

Hello everyone,

Thank you for your vote of confidence in the 2018 board, since we are also your 2019 board. Our board members are myself, David Harris, Diane Vadnais (recently re-elected), Alan Lincoln, Eileen Little, Judy Robare, JoAnne Rudo, Jean Schweitzer, and Cheryl Spasojevic. Feel free to reach out to any of us with your ideas about promoting NFDI and folkdancing. New ideas are always welcome, as are people to carry them out. We have an outreach committee which welcomes new members, and could also set up new committees to help promote your own wonderful ideas.

I am a voracious reader of books of many genres. Recently, I was amused to come across this reference to folkdancing in a mystery book, Tripwire, by Lee Child. "She stretched a long, bare leg onto the chair he had just vacated. Pondered his feeling of involvement like it was some kind of an obscure hobby. Legitimate, but strange, like folkdancing."

This has led me to consider common perceptions of folkdancing by non-folkdancers. Is it routinely thought of an obscure hobby, legitimate but strange? Do most people know anything about it at all?

In the general western world, more often these days the common mode is more to be an observer than a participant. Folkdancing provides a way to replace "I could never do that" with "this is fun!" and get you involved.

If we wish to further NFDI's purpose of encouraging the study and advancement of folk dancing and its related arts, and bringing recreational dancing, instruction, and performances to the Northwest, it would behoove us to raise general consciousness of folkdancing.

Some of our members do this in spades by running weekly dances, promoting them by sending press releases to newspapers, calendars and periodicals, attending dance workshops, teaching dances at their local clubs, and participating in performing groups.

What could the rest of us do? Participate and go folkdancing. Being a NFDI member and renewing our memberships is a good start. We could talk it up to our non-dancing friends and family whenever we get a chance, inviting them to come along, even if just to watch. After all, once someone is in the room, it's easier to get them to try one dance. If we use social media, we could share photos and stories about fun dancing adventures. We could share our paper copies of the Northwest Folkdancer to show people what we are about.

Go forth and dance, and bring your friends!