

Hello Puddletowners,

In brief:

- Thank you for being a member and please renew.
- The Annual General Meeting is at the Oct 14 monthly dance, at 5:00PM during an extended potluck.
- This is a very important year as we need to approve new bylaws that will allow us to apply for 501(c)(3), federal non profit status.
- Please come and vote (or submit your enclosed proxy.)
- A small number of awesome volunteers shoulder the majority of club duties. We really need your help!



State of the Club

I'm happy to report that we've had another great year as a successful square dance club. Highlights include:

- At least three nights a week of dancing – all programs Mainstream through C2
- A robust Mainstream class
- Monthly dances with excellent area and national callers, and a great social dinner hour between the two dance sessions
- Assorted workshops and informal sessions
- Official membership count of 112 – the largest membership of any club in the IAGSDC
- A terrific Rain Festival fly-in, which brought folks in from all over and managed to clear a profit besides being great fun with excellent dancing
- Another well-attended Folklife event and PRIDE parade
- A great picnic where we enjoyed a lovely sunny afternoon together without even dancing!
- Sufficient financial resources to invest in new projects, such as our square dance Summer Camp, caller development, and new equipment

Whatever large or small volunteer effort you make, I want to thank you.

At the same time, Puddletown confronts the same challenges faced by most other dance clubs.

- A small number of members shoulder the majority of the organizational load
- We sometimes struggle for sufficient turnout at each dance
- We need a steady pipeline of new dancers

To survive, we need ideas and help from everyone.

Please consider how you would like to make your volunteer contribution for the next year.

Perhaps you'd be willing to represent your dance program (MS, Plus, Advanced, Challenge 1&2) as a member of the board.

Perhaps you would like to work as Membership Coordinator to promote the club and reach out to prospective members. (We really need help here.)

We also need help with: web site & calendar maintenance, editing the Ripple, grant writing, dance themes & decorations, ... There are many ways to contribute to the continued success of Puddletown Squares – please reach out to a board member with any questions or ideas you may have about volunteering.

I want to thank every one of you for your participation in all of Puddletown's events, because just showing up is also hugely important. So keep coming out to dance – and share the fun you're having with your

friends. We have a Taste in November and another Mainstream class beginning in January, and we'd love to have more new friends to dance with.

This club is for you. As always, I'd love to hear your thoughts or concerns.

Yellow Rocks,
Steve Weil, President Puddletown Squares
puddletown@outlook.com

Annual General Meeting Details

The AGM will be held Saturday October 14, 2017 from 5:00 to 6:30 during the pot luck.

Note that A & C1 dancing starts early at 2:30 to allow time for the meeting.

If you cannot attend, please send your proxy form, enclosed.

At the AGM, you'll have the opportunity to vote on the following topics:

Bylaws

The board is proposing a brand new set of bylaws. The primary motivation is to enable 501(c)(3), federal non-profit status.

- The basic structure of leadership and the board remains the same
- We've removed some logistical details from the bylaws, to allow more flexibility and be more consistent with non profit best practices.
- Many thanks to Dinah, Mary, and Kokie for working hard to draft these in time for the meeting.

The proposed bylaws are available here: <https://goo.gl/nNQGnW> (Contact me if you need a paper copy)

For reference, the previous bylaws are here: <https://goo.gl/CQivJp>

Budget (<https://goo.gl/ibgq6i>)

The proposed budget is attached. Generally, the numbers are consistent with last year. We are making some changes to improve caller pay and will take a hit since there is no flyin in 2018 (due to convention.) Please refer questions to me or the Treasurer, Anita Dietrich (ajdietrich@comcast.net), *before* the AGM.

Board Representatives

- Officers - We will be electing a President and Secretary for two year terms.
Happily, Becky Errera has volunteered to be Secretary and Ben Bryson has volunteered to serve as President. We can accept additional nominations for President and Secretary over the next weeks, and also from the floor at the AGM itself.
- We will elect dance level representatives for a one-year term.
Members will sort themselves into dance programs and caucus to select representatives to the board for the next year. Each level with at least 8 members will elect a representative. Members may caucus with any program level that they dance. (E.g. Mainstream through the top level danced.)
- Mary Ayres (VP) and Anita Dietrich (Treasurer) will continue for the second year of their two year terms.

Full position descriptions are available here: <https://goo.gl/7EnlbQ>

IAGCSDC Representative

We will also elect one member to represent Puddletown to the broader gay square dance community at the annual meeting each year at convention. Dinah Hartley has offered to fill this role.

Also

Come hear about schedule changes, volunteer & long time member recognition, and more!