

RSCDS John Muir Branch (Wisconsin, USA)
Number of years established as a branch: 18
Annual Report (July 2020 - June 2021)
Respectfully submitted by Ian Stuart Gaylor, Secretary

It was the year of the COVID.

The Madison Scottish Country Dancers (MSCD) did not meet in person and did not dance this year as a group.

During the annual Fall sign up period, our official membership remained steady at 28. Sadly, we lost one of our more stalwart and veteran members, Lois Bernbeck, who passed away unexpectedly in April. Lois, despite some physical limitations, was a loyal and devoted dancer. She knew the dances inside out and could always be counted on to help less experienced dancers figure out the dances.

Despite the pandemic, many of our members stayed in touch through [Zoom sessions](#) held every other Sunday evening. Most of the twenty-four virtual meetings lasted an hour. Several members continued to dance on Monday evenings thanks to the [Milwaukee group's Facebook video dance classes](#) taught by MSCD member and teacher Rebecca Winnie. Many thanks to Rebecca for making the commitment to provide Madison and Milwaukee dancers with skillfully taught virtual practice and dance. Nancy McClements added a [virtual dance page](#) to the MSCD website, providing dancers with online dance options from around the world. The MSCD Board also met several times via Zoom. The lack of other activities during the pandemic meant that several long-neglected tasks were tackled, such as revising our Constitution, organizing our physical archives, and changing to a new group email program.

The Milwaukee dance group began in-person dances in May, and a few of our dancers have been attending their dances on Monday evenings. The Wil-Mar Center in Madison, where MSCD members dance, has not yet fully reopened. The Wil-Mar Center is looking at the first week of September to open its doors to the public. MSCD members eagerly look forward to resuming our usual slate of activities, including Sunday dances, dance parties, socializing, balls, workshops, etc.

