELEBRATES ITS 5TH BIRTHDAY THIS YEAR. THE ASSOCIATION, COUNTRY WESTERN DANCE, AND THE CW COMMUNITY HAVE SEEN A LOT OF CHANGES AND COME A LONG WAY IN THAT PERIOD OF TIME. WE NEED TO KEEP WORKING, AND WORKING TOGETHER, TOWARD THE POSITIVE PROMOTION OF THIS THING OF WHICH WE ALL SUPPORT AND PARTAKE.

PLANS ARE FOR AN EXTENDED EVENT THAT WOULD SEE SOME WORKSHOP OR FORUM ACTIVITY FRIDAY EVENING AND SATURDAY. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES WOULD TAKE PLACE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY EVENING. THE AGM AND ANNUAL INSTRUCTORS' FORUM WOULD OCCUR SATURDAY.

IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO FOLLOW UP AND BUILD ON THE MARCH 9TH 'DIRECTIONS' FORUM HELD IN EDMONTON. WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.

WE WOULD LIKE TO USE THIS EVENT TO BUILD ON OUR BEST AND TO POOL OUR POTENTIAL FOR ONE WEEKEND, TO WORK TOWARD OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT, AND TO SUPPORT OUR CHOSEN SPORT.

CAN YOU

****OFFER SOME SUGGESTIONS?**

****LEAD A FORUM SESSION?**

****RUN A WORKSHOP?**

****OTHER?**

PLEASE CONTACT ANY MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE ASAP WITH YOUR SUGGESTION OR OFFER

NTA Teaching Manual-Syllabus Available

The NTA teaching manuals are now available for \$48.00 Canadian or three for \$135.00 'over the counter'. Shipping costs vary but all three can be mailed parcel post for about \$6.00 or shipped Greyhound Express for \$6.75. Contact Jerry Smith at 146 - 2nd Street NW, Medicine Hat, AB, T1A 6J3; phone 403-527-6852; fax 403-526-2018.

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MARCH 23-24, 1996: Dance Bash '96 offers workshops in Kelowna with Randy/Rhonda Shotts plus Ted Scarpino/ Kelly Dupuis, and others. Call Tom or Deb at 604-765-5411.

MARCH 30: Central Zone ACWDA will hold a meeting at the Steppin' To Country studio at 2:00 PM - plan to attend. Call Kathy @ 403-343-6501 or Rob @ 403-346-5484 for details.

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