

**Minutes of the EOSARDA Board meeting, September 15th. 2013
At the Citizen's Building, Baxter Road, Ottawa**

Attendance: Gavin Currie, Shelley Doucet, Roger Frappier, Nancy Morgan, Pierre Reinhard, Mary Anne Reinhard, Bob Summers, Bruce Warner, David Western.

Regrets: Barbara Englehart, Chuck and Billi Langtry

1.1 The meeting was called to order at 13 h 30

1.2 Approval of Agenda with following addition: Bruce will be making Barbara' report.

1.2 Approval of June 2nd. Meeting as circulated,
Moved by Pierre Reinhard, Seconded by Bob Summers

2. Opening Remarks - Dave Western

Welcome to a brand new Dance Year and to a brand new EOSARDA Board of Directors.

It's early in the season, but initial reports from several clubs indicate a very good turnout for their Open Houses. Let's keep our fingers crossed that this turns into increased registrations.

As you all know, this is going to be a challenging year for this Board. Not only do we have to deal with the usual business of the Board with fewer Directors than usual, but this year WE are hosting the 18th Canadian National Square and Round Dance Convention (Festival 2014) right here in our region. From next July 17th to the 19th WE are going to be welcoming the world to your front porch.

I hope you are ready to make the Festival a huge success, because it's going to happen no matter what.

I have heard the comments and complaints, and yes, I know that the decision to take on the Festival was not unanimous - but it didn't have to be, did it?

It sufficed that a significant majority of Club Representatives at Council of Dancers voted in favour of a motion to host the Festival. Once it was passed, the motion became binding, not only on the Board of Directors, but on all of EOSARDA's clubs and member associations. That's how democracy works. Yet I still encounter dancers who believe that we should not be hosting Festival 2014 and are refusing to support the Festival. In fact, over 50% of our dancers have yet to register to attend the convention that they are hosting!

Well, it's time to get over it folks. The time for second thoughts and regrets is long gone. It's time to roll up our sleeves and get down to the task of making Festival 2014 the biggest, babdest dance event that Canada has ever seen. It is time to stop talking about not buying green bananas and get on with the job at hand!

The first task for all of us is to do everything we can to get all of our dancers registered to attend the Festival. That means talking it up every chance we get; publicizing the Festival at every occasion; getting our dancers excited and eager to attend Festival 2014: and getting them involved in the planning, organizing and running of their Convention. The goal should be to have 100% of our dancers registered to attend.

The second task is to convince all our clubs, big, small and medium, to recognize that this is their event and to accept responsibility for ensuring the Festival's success. A great deal of planning and organizing has been done and is being done. But there is still a lot to do and the time to get it done is running short.

We have about 36 clubs in our region. To date the number of clubs that are actively supporting Festival can be counted on the fingers of one hand. We have over 1,000 dancers in our region. To date well under 100 people have volunteered to help make Festival happen.

This is not good enough! Every club in this region needs to take on the responsibility for some part of the planning, organizing and running of the Festival. Every dancer in this region needs to commit to attending Festival 2014.

To paraphrase John F. Kennedy,

“Ask not what Festival 2014 can do for you, ask what you can do for Festival 2014.”

Not sure what to do? No problem. Just ask. Pick up the phone and call Wendy VanderMeulen, our Festival Chair, at 613 987-2711, send her an e-mail at wendyv@sympatico.ca, or check out the Request for Volunteer page on the Festival web site at www.festival2014.ca/festivalAdmin/requestVolunteers.html

We need your club, we need you. Together we can make this happen.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Operations committee

4.1.1 General

4.1.2 TREASURERS REPORT AS OF SEP 15/13 - Bruce Warner

Information available upon request

4.1.3 REGISTRAR'S REPORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

Prepared and submitted by Barbara Englehart

The Registration Packages for the 2013-2014 dance season were sent to all clubs and associations via e-mail on August 19, 2013.

To date, two (2) registrations with payment have been received for a total of \$28.00. The cheques have been handed over to the Treasurer for bank deposit.

A reminder e-mail will be sent out at the end of September.

4.2 DANCE COMMITTEE – Gavin Currie

4.2.1 FALL FEST 2013

Fall Fest will be held on October 26 at Mother Teresa High School. The following leaders have agreed to participate: callers Tim Crawford (Burlington, ON) and Geoff Clarke; cuers David Goss & Ulla Figwer (Shrewsbury, MA) and Gerry & Jim Sawtell. We will have dancing in the afternoon from 2-4 pm and in the evening from 7-10 pm. We had planned to use ribbons, but our former supplier has gone out of business and we have not been able to find a new supplier who is prepared to supply

ribbons at a reasonable price. Consequently, we have decided to use tickets. The cost for advance tickets will be \$15 per person for the full day and \$8 for the evening. At the door tickets will be \$10 per person for the afternoon or the evening. I would like to thank Nancy Morgan for preparing an attractive poster for the event; Marguerite Summers for organizing the production and distribution of tickets; and Mary Anne and Pierre Reinhard for organizing support from Trackers and other clubs. Capital Carousels have approached me with a request to video the demos of the Round Dance leaders so that they can be posted on their website. Provided that David Goss and Ulla Figwer are comfortable with this, I think that it is a good idea. Since this is, I believe, a new departure for EOSARDA, I wanted you to be aware of it.

FROSTY FLING 2014

Frosty Fling will be held on February 1 at Mother Teresa High School. Callers will be Paul Adams and Bob Summers; and the cuers will be Jean & Don Clingin and Donna Stewart. We plan to dance from 7:30 to 10:00 with a program similar to last year but the details have still to be worked out.

4.3 Publicity and Promotion/Club Liaison Committee - Nancy Morgan

No report

4.4 IT Committee - Bill Ableson

See below under 5.4 Website.

4.5 OACA Report - Bob Summers

No report. OACA will hold their first meeting shortly. They meet on the first Sunday of each month.

4.6 RDTA Report

No report.

4.7 FESTIVAL 2014 - Dave Western

Registrations as of this morning are reported to be at 579.

Roy Gotta, an American Cuer, has agreed to take on the role of Round Dance Program Coordinator.

The Festival has signed an agreement with Freeman for support for the Vendors' Village and an initial round of e-mail solicitations has gone out to targeted vendors. Results to date are disappointing, but it is early yet. A mail out will be undertaken shortly.

The Art Wear Group of Ottawa has agreed to produce the Fashion Show at Festival, which will be a very different event from previous conventions. The members of the group will be modelling their dance wear creations and participants in the Vendors' Village will also be given the opportunity to show their wares. There will be a portion of the show reserved for dancers to model their own creations. There will be a charge to attend the show, as is usual at Conventions, and the general public will also be invited to attend. The Art Wear Group is going to help market the show to the Ottawa sewing and fashion world.

The number of volunteers for Festival is still lagging and local enthusiasm for Festival is less than optimal. Not all clubs are yet fully engaged. This has to change.

5. Old Business

5.1 Swing Into Spring

Report on Swing into Spring September 15, 2013

As previously reported, we did indeed incur a deficit this year on Swing into Spring. As the financial report which I have circulated shows, the deficit was \$1,140.88 on total expenses of \$8,413.88 as opposed to last year's loss of \$25.05 on total expenses of \$6,975.30.

To put this in perspective, if 10 more couples had purchased weekend passes we would have broken even, and keep in mind that 3 registered couples had to cancel for very legitimate health reasons. Had they been

able to attend, the shortfall would have equated to only about 7 couples. But it would still have been a loss.

So what happened?

Costs were higher this year, but revenues increased as well. Last year's revenues were \$6,950.25 compared to this year's \$7,273.00. Not a huge increase, but a step in the right direction.

While several costs increased somewhat over last year, the biggest single increase was in the cost of our Guest Dance Leaders.

\$ Dance Leader fees, increased by from \$3,775 to \$4,606.58

\$ A SoCan licence for our British Caller cost us \$92.95 and

\$ We incurred accommodation costs of \$562.74 for our Guest Callers and Cuers. (Last year one of our Guest Callers stayed with Wendy and John and the other stayed in his trailer on-site. I believe that our Guest Cuer commuted daily from Montreal.)

The total cost for Dance Leaders was \$5,262.28, an increase of \$1,490.24.

In addition to paying for Guest Dance Leader accommodations this year, the major cost increase for Dance Leaders came from the decision to hire the Bradt's. This decision was amply rewarded by the strong support for Swing into Spring from our Round Dance community.

The short fall in revenue, is directly attributable to the lack of support from a number of key square dance clubs in our region, clubs from which we had every reason to expect enthusiastic support. (The local club only showed up in significant numbers for the Mothers' Day Dance portion of the weekend.)

As a result, the Organizing Committee is looking at several changes for Swing into Spring 2015.

\$ The number of dance workshops offered is likely to be significantly reduced by eliminating those given by local Dance Leaders, which have been poorly attended. Dancers have demonstrated a clear and understandable preference for attending the Guest Dance Leader workshops.

\$ The venue will be changed to a larger urban centre, preferably outside of Ottawa. We are still looking at a number of options in this regard.

\$ The date will be changed to avoid conflicting with Mothers' Day - an alternative date has not yet been set.

\$ The duration of the event may be reduced.

\$ Given the lack of support from our new dancers, Basic and Phase II levels may be eliminated from the dance program

Following Swing into Spring, there were some very negative comments posted on the Internet.

This blog post was subsequently withdrawn following my intervention, but it was not before they had been seen by a number of people.

In my opinion, Square Dancing is in a fragile state not because of our efforts to save it, but in spite of these efforts. If we sit on our collective thumbs and do nothing, I guarantee that we will lose both square and round dancing. How much longer can we sustain a decrease in membership of 10% a year before the whole thing collapses around our collective ears? At least some of us are trying to do something to save a very worthwhile activity. To me the choices are clear. Sit there and do nothing and we are finished within 5 years, or do our best to try everything possible to renew and regrow the movement. I'd rather go down swinging while trying to hit a home run than stand there and get out on balls.

This Board has already agreed to go ahead with Swing into Spring 2015. I fully support this decision.

5.2 Insurance Situation - Dave Western

Some changes may be coming. We are keeping up to date with the situation. It looks like Federation will require the same information as last year.

5.3 Not for Profit Situation - Gavin Currie

Gavin provided an update on the status of the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act which is expected to come into force in the next few months. He also undertook to brief the Board on the changes that will need

to be made to bring EOSARDA into conformity with the new act once this information becomes available.

5.4 Web Site

We currently have 2 sites perceived to represent EOSARDA: EOSARDA.CA and EODance.ca

The former has been the traditional site sponsored and controlled by EOSARDA and developed over several years by various webmasters, the current being Pat Gauthier.

The latter has been developed independently and at no cost to EOSARDA by Bob Summers. This puts us in a strange position of having a website appearing to represent EOSARDA but over which we have no control.

To determine which of these (or possibly a combination) we will continue to use, we need to establish some criteria by which we can evaluate them. These are outlined below:

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- i) Presence: EOSARDA must maintain a presence on the Web under the EOSARDA name.
- ii) Ownership: The EOSARDA specific content of the site must be under EOSARDA control. This would imply that EOSARDA would assume the cost of maintaining the name registration and, the cost of hosting the site, and possibly development of new pages.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

- iii) Technology: The supplier must outline the software tools that have been used to develop and maintain the site. These must be industry standard tools with the capability to support pictures and video and allow for easy expansion.
- iv) Costs-Initial: The cost, if any to transfer ownership of the site to EOSARDA .
- v) Costs-Ongoing: Estimated annual costs to maintain the EOSARDA data. Hourly rate for new development or the number of free hours included per annum.
- vi) Visual Appeal/Ease of Navigation: These will each be scored subjectively on a 1-5 scale by 3 users.
- vii) Technical Proficiency: Do all link, video clips, etc. work? This will be scored subjectively on a 1-5 scale by 3 users.

- viii) Data Update: Provide procedures to clubs and EOSARDA executive regarding processes to follow to have updates added to the site.
- ix) Documentation: What level of documentation on site administration access will be provided? What will be the process in case the current webmaster is unable to perform his/her duties or wants to migrate task to another individual?

5.5 Procedures Manual

We must keep reminding members that is available.

5.6 Help with invoicing

Mary Anne has volunteered her help.

5.7 Evaluating the corporate inventory

Bruce will come back at the October meeting with an evaluated assessment of our equipment taking into account a possible devaluation of 30% per year.

5.8 Trillium Award

Our three nominations were accepted and awards will be presented at Fall Fest.

Nancy will be sending out packages to clubs for submissions of nominations for the Trillium Awards.

Present policy dictates that all nominations should come from respective clubs.

6. New Business

6.1 Confirmation On Committee Membership

Committee chairs are to send in the list of their committee members.

6.2 Committee Work Plans 2013-2014

DANCE COMMITTEE WORK PLAN - Sep 2013 – Jun 2014

During the planning period, the Dance Committee anticipates holding two dances: Fall Fest 2013 on Oct 26 and Frosty Fling 2014 on Feb 1. The draft budgets show that we hope to have modest profits for both events. For Fall Fest, we anticipate revenues of \$2310 and expenses of \$2040; and for Frosty Fling revenues of \$1100 and expenses of \$890.

Gavin Currie 2013-9-15

Committee chairs are to provide their work plans for the year.

6.3

6.3.1 The **Ottawa Date Squares** are going again with Richard Sharman. This is welcomed news.

6.3.2 **Yearly Calendar**

A-1 Afterblast had 9 squares.

A-2 Afterblast Oct. 5-6

Easter April 20th. is third Sunday of the month

Victoria Weekend May 18 is also third Sunday of the month.

6.3.3 Next meeting: October 20th. Citizen Building at 13 h 30

7. **Adjournment** at 16 h 00

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Frappier

ADDENDUM 1 TO MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2013

EOSARDA DIRECTORS 2013-2014

President Dave Western

Vice Presidents Chuck and Billi Langtry

Secretary Roger Frappier

Treasurer Bruce Warner

Directors	Bill Ableson	Gavin Currie
	Shelley Doucet	Barbara Englehart
	Billi Langtry	Chuck Langtry
	Nancy Morgan	Mary Anne Reinhard
	Pierre Reinhard	Bob Summers

Committee Chairs:

Operations Committee: Dave Western

Registrar: Barbara Englehart

Dance Committee: Gavin Currie

P & P Committee/Club Liaison: Nancy Morgan

(Includes Recognition and awards, Square Times)

IT Committee: Bill Ableson, Bob Summers

OACA: Bob Summers

RDTA: Vacant

Committee Membership 2013/14: Dave Western

ADDENDUM 2 TO MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2013

EOSARDA DIRECTORS 2013-2014

Committee Members

Dance Committee: Gavin Currie, Chair
Don and Jean Clingin, Peter Courdin, Chuck and Billi Langtry,
Robert and Jean Read, Karen Remy, Lauraine Smith, Bob
Summers and Bruce Warner.

