

2007 MVFD Survey

A survey was conducted in 2007 by the MVFD Council.

It was limited to 20 people, who were classified as

active member

inactive member

line dancer

couple/set dancer

beginner

former member

3 people did not respond.

Questions asked:

1. What do like about MVFD?
2. What don't you like about MVFD?
3. If you could change something, what would you change?

The results of this survey were never published to the general membership.

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			8	13	10	8	7	6	
	What do you LIKE?	What don't you like	Change	activ	inac	line	cou	beg	former
1	This group feels like family	sometimes people seem clique-ish	move the dance closer to home	1		1			
		when she doesn't get to dance very much because she has to leave early and there were too many couple dances (she doesn't do many couple dances)							
2		Does not like the dances we do in the time period that she can attend. She cannot stay late because of her child.	have a kids night occasionally to encourage younger people to become interested.		1	1			
		does not like the arm movement dances and prefers the European line dances.							
3	I enjoy the dancing and the space.	There's always been a struggle to provide an even number of partner vs non-partner dances. I'm particularly sensitive to this since I'm not a fan of set dances. It's partly non-interest and partly logistics, since you need a partner and a aset with the correct number of people. I've learned Mairi's Wedding 5 times, but still can't do it. I either don't get a partner or a set. It used to be that set dances , and to some extent partner dances, would be minimized after 9:30 so I knew if I stayed long enough there would be more changes to participate. This is no longer true, with set dances still being done after 10:00. If there are folks who want to do that, that's fine, it's just not me. It takes me 40-45 mins. each way to come dance, so if I don't dance but a couple times, it gets harder to think about the drive.	Perhaps division of the evening? Or once again effort to have a division of partner and non-partner. I don't see much hope on this front since it's been an ongoing issue.		1	1			1

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	What do you LIKE?	What don't you like	Change	activ	inac	line	cour	begi	former
	The organization of the group assumes input from a large number of people which I believe gives more folks a stake in the running of the club and avoids burnout or the proprietary attitude of a few.		Change the officer election process. The current system favors the same "in group" and makes it more difficult for newcomers to participate. Instead of taking nominations from the floor, perhaps only folks who would like to be nominated should turn in slips. Or everyone there should write down their name and yes or no - it would avoid the common nominations that are always declined.						
			Instead of having yet more workshops and learning yet more dances, maybe either have a workshop to revive old dances not done for a while or before the current crop of dancers started.						
4	I like variety of dances.	The place is too hot to dance.	For a beginner the teaching is too fast and hard to follow.		1			1	1
5	I like the dances and people.	Some people are picky about others.	The MVFD need to do more Out-Reach because we are loosing members	1		1	1		
6	Like that the format has not changed its comfortable that one can come in and know what to expect	wish we had more enthusiasm, less sitting out	Don't be so provincial that you are afraid to try new things, new techniques		1	1	1		
	Amazing how friendly the group still is with all the new members - attributed to older members	cliques, people who are so arrogant that they only want to do harder dances	Be more attentive to welcming and befriending new people - "angeling"						
7	I like the 7 pm teaching, it helps me to learn new dances.	We don't have enough time to practice set dance after it's taught.	It spoiled the fun when experienced dancers were upset with me when I made mistakes at set dance.		1			1	1
8	Fun people and friendly. Nice to get together in a common interest. Learning new dances from other countries. Just plain fun. Really enjoy the lessons!	Nothing. I am learning new dances, meeting nice people, and making new friends.	Nothing		1			1	

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	What do you LIKE?	What don't you like	Change	activ	inac	line	cour	begi	former
9	What I like about MVFD is primarily the people. Of course an interest in folk dancing and a lifelong interest in other cultures first led me to MVFD but it is definitely the people I have met and the friends I have made that keep me coming back. Their enthusiasm and joy when dancing equals my own and makes Thursday night a not to be missed event.	I am bothered sometimes by the lack of overall support among our members for club sponsored events such as our workshops and Tri-City. I know how much work goes in to the planning of these events and it is discouraging when our own dancers do not support them. I realize that there are different levels of enthusiasm for learning new dances and of course ability and interest levels vary as well.	I would not really change anything about MVFD, but rather I would suggest we re-read and adhere to our trusted "Guidelines" in regards to the planning and execution of the Thursday night program. I would like to see an effort made to adhere to a more balanced program with a variety of dances from our vast repertoire. This is the responsibility of the person in charge of the program. It is his/her job to balance what is on the request board with other dances that he/she has chosen to include in the program so that we do not have a preponderance of certain dances from any one country. I know there have been complaints in the past about too many "set" dances and I know that everyone has their own favorite type of dance. This is where the program leader comes in and looks at the overall program to make sure that we have a good mix of all types of dances...some old favorites mixed in with the new, some set mixed in with couple and line dances.	1			1		
10	Mainly, the people. Also, of course, the dancing.	There's really nothing that I object to concerning the Club.	There's nothing I can think to change. I think the Club functions extremely well. Because of its committee structure, and opportunity for input by everyone, I think the Club will survive for a long, long time.	1		1	1		
	I appreciate the way everything is well-organized and well-planned.								

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	What do you LIKE?	What don't you like	Change	activ	inac	line	cour	begi	former
11	She was gung ho after the first session. Bill Vernon was wonderful, kind and considerate.	Beginners' class was not for beginners, had many experienced dancers attending and dances were taught too quickly. She felt no one wanted to dance with her and that members were not friendly.	Have a beginner's class that only beginners attend. Work on basic steps, incorporate them into a single dance so that people feel comfortable with them before moving on. Only teach one dance until they can get to do it comfortably before moving on to another dance. Don't teach so many new dances at one time.		1			1	1
			Wants people to be friendlier.						
12	I like music and rhythm and therefore dancing. Whenever I get the chance, I like to join in at MVFD and every time I do, people just take me in, they welcome you and share whatever it takes. To me it seems a happy group of people who enjoy what they are doing and, shows in their faces, which is passed on.	Because I love music, I like to enjoy it all and dance by it. So when there are certain dances which are well known to the elite group, people carry conversations while dancing. That in it self causes distraction to my ears and, I find it disruptive, because some of the music is so wonderful and meaningful. I like to take all of it in and more! I depend on the music to dance.	it takes commitment to keep it going.		1		1		
13	I am so appreciative of the first hour "easier" dances and the patience of the teachers.	Nothing. Mostly it is things about my capabilities that I wish I could change.	Trying to teach us slow learners a few more of the set dances. I know some of them are difficult, but with lots of repetition maybe my right/left deficient brain would finally get them!	1		1			
	The exercise is wonder ful and I wish I had more time to come to other events more often.								
	I appreciate the friendliness and camaraderie of all the participants and the multicultural mix of folk dancers.								
	It is wonderful to have the dances and music on the computer with the capability of programming dances and changing volume, music, etc. with a click on the screen.								

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	What do you LIKE?	What don't you like	Change	activ	inac	line	cou	begi	former
	It is great to have the listings of past dances and announcements on the web site about what is happening.								
14	I like variety of dancers and I enjoyed the people.	I like to learn more new dances at 7 & 9 pm teaching time.	I like to see more new members. The MVFD should be more diverse.		1	1			
15				1		1	1		
16	likes the lessons and thinks the teachers are very patient.		nothing to offer for improvement.		1			1	1
17					1			1	
18	likes everything about the club, the dances and the people	one person who does not like her	have more demonstrations, but does not know how to accomplish that.	1		1	1		
19	Where we dance - excellent	Don't like the extent of added dances through workshops which are costly.	Workshops that are one-nighters. 9:00 teaching - review older dances and teach one "new" dance per month. Included with the older dances could be emphasis on style (which some teachers feature already).	1					
	When - convenient	Program Committee - a big commitment for said members							
	Teachers - all highly competent	Don't like teaching at 9:00							
	Organization - management well-handled								
	Dances - computer - ease of additions & more								
19					1			1	1
20	-the 7 - 8 teaching period	-when people who don't know a dance join the line instead of dancing behind the line	-when a set dance has been requested is about to be played, have all the dancers in one long line with their partner (like a contra line); then count off sets of three (or four) to form the set. I think Harry or someone has done this in the past.		1		1		
	-the people who come to dance	-when people who are not dancing have loud conversations during the teaching period	-on every Ethic Sunday, teach (or review) at least one set dance						

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	What do you LIKE?	What don't you like	Change	activ	inac	line	cour	begi	former
	-the variety of dances requested								
	Additional comment: Some teachers, like Leslie, Harry, John, Joanne and Carolyn take time to break the steps and movements down to basic elements. Thank you for your efforts.								
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