

President's Report to the 2026 Annual General Meeting

Welcome to all in attendance at our 44th Anniversary AGM. Our fiscal year ran from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.

This year we held monthly dances, with the exception of July and August in 2025, and Feb 2026. Attendance has been steady, but we hope to increase our numbers. This AGM attendance is similar to last year's as well.

Don and Helen Truong, our instructors, ran 3 sessions of classes on 2 different nights, plus a practice night. We are very grateful to have Don and Helen as our instructors. I hate to think what we'd do without them. Please stand so we can thank you!

The executive has worked hard on managing our finances over the past year, keeping our expenses low, only replacing something if absolutely necessary. The CN rail grants have been a blessing, both Bruce R. and Butch M. qualify as retirees, and make the application based on their volunteer hours committed to the club. We are grateful to CN and these two volunteers. More details on our finances in the treasurer's report to follow.

We will have some financial challenges for the next year. Rates for rental of this Polish hall are higher than what we used to pay at the Legion, but when the Legion doubled their rates for 2026, we made the switch here, since the cost was virtually the same, and we love this facility and dance floor. We have had 4 dances here since January 2026, and we have lost money on every one. The executive debated raising the cost for entry to the dances to at least break even. The entry fee has not changed since 2009. We will be raising the costs in September to \$15 per member and \$17.50 for non-members. We'll evaluate this as the next session progresses.

We have had significant issues with our GMail account. We aren't sure if our emails get blocked, or filtered by providers into spam or junk mail.

With help from Gerry Whitcombe, we will be updating our registration form into an online fillable form. Ken Little and Gerry still have some work to do on it, but it should be active in the fall.

Payment for membership and lessons: preferred method will be e-transfer, then cheque, and cash only as a last option. This will be a big help to our treasurer.

Regarding Thursday night Sequence

The Sequence Group is a dedicated, intermediate level group led by Alec Ip and Christine Rail. They also ran beginner sessions as well, so when you see a note from them, come on out and give it a try!

This group started performing out in the community in April of 2015, at last count 55 times, 12 out of town venues, and 17 places in Sarnia. Most are retirement or nursing homes, and the residents there are very appreciative. This group has performed 3 times in Sarnia since our last AGM, with one more booked for mid-July. Thanks to Dean and Loretta McRobert for MC'ing and DJ'ing for us.

Could the sequence group please stand so we can show them our appreciation, especially Alec and Christine for leading!

Special Thanks:

Thanks to the school board for the continued use of Lake Road school. Only once did we have to use an alternate site for lessons.

Thanks to Peter Chan for continuing to coordinate bookings with the school board as our Liason.

We have a great website thanks to Ken Little.

Alec Ip, our VP, looks after keeping up with our Facebook, GMail account, the monthly programs, and correspondence, and many other items, in addition to the sequence group. Thanks!

Thanks to our treasurer, Karen Hunking, whose report comes up next, and Ric Huras for reviewing our books this year.

Thanks to Marsha Vero, our events coordinator/liaison for organizing when show requests are received. She also plans and books our club dance dates up to a year in advance.

Thanks to Ron Gagnon for Class registration.

Thanks to Jeff Talbot for serving as our Secretary.

Thanks to Loretta McRobert, in the role of Publicity, with new ideas, and lots of energy. The gift cards tonight as well as door prizes in last years dances were the result of her efforts.

Special thanks to Bruce Ramsey for serving as music director, the dance music has been awesome, again this year.

We need more help on the executive to keep our club going. We still have a vacancy for Social director - that role helps to organize dances and decorate the hall, co-ordinate the door. If you have other talents you can offer you can join as a member at large.

Many of us have been on the executive for years, and turnover is a healthy thing, bringing in new ideas and energy. Please contact me if you are interested and able to help.

George Vero

SBDC President