



**Minutes from the
CDTA National Annual Regional Meeting - ATL Region
Zoom Meeting - Sunday, October 15, 2023 10:00 AM ADT**

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am ADT
Members in attendance: Non-voting: Melody Lynn Drewitz-Van Veen (National Vice-President, Exam Registrar), Paulette Puetz (National Office/Financial Administrator), Melissa Wallace (Events Coordinator)

ATL Region Members: Barbara Dearborn, Lisa Hart, Gaea Jess, Janet Bradbury, Melissa Connick, Andrea Leblanc
2. Welcome and Introductions
Barbara Dearborn welcomed everyone and a brief introduction was given of the National Office Members and the Atlantic Region members in attendance
3. Meeting Procedures
 - 3.1 No comments or discussions will be recorded in the minutes unless the recording secretary is directed so to do.
 - 3.2 Time limits will be set to make sure the meeting concludes in a timely manner. Breaks will be given as decided at the meeting.
 - 3.3 All motions, directives, and recommendations will be clarified to recording secretary.
 - 3.4 Please speak loudly and clearly during the meeting as it is being recorded. Say your name before moving or seconding any motion.

**4. Approval of the Agenda
Addition of 6.0 Notes from the Office**

Lisa moved to approve the agenda as ammended Seconded by Gaea Motion passed unanimously

5. 2022 ARM Minutes

Barbara summarized the 2022 minutes. Notes from the Office, Election of Regional Directors and Divisional Committee Reps, Open Discussion and Exchange of Ideas. She noted that some of the ideas were implemented and webinars were held.

6. Reports

6.0 Notes from the Office

- Membership renewal fees for the 2023/2024 membership year were due September 1. Please remit ASAP to remain a member in good standing by logging in to your member profile. You will be prompted to pay using credit card. If you are unsure of your password, contact the office for support. SOCAN license renewals are due in December for 2024. ReSound information will be sent out in January.

- Insurance – The National Executive met with two insurance brokerage companies regarding insurance for our members. Topics discussed were liability, health/dental, home and auto insurance. We are currently considering both companies but for different reasons. One offers an online application for liability insurance which offers immediate coverage. It is geared toward freelance teachers or those who want basic liability as dance instructors (2 million liability). It is easily accessible and economical. The second company offers more comprehensive coverage. There is no online application, but members would contact them directly to create a package to ensure all needs are met. There are so many different variables for insurance coverage depending on whether you are a studio owner, sole proprietor, inc. body, contractor, freelance, etc. They will not only work with you to find the coverage you need professionally but are also willing to



quote on a package to include your personal insurances to get you the best rates possible. The National Executive is looking into holding an insurance webinar so that the members can receive information and ask questions.

- Contact the office with any questions or concerns that you have throughout the year and they will be directed to the appropriate team member for response.

Melody Lynn Drewitz-Van Veen expressed her thank you to all teachers, studio owners and examiners who worked with her throughout the year. It was a busy year filled with ballet exams in the Atlantic Region.

Congratulations was given to those teachers in the Atlantic Region that obtained their professional qualifications last year:

- Nadine Wadden from Sydney Forks, Nova Scotia - Licentiate Ballet
- Kaitlyn Kelly – from Gander, Newfoundland - Associate Jazz

- The next exam entry deadline is October 15 for exams before Xmas.
- We have updated a few important things online as of Aug 2023:
 - the CDTA Student and Professional Examination Handbooks
 - the Professional Exam Manuals
 - all Part B Entry Forms as entry fees were adjusted. There was a slight increase due to inflation and the cost of everything increasing. There was no increase to the medal tests and badges. Reminder that CDTA covers the cost of travel, hotels, etc. The studio is responsible for coffee/tea breaks and lunch.
 - the "How to Enter Exams" PDF
 - the Acro Syllabus for all Grades (a Summary of revisions is also online)
 - Grades 4, 5, and Intermediate Ballet Syllabi have also had minor revisions. The free "Summary of Revisions" PDF is available on the website. The revised video files will be available within a month.
 - The 2024 exam report sheets will have a little ribbon printed on it stating that it is the 75th Anniversary of CDTA.

- if you have any exam or syllabus related questions, please don't hesitate to contact Melody by using exams@cdtanational.ca

- Melissa Wallace – Event Coordinator - CDTA is partnering with ADEA to host this convention July 19-21, 2024 in Edmonton called the "Diamond Dance Summit". There will be dance movement classes for students and teachers along with professional development and business sessions for teachers/studio owners, and more. Registration opened on October 1 through our website. If you plan to attend and/or make this a studio outing, register soon to avoid disappointment (there is a limit to how many students will be accepted due to ballroom size). Additional information will be forwarded soon. The faculty will be announced soon via social media. Please share our posts and promote it to your colleagues and friends. It is open to CDTA and non-CDTA studios/teachers/dancers. There will be a Gala on Friday evening for teachers and vendors with beverages and appetizers, costume company fashion shows, keynote speaker, mingling, networking and more... It will be a fantastic convention for both teachers and students and a wonderful venue and area for a family vacation!

- Andrea Leblanc spoke about the CDTA National Ambassador Program. It was introduced to help create awareness for CDTA through promotion on Social Media via our young dancers. They are our future and we'd like to encourage and excite them about CDTA. There is an online application, deadline is October 15. Applicants are required to hashtag CDTA in a social media post. There are several applications and the review process will begin after the deadline. Upon review of the applications and social media accounts, 3 finalists will be selected and announced. After a period of voting on social media, a winner will be



announced. The CDTA Ambassador for 2024 will receive a free photo shoot and they will be featured on posters and other CDTA advertising for the 75th and other events. This is a great way to build their presence Nationally if they are planning to pursue dance and great promotion for CDTA.

- It has been a very busy year for CDTA National. A video presentation created by Julie Dionne highlighting of things that have been offered to the members throughout the year. ie. Webinars – 1) Gender Diversity within the Classroom & 2) Navigating Stress; quarterly newsletters; education centre; syllabus intensives; opportunities for promotion via social media; music sharing session; CDTA Ambassador Program and more. Thank you to everyone, it has been a successful year and we hope to meet many of you in Edmonton at the 75th Anniversary.
- We have been working to promote CDTA across Canada and create a larger presence in the dance community. Julie attended the Toronto Dance Expo and Alberta Dance Educator Association Convention and Expo. She made many contacts and had fantastic attendance at the CDTA presentations. It was awesome to renew connections with teachers who may have stepped away for a while and see exam sessions growing as well. CDTA gained many new members through this promotion.

6.1 National Directors

Barbara Dearborn and Lisa Hart – The National Board met 4 times last year to review financial information, events, exchange ideas, update on everything that is going on. Barbara encourages all members to read the reports and National President, Shannon Vallee did a beautiful job of capturing what the organization is aspiring to do. The increase to exam entry fees was necessary to cover exam expenses in order to continue providing this valuable cornerstone member service. The Atlantic Regional Team met in December for a lunch meeting and they hope to be able to do so again this year. They discussed the importance of trying to spread awareness about CDTA National. To be proud and encourage others to find that connection with us. Regionally, they would like to encourage everyone to support the Diamond Anniversary.

The Atlantic Directors would like to acknowledge the extraordinary work of the National Administrative Team and Executive on rising to the challenge of building on the legacy of CDTA. It was big transition from the individual branches to a cohesive, efficient, and professional Truly National Organization.

Lisa Hart shared the sad, sad news of the passing of CDTA Life Member Mary Turnbull. Barb, Andrea, and Lisa participated in a memorial for Mary during the summer. It was remarkable the things that she accomplished in the dance community in the Atlantic Region. Mary was very active in CDTA and sat on the National Board for many, many years. In the Atlantic Region she is known for her voice on the Ballet Music CD's and also for the countless hours she spent in proofreading syllabus. She will be dearly missed and remembered fondly.

6.2 Divisional and Committee reports from Regional Reps

Acrobatic Dance - 40 students did acrobatic dance exams across the country. The Gr 4 and Sr Bronze Level were introduced during the summer intensive. The syllabus is now complete to Advanced and Gold Star medal. The Elementary/Silver were videoed this summer and we hope to have them posted soon, along with the Gr 4/Bronze. We need 2 tricks that need to be filmed yet – they are contortion tricks and we need to find students to demonstrate. All updated acro grades with revisions are posted online.



Ballet – Excellent attendance at both 2022 and 2023 summer intensives for ballet. Minor revisions to Junior Syllabus in 2022 are posted online and minor revisions to Gr 4, 5 and Inter will be available in October. The summary of revisions is available free of charge on the website in the members only area. The videos for Gr 4, 5, and Inter will be available soon. Over 1000 ballet exams were held across the country which was the highest of all divisions. Suggestions and ideas for events/webinars that will enhance ballet (non-syllabus or syllabus) are welcomed.

Thank you to Barbara Dearborn who consulted with Ballet Jorgen on the development of an online educational program. Due to this connection, CDTA National has formed a special partnership with them to receive CDTA discounts on these classes. Each class focuses on an element or step and provides insight to help teachers and students. Hannah Mae presents it and Ballet Jorgen dancers are demonstrating during the classes. Ballet Jorgen's philosophy is similar to CDTA's in that they recognize all methodologies and the development of ballet as an art form. More info will be available in the near future.

Jazz - There were 2 new Associates and 1 Licentiate and over 700 jazz exams were held across the country. The 2022 and 2023 summer intensives were held for Jr grades (Prelim-Gr 3) and Sr grades (Gr 4-Elementary) well attended.

Modern - 49 Modern exams were held across the country. Summer Intensives were attended by many teachers and examiners attended Levels 1-3 and 4-5 were presented. Level 1-6 videos are available online. Would love to see more utilizing the syllabus and incorporating into contemporary, lyrical classes.

Ballroom – Pre-Professional and Professional Handbooks, Ballroom Manuals, Amateur Teacher Exam and Adjudicator Exam information PDF's have been updated and are available on our website. Calvin looks forward to reaching out and building relationships within the Ballroom Division. CDF members are not allowed to be a member of another professional organization. Calvin has been promoting CDTA to CDS members, as they would be allowed to join other organizations. He has been working to promote medal tests and establishing more interest.

Tap – There were 2 new Associates and 1 Licentiate and over 700 tap exams were held across the country. Julie presented the Inter Techno Rhythm combo at Toronto Dance Expo in 2022 and ADEA Convention in 2023 and it was well received. The Summer Intensives for tap were well attended in both 2022 and 2023. We have a lot of Pre-Associates and the goal is to provide support and have them move forward with taking their professional exam.

Multicultural – We have professional multicultural dance teachers representing many countries: Africa, China, India and Pakistan – the Punjab, Scotland, Ukraine, Poland and Russia with cultural diversities comprising historic folklore, dances, music, authentic colorful costumes, and choreography. The first National Professional exam was held in the Multicultural Division. The first was awarded a Licentiate status being awarded specializing in Chinese Dance, and the second was awarded Licentiate status specializing in African Dances and African Fusion.

Hip hop syllabus ad-hoc committee has been formed. They have had one meeting and are investigating the best way to proceed. At present, they are not looking at student exams, as that is not really conducive to the culture of hip hop but are leaning toward more information/historical content for teachers. Anyone interested in joining the committee - please send us an email and we will put you in contact with the Committee chair.



7. Open discussion of events/activities members would like to see happen in the Ontario Region

- Discussion regarding a Student choreographic showcase. Not competitive but perhaps workshops could be connected to this. It would be wonderful to involve the students and highlight some of their creativity and individuality. Perhaps an event to be held in fall would give the student a chance to work on their creations during the summer.
- Atlantic Team will have a lunch meeting in December to brainstorm. Barbara will coordinate this meeting.
- If there are webinars, courses, events that you would like to see happen, please contact the office with your ideas and suggestions. (ie. mini-stress relieving methods for before class, mental health, music editing, etc.)

We encourage all members to be active in CDTA. We are excited to see further growth, recognition and strength of CDTA as a National Organization. We can't do it without the support of all of you!

Best Wishes for the 2023-24 Dance Year!

8. Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am ADT