

**Minutes**  
**EOSARDA Board Meeting - Sunday, November 20, 2011**

**Attendance:**

Judy Adams, Paul Adams, Don Clingin, Jean Clingin, Andy Himberg-Larsen, Billi Langtry, Chuck Langtry, Nancy Morgan, Bill Shields, Bruce Warner, Linda Warner, David Western, Pearl Western, Elizabeth Wollaston, Peter Wollaston

**Regrets:**

Gavin Currie, Cora Calwell, Barb Dennison, Paul Dennison, Harold Moore, Marion Moore, Bob Summers

**Observers:** Wendy Shields, Bill Weatherup

**1) Call to order and approval of Agenda**

a) The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM

b) Approval of agenda

The draft agenda was accepted.

**2) Opening Remarks - Dave Western**

Dave thanked the Board for agreeing to attend two meetings in one day. He said that the Board meeting was mostly concerned with preparing for the afternoon's Council of Dancers this afternoon. To get ready for the meeting, we needed to know how we are doing number wise, so we would be receiving a report from the Registrar. We also needed to decide what we are going to recommend to the Council re Square Time, and that we would also be discussing.

Dave also said that he intended to introduce more discipline in the way that he runs meetings. All those making reports to the Council are to keep them factual in nature. They should simply be reports about what has happened. Any issues arising from a report will be discussed under New Business. Questions from the floor will be limited to questions of clarification. Any policy issues that need to be raised should be placed under New Business.

To familiarize us all with this new procedure, he was going to adopt a similar approach at Board meetings starting immediately.

**3) Approval of Minutes, October Board Meeting - Pearl Western**

Chuck moved approval of the Minutes of the Board meeting of October 16. The motion was seconded by Bruce and unanimously approved.

**4) Reports**

**a) Operations Committee**

**i) Treasurer's Report - Bruce Warner**  
Available on request

**ii) Registrar's Report - Linda Warner**

Registrations ran quite smoothly although several clubs and associations were unable to make the deadline requested, but in the end by October 31<sup>st</sup> all were accounted for and report and payment to Federation was made in time for the data to be captured and forwarded to Society. The bottom line is not pretty but we are dealing with reality.

As of this date there are 31 registered clubs,  
4 registered associations  
971 registered dancers

This number is down significantly from last year which finalized at 1074.  
Revenues from all registrations to date included in Treasurer's report: Available on request

Amount to be forwarded to Federation based on these numbers: Available on request  
Clubs not registered this year: Spinning Spurs, Kickers, Smiths Falls Swingers.

Andy wanted to know if clubs were registering their dancers properly and wondered how many dancers were away during registration.

Bruce says Society wants every name for insurance purposes. Bruce said in the past several people were double registered.

#### **b) Dance Committee - Billi and Chuck Langtry**

##### Fall Fest 2011

Fall Fest 2011 was held at Sir Robert Borden High School on Oct 29.

This year we reintroduced square dancing in the afternoon, featuring three plus and A1 sessions led by Don Moger. In the evening there was A1 dancing followed by European Style Square Dancing at the Mainstream and Plus levels led by Don Moger and Andy Himberg-Larsen. There was also a Graduated Basics hall led by Wendy VanderMeulen. The afternoon round dance program featured a Round Dance Party with Jean & Don Clingin and Gerry & Jim Sawtell followed by a clinic led by Jerry & Bonnie Callen (Ph IV Slow Two Step). The evening round dance program featured all three cuers and levels II-V. Tickets for the full day were \$15 per person if purchased in advance. At the door the price was \$8 for the afternoon and \$9 for the evening.

For the dance we had 215 dancers registered including the leaders. This appears to be an increase from the 189 we had registered for the evening last year, although the numbers are not directly comparable as we did not require a separate sign in for the evening this year. In the afternoon, we had about the same number of round dancers as last year (approx. 50) and we also had approx. 50 in the square dance hall. Ten dancers used certificates for complimentary entry. The dance incurred a loss of \$34.52. Although the numbers attending were less than hoped, dancers were treated to a lively program which they clearly enjoyed. A Trillium Merit Award was presented to Peter Courdin and Karen Remy for their contribution to Square Dancing.

I would like to thank the Dance Committee and other volunteers who helped to plan and run the event. A special thanks to our support club, Meri Squares, led by Moe and Joannie Demers, for their well organized and enthusiastic assistance. Special thanks also to Peter Courdin and Karen Remy for handling the refreshments; to Chuck and Billi Langtry for making the initial contacts with several of our leaders; to Bruce Warner for handling the financial aspects; to Robert and Jean Read for handling the ticket distribution for advance sales; and to Nancy Morgan for designing an eye-catching poster. Thanks also to all our cuers and callers for putting on such an entertaining program.

### Frosty Fling 2012

Mother Teresa High School has been booked for Feb 4. The callers will be Andy Himberg-Larsen and Graham Ingram and the cuers Jean & Don Clingin and Gerry & Jim Sawtell. Nancy Morgan has prepared a poster and Marguerite Summers has agreed to purchase and distribute ribbons. More information is available on our web site. The price will be \$7 per person in advance and \$9 at the door. A coordinator for the event is needed.

### Jamboree 2012

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

**c) P,P andP Committee** - Barb Dennison  
nil report

**d) Club Liaison Committee** - Nancy Morgan  
There is a certificate to be signed for Harold Moore

**e) IT Committee** - Bob Summers

We've been getting good service from our Webmaster, Pat Gauthier, despite the fact that she's somewhere in the US working out of her RV. The good response is one reason that we've been a little lax in efforts to revamp the website, with things often being put on the back burner.

Our current website is a static website of web pages that are edited similar to the way you would use Microsoft Word to edit a document; the pages are then stored on a web server, linked together with a menu and accessed by a web browser. However, some of the features that we would like to implement in the future will require programming and programmer support which is not available with our current website or webmaster. Hence any significant change to our website possibly means re-implementing everything on a new server. A lot of ducks need to be in order before making such a change. Work on experimenting with features is slow but ongoing.

**f) Festival 2014** - Dave Western  
Festival 2014

- The Festival Board has not met since the last EOSARDA Board meeting.
- The Round Dance Committee has resigned.

- I have been working with Wendy and Andy to resolve the issues raised by the Round Dancers.
- The major problems seem to have been mis-communication and a lack of communication.
- Have suggested to Wendy that Board structure be simplified by elimination of one management level and a reduction in the number of committees from 36 to about 12.
- Committees should have more control over their internal structure and be smaller.
- Committee Chairs should report directly to the Festival Chair.
- Stressed need for written work plans including:
  - Agreed upon objectives and time lines
  - Milestones and due dates
  - Clear accountabilities; and
  - Written regular progress reports
- Board minutes on web.

Wendy has accepted these recommendations and has advised the Festival Board accordingly.

The most pressing need right now is for volunteers

Bruce confirmed that the financial reserve for Festival 2014 is \$11,000.

Nancy previewed the Power Point Presentation of Festival 2014-related Questions and Answers for this afternoon's meeting.

Dave confirmed that Festival financial estimates are based on a minimal attendance of 1500 dancers. To cancel the Festival, Council, Federation and Society approvals would be required and we would incur significant financial penalties in order to cancel contracts with the Convention Centre and the Vendors' Village. We would also have to refund all Registrations received to date. However, these funds are being used to cover expenditures. Non-recoverable funds would have to be reimbursed from the financial reserve.

Paul said if there is a danger of a deficit, then some clubs might not registration next year and run independent with no connection with EOSARDA. David said the clubs are responsible for the decision they made to undertake Festival 2014. In his opinion, withdrawing from EOSARDA would not relieve a club of obligations previously incurred.

Judy said that in her opinion clubs' Council representatives should not have voted in favour of Festival 2014 without first consulting their clubs.

Dave responded that under the Constitution, club representatives are mandated to vote on behalf of the club they represent. While a deferral could have been requested, no one chose to do so. In choosing to vote on the motion club representatives acted legally and their decision was binding on the clubs.

A lively discussion on the best way to deal with the current crisis ensued.

**g) OACA Report - Paul Adam**

OACA meeting on Sunday Nov 6, 2011. had 12 Callers & 5 Partners for a total of 17 members attending. Total Caller Membership is 20.

A Survey determined that eight Callers are currently teaching a Class. The number of prospective New Dancers on Nov. 6, 2011 was 95, down 12 from the October report.

A Survey of Callers' start dates determined that Bob Cathcart has the most experience, starting in 1955 for 56 years total, followed by Keith Watters starting in 1958 with 53 years, and John Charman starting in 1969 for 42 years. The total years of Calling experience, within the OACA is 425.

Three excellent Workshops were conducted:

- (a) Two Faced Line Sight Resolution: presented by Richard Sharman
- (b) The Mike Sikorsky Method "Activator-Stream System": presented by Dave Currie
- (c) How I teach "Coordinate": presented by Andy Himberg-Larsen

#### **h) RDTA Report - Jean Clingin**

Fall Fest rounds were well attended. The afternoon teach done by Jerry & Bonnie Callen was a huge success, everyone made positive comments. The floor was not the best.

Capital Capers this past weekend was very good and well attended. Steve & Irene did several great clinic/teaches.

We've had our final meeting of the year November 12th – the next meeting being in January.

Our Valentine's Dance is coming up February 11<sup>th</sup>. All round dancers welcome. All proceeds to Heart 'n Stroke.

#### **i) Hearing Assistance Working Group - Barb Dennison**

Many dancers have purchased the Deluxe Hearing Assistance System but not all clubs have purchased Deluxe systems, so dancers' ability to use their system is somewhat limited. Everyone I have spoken to, who wears a receiver, thinks they are excellent. What is the problem.....I don't know. The price is right. It is very simple to see those that have difficulty hearing but try to sell them on the equipment .... they won't budge. These folks break down squares or stop in the middle of a square because they are unable to hear.

I believe that every club should have an FM system hooked up & if a dancer has a receiver then maybe they could show members of the club just how well it works. Talk it up.

Think about Festival 2014....there will be a need for Hearing Enhancement equipment in each hall. Every flyer that is printed should show "Hearing Enhancement is available"!

### **5. Old Business**

#### **a) Swing into Spring 2012 - Dave Western**

- Contracts signed with Nasser Shuyker and Jeff Priest, Jean Clingin has agreed in principle.

- Draft program structure established.
- Next step is to fill in the schedule starting with Nasser, Jeff and Jean.
- Nasser has been contacted and I am waiting for his reply.
- Will fill in the blanks with local callers.
- Fee for the weekend probably \$50 per dancer.

**b) Articles of Incorporation and Annual Report - Dave Western**

Cora considers that we are in jeopardy of losing our not-for-profit status by not filing annual reports with the province. David consulted with Federation which advised against changing the current practice. Based on this advice, the Board decided not to take any action at this time.

**c) Financial Status of Square Time - Nancy Morgan**

Thank You for all the support I have received as editor of Square Time. It is a pleasure for me and I enjoy it very much.

Issue: With the recent increase in printing costs, Square Time will lose money in 2012.

**Observations:**

1. I receive approximately 5 square dance magazines from various places and it seems we are the only association magazine that is a full 8 1/2 x 11. All the others are in small folded booklet form.
2. Several associations have moved towards the idea of an online web page method of information exchange.
3. Most other associations charge more for both advertising and subscriptions than we do for their square dance magazines.

**Suggestions:**

**Short Term:**

Since the cost of printing has doubled, our advertising rates should double as well. For the upcoming Volume (#58 - January to December), we should increase our cost for advertising. Note that the following suggestions are in keeping with advertising rates in other Canadian association magazines.

**Full Page:**

Member - \$50

Other - \$75

**Half page**

Member - \$40

Other - \$65

**Business Card**

Member - \$10

Other - \$20

**Long Term:**

Increase the subscription costs again from \$10 to \$20 per year. Note that most of the other booklets are charging \$25 or \$30 per year. Although they are issuing more issues per year, the booklets are smaller in page quantity and size.

**Other Suggestions:**

1. I will attempt to condense as much as possible. This might involve smaller print, but no information would be eliminated.
2. Other associations should pay for advertising their events (not news, only events where they will be making money) i.e., OACA, RDTA, SVSRDA, etc...
3. Benefit dances could pay half the ad rate
4. More advertising in general. If we were to have ten \$20 commercial business cards, it would generate \$200/per issue and many of our problems would be eliminated. This could be tasked to the clubs, but also it would be helpful to me if someone could take on the job of coordinating advertising for Square Time.

Following a discussion on the suggestions presented, Paul moved that: Square Time should operate as a business and all advertisements should be paid for but there should be no charge for news content. The motion was seconded by Andy and was unanimously approved.

**6. New Business**

**a) Council of Dancers**

The draft agenda for Council of Dancers was approved.

**7. Other Business**

Next meeting will take place on January 15, 2012 at the Ottawa Citizen Building.