



President's Report - May 2020

A few words from your President....

Hope everyone has been keeping well and getting used to what has become the norm these days. Social distancing, self-isolation, gloves, masks...these words have become part of our everyday vocabulary...but I'm positive that we will get to phase them out over the coming weeks or months. Latest reports show our curve is slowly flattening so there is hope.

In my last report, I mentioned that the fate of the VLDA Gala Ball remained to be seen but did not look positive. We have subsequently decided to cancel the Ball due to the current restrictions with COVID -19. Truly regrettable, and it was a hard decision to make but it was the only course of action. The May workshops and general meeting have also been cancelled.

The Committee had a Zoom meeting on Sunday 19th April and there were a couple of decisions made. Firstly, we have decided to waive your membership fees for financial year 2020/21. There will not be any renewal notices coming your way next month and your current subscription which is paid to June 2020 will be extended to June 2021. The Committee understands that many members have been affected by the shutdown and we would like to support you through these tough times. Please note that this applies to current members only. Secondly, we are planning on having a Social once restrictions have lifted and there are no limits on gatherings. This will be an event where we can celebrate seeing each other and having a wonderful time. We understand that Instructors will be going back to their normal classes and socials and we will be mindful of not clashing with those dates. Details will be available in the coming months but it's certainly something to look forward to.

A positive that has come from this situation is the numerous online classes and socials that are being live streamed on social media. I honestly don't think I have seen such a communal effort to keep our passion for line dancing going strong. So much of work and preparation takes place before we get to enjoy these dances in the comfort of our kitchens or living rooms so thank you very much to all the instructors for your dedication and hard work.

There are a few members who are not on social media or don't have the means to enjoy these live sessions. Cathryn Proudfoot, our Newsletter Editor, has many ideas to keep the newsletter interesting, now that there isn't much content with Dances Taught or Socials, so over the next few months, you may see a slight change in the format. We hope you still enjoy the newsletter and look forward to your monthly issue. If you're not on social media and would like to enter the cyber world, please ask a friend to help you get connected so that you get to enjoy watching all the socials and classes.

Take care everyone and stay safe wherever you are.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the virtual world and elbow hugs to all until we meet again.

Sumi Sivalingam

VLDA President

