

EOSARDA – COUNCIL OF DANCERS

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 18TH. 2012 – OTTAWA

In attendance:

Adams Aces	Paul Adams*
Bay Waves	Mary Anne Reinhard
Charmin Promenaders	Wendy Vander Meulen
Capital Steppers	P. Courdin, K. Remy
Capital Carousels	Billi Langtry*
Limestone Dancers	Bob Summers
Lockits	Geoff Clarke Paul Dennian
Merri Squares	Barbara Englehart, June Tripp, Ann Daveland
Mississippi Squares	Helgi Goodman, Sharen Goodman
PJ's	Judy Adams*
Round Tuit Dancers	Jim Sawtell
Rhapsody Rounds	Chuck Langtry*, Gavin Currie*
Seaway Squares	Harold Moore, Marion Moore
Sunshine Squares	Ian Cuthill, Pam Cuthill
Swinging B's	Joan Goudreau, Helen MacCallum
Swingin Saints	Elizabeth Wollaston*, Peter Wollaston*
Swinging Swallows	Wendy Shields, Bill Shields
Trackers	Pierre Reinhard
Got Lines	Dave Western*
Village Squares	Bob Forsyth
Cookie Club	Bruce Warner*, Linda Warner*

EOSARDA BOARD MEMBERS: Barb Dennison, Roger Frappier, Andy Imberg-Larsen, Nancy Morgan, Lauraine Smith and the above identified with an *.

1. President David Western called the meeting to order at 13 h 37.

2. Registrar Linda Warner confirmed that we had a **quorum** with 20 clubs represented.

3. President's opening remarks:

Good afternoon and welcome to the November 2012 Council of Dancers. If any of you have not yet signed in, would you please do so now and if you are representing a club, please make sure that the name of the club is clearly indicated. (PRINT legibly please, Roger has to try and read it later.)

If you don't have one, copies of the amended agenda are available on the back table.

A few house-keeping items before we begin:

To access the washrooms, go through the door on my left and turn left.

As you know, we will be serving pizza this afternoon. In order not to get too far past lunchtime, we will take a 30 minute pizza break in about an hour.

Before we begin the meeting proper, I need to confirm with our Registrar, Linda Warner, that we have the necessary quorum to conduct Council business. Linda, do we have a quorum of the Council present?

As for the business part of the meeting:

- 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.

- 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.

When addressing Council, please keep in mind that, no matter how infamous you may think you are, you are not necessarily known to everyone in the hall. The Secretary in particular needs to know who you are and what club you represent. That way he will know who to blame when making up the Minutes and also who to contact if there are any questions about what was said. So when addressing the meeting, please state your name and club affiliation before contributing to the discussion.

Those of you with prepared texts are asked to submit them to the Secretary electronically as soon as possible after the meeting.

I also have to announce, with regret, that for personal reasons, Jean and Don Clingin have resigned as Directors and RDTA representatives. I would like to thank them for their long and devoted service to this Association. They will be missed.

As many of you know, we have recently lost a number of dance clubs in our region and just this past week we were informed that the upcoming T&D Annual Convention will be the last one ever. Does this mean that Square and Round Dancing is doomed to extinction?

I think not.

As we will hear this afternoon, our collective recruiting efforts are beginning to bear fruit and several of our member clubs are doing very well indeed. What is more, there are several new clubs that have registered with EOSARDA this year. But we cannot rest on our laurels.

There is still a great deal to do if we are going to turn the present situation around.

Of course, the greatest burden for recruiting inevitably falls on our Member Clubs. Although your association does its best to support your activities and initiatives you are the front line in this struggle.

But a healthy club environment, while a good start, cannot succeed all by itself. Clubs need to interact with each other. Where would the Halfway Dance, Bunny Hop or Spring Thaw be without the support of other clubs? And when we pool our resources through our association, we can plan and organize events such as Swing into Spring which are beyond the resources of any one club. Collectively we are all stronger than we are individually. That is why EOSARDA exists.

EOSARDA is neither a governing nor a regulatory body. In the words of our Constitution, it exists “to promote modern square and round dancing and encourage the growth and advancement of the square and round dance movement within eastern Ontario and western Quebec by:

These are laudable goals that we on the Board are striving hard to reach but we cannot do it without your help.

Under the Constitution and By-laws, we are supposed to have at least 20 Directors on the Board, two of which are supposed to be RDTA representatives. At the present time we only have 16 Board Members and we have no representative from the RDTA.

If this Board is going to continue in its efforts to promote the growth of square and round dancing in our region, we need your help. There are only 5 or 6 Board meetings left in the year. If you care about this movement and want to help it to survive, we need you. If you are

interested, or know someone who is, please speak to me after the meeting.

And now let's get down to and seconded that **Minutes** of meeting Council of Dancers of held in **April 2012** be accepted as corrected.

4. Reports:

4.1 Operations Committee

President introduced the EOSARDA Board for 2012-2013

President & Chair Operations Committee	- Dave Western
Vice President & Chair Publicity and Promotions	- Barbara Dennison
Registrar	- Linda Warner
Treasurer	- Bruce Warner
Secretary & South East Rep	- Roger Frappier

Chair Dance Committee	- Gavin Currie
Chair Club Liaison, Recognition & Awards & Editor ST	- Nancy Morgan
Chair IT Committee	- Peter Wollaston

OACA Reps	- Paul and Judy Adams
RDTA Reps	-

South-West Rep	- Bob Summers
North-West Rep & Equipment Manager	- Andy Himberg-Larsen
Ottawa Reps	- Billi and Chuck Langtry

Directors	- Lauraine Smith & Elizabeth Wollaston
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4.2 TREASURERS REPORT AS OF NOV 18/12

Submitted by Treasurer Bruce Warner

Information available on request.

4.2 REGISTRAR'S REPORT AS OF NOV 18/12

Submitted by Registrar Linda Warner

A new system of completing registration forms this year was initiated calling for a list of all members including callers, cuers, leaders and partners to comply with a request from the insurance company. There was also an eleventh hour fee increase of \$ 1.00 per individual voted on and carried at the Federation meeting in July 2012. This took many by surprise as some clubs had already advised their members that there would be no increase. It is the recommendation of the registrar that next year and subsequent years that an electronic copy of the list of names in the standard format of last name, first name be submitted when registration documents are mailed in.

As of this date there are 34 registered clubs, 4 registered associations and 978 registered dancers including callers, cuers and leaders.

Revenues from all registrations have been forwarded to the treasurer.

Registrar Information contact: linro@rogers.com or 613-737-3687

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Secretary's note: Next year the name list should be sent electronically to avoid confusion in entering information in the data base.

Membership cards have been replaced by a list sent to Federation.

4.3 Dance Committee as of 18 November 2012

Submitted by Chair Gavin Currie

Since the last Council Meeting, there has been one EOSARDA dance: Fall Fest 2012 was held at St Patrick's High School on Oct 27.

The dance was moved to this school in an effort to provide a better floor for round dancing by using the triple gym as three separate halls each with a wooden floor. When we arrived at the school, however,

we found that the dividing partitions in the gym had been changed. Instead of a substantial partition between the sections there was only a thin plastic sheet which provided no sound proofing. Consequently, it was not possible to use all three sections of the gym. Our solution was to use the two outer sections for square dancing leaving the middle section unused. The cafeteria was then cleared of tables to allow it to be used for round dancing. Unfortunately, the cafeteria floor is covered with vinyl tiles and so there was in fact no improvement in the round dance floor.

The callers for the event were Don Moger and Paul Adams; the cuers Jerry & Bonnie Callen and Jean & Don Clingin. There was dancing in the afternoon from 1:30 to 4:00 and in the evening from 7:00 to 10:00. The Square Dance program featured plus, A1 and A2 levels in the afternoon; and basic, mainstream, plus and A1 in the evening. The Round Dance program featured a clinic on West Coast Swing in the afternoon and Ph II-V dancing in the evening. The cost of ribbons purchased in advance was \$15 per person for the day and \$8 for the evening. At the door the cost was \$10 for the afternoon and \$10 for the evening. Village Squares kindly agreed to provide volunteers to staff the registration and share-the-wealth tables, and a number EOSARDA directors also helped out.

According to the registration sheets, we had 196 dancers registered including the leaders. This is a decrease from the 215 we had registered last year. In the afternoon, we had about 40 round dancers and approx eight squares in the square dance halls. Five dancers used certificates for complimentary entry. According to preliminary financial results from Bruce, it would appear that we have a surplus of approx. \$450 on the event. Although the numbers attending were less than hoped, dancers were treated to a lively program which they clearly enjoyed.

I would like to thank the Dance Committee and other volunteers who helped to plan and run the event. A special thanks to Village Squares, led by Bob and Gabrielle Forsyth, for their well-organized assistance. Special thanks also to Peter Courdin and Karen Remy for handling the refreshments; to Marguerite Summers for purchasing and distributing ribbons; 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 2013 will be held at Mother Teresa High School on Feb 2. The callers will be John Charman and Brian Crawford and the cuers Jean & Don Clingin and Gerry & Jim Sawtell. Nancy Morgan has prepared a poster and Marguerite Summers has kindly agreed to purchase and distribute ribbons. More information is available on our web site. The price will be \$8 per person in advance and \$10 at the door.

At the Board Meeting this morning, we had a discussion on how to get greater attendance at EOSARDA dances including Frosty Fling. We agreed that the most important factor was promotion of the dance by club leadership: executive, callers and cuers. To encourage this, the Board agreed that we would refund \$1:00 per dancer to the club that the dancer identifies when signing in. So the more of your dancers you can persuade to attend Frosty Fling, the larger the refund you will receive from Bruce! We hope that we will have to make big refunds!

The Dance Committee also looked at possible changes to the format in an attempt to make the dance appeal to a larger number of dancers, but concluded that it was important to retain the focus on new dancers. The program will be basic with mainstream tips and easy rounds. We also considered the idea of holding the dance on a Sat or Sun afternoon, but the school was not available on Feb 2. We would be interested in the views of the Council of Dancers on moving the dance to the afternoon

There will be no Jamboree in 2013 since Swing into Spring will be held again in 2013 in Prescott. The dates are May 10-12. There will be a separate report on this event.

We are always happy to welcome additional dancers to the Dance Committee. If anyone 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.

4.4 Publicity and Promotions Committee

Report submitted by Barbara Dennison

Publicity

Congratulations to all clubs for the superb job you have done. Open houses have been a true success, word of mouth has brought new dancers to the clubs & advertising has also been successful.

Completion of a new website is not far away. This will provide many benefits for everyone – especially advertising dances etc.

The use of “Mailchimp” has been an excellent resource to spread the word to our clubs

Continue to provide an opportunity for clubs to promote their clubs through open houses & advertising – through some financial support.

Offer the clubs an advertising tool that is inexpensive & will be of assistance.

Continue to accept invitations to demonstrate dancing to increase visibility.

Recommend to basic clubs that they advertise for new dancers, & accept new dancers, throughout the dance season.

This will increase the number of new dancers.

An important tool is to have new dancers tell their friends how much fun dancing really is. "TALK IT UP" is the key.

Special Event for all New Dancers in 2013

EOSARDA to invite all new basic dancers to an EOSARDA dance

Admission for new dancers will be free

New dancers will have completed all basic steps prior to Xmas

The level of the dance should be basic & mainstream

This is an opportunity for everyone to welcome the new dancers

This will be their 1st dance

All new dancers will meet each other

The circle of friendship becomes larger

Benefits

- It will increase camaraderie
- It will generate enthusiasm
- It will promote dancing
- It is cost effective – the dance is already in place

4.5 Information Technology Committee

Report submitted by Peter Wollaston

There have been a number of updates and changes of club information and flyers posted in the last few weeks.

Now that club registrations are concluded, I shall make sure that the website reflects any changes and additions.

4.6 Club Liaison, Recognition and Awards Committee

Report submitted by Nancy Morgan

Awards, Anniversaries and Celebrations:

- Celebrations of achievement were presented to retiring Keith Hubbard and the 10th Anniversary of Take a Step Rounds.
- The Trillium Award: see report by Elizabeth Wollaston as an addendum.

MailChimp: MailChimp continues to be a valuable method of getting the word out. Although we only have a 65% open rate, the number of people who forward the flyers and information is growing. Geoff Clarke should receive an award for consistently forwarding the MailChimps over 70 times. Elizabeth Wollaston is a very close second. Please continue to send me your information and I will do my best to blast it to the members.

New Dancer Recruitment Subsidy:

To date, EOSARDA has received 5 New Dancer Recruitment Subsidies. Get your requests in before the money runs out!

Graduations: A new brochure has been printed for our new dancers to be included in their EOSARDA package upon completing the Beginner Basic program in April. Thanks to dancer participation at Fall Fest, we were able to include pictures of EOSARDA members in the brochure. Thanks to my son Peter for coming to the dance to take pictures for me.

Square Time: We distributed 330 Square Time in October and many thanks to the ever efficient Gavin Currie. Lots of compliments were received about your articles. Keep your articles and flyers coming and plus send me your articles of interest.

4.7 Ottawa and Area Callers Association (OACA)

Report submitted by Paul Adams

The OACA continues to hold their monthly Meetings at All Saints Anglican Church on the first Sunday of each month.

What takes place at these meetings is, an open discussion on the status of our collective experiences which have been encountered within “Square Dance Movement” in our area on a month to month basis, as well as any business pertaining to Square Dance Calling brought forward from the EOSARDA Board Meetings, this is followed by either a workshop on a particular Call or a presentation on any topic associated with the craft of Calling and Teaching Modern Square Dance.

4.8 Round Dance Teachers Association (RDTA)

No report available.

4.9 Festival 2014

Report submitted by General Chair Wendy VanderMeulen

Today is November 17. Exactly 20 months from today, Festival officially begins! Woo Hoo!

Registrations have been coming in quite steadily since dancing started again in September, and we are just about at 350. If they continue to come in so steadily, we should be up to 500 by Christmas.

Our biggest challenge is getting word out to people across Canada, the US, and the rest of the world. You can all help by taking postcards and registration forms with you whenever and wherever you travel. There are about 500 registration forms on the back table; take as many as you want – to take south, west, or across the city. Does YOUR club have registration forms available every week? If you don't remember seeing them lately, be proactive and take them yourself. Don't wait for someone else to do it.

We are currently working on revamping our website. It should be up very soon – hopefully this week. One huge benefit to the new site will be an online registration form. Register online, pay by PayPal, and be good to go! We made the decision to do this to make it easier for remote people to register – as in Japan, Europe, and Australia, etc.

One other thing to mention for now – we have established a dress code. Up to now, Canadian Conventions have always been “Square Dance dress required.” I think Halifax allowed casual dress during the day. We have decided to allow casual dress all the time. More and more, we recognize that less and less people actually even have “Square Dance Dress.” We do not require people to have square dance dress to dance in our clubs, so we don’t think we should force them to get it just for a 3-day dance. We know that many people will still wear their outfits, and that is great! But we are also good with casual. Mind you, we still want NEAT, so no scruffy jeans or “sweat wear” (i.e. sweat pants, shorts, etc.). Look at it this way: Dress casual. Dress neat. It’s easy!

Oh, and when you go south – those of you who do – try to talk your favourite callers into coming up there, too. I tell you, many of them probably haven’t even heard of us yet. We need YOU to put the idea in their head that this could be a great excuse for a vacation!

4.10 **SVSRDA**

Report submitted by Treasurer Wendy VanderMeulen

The Seaway Valley Square & Round Dance Association exists to promote square dancing between clubs in the Seaway Valley area. However, we are very flexible as to what is included in that area and do our best to encourage dancers to travel to Ottawa and Montreal and even further.

Our Annual Calendar provides Club information and dance details for the Clubs who are members of the Association. Association dues are only \$10 per year. For that amount, your club could be included in the Calendar, which gets printed every summer for the upcoming dance year. It includes a “travelling badge” form on which dancers keep track of the visits they make to Association clubs’ regular dance nights, special dances, and the Association’s two special dances – the annual Christmas Dance and the annual Mothers’ Day Dance.

The Christmas Dance will be held this year on Sunday, December 9th, 1:30-4:00 p.m. Callers for the dance will be me, John Charman, Andy Himberg-Larsen, and Harold Moore. Cues for the dance is Jean Clingin. We invite you all to come and join us – the level is Basics, Mainstream, and easy Rounds.

Our annual Mothers’ Day Dance will be on Sunday, May 12, 2013. The Caller for the dance will be Robert Hurst, from England; Cues will be Dorothy Tweed. This is also a Basics, Mainstream, and easy Rounds Dance. We prefer to keep our dances to these dance programs to encourage our newest dancers to come out and experience dancing outside of their weekly Club dance. We need YOU to help them enjoy the experience to the max!

The Seaway Valley is pleased to work with EOSARDA once again in presenting Swing Into Spring. The dates for that dance are May 10-12, 2013. But more details on that will be provided under a separate agenda item.

SVSRDA Clubs have approximately 30 new dancers dancing with them this year.

We regret that the Goodtime Squares and Rock ‘n’ Roll Squares have closed their doors this year, but in talking to Doreen Donovan at the Food Bank Dance last year, we haven’t seen the end of their Club! This is just temporary, she says. THAT’s the attitude we like to see – never give up just because it doesn’t work the way you want it to for one year!

4.11 Ontario Square and Round Dance Association

Report submitted by Peter Courdin

4.11.1 Membership:

-Numbers are not yet available for the upcoming year, but there is encouraging news from new dancer registration.

4.11.2 Recruitment Bursaries:

The Ontario Federation sets aside \$1,000 a year to assist clubs in recruiting new dancers.

Applications approved by the Associations are due to the Ontario Federation by Dec. 31st.

They are subsequently approved by the Federation at the next Fed. Mtg. usually in April.

4.11.3 P. R. & Promotion:

-The Federation continues to investigate new ideas and assist Clubs and Associations in implementing promotion campaigns. The Ontario Federation had set aside \$10,000 in a Special Reserve for PR & Promotion. Only half of this has been spent, (some in EOARDA for Taste of Dance).

-Licence Plates: One of the best and longest running promotion campaign has been the selling of Licence plates with the Square Dance Logo. They are still available at the Ontario Ministry of Transport Licence Outlets.

The cost of a new Square Dance Logo plate is \$82.15 vs \$20 for a regular plate. You can also replace your current Square Dance Logo plate for \$53.90.

-I have heard but not officially that Ontario will not be making any more licence plates.

4.11.4 Caller/Cuer Training Assistance:

-This year we approved 2 applications for caller/cuer Bursaries. The Federation has set aside \$3,000 for this each year, but the amount does not carry forward.

Applications for next year are due to the Federation by Feb. 28th for courses in the current year, and to the Society by June 15th.

4.11.5 Cdn Society Membership:

-This year the Society has implemented new registration procedures and were very strict in how registration was to be handled. They advised that if any errors or omissions were found in any applications, then all of the applications would be returned. This would have resulted in no insurance coverage until at least March the following year. The Federation along with the Associations determined that it would be impossible to meet the deadlines imposed by the Society, and even with pleas to the Society, we could not reach a compromise. In order to provide Insurance to our members as required by our constitution, it was necessary to purchase our own Liability Insurance for the upcoming year beginning on Jan. 1, 2013.

5. Old Business

5.1 Website Renewal Committee Report November 2012

Report submitted by Peter Wollaston

In working with the committee, it became clear that the website, with the number of clubs involved, the website that we need is quite complex, and will be quite expensive.

Therefore, we decided to ask for funding from the Trillium Foundation. Although there are other funders, the Trillium Foundation appears to be best for our needs.

The website renewal committee met on November 7th with two items on the Agenda:

1) After preliminary discussion with the Trillium Foundation Program Manager, we agreed to include the new website as part of a recruitment and retention marketing program. Recruitment and retention was one of the primary elements of the new website's orientation, arising out of the committee's discussions last winter. A complete marketing program that includes a website will allow us to give a real purpose to our application, and will satisfy some of the essential elements that are required to meet the Foundation's Sector Priorities. It will also enable us to include the cost of engaging a professional to help us with designing a new logo and "rebranding" our image.

Members of the Team are now researching material for our proposal, and we intend to meet and discuss our findings and suggestions in the first week of December.

2) With regard to the "Interim, stop-gap" site circulated by Bob Summers, we invited Bob to submit his proposal to the committee and to join our meeting to discuss it. He declined, and so the committee has no comment to offer on this issue.

6. New Business

6.1 EOSARDA Procedures Manual

The manual is being revised at the moment and will be available to all clubs on line at the following electronic address:

http://eosarda.webuda.com/procedures_manual.htm

6.2 Club and Dancers Insurance

See Peter Courdin's OSRDF report at item 4.11 above.

6.3 Recognition Awards

6.4 Swing Into Spring Up Date November 18, 2012

Report submitted by Wendy VanderMeulan

- Swing into Spring II going ahead as planned
- In Prescott at South Grenville High School
- Will have 6 rooms this time
- May 10-12, 2013
- similar format to last year
- Friday evening open dance (Dance Committee/Staff to organize)
- Saturday dance workshops
- Saturday evening open dance (Dance Committee/Staff to organize)
- Sunday Open mike for new Callers and Cuers
- Sunday afternoon SVSRDA Mothers' Day Dance
- Vendors' Village
- Had to drop Old Time due to opposition from Society who advised that insurance would be cancelled if included
- Price \$5 more than last year
- 22 SD Workshop hours
- 16 RD workshop hours
- 2 LD workshop hours
- time to be used as program groups see fit (could be multiple hour workshops if desired)
- **Callers:**
 - Robert Hurst from England
 - Matt Worley from US
 - Andy Himberg-Larsen
 - Wendy VanderMeullen
 - Geoff Clarke
 - John Charman
 - Bob Summers
- **Cuers:**
 - Steve and Irene Bradt from US
 - local Cuers to be named
- I have met with RDTA to encourage Round Dance program ideas and volunteers
- Round Dance program still under review
- Are in discussions with local hotels B&B's etc

Provisional Budget	Expenses \$8,638
·	Receipts \$9,110
·	Forecast profit \$472

6.5 **Town Hall Meeting**

Club representatives shared their respective recruiting experiences which attracted 130 new dancers in September.

7. **Other Business**

Next meeting which is also the AGM will be held April 21st. 2013
Location to be announced.

8. Adjournment at 16 h 00

Addendum
Report by Elizabeth Wollaston

Trillium Award

I first became aware of the Trillium Awards when I attended a dance where Peter Courdin and Karen Remy were awarded the Trillium Award of Merit. I didn't know them and I didn't know what the Trillium Award of Merit was. I thought to myself "oh, that's nice, they are being recognised". I didn't know what they were being recognised for, and I admit it left my mind as soon as we started dancing! The next time the Trillium Awards came to my attention was when I read the August 2012 Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation Newsletter and there was an article about the Trillium Awards suggesting I check out the website for the application and nomination rules.

This I did and realised there had to be many members out there deserving of these awards. If you look at the requirements and look at your own club I know you will find a member, or members, that are worthy of one of these awards. I think, I know, there are clubs and members out there who are not aware of what the Trillium Awards are all about. Let us all make an effort to review the application and nomination rules and with them in mind look at our members, or members of other clubs that we might know. We have a community here of close to, or at, a thousand members. There have to be many deserving of a special recognition.

My good friend and fellow director, Nancy Morgan, has put the Trillium Award Guidelines and Procedures into PDF format and what I am going to do is send them to all the clubs for you to look at. I am absolutely positive that if you look at the guidelines and look at your club membership, you will find a worthy nominee.

