

Chapter 10

Celebrating New Dancer Achievements

10.1 Background

- a) EOSARDA joins its Member Clubs in recognizing new dancers at the end of their first dance year. This recognition may be termed a “Celebration” or “Graduation” depending on Club tradition. In either case, it is a recognition of how much the new dancers have accomplished since they began dancing many months ago. It is not a confirmation or certification of dancer proficiency or an attestation that they are ready to move on to a higher level of dancing. That is a matter to be determined between the Dance Instructor and the individuals dancers.
- b) This recognition is available at the request of any Member Club regardless of dance type, provided that the dancers in question were registered with EOSARDA in the current dance year.
- c) It is up to the Club to determine who should receive the recognition and what kind of ceremony should take place. Some clubs prefer lengthy and complicated Graduation/Celebration events, while other prefer a more informal recognition of new dancer achievement.
- d) Most Club Graduation/Celebration events take place in April of each year, but some may be as early as March and some may be as late as June.

10.2 EOSARDA’s Role

- a) To mark the occasion, at the invitation of the Club Executive, a representative of the EOSARDA Board will:
 - attend the Club’s Graduation/Celebration as a guest;
 - take part in the Graduation/Celebration event, the nature of which is determined by the club;
 - congratulate the new dancers; and
 - hand out a token of recognition.
- b) The hand-out package traditionally consists of:
 - a Canada Square and Round Dance Society pin;
 - a Coupon entitling the new dancer to free entry to an up-coming EOSARDA dance; and
 - an information Brochure describing EOSARDA’s role and function.
- c) EOSARDA does not present Graduation/Celebration Certificates to new dancers. That is a Club function.

10.3 Role of Club Liaison Committee

- a) Among its other duties, EOSARDA’s Club Liaison, Awards and Recognition Committee is responsible for planning and organizing the Association’s participation in Member Club Graduation/Celebration events.

- b) In January of each year, the Committee consults with the Registrar to determine the approximate number of new dancers in the region. On the basis of that information, the Committee ensures that there are sufficient Society pins on hand to meet the need. Additional Society pins, if needed, are procured via the Registrar.
- c) The Committee Chair will seek Board approval for the provision of free dance tickets to the Graduates/Celebrates. The Board will determine which dances, if any, are to be included in that year's offer.
- d) The Committee Chair also reviews the content of the handouts to be used for the current year; advises the Board of any corrections, additions or deletions that may be required; and ensures that sufficient quantities are on hand to meet the need.
- e) In February, the Committee contacts all Member Clubs to determine whether they have any new dancers to be recognized, how many, and the date of the Graduation/Celebration ceremony. On the basis of this information the Committee prepares a hand-out package for each club. These packages are to be available for the March Board meeting.
- f) The Committee Chair also ensures that a plan for attendance at all Graduation/Celebration events is prepared prior to the March Board meeting. This plan will include:
- the names of all clubs to be visited;
 - the date, time and location of each club's event;
 - The number of dancers to be recognized by each club;
 - the name address and contact information of the person to be contacted at each club and
 - a place to identify who will be the Board representative(s) who will visit each club.
- g) This information is presented to the Board at its March meeting. At that meeting, the Board determines who will be the Board's representative(s) at each Graduation/Celebration event and club hand-out packages are distributed to these representatives.
- h) Every effort will be made to ensure that all requests from Member Clubs for a Board representative to attend their Graduation/Celebration event are met.
- h) Where attendance at a Graduation/Celebration event by a Board representative entails travelling a significant distance or staying overnight, compensation may be obtained as per the Association's By-laws.
- I) After each scheduled Graduation/Celebration event, the Board representative(s) will provide the Committee Chair with a written report:
- confirming that the event took place as scheduled;
 - specifying the number of dancers who were recognized; and
 - detailing any special or unusual circumstances encountered.

Resources

Dance Coupons are printed on Gartner business card Stock #65532 using a Gartner template. These are attractive gold-foil embossed coupons that can be printed on a laser printer. The card stock and template are available from Staples Business Depot.

EOSARDA Brochures are printed double sided on letter-size paper, then folded. These are sometimes easiest to have printed at a copy centre. A template of the current brochure can be found on www.EOSARDA.ca/xxxx, as can examples of letters to clubs.