

Christmas Dinner-Dance Coordinator's Report

Date held: Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Planning Committee Meeting: Zoom 5 September; Décor workshop 5 December

Volunteers – Planning Committee: Jackie Cornett Small, Debra Kerrison, Linda Chapman, Elaine Gibbons, Lydia Côté and Connie Stanley

Setup & décor:

Ron Gibbons	Nancy Hall
Bob Kerrison	Lydia Côté
Gil Small	Jackie Cornett Small
Harold Côté	Annmarie Haskell
Ken Campbell	Heather Dojutrek
	Sue Pall
	Debra Kerrison
	Elaine Gibbons

Ice: John Henry

Photography: Rowland
Hetrick

Ticket Takers & Share the Wealth:

Gil & Jackie Small
Cathy Mills & Eldon Smith
Debra & Bob Kerrison
Connie Stanley & Ken Campbell
Coffee: Ken Campbell
Blessing: Dot Graham
Thank the Caterer: Gil Small
Cake cutting/serving: Ken, Elaine,
Jackie, Debra, Nancy & Connie

Number of Tickets sold: 81

Participants: 78

Location: EAC Auditorium

Narrative [e.g. Theme, highlights, winners, etc.]:

DJ, Les Wiess [Les N' More, Safety Harbor] was contracted for all dinner-dances for 2023-24 for \$300. Treasurer, Gary Seymour paid the \$50. deposit in the summer.

Over the summer, Connie contacted those who expressed an interest to formulate the planning committee and launched a Zoom meeting to get the planning underway, in September. The theme "Winter Wonderland" was chosen out of 26 options. Connie suggested three or four images and the Frozen backdrop was ultimately selected with the colours being blue, silver, and white. These would be used in décor, balloon arch, tickets, table numbers, publicity [901 and FB Event], backdrop banner on stage, etc.

Connie sent a communiqué to the DJ re: the Winter Wonderland theme with suggestions for some of the music and dance songs by Canadian artists. Les was very appreciative of this information and he commented he was not familiar with many of them and that it was very helpful.

Menu: The menu was discussed and agreed by the group to continue with Stephen Fisherkeller's Banquet Masters, again at \$16.00/person. This was an increase over last year of \$2/person. The menu negotiated with Stephen was: Garden Salad Bar, Assorted Dressings, White / Dark Sliced Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Dressing, a Vegetable Medley, Rolls with Butter. The Club provided Costco Cake[s] and Coffee; Connie was able to purchase and placed an edible cake topper from Amazon and added: "Winter Wonderland" with her cake decorating kit to the white cake and Costco added "Merry Christmas" to the chocolate one for us.

Ticket Prices: Because the Club is still recovering after the pandemic and we knew many people had sold their condos, we were aware, some renters were not returning, and the caterer's prices increased, comparisons with other Clubs' ticket prices, ticket prices were a challenge. We decided to stay with the budget that was proposed by the Treasurer in January 2023 and established the ticket prices at: \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members / guests. To reduce costs, Connie printed the tickets using 10 of

Sue Cober's Avery business card stock which she uses for members' name tags.

Door Prizes: Lydia, Linda and Dana Chapman and Connie availed some very interesting some items that made great door prizes. Connie requested and confirmed with the Club Executive Committee to provide an IOU for two tickets to *either* of the remaining winter 2024 dinner-dances. This was an exceptional idea by Debra Kerrison, Vice President in that, the winner can elect to use them at whichever event is most amenable to themselves, given other events, cruise travel, spring breaks, etc. Unlike other years when we have done this, there was no monetary value included on the IOU because ticket prices were not yet established for the Friendship or the Spring Fling dinner-dances.

Décor: The committee loved the idea of paper snowflakes down the centre of each table and it was also suggested we collect pine cones and spray paint them white and attach glitter. The team also adored the LED lantern idea as take away centrepieces; we purchased AAA batteries for each and, also two of the Club's tea lights per table in the votive holders were used. Les Weiss' birthdate was selected for the take away's. We also added two Table Number cards with the volunteers inside, per table facing out so people could identify their table. Connie also provided the Tables by Name sheets to the Ticket Takers in the event, someone arrived having forgotten their tickets at home. Sure enough, one of the door prize winners forgot their tickets and their names were entered for the door prizes in hand writing. This is the fourth or fifth time this practice has been administered.

Soft blue tablecloths were chosen for each dinner table; white and blue snowflake tablecloths for the three buffet tables and the outpost counter for the desserts and coffee. We also had four cut in half for the Ticket Takers tables. We placed the ceremonial flag on the stage, the Entertainment Committee put its decorated Christmas Tree on the stage, we added the Frozen banner on the Club's new bracket on stage and Laurie closed the curtains up on each side. Two snowflake wreaths were attached to the stage stair rails, Club Christmas Dinner-Dance banner on the front stairway glass rail, Connie lent a beautiful white garland decoratively adorned with silver and blue ribbons, balls, etc. setup by Lydia Côté. We also had two white Christmas trees attached by painter's tape doubled over to the two RCMP Mounties and stood in the two back entrances' corners. We also had three imitation presents for each tree.

The committee agreed with doing a balloon arch again with blue, white, and silver balloons. Nancy, Harold, Lydia, Sue, and Ron were instrumental in setting up the arch. Four blue felt snowflakes were attached along the stage curtain interspersed with the Club's white snowflakes with the new banner in the centre.

81 tickets were sold compared with 72 the year prior; three people were unable to participate that night for various reasons. It was a very enjoyable Christmas Dinner-Dance and the meal was lovely. We received a lot of compliments on it especially from members of other OTOW Clubs. Les Weiss did an outstanding DJ job with the theme and music selections and had the dance floor hopping all night.

As a surprise, we had Laurie Fischer in his elf costume assist Santa Gil Small, in Ken's Santa suit with the door prizes which was quite comedic and well received. The 7

prizes were great and very well appreciated. Santa and his elf, then helped Gary Seymour with the Share the Wealth cash prizes and then the three broke into a rendition of Ricky Nelson's 'Hello Mary Lou' after Mary Lou Wall, was called for the last STW cash prize!

Club photographer, Rowland Hetrick did a wonderful job with the photos and as always, was very creative with the Frozen theme as a background in many photos. He had it appear as though people were dancing inside the backdrop! The photos were dispersed accordingly [by each table] and President, Mary Smith set them up in an album on the Club's Facebook page.

Treasurer, Gary Seymour reported the profits were \$212.28 and he retained a small portion from STW tickets for the membership's benefit. I sent Thank-you to the Caterer, DJ, and all volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Stanley, Past President and
Christmas Dinner-Dance Event Coordinator
OTOW Canadian Club, 31 December 2023
