



**Minutes from the
CDTA National Annual Regional Meeting - ON Region
Zoom Meeting - Sunday, October 15, 2023 12:30 PM EDT**

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:33 pm EDT
Members in attendance: Non-voting: Melody Lynn Drewitz-Van Veen (CDTA National Vice-President, Exam Registrar), Paulette Puetz (National Office/Financial Administrator), Melissa Wallace (National Events Coordinator)

ON Region Members: Gaetane Hughes, Marie Ann Longlade-Link, Angelique Ashwin, Sheila Stumpf, June Lawrence, Monica Tracey, Heather Lewis, Turner Norman, Cheryl Matson, Mary-Ellen Schick, Gail Longlade-Kossel, Melanie Sayers, Kelly Hajar, Carolyn Zettle-Augustyn

2. Welcome and Introductions
Paulette Puetz welcomed everyone and a brief introduction was given of the National Office Members and Ontario Regional Team 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

Marie Ann Longlade-Link moved to approve the agenda as ammended
Seconded by Sheila Stumpf Motion passed unanimously

5. **Approval of Minutes**

Gaetane Hughes moved to approve the 2022 Ontario ARM minutes as circulated.
Seconded by Angelique Ashwin Motion passed unanimously

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.

- CDTA National Ambassador Program 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.

- 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 – Exam Registrar 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 exams across the country.

- 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. Reminder that CDTA covers the cost of travel, hotels, etc. The only thing the studio is responsible (in addition to the entry fees) is 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.
- if you have any exam or syllabus related questions, please don't hesitate to contact Melody by using exams@cdtanational.ca
- 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. A video presentation was shown. CDTA gained many new members through this promotion.



- 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, key note 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!

6.1 National Directors

Gaetane and Marie Ann – Thank you to the National Executive and Office for all the work they have been doing throughout the year, advertising and promoting, syllabus work, exams, constant flow of information being circulated to the members, the 75th anniversary convention. There will be no syllabus intensives next summer and we encourage everyone to make the trip to attend the 75th Anniversary Convention in Edmonton. Thank you to the Ontario Region Members who participated in exams last year. CDTA exams are so important in helping to keep technique strong.

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 an online educational program they are creating. Due to this connection, we have formed a special partnership with them to receive CDTA discounts on these classes. Each class works on an element or step and provides insight to help teachers and students. Ballet Jorge’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

- Each Region is able to host an event locally as long as there is sufficient interest and it is financially responsible. A request to host an event is to be submitted to the CDTA Office.
- A "Check in with Members" was suggested via Zoom. Perhaps once a month or once every two months on a constant day and time for an informal social gathering to stay in contact. It would be a short time to chat, exchange ideas, thoughts, frustrations and advice, or successes and support. June Lawrence will connect with Heather Lewis to coordinate. A Google Form will be created and an invite to be circulated to the Ontario region Members and posted on Social Media. "What's Up Ontario" We Miss You - November 12, 12:30 p.m.
- Kelly is Chair of the Health and Wellness Committee and is also on the Professional Development Committee. If anyone else is interested in participating on the committee or has ideas and suggestions, please contact cdta@cdtanational.ca and your information will be forwarded to her. It will not require a huge time commitment.

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 1:52 pm EDT