

Minutes
Council of Dancers, November 20, 2011

Attendance:

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

Club Representatives:

Adam's Aces - Judy Adams, Paul Adams
Bay Waves - Pierre Reinhard, Mary Anne Reinhard
Capital Steppers - Bruce Warner, Linda Warner
Good Time Squares - Elizabeth Wollaston, Peter Wollaston
Got Lines - Dave Western, Pearl Western
Grenville Gremlins - Robert Lamarche
Harbour Lites - Regina Gerhard, Germain Hull, Shirley Hull
Lockits - Barbara Dennison, Geoff Clarke
Meri Squares - Richard Sharman, Anne Graham
Mississippi Squares - Helgi Goodman
PJ's - Valerie Goodwin, Leslie Goodwin
Rhapsody Rounds - Peter Graham, Daphne Pearson, Don Pearson, Dorothy Tweed
Round Tuit Dancers - Gerry Sawtell, Jim Sawtell
Seaway Squares - Marie Vengerhoeds, Adrian Vengerhoeds, Harold Moore, Marion Moore
Sunshine Squares - Shirley Nixon, Ransom Nixon
Swinging B's - Roger Frappier, Jules Bazinet
Swingin' Saints - Peter Etue, Lois Etue
Swinging Swallows - Bill Shields, Wendy Shields
Take-A-Step Rounds - Jean Clingin, Don Clingin
Trackers - Fletcher Thomson, Chuck Langtry, Billi Langtry
Village Squares - Bob Forsyth
Wendy's Elegant Eights - Wendy Vandermeulen

Regrets:

Gavin Currie, Cora Calwell, Bob Summers

1. Call to Order - Dave Western

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

2. Confirmation of Quorum - Linda Warner

Linda verified that there was a quorum of clubs present.

3. Amendments to and approval of the draft Agenda - Dave Western

The draft agenda was accepted as circulated.

4. Opening Remarks - Dave Western

Thank you for attending this very important meeting of EOSARDA's Council of Dancers.

A few points of order before we begin.

Under the Constitution and by-laws, any registered dancer may attend and speak at the meeting, but only Club Representatives have a vote. Each registered club may have up to 2 representatives both of whom may vote on any issue before the Council. But no individual Club Rep may vote more than once on any issue. Directors cannot vote unless they are also Club Reps.

The Board is bound by any decision or direction issued by this Council.

We will take a fifteen minute break around 2:45 at which time we will have tea/coffee and home baked goodies prepared by the Club Liaison Committee. I would ask that you resume your seats promptly at the end of the break.

As I am sure you are all aware, we are facing a very serious challenge in our region - Festival 2014. We are going to spend considerable time this afternoon discussing the current situation and determining what we are going to do about it. I expect that this discussion will take most of the hour that has been allocated to it. However, this meeting will adjourn at no later than 4:30

But before we get to this issue, we need to understand what is the current situation dance-wise in our region at the beginning of a new dance year. Accordingly we are going to hear reports from our Treasurer, our Registrar, our various standing committees, Federation and Society. These reports are intended to bring you up to date with goings on across our region.

I have asked all presenters to keep their reports brief and factual. Policy issues are to be addressed in the business portions of the meeting. Similarly, in the interest of time, questions about reports are to be limited to points of clarification or better understanding of what is being reported. Again matters of policy or discussions on any issues will be deferred until the Business portions of the meeting.

Are there any questions about how we are going to proceed this afternoon? Then let's get on with it.

5. Approval of April 2011 Minutes - Pearl Western

The minutes were questioned by Gerry. She wanted to know why, if the April meeting was our Annual General Meeting, there was no comprehensive financial report presented. Bruce replied that our Fiscal Year ends on June 30 and therefore a financial report cannot be presented to Council until the November meeting. He also noted that an audit report cannot be done until after the end of the Fiscal Year. Such a report is an integral part of the financial reporting system.

Roger Frappier from Swinging B's moved that the minutes be adopted as circulated and Andy Himberg-Larsen seconded it.

6. Reports

a) Operations Committee

i) Financial Report - Bruce Warner

Information available on request

\$ 3,123.00 has been submitted to Federation for memberships.

A complete financial report was submitted to the Council (see Appendices A, B C and D). However, technical difficulties were experienced with the audio-visual equipment making it difficult to read and understand the reports. Bruce reported on the highlights of the financial situation and as a result of his explanations, Ann Graham of Meri Squares moved that the budget be approved in principle subject to a detailed review when all of the financial reports are circulated with the minutes. Chuck seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Sawtell asked if the financial balance as reported by Bruce represented the total of all our assets. Bruce responded that there is an additional \$8,000 invested in a GIC. This forms part of our financial reserve for Festival 2014.

Peter Graham of Rhapsody Rounds asked if there was money available for Caller/Cuer training. Bruce confirmed that this was the case.

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 31st, all were accounted for and report and payment to Federation were 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 \$ 5,127.00

Amount to be forwarded to Federation based on these numbers \$ 3,123.00

Helgi Goodman of Mississippi Squares asked if some clubs have not renewed.

It was anticipated that we would lose 4-5 clubs this year due to attrition, but in the final analysis we appear to have only lost 3 clubs.

Fletcher Thompson of Trackers has 3 dancers who registered late and asked if they could still be registered with EOSARDA.

Bruce replied that he will accept any membership fees up until today. Insurance cards will not be issued for any subsequent registrations.

This information caused considerable consternation and Peter Graham said that he would address the issue as part of his Society Report (see below)

Gerry Sawtell said that members who have paid and are not insured should get their money back. Bruce repeated that anyone registered as of this meeting is insured.

Valerie Goodwin of Village Squares asked when the new insurance year started. It starts January 1, 2012.

Les Goodwin of PJ's asked how many new dancers are registered. Linda replied that according to the registration forms, there are 37 new Basic dancers registered.

Paul Adams, speaking on behalf of OACA reported that according to an informal survey of the Callers there appear to be 95 new dancers. There appears to be no clear answer for this discrepancy, which seems to result from the way the dancer information is set out on the registration form.

David said that a name-based data base would help us to better understand our dancer population and would provide better statistics.

Bruce said changing the form to better collect Round Dancer data would be helpful.

b) Publicity, Promotions and Publishing Committee - Barbara Dennison
nil report

c) Dance Committee - Billi and Chuck Langry for Gavin Currie
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 A-1 sessions led by Don Moger. In the evening there was A-1 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 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 (approximately 50) and we also had approximately 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 by Federation and EOSARDA 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 will be held at Mother Teresa High School on Feb 4. The Callers will be Andy Himberg-Larsen and Graham Ingram. The Cuers will be 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 on our web site. The price will be \$7 per person in advance and \$9 at the door. I am still looking for a support club for the event.

There will be no Jamboree in 2012 as a result of the decision to hold a dance weekend, Swing into Spring, in Prescott on Apr 27-29. There will be a separate report on this event.

We are always happy to welcome additional dancers to the Dance Committee. If any one here is interested, please speak to me or any member of the Dance Committee. Dance Committee members do not have to be members of the EOSARDA Executive.

d) Information Technology Committee - Bob Summers

We have been getting good service from our Webmaster, Pat Gauthier, despite the fact that she is somewhere in the US working out of her RV. The good response is one reason that we have 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 from our 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.

e) Club Liaison, Recognition and Awards Committee - Nancy Morgan

A certificate was presented to Harold Moore in recognition of his 25 years of calling modern square dancing.

f) Hearing Enhancement 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 who wears a receiver, to whom I have spoken to 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"!

g) Ottawa Area Callers Association (OACA) - Paul Adams

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) Round Dance Teachers Association (RDTA) - 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 Caper 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 11th. All Round Dancers are welcome. All proceeds will go to Heart and Stroke.

Gerry has 25 new dancers in her club.

i) Festival 2014 - Wendy VanderMeulen

- § To date 269 registrations have been received
- § Unfortunately the Round Dance Committee has resigned.
- § Wendy has been working with Dave and Andy to resolve the issues raised by the Round Dancers.
- § Major problems seem to have been mis-communication and a lack of communication
- § Board structure will be simplified by
 - § elimination of one management level and
 - § a reduction in the number of committees from 36 to about 12.
- § Committees will have more control over their internal structure and be smaller.
- § Committee Chairs will report directly to the Festival Chair.
- § Wendy has stressed the 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 will be posted on web
- § Travelling dancers should take registrations with them to promote the Festival.
- § The next Countdown to Festival 2014 Dance is scheduled for Friday, July 20, 2012. It will once again be held at the Ottawa Convention Centre, but will be in a larger room than the 2011 dance.
- § Clubs are encouraged to hold trail-in dances for the out of town guests.
- § Jewellery, as a fund-raiser for Festival 2014, was displayed.
- § Bank balance: just over \$22,000 in the bank.

Wendy invited everybody to get involved and make the Festival a success.

j) Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation - Billi Langtry

Billi explained the Federation's Award System and asked clubs to verify if anyone deserves an award of merit. Success stories shared with clubs across the province.

Billi also stated that Square Dance Licence plates are available through Federation and Motor Vehicle Licence Bureaus for about \$50. Peter Etue of Swingin' Saints said there has been a

price increase and the plates now cost approximately \$82.

k) Canadian Square and Round Dance Society - Peter Graham

Peter explained that Society has about 5000 dancers across the country. Money is available for recruiting and training new cuers and callers.

Following up on his comments re insurance, Peter discussed in some detail the insurance issue. He stated that the Membership fee includes low-cost liability insurance which covers dancers, Executives and clubs. Insurance coverage runs from January 1st to December 31st of the calendar year. October 31 was this year's deadline for clubs to complete their paperwork for 2012. The cost per registrant is less than \$1 per year.

For reasons of cost, it has been decided that effective December 15, 2011, the policy will not be re-opened during the year to add new dancers. As a result, dancers registered after November 15 of this year will not be insured until and unless they register for the 2012/13 dance year.

However, membership applications will continue to be accepted throughout the dance year.

Peter also stated that the question of insurance cards is being considered. Right now we operate on the honour system but in the future, a membership card may be required in order to attend a dance.

Fletcher Thompson of Trackers asked about the 3 dancers who registered late. Peter said they can dance, but will not be covered. They will need their home-owners or tenants insurance policy to cover them should anything should happen.

Valerie Goodwin of PJ's asked if the deadline is November 15 or October 31. Peter said any registrations after Nov. 15 will not be covered until next year. Insurance coverage starts January 1st for registered dancers.

Paul Adams of PJ's asked if a large number of insurance could be purchased.

Peter replied that the insurance company insists that cards only be issued for named individuals. Therefore, we can only obtain sufficient cards for the number of persons who are registered. Individual club can decide how they sell membership, with or without the insurance.

Geoff Clarke of Lockits asked how many claims have been made in the last 10 years. Peter said one. Wendy VanderMeulen said that there are 2 cases presently before the courts, one each in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

David pointed out that without the insurance policy, the City of Ottawa and most school boards will not rent space to you.

6. Old Business

a) Festival 2014 - Success or Failure? - Dave Western and Wendy VanderMeulen

Dave stated that in April 2008, Council of Dancers approved a motion directing the Board to apply to host Festival 2014. He pointed out that, under the By-laws and Constitution of this organization, Directors do not have a vote on matters before Council and that a motion approved by Council is binding on the Board. He said that while the clubs voted to host Festival 2014, the requisite support has not been forthcoming. As a result only a small number of people are doing most of the work. Going forward this is not a tenable situation since the amount of work to be done will increase as the Festival dates approach. This lack of support is placing the whole Festival in jeopardy and could result in a significant financial deficit.

Dave then presented a Power Point presentation outlining the problem and its possible implications (Appendix E), after which questions were taken from the floor.

Fletcher Thompson asked what is the minimum number of registrations required to break even? Dave replied that the breakeven point is 1,500 paid registrations.

Valerie Goodwin inquired about the geographic distribution of those who have registered. Are they local or from out of town?

Wendy replied that most registrants are local. The out-of-towners are mostly Callers, Society and Federation.

Jim Sawtell said it seems nothing is going on and people are not being informed of what has happened.

Dave said that the lack of activity is directly related to the lack of volunteers. In many areas there is no one to do the work and as a consequence it is not being done.

Helgi Goodman is concerned about the decline in dancers and how it will affect the attendance at Festival. How can we run convention with so few people?

David acknowledged that this could be a problem but pointed out that this issue was raised at Council in 2008 and Council decided to proceed anyway. The problem of low membership is everywhere for many activities and groups. Every club needs to work hard to recruit new members.

Dave added that Halifax was successful with 1300 dancers and in his opinion Ottawa is in a better geographic location than Halifax and should therefore be able to attract more dancers.

Helgi agreed that we have to look at past data to support our planning hypotheses.

Gerry Sawtell asked if Festival 2014 has a budget formulated.

Dave responded that the current budget is \$58,000. If we were to cancel today, EOSARDA would incur a liability of \$78,000 for the Convention Centre unless the space could be resold for the dates in question. He also pointed out that some of the money received for registrations has either been spent or committed and that money would have to be reimbursed by EOASRDA/Federation/Society if the convention were to be cancelled.

Gerry asked if guests are welcome at Festival Board meetings. Wendy confirmed that this is the case.

Jim Sawtell wanted to know about the sizes of the rooms.

Wendy said that the biggest room, The Canada Hall, is on the 3rd floor. It can be partitioned into several smaller halls. The sizes of all the dance halls can be found on the OCC web site.

Jim also expressed concern about the amount and quality of flooring.

Dave replied that the Board is trying to determine the amount of flooring available at no cost from the OCC. The Board will rent the rest.

Andy Himberg-Larsen said Ron Holland has new flooring that locks down better. He promised that the Round Dance floors will be provided with good flooring (hardwood interlocking). Dave added that at National Conventions in the U.S. dancing was often on cement floors.

Shirley Nixon asked about the number of rooms changing from the original meeting. She wanted to know the difference in rental.

Wendy said as a result of the change from the Westin to the OCC the cancellation penalties were significantly reduced. David explained that renting the OCC had to be done in advance to ensure that the space will be available when required and that in doing so we received a better deal than we would have with a last-minute booking.

Les Goodwin asked about the conflict with Summer Magic.

Wendy pointed out that Don Moger has registered for Festival as a Caller.

David said that since the Cornwall will take place a month after Festival, this should not be a problem.

Peter Graham pointed out that Halifax didn't suffer from this.

Wendy said after the past two conventions, there was an influx of new dancers. David pointed out that a Wearable Art group is putting on a fashion show to attract the general public as well as a Vendor's Village that will attract them as well. The public will be offered free Square and Round dance lessons as a recruiting mechanism. This is one of the initiatives to arrest the decline in membership. Outsiders will be exposed to this activity and given a chance to experience it.

David has a proposal: Go back to your club and as a unit take on a specific responsibility. Pick a chair, meet, put a plan together, set deadlines, meet targets. Many hands make light work. This could be a way to resolve the problem.

Wendy said that as a group clubs could take on an area eg. Heritage, Sewing Room.

Peter Graham said that there are very detailed manuals available from past conventions to help the clubs.

Regina Gerhard said none of the jobs mean anything to her without a job description. Wendy responded that all job descriptions are available through the Festival web site and Nancy has copies on hand.

Helgi Goodman asked if the Power Point is available. Nancy will send it to people interested. Geoff said re-structuring will affect the volunteers. When will it be available to those interested? David said very soon in the new year. Wendy said the jobs are the same but committees will report directly to the Chair.

Peter Etue said that he has done a survey of his club members. 30 out of 60 do not plan to register due to health, family commitments or lack of interest. Is there any thought for one-day passes? Wendy said that in order to encourage the maximum number of registrations for the whole Festival, we are not offering one day passes at this time. She pointed out that Halifax did not offer day passes until just before the event took place.

David said day passes will probably be available closer to the date of the event.

Andy Himberg-Larsen said none of the conventions he has gone to and will be attending, offer day passes. He knows that you can walk in and get a day pass very cheaply on the day.

Summing up, go back to your club, discuss the problem and take on a responsibility. Every little bit will help. This is too big a recruiting tool to let slip by. We need to improve dancing skills and get people excited about it. Festival Board members are available upon request to facilitate discussion.

8. New Business

a) Are your club contacts current? - David Western

David talked about the new dancing year and asked that club ensure that the Registrar's club contact information is current. Bruce said all the information came from club registrations.

b) Recognition of significant anniversaries - Nancy Morgan

Nancy talked about 2 events that were missed. Please let her know about these events in advance so that we can recognize everyone in EOSARDA.

c) Insurance status of Pay-by-week Dancers - Dave Western

Dave said that while he knows that several clubs take great pains to ensure that all dancers are registered, he is concerned that some pay-by-the-week dancers may be slipping through the cracks. In his opinion, this could be part of the reason for the decrease in the number of registered dancers.

He pointed out that money from EOSARDA dues is used to fund Caller and Cued training and to run our regional dances.

A lively discussion ensued.

d) Square Time Finances - Nancy Morgan

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 will 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.

A discussion of the merits of Nancy's suggestions followed. All points raised will be taken into consideration.

This portion of the meeting concluded with Dave reading the Board's motion that Square Time should operate as a business and all advertisements should be paid for but there should be no charge for news content.

e) Round Table Discussion - Results of Your Recruiting Efforts for 2011/12

Good, Bad or Indifferent

Due to lack of time, this item was deleted. Club reps are requested to email David on what did and didn't work for them this year.

f) Swing into Spring - Dave Western

There was no time left to discuss this issue. For information purposes, the following is the report that would have been made had time permitted.

- § Contracts have been signed with Nasser Shuyker and Jeff Priest, Jean Clingin has agreed in principle to head up the Round Dance program at Swing into Spring
- § A 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
- § I will fill in the blanks with local callers
- § Fee for the weekend will probably be \$50 per dancer

9. Other Business

The next Council of Dancers will take place on April 15 , 2012 at a location to be decided. Proposals for locations can be submitted to David. Regina Gerhard proposed Prescott.

Appendix E
Text of Festival 2014 Power Point Presentation

Festival 2014
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. What is Festival 2014?

- Festival 2014 is a Canadian National Square and Round Dance Convention
- It will feature dances and workshops for all levels of square, round, clogging, line and contra dancers.

2. Is there a Festival 2012?

- Canadian Square and Round Dance conventions usually take place every two years
- Conventions are planned, organized and run by regional associations.
- No region was willing to sponsor a Convention in 2012, therefore no convention will take place

3. Why did the EOSARDA Board of Directors decide to sponsor Festival 2014?

- The decision to sponsor Festival 2014 was not made by the EOSARDA Board of Directors
- This decision was made by the member clubs of EOSARDA sitting in a Council of Dancers pursuant to a motion put forward by Wendy VanderMeulen
- See minutes April 2009 – Council of Dancers Meeting

4. Why did the EOSARDA Board of Directors decide to sponsor Festival 2014?

- While a Council of Dancers is chaired by the President of the Board of Directors neither he nor any of the other Directors or Officers of EOSARDA have a vote at the Council of Dancers
- The Chair, Directors or Officers of EOSARDA Board of Directors can only vote at the Council of Dancers if they are also acting as representatives of a Club
- But ... the EOSARDA Chair, even if acting as a Club Representative, does not have a vote unless it is to break a tie

5. Why did the Council of Dancers decide to sponsor Festival 2014?

- There was no single reason why the club representatives decided to support the motion.
 - a) Some did not want to see the tradition of regular Canadian S&RD Conventions die
 - b) others enjoy taking part in events of this nature either as organizers or as participants
 - c) others felt it was EOSARDA's duty to answer the call
- To determine what motivated each representative to vote in favour of the motion, it would be necessary to ask that person directly

6. Was the absence of Festival 2012 one of the reasons for taking on Festival 2014?

- 2006, 2008 and 2010 were in eastern Canada
- We did not know that there wasn't going to be a 2012
- We purposely took on 2014 thinking it would force another Association to pick up 2012

- We hoped an Association from Western Canada would take on 2012
- A 4 year hiatus in National Conventions might wet dancers appetites for attending Festival 2014
- Allowing for five years of planning was also a consideration

7. Was any consideration given to the fact that we have an aging dancer population?

- This point was brought up during the discussion on the motion
- In the end, Council decided that there were sufficient human resources in the region to run a successful Convention
- An assumption was made that dancers who join between 2009 & 2014 would help with the planning

8. FEST\$VAL 2014 - How much will it cost?

- What is the cost of putting on the Festival?
- The current forecast expenditure of Festival 2014 is \$187,200
- The amount may increase as prices are firmed up closer to the Festival dates

9. Has any Canadian Sq&Rd Convention ever lost money?

- To date all Canadian Conventions have realized significant profits
- The profit from the London Convention was in the order of \$27,000

10. What is the projected profit from Festival 2014?

- The Festival Board is projecting a profit of \$58,000

11. If there is a profit, does it all go to EOSARDA?

- Any profit will be split evenly between:
 - The Canadian Square and Round Dance Society
 - The Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation
 - The Eastern Ontario Square and Round Dance Association

12. Will any of this money go to the clubs?

- Yes, but indirectly
- EOSARDA funds are used to publicize and promote Square and Round Dancing in our region
- The Board of Directors, subject to guidance received from the Council of Dancers, decides how best to use funds received

13. If there is a financial loss, to what extent is EOSARDA responsible?

- The Canadian Square and Round Dance Society = 1/3 financially responsible
- The Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation = 1/3 financially responsible
- The Eastern Ontario Square and Round Dance Association = 1/3 financially responsible

14. Does EOSARDA have a financial reserve to cover potential loss?

- EOSARDA has set aside approximately \$11,000 as a financial reserve to cover any financial

loss arising from Festival 2014

- This is money currently invested in GIC's

15. Is the reserve sufficient to cover any potential loss?

- That depends on the size of the deficit
- Given the three party responsibility for any loss, the money that has been set aside will be sufficient to cover EOSARDA's portion of a loss up to \$33,000
- Should the total loss exceed that amount the money set aside would not suffice

16. If the loss exceeds the reserve, what happens?

- EOSARDA would first use whatever funds that it had in its current account (traditionally between \$4,000 and \$5,000) to cover its share of the loss
- If that still did not suffice, the Association would have to file for bankruptcy protection

17. If the loss exceeds the reserve, what happens?

- It is not clear whether clubs, as constituent members of EOSARDA, would have any financial liability for any outstanding debts

18. Why are clubs being told that they might be responsible for part of any financial loss?

- The decision to sponsor Festival 2014 was taken collectively by the clubs as constituent members of EOSARDA
- While individual Directors enjoy protection from financial liability under the Constitution and By-Laws, no such protection exists in respect of the member clubs
- The Board therefore is of the opinion that clubs should be aware of a potential problem in this regard
- The Board hopes that in bringing this issue to the clubs' attention at this time, collective action will be taken to avoid any possibility of a deficit

19. The Festival is over 2 ½ yrs away ... What's the problem?

- While much of the real work of getting ready for the convention will take place in the 6 month period immediately prior to the convention, there is a great deal of advanced planning and organizing required in order to put on a convention of this size
- There is no time to lose - the remaining time to Festival 2014 will pass very quickly
- The sooner that we get started, the better are our chances of making Festival 2014 a success
- Currently, we are lacking volunteers at all levels of the Festival organization from Group and Committee Chairs to committee members
- We are at a serious risk of a planning, organizing and financial shortfall
- Without help we will be forced to unfortunately severely scale down the event
- But... under no circumstances will we cancel the event

20. Do I have to be registered for F2014 to help organize the event?

- In recognition of the long lead times involved in planning Festival 2014, and in consideration of the need for many more volunteers than have currently come forward, the

Festival Board has waived this requirement

21. I'm not sure if I will be still dancing in 2014. If I volunteer to help out, am I on the hook to help the committee for the next 2 ½ years?

- While it would be good to keep as many volunteers through to 2014 to ensure continuity and consistency, the Festival 2014 Board has recognized that this may not be practicable
- Therefore, in light of the pressing need for willing volunteers, please consider volunteering for as much time as you are able

22. What committees need volunteers?

- Volunteers are required at all levels of the festival organization
- Most committees do not have any committee members
- Check the following link to find a complete list of committees and requirements
www.festival2014.ca/documents/committeeDuties2014.pdf

23. Festival 2014 Organization

Officers

- Chair Wendy VanderMeulen
- Co-Chair John Charman
- Vice Chair Dave Western
- Secretary Lorraine Cole

Education Group

- Chairs Ted & Freda Moore
- Committee Chairs
- Fashion Show Dave Western
- Festival Dress: VACANT
- Discussion Groups VACANT
- Heritage VACANT
- Sewing Room VACANT

Facilities Group

- Chairs Vacant
- Committee Chairs
- Hospitality Lamar Mason & Lynn Legree
- Venue VACANT
- Flooring VACANT
- Vendors' Village Dave Western
- Decorations VACANT
- Operations Centre VACANT

Finance Group

- Chair Richard MacDonald
- Committee Chairs

- Treasurer VACANT
- Auditor Paul Lavigne
- Grants & Sponsorships Lorraine Cole
- Ways & Means Dave Western

Program Group

- Chair Andy Himberg-Larsen
- Committee Chairs
- Square Dance Program Geoff Clarke
- Round Dance Program: Phase II – VI VACANT
- Other Dance Programs VACANT
- Sound: Andy Himberg-Larsen
- Operations Centre VACANT
- Outdoor Events VACANT
- Trail In / Trail Out Dances Festival Board

Publicity Group

- Chairs Anne Graham & Nancy Morgan
- Committee Chairs
- Advertising / Promotion: VACANT
- Ambassador Mary Anne Reinhard
- Media VACANT
- Tourist & Spectator VACANT
- Program Book Nancy Morgan
- Ceremonies VACANT

Registration Group

- Chair VACANT
- Committee Chairs
- Registrar John Charman
- Registration Dean & Shirley Benson
- Camping / RV VACANT
- Hotels Lloyd Adams
- Welcoming VACANT
- Volunteers VACANT

24. How do I volunteer?

- Contact the Festival 2014 Chair Wendy VanderMeulen
613.987.2711
wendyv@sympatico.ca

25. 2014 is still a long way away – why should I register now?

- With pre-registration comes greater commitment to ensuring the success of the event

- Money received from registrations provide the Festival organizers with working capital, thus precluding the need for cash advances from EOSARDA
- Pre-registration provide Festival organizers with greater budgetary certainty
- A large number of advanced registrations is a powerful selling point when dealing with potential advertisers, sponsors and vendors

- Pre-registration incentive
 - Dancers who register on or before December 31, 2011 will have their names entered in a draw for a refund of their registration fee

26 Questions?