

## **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 individual 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. The introduction of Social Square Dancing (SSD) means that some Clubs will have multiple celebrations during the year.

#### **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 Recognition package usually consists of:
  - a “Canadian Square and Round Dance Society” pin;
  - a letter of welcome from the EOSARDA President; and
  - a Coupon entitling the new dancer to free entry to an up-coming EOSARDA dance.
- 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 Committee is responsible for planning and organizing the Association's participation in Member Club Graduation/Celebration events
- b) At the appropriate time, 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 by the committee.
- c) The Committee 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 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) At the appropriate time, 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 at the appropriate time.
- f) The Committee also ensures that a plan for attendance at all Graduation/Celebration events is prepared prior to the Board meeting before the dates of those events. 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 the appropriate meeting prior to the dates of those events. 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.
- i) 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.

- j) After each scheduled Graduation/Celebration event, the Committee will follow up with the Board representative(s) to thank them for their participation and to prepare 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.

