

Chapter 19

Hearing Assistance

19.1 Why Hearing Assistance ?

- a) Retention of dancers is one of the two major thrust of EOSARDA's attempts to reverse the decline in the number of registered dancers, the other being an active and innovative recruiting program.
- b) The ability to hear the music and the Calls or Cues (dance directions) is key to the enjoyment of both Square and Round Dancing. Poor dance hall acoustics and loud background chatter can create difficulty in hearing dance directions even for those who do not have a hearing impairment. When combined with even a slight hearing impairment they make it impossible to hear dance directions and even the music can be very difficult to distinguish from the general background noise.
- c) As a result dancers become frustrated and experience a loss of enjoyment. Frequent repetitions of such negative experiences can result in dancers dropping out of the Square and Round Dance movement completely. Once they leave it is very difficult to entice them back.

19.2 Hearing Assistance Policy

- a) In recognition of this problem EOSARDA has adopted a policy of having Hearing Assistance available at all regional dances. At the same time, the Association strongly encourages Member Clubs to provide a similar service at their Open Dances and their regular club nights.
- b) The availability of hearing assistance should be clearly marked on all dance flyers and other advertising material.

19.3 Hearing Assistance Equipment

- a) Dancers who have purchased or are considering purchasing hearing assistance equipment want to know that they can use it in their club and at Open Dances. They also want equipment that is affordable, reliable and easy to use.
- b) Clubs and Dance Leaders want to be sure that any equipment that they purchase can be and will be used. They want equipment that is reliable, compatible with their existing sound system and easy to use. They also want to be sure that there is enough demand to justify purchasing the equipment.
- c) EOSARDA has conducted extensive research into the equipment that is on the market today and has identified the **Orpheus FM radio/FM ALD Receiver** and the **Deluxe FM Personal Listening System** from **Landmark Audio Technologies**, as being the best suited to our dancing environment. Both items come with a 5 year warranty.
- d) This equipment can be seen on-line at www.hearinglosshelp.com (click on "Products", scroll down to "FM systems" and click on it.)
- e) Our contact for purchasing hearing assistance equipment is:
Neil Bauman, Ph.D
The Centre for Hearing Loss Help
Email:neil@hearinglosshelp.com

Telephone #: 717-993-8555

Hours of Business: 9a.m. – 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Please use e-mail, Dr. Bauman is very hard of hearing.

19.4 Encouraging the use of Hearing Assistance Equipment

- a) While it is possible for individuals and clubs to order hearing equipment directly from the supplier, co-ordinating a collective buy through EOSARDA can result in considerable savings.
- b) In recognition of the importance hearing assistance plays in the retention of experienced dancers, and to encourage as many clubs and individuals as possible to purchase both the receivers and transmitters, from time-to-time EOSARDA offers to subsidize the purchase of this equipment. The degree of subsidy to be provided is determined by the EOSARDA Board taking into account the Association's financial situation.
- c) When the Board determines that a Hearing Assistance Campaign, with or without subsidy, is desirable, it will form a Hearing Assistance Working Group which will report directly to the President.
- c) The Working Group is responsible for:
 - Presenting a Campaign Proposal to the Board for approval
 - Publicizing the campaign
 - Distributing order forms to clubs
 - Collecting orders and payments
 - Negotiating a bulk buy price with the supplier based on orders received
 - Working with the Treasurer to ensure that payment is made for all goods ordered
 - Placing the order with the supplier
 - Determining the amount of subsidy, if any, to be paid based on the Board's previous decision
 - Receiving and distributing the equipment when received
 - Reporting on the results of the campaign to both the Board and the Council

19.5 Purchase Price

- a) The final purchase price will depend on a number of variables some of which will not be known at the time of purchase. These include:
 - availability of a bulk discount based on the number of units ordered
 - amount of subsidy offered by EOSARDA
 - USD exchange rate
 - Shipping and Handling charges
 - Possible imposition of Customs duties and HST by Canada Border Services
- b) The 2011 campaign resulted in a purchase price of \$74.77 USD plus Shipping and Handling for a receiver.