

Minutes
EOSARDA Board Meeting - Sunday, September 18, 2011

Attendance:

Judy Adams, Paul Adams, Gavin Currie, Barbara Dennison, Paul Dennison, Nancy Morgan, Bill Shields, Bob Summers, Bruce Warner, Linda Warner, David Western, Pearl Western, Elizabeth Wollaston, Peter Wollaston (Observer)

Regrets:

Don Clingin, Jean Clingin, Cora Calwell, Andy Himberg-Larsen, Billi Langtry, Chuck Langtry, Harold Moore

1) Call to order and approval of Agenda

a) The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM

b) Approval of agenda

The draft agenda was amended by the changing the last item “h” to “k” and the addition of GIC’s under New Business.

2) Opening Remarks - Dave Western

Good afternoon and welcome to a new dance year.

2011/12 is going to be a pivotal year in the Square and Round Dance Year. Either this is the year that we reverse the downward trend in the number of dancers and start growing this movement again, or it is the year that we drop below 1,000 registered dancers. If the amount of work and effort and the number of initiatives that have been undertaken by this Board over the past three years were any indication, we would be well on our way to recouping lost ground. But, they are not, so all we can do at this point is stay the course and hope. Of course, it will be some time yet before we know which it is. In the meantime we need to ensure that come what may, this dance year is one of the best dance years ever.

To this end, we have a number of exciting initiatives underway, including a very exciting Fall Fest, which Gavin will be discussing shortly. And we have plans underway to end this year with a mega blow-out weekend that hopefully will attract a large number of dancers and be the dance party to end all dance parties.

But, as we begin this new dance year, this Board needs to carefully consider whether I should be the one to lead it through 2011/12. As most of you know, Pearl has suffered serious damage to her leg and is unable to dance at this time. We do not know how long it will take to correct this situation, but the reality is that at the present time, we are neither Square Dancing nor Round Dancing. Our priority is to pursue a suitable treatment for Pearl’s condition with a view to returning her to the dance floor in, hopefully, the not too distant future.

While the Mississippi Squares will once again be our home club, we have made arrangements with that club to be registered as non-dancing members. Of course, I continue to teach Line Dancing and in fact may be expanding my operations somewhat this year, but let’s face it, it’s not the same thing. The plain fact of the matter is that at the present time we are neither Square

nor Round Dancers. Therefore this Board needs to decide whether it is comfortable with its CEO and Secretary being non-dancers.

If it is the wish of the Board that we continue in our present capacities despite our current situation, we are prepared to do so.

If, however, this Board is of the opinion that it would be inappropriate for it to be lead by non-dancers, then we are both prepared to resign our offices and indeed to quit the Board if that is your wish. We will do so with no hard feelings and with fond memories of our time spent working with you all in pursuit of a shared and very worthy goal. It is up to you.

Bruce made a motion of confidence for David and Pearl to stay on as per the status quo. Gavin seconded the motion and all were in favour.

3) Approval of Minutes of May Board Meeting - Pearl Western

The minutes for the Board meeting of May 29 were changed as follows:

The word "Draft" was to be deleted from final minutes.

Item "c" should have the answer "yes".

4) Reports

a) Operations Committee

i) Treasurer's Report - Bruce Warner

Available on request

ii) Registrar's Report - Linda Warner

Registration packages have been sent to all clubs.

b) Dance Committee - Gavin Currie

i) Fall Fest 2011

Fall Fest will be held at Sir Robert Borden High School on October 29. The Callers will be Don Moger, Andy Himberg-Larsen and Wendy VanderMeulen. The cuers will be Jerry & Bonnie Callen, Jean & Don Clinging and Gerry & Jim Sawtell. Meri Squares has agreed to be the support club for the event. There will be dancing in the afternoon from 1:30 to 4:30 and in the evening from 7:00 to 10:00. Tickets for the full day will be \$15 per person if purchased in advance. At the door the price will be \$8 for the afternoon and \$9 for the evening.

ii) Frosty Fling 2012

Mother Teresa High School has been booked for the event on Feb 4. Gavin is still looking for a coordinator for the event.

iii) Jamboree 2012

There will be no Jamboree in 2012 as a result of the decision to hold a dance weekend in Prescott on Apr 27-29.

iv) Swing into Spring

Last Spring the Board asked Dave to undertake exploratory talks with the SVSRDA with a view

to organizing a weekend dance event to be built around the SVSRDA's Mother's Day Dance, taking advantage of the fact that Nasser Shukyer has been hired to call at that dance.

As Dave advised the Board by e-mail, these talks culminated in an agreement between the SVSRDA and EOSARDA to jointly sponsor the event which will be known as "Swing into Spring". Swing into Spring will take place on the weekend of April 27 to 29, a weekend that also happens to be the closing weekend of National Dance Week in Canada.

The aims of Swing into Spring are:

- to provide dancers with an exciting weekend of dancing that will improve their dancing skills
- to increase attendance at the SVSRDA's Annual Mothers' Day Dance.

Swing into Spring will feature a series of interesting and unusual dance workshops during the day on Saturday, April 28. (An e-mail has been sent out to all Callers and Cuers requesting suggestions for possible workshops.) Additional workshop could be scheduled for Sunday morning if desired. There will also be fun dances on both Friday and Saturday evening. The weekend will culminate with the Seaway Valley's Annual Mothers' Day Dance on Sunday afternoon.

Nasser has agreed to extend his contract to cover the entire weekend and we are in the process of contracting for the services of Jeff Priest. Our own Jean Clingin will head up the Round Dance program. A number of other local Callers and Cuers will be hired by the organizing committee once the program has been set.

South Grenville High School in Prescott has been contacted and has agreed to our request to rent the facility for the entire weekend of April 27-29, 2012. All of the weekend activities will take place in the High School which has both a small and a large gym with the latter being able to be divided in two by a movable wall. This will allow us to run up to 3 dance workshops simultaneously. With three gyms in use throughout the day, we could run as many as 18 one-hour workshops if there is sufficient interest.

Swing into Spring is intended to appeal to the greatest number of dancers possible. Therefore, it should feature events of interest to new Graduates, Mainstream, Plus and Advanced Square Dancers and to Round Dancers from Beginner through at least Phase 4.

Admission to the workshops and dances will be by weekend pass only. It is anticipated that the cost of a weekend pass will be around \$50 per dancer. However, anyone wishing to attend only the Mothers' Day Dance will be able to buy a ribbon just for that event. Profits from the weekend will be divided equally between the SVSRDA and EOSARDA and both will equally share the financial risks.

The next step is to set up an organizing committee to plan the workshops and dances in detail. EOSARDA will be represented by Dave and by volunteers from Dance Committee. Teresa MacInnis, President of the SVSRDA is also looking for volunteers from within her Association. A team of 8 to 10 people is desirable. In addition to putting together the workshop and dance programs, the organizing committee will be tasked with identifying suitable accommodations

and restaurants within the Prescott/Brockville area, and looking for special deals for those attending Swing into Spring. Hence local representation on the organizing committee is essential

There is also a need for all of the other Standing Committees to get involved and do their part.

We need to launch a Swing into Spring publicity program at the earliest possible opportunity with the aim of convincing our registered dancers that this is to be a DO NOT MISS event. This will be a major challenge for P,P and P.

Club Liaison can do its part by ensuring that all clubs are aware of Swing into Spring and actively promote it to their dancers. For example, Mississippi Squares has advised that they will plan their club's year-end events including their graduation ceremony around Swing into Spring.

The IT Committee can ensure that Swing into Spring is prominently featured on the web site.

It would also be helpful if OACA and RDTA could encourage their members to provide workshop ideas and to promote Swing Into Swing with their clubs. Of course we also hope that our Callers and Cuers will be eager to sign on as staff for what could become an annual event.

Barb suggested Morrisburg could also be a place to stay. She also suggested not canvassing Ogdensburg for restaurants.

v) Dance Committee Membership

Gavin Currie - Chair
Paul and Judy Adams
Cora Calwell
Don and Jean Clingin
Andy Himberg-Larsen
Chuck and Billi Langtry
Bruce Warner
Peter Courdin
Karen Remy
Robert and Jean Read

c) P,P and P Committee -Barb Dennison
nil report

d) Club Liaison Committee- Nancy Morgan

A copy of the new dancing recruitment subsidy was sent out. The ideas were formatted after researching other groups which offer subsidies. One of our clubs has already filled the form in. Clubs have listed their open houses on the dance site - Dance Ottawa. If you post on this site, and have Facebook, it will be posted there as well.

e) IT Committee - Bob Summers

i) Information for New Dancers.

For this fall's open house nights, it was easier for Bob to prepare his own web page than to

communicate what was needed to the EOSARDA webmaster. Bob modified the information page from last year, updating it to reflect the clubs who were teaching new dancers this year and to mention the coupons being used by many clubs. (Note that we have 2 basic level clubs that are no longer active)

The “New Dancer” page was then hosted on another website (242web.com) and the EOSARDA webmaster posted a very prominent link to that page. Because Bob had access to this website, he was able to keep the page updated as further information came in (primarily from Round Dance clubs) without needing to contact the webmaster to make changes. The link will be removed in October when we’re partly into the dance season.

ii) Updating the Website:

Not many clubs have bothered to update their contact information on the EOSARDA website. Bob gathered information from the various individual club websites and the SVSRDA calendar and prepared a memo to the webmaster noting the changes needed. He noted 5 club nights that were out of date. The information was just sent and so it is not currently up to date on the website.

iii) Website Renewal Project:

No work has been done over the summer towards making changes to our current website structure. Regular updates to the existing pages were made through the current webmaster with good response times (especially considering the webmaster was en route to Alaska and back during the summer).

Bob wants to make the EOSARDA website more fun-looking. He also wants to change the awkward menu itemizing and would like a discussion group added to eliminate emails that clutter up the system.

Bob would like to send out a bulletin to clubs looking for people interested in changing the graphics of our site to make it fun or light-hearted. If Bob prepares a draft, David will send it out as a broadcast message.

f) Festival 2014 - Dave Western

i) Registrations

As of last week, there are 258 people registered for the Festival. While this is very good, we need to double our registration every year if we are to meet our attendance target for the Festival.

To encourage registrations, the Festival Board has decided to enter all registrations received between September 1 and December 31, 2011 into a draw for a refund of the \$100 registration fee. A similar draw was made from all those who registered for Festival 2014 prior to the Halifax Convention.

ii) Countdown to Festival 2014

On July 21, the Festival Board hosted its first Countdown to Festival 2014 Dance at the Ottawa Convention Centre (OCC). The dance was designed to promote Festival 2014 and the OCC and to allow us to “test dance” the facility. While problems were identified with the carpet, signage,

air conditioning and sound, no serious problems were encountered. The Festival team has taken careful note of all comments received from dancers and is working on solutions.

Overall the dance was a great success with 211 people signing in and 233 ribbons sold. The Dance made a profit of \$ 1,059.12. The next Countdown Dance is being planned for Friday, July 20, 2012. It will once again be held at the OCC.

iii) Volunteers needed

The issue of obtaining sufficient volunteers to help plan, organize and run the Festival is becoming quite serious. A recent setback was the resignation for family reasons of Roger Frappier and Jules Bazinet from their positions as co-Chairs of the Registration Group. At the present time that group has no Chair.

As previously announced, in an effort to encourage people to volunteer, the Festival Board has decided to drop the requirement that all volunteers must be registered to attend the Festival. The Board has also decided to ask clubs to collectively assume the responsibilities of specific committees. This idea will be presented to the clubs at November's Council of Dancers.

Nancy suggested that an incentive be offered to clubs to take on a whole committee.

iv) Get the Word Out

The Festival Board is asking all dancers to take Festival registration forms with them wherever they go and to spread the word about Festival 2014 far and wide.

g) OACA Report - Paul Adams

The Ottawa Area Callers Association will not meet until October 2nd. However, I have prepared a report on the intended program for our meetings.

As the new Chairperson of the OACA I would like to maintain the same format as past years, keeping the Business portion of the meeting at the beginning, from 2:00pm – 2:45pm. followed by a 15 minute coffee/tea break before starting the Workshops. Based on suggestions and feedback from some members, I was thinking the Workshop portion could be divided into two or three segments as follows:

- # 1. New Caller Training:
- # 2. Exploring Calls for Mainstream, Plus & Advanced Callers
- # 3. Exploring the craft of Calling:

Paul would like to have couples come to the dance portion of the OACA meeting to try out interesting choreographies.

h) RDTA Report - Jean Clingin nil report

i) Hearing Assistance Working Group - Barb Dennison

There will be only one hearing assistance campaign this year. The flyer for this will be printed

in the next edition of Square Time. David will send the flyer out to all the clubs when Barb sends him a copy.

j) EOSARDA Eagles - Dave Western

Over the summer the Eagles did three demonstration/participation dances. The first of these was on Canada Day in Barrhaven with Wendy VanderMeulen calling. Wendy reports that the day “went well”.

The second was at Saunders’ Farm in Munster where we were invited to attend as part of the Music and Beyond Festival. Wendy was once again the Caller and Dave did some Line Dance workshops. The dance team was joined by a number of dancers from the Mississippi Squares. Unfortunately, we were stuck at the very back of the event area and experienced very few visitors. The few who did drop by had a good time, as did the dance team, but the public exposure was minimal.

The third was at the Newington Fair on Labour Day weekend. This was to be a joint event with the Cornwall Swinging B’s. Roger Frappier reports: “The Newington event was all right. Thanks for the invitation you sent to the Eagles, it was really appreciated. We had 2 full squares including some dancers from the B's and Morrisburg. Unfortunately, there was only a small crowd in the tent. Their official opening of the fair was scheduled at the same time as our time slot which may have been the reason for the size of the group. We'll know better to ask more questions next year if we do it again.”

There was some interest in having a square dance demo to kick off Health Canada’s United Way drive at the end of September, but in the end Health Canada decided against it.

Although the team has offered to help clubs with their Open Houses, there have been no requests to date.

k) Project Youth Working Group - Barb Dennison

Barb explained what the group’s aims were and what we were up to. Dave showed a CD of the Power Point presentation that he and Bob Summers presented to a group of Phys Ed teachers from various boards in July. The presentation was built around “Moving and Grooving” a program from B.C. that would work in our schools. It costs \$80. Grades 7 to 9 would be the level to work with. So far, although several teachers expressed an interest, no one has contacted Dave re purchasing the program.

The original intent in approaching the Catholic School Board was to try to convince the Board to adopt Moving and Grooving in all of its elementary schools. However, there has been no further interest from the Board and our e-mails have gone unanswered. Dave will try again to follow-up with our contact.

Nancy said contact needs to be made again after September. She suggested sending the Power Point presentation to Bob Thomas to remind him.

5. Old Business

a) Trillium Award - Dave Western

As previously reported, Federation has accepted the Board's recommendation that Peter Courdin and Karen Remy be awarded the Trillium Merit Award. Despite efforts to keep the award confidential, Federation sent a formal notification to Peter and Karen who have since sent the association a letter of thanks. The award will be formally presented at Fall Fest.

b) Accounting Software - Bruce Warner

Bruce has advised that no action will be taken on this item at this time. Item closed.

c) The Future of Square Time - Nancy Morgan

Pro Printers was the cheapest Nancy could find. Nancy requested the cost of subscription for Square Time be increased by \$2 and made a motion to that effect. Bruce seconded the motion. All were in favour.

Nancy is looking for people in Ottawa to help her find advertising for Square Time.

d) Fall Ad Campaign - Barb Dennison

Instead of a region-wide ad campaign, the Board decided to increase its assistance to recruiting clubs by increasing the amount of money set aside for club subsidies. A revised subsidy application form was developed and sent to all clubs. A copy of the revised form will also be printed in the next edition of Square Time.

In addition the Board supported the development of a template for a ten dollar coupon that clubs could use to encourage attendance at their open houses. It is not known at this point how widespread the use of these coupons has been, nor how successful they have been.

e) Mother's Day Weekend 2012 - Dave Western

see Dance Committee Report

f) Phase 3 to 4 Round Dance Workshop - Jean Clingin

Jean is considering incorporating this workshop into Swing Into Spring.

g) Asham Stompers - Bob Summers

This matter is on hold pending establishment of an improved website.

h) Confirmation of Committee Memberships - Dave Western

As a follow-up to the May meeting, Dave confirmed that:

Chuck and Billi have agreed to sit on P, P and P as has Elizabeth Wollaston.

Harold Moore and Bob Summers have indicated that they will sit on Club Liaison.

For a complete list of Dance Committee members see Dance Committee Report above.

New Business

a) Articles of Incorporation and Annual Report - Cora Calwell

Cora reports that in going through the boxes of old Association records, she found a letter from the province stating that the incorporation does not have to file an annual report. No reason was given. Cora surmises that it is because we are a not-for-profit organization

Cora also advises that each year after elections a notice of change of directors should be sent to the province. She has a copy of such a report and also some blank forms and suggests copying these so as to have enough for other years. Cora is unaware of how far behind the club is in this regard. She has a phone number and suggests that perhaps the secretary could call and see if we are behind in reporting the changes.

Cora adds that an annual report is not a financial report just a report saying that the incorporation is still active and may read: "The annual meeting of the incorporation was held [date], [time] [place] and the new directors were [names]."

The Board is of the opinion that it is highly unlikely that any reports have been submitted to the province over at least the past decade. There is a reluctance to open this subject up due to possible repercussions. Peter Wollaston suggested visiting the site to see if we should register with them. David will check the web site.

b) GIC - Bruce Warner

One of our GIC's has matured and has been cashed in with the proceeds being transferred to our current bank account. Bruce would like to isolate the money and use it as a reserve rather than purchasing another GIC at this time. This will be revisited in May when the second GIC comes due and after we see how many dancers have registered this year. Dave reminded the Board that the association would be liable for one third of any potential deficit arising from Festival 2014. He recommended that the money from both GIC's be kept in reserve to cover any deficit. The Board agreed with this approach.

7. Other Business

Dave presented EOSARDA badges to the new Directors. Bill Shields and Elizabeth Wollaston. Paul and Judy still have their old ones. Elizabeth will present a certificate to the Gremlins at their anniversary celebration in October.

Next meeting is October 16, 2011. Think of ways to get people to attend Council of Dancers in November.