

Minutes of the Council of Dancer's meeting, November 17. 2013

Location: Citizen Newspaper Building, Baxter Rd. Ottawa ON

Attendance: Bill Ableson, Barbara Englehart, Billi Langtry, Chuck Langtry, Nancy Morgan, Pierre Reinhard, Mary Anne Reinhard (recorder), Bob Summers, Bruce Warner, Dave Western, Shelley Doucet, and Gavin Currie.

Regrets: Roger Frappier,.

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.
2. Confirmation of quorum was made by Barbara Englehart with the minimum number of clubs and associations represented.

3. Opening Remarks-Dave Western

Good afternoon and welcome to the November 2013 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, Barbara Engelhard, that we have the necessary quorum to conduct Council business. Barbara, 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.

According to a song that was recently on the Country Music Hit Parade, God is great, beer is good and people are crazy. I am not qualified to speak to the first item on this list, and the second one

is beyond debate, but the third one never seems to amaze me.

For example. here we are only 8 months away from the biggest dance event to take place in this region in the last 10 years, and just last week a dancer complained that he was tired of hearing about Festival 2014! Here we are, moving heaven and earth to make this event a total and unquestioned success, and this chap doesn't want to hear about it! I wonder if he is even registered to attend?

Of course, he is going to hear about it again and again over the next 8 months. Why? Because Festival 2014 is BIG, Festival 2014 is important and Festival 2014 is ours, your and mine. It was our member clubs speaking through their Council representatives who directed the Board to seek permission to host the 18th Canadian National Square and Round Dance Convention and it is our member clubs who are the host of this national event.

Can you imagine a city or country winning the bid to host the Olympic Games and not crowing about it from the roof tops? Well folks, Festival 2014 is the Olympics of the Square and Round Dance world and of course we are going to talk about it. And with your help, we are also going to be working hard to try and convince 100% of our dancers to attend Festival.

One final word before Council gets under way.

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 12 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 business.

4. Amendments and approval of the draft agenda.

No amendments were suggested so agenda was approved.

5. Approval of Minutes of the April 2013 Council of Dancers

It was noted that the minutes could not be found on the website. Dave W. said that they were not published as they had not yet been approved.

Peter Courdin moved that the minutes be accepted and this was seconded by Bill Ableson and approved by those in attendance.

6. Reports:

a. Operations Committee

i. **Board Members 2013-14:** Dave Western, President; Chuck and Billi Langtry; Vice Presidents, Bruce Warner; Treasurer, Barbara Englehart; Secretary, Roger Frappier; Bill Ableson, I.T. Committee

Chair; Gavin Currie, Dance Committee Chair; Shelley Doucet, Member ; Nancy Morgan, P & P and Club Liason Committee Chair; Mary Anne Reinhard, Square Time Invoice Manager, member; Pierre Reinhard, Member; and Bob Summers, OACA Chair.

ii. Financial Report as of Nov. 17,2013 for The Council of Dancers.

| | |
|---|--|
| As of this date the bank balance is | \$ 16,845.06 |
| with O/S cheques of | 81.75 |
| This results in a book balance of | <u>\$ 16,763.31</u> |
| Payment due to Federation for membership dues and insurance is approximately | <u>4,212.00</u> |
| Funds available | <u>\$ 12,551.31</u> + \$ 8,209.59 = \$ 20,760.90 |

There is a 1 year 90 day GIC in place at 1.50% maturing Mar 18, 2014 set up as a reserve for Festival 2014 in the amount of \$ 8,058.46. The interest at maturity will be 151.13 bringing the amount to be reinvested in December to \$ 8,209.59 which will roll over unless directed otherwise. When discharged the resulting bank balance will be \$ 24,972.90

Special reserve – Capital Steppers \$2,763.50 included in bank balance and reserved for the payment of dancer recruitment expenses as stipulated in documentation from Capital Steppers.

Respectfully submitted
Bruce Warner
Treasurer

It was noted that last year's books have been audited.

iii. Registrar's Report:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 2013-14 | |
| New Square Dancers | 170 |
| Returning Square Dancers | 635 |
| New Round Dancers | 5 |
| Returning Round Dancers | 67 |
| New Line Dancers | 22 |
| Returning Line Dancers | 11 |
| Total Dancers | 910 |
| | |
| Cuers and Callers | 40 |
| Total Membership | 950 |
| | |
| Clubs to date | 33 |
| Associations | 4 |

Clubs with the most new dancers: Square- Limestone Dancers-34, Round –Take a step with 5, and Line-Got Lines 20.

*One club (Grenville Gremlins) still has yet to submit their registration forms but their money has been received.

Submitted by
Barb Englehart

The attrition rate has leveled off and clubs were congratulated on their recruitment efforts. Bruce also complimented Barbara on how quickly she has mastered the registration process.

b. Dance Committee's Report:

Since the last Council Meeting, there has been one EOSARDA dance: Fall Fest 2013 was held on October 26 at Mother Teresa High School.

The callers for the event were Tim Crawford (Burlington, ON) and Geoff Clarke; the cuers David Goss & Ulla Figwer (Shrewsbury, MA) and Gerry & Jim Sawtell. There was dancing in the afternoon from 2-4 pm and in the evening from 7-10 pm. 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 two clinics in the afternoon (a Ph IV Foxtrot and a Ph III Rumba) and Ph II-V dancing in the evening. The cost of tickets 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. Trackers kindly agreed to provide volunteers to staff the registration and share-the-wealth tables, and a number of EOSARDA directors and Dance Committee members also helped out.

According to the registration sheets, we had 185 dancers registered including the leaders (106 in the afternoon and 79 in the evening). This is close to the 196 we had registered last year. In the afternoon, we had over 50 round dancers (25% more than last year), and approx five squares in the square dance halls. The additional dancers in the evening danced for the most part in the square dance halls. According to preliminary financial results from Bruce, it would appear that we have a surplus of approx. \$400 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 Mary Anne and Pierre Reinhard for arranging support from Trackers and other clubs. Special thanks also to Peter Courdin and Karen Remy for handling the refreshments; to Marguerite Summers for purchasing and distributing tickets; and to Nancy Morgan for designing the poster. Thanks also to all our cuers and callers for putting on such an entertaining program.

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. This dance is focused on new dancers and the program will feature basic, mainstream and easy rounds. More information is available on our web site. The price will be \$8 per person in advance and \$10 at the door.

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.

Gavin Currie
Chair, Dance Committee

c. P&P– Nancy Morgan – No report. **Club Liason Committee.** Three Trillium nominations were approved last year. Linda & Bruce Warner, Anne Graham and Alfie Marin (Long Service Award). People or Clubs wishing to nominate others should consult the guidelines that are available in Square Time, and also were in a package given out to the Clubs recently. Deadline to the Association for this upcoming year is February 15 2014. Reimbursement for new dancer recruitment is available for more information consult the Procedures Manual. The number of Square Time magazines is down at 40 copies purchased for the next year but costs are down as well. Some discussion around Mail Chimps ensued. It seems to be working well.

d. I.T. committee's Report – Bill Ableson
Bill outlined the steps his committee took in looking at both the EOSARDA and eodance websites and the criteria used to evaluate them. More information follows under Old Business.

e. OACA's Report (Ottawa Area Callers Association)- Bob Summers –
This season there are 17 members in the OACA. We meet on the 1st Sunday of each month during the dance season to discuss items that concern dances, dancers and the OACA. Half the meeting is devoted to workshops to further our craft and some of these include opportunities for newer callers to handle the mic and present a topic.

Last month we had an interesting presentation from Paul Adams about the History of the OACA. It was a surprise to most callers to find out the OACA was started back in 1954.

Keith Watters and Graham Ingram continue to be sidelined with medical issues: Keith with a pelvic fracture that occurred during his recent hip replacement surgery and Graham chasing an elusive problem with myriad of tests. We wish Keith and Graham a speedy recovery and resolution.

The OACA just had another successful Mission Possible Dance (a continuation of a long history of such dances under other names such as Grey Cup Dance, etc). Sadly this will be the last year that the callers organize this dance. The association is open to supporting a similar charity dance if any other group wishes to do the organizing.

OACA Chair
Bob Summers

Bob also mentioned that the Association meets the first Sunday of the month. During those meetings half of the time is devoted to workshops. OACA were congratulated by the EOSARDA Board as their hard work on the Mission Possible Dance resulted in \$1900.00 going to the Mission.

f. RDTA's Report (Round Dance Teacher's Association)

We congratulate and thank EOSARDA for providing an excellent Round Dance event at the recent FallFest. The dancers were well served.

There have been two significant Round Dance events in the last quarter. Capital Carousels sponsored the Capital Caper dance week-end with Steve and Irene Bradt in November, and also sponsored the Pearson tribute dance in September in honor of Don and Daphne Pearson. Attendance at the tribute dance included

international dance leaders Brent & Judy Moore, Peter and Beryl Barton, and Steve & Irene Bradt.

The decline in numbers of dancers and clubs continues. The RDTA membership now includes representatives from four clubs and includes six cuers.

Don Cowan
Chairman, RDTA

g. Festival 2014's Report- Wendy Vandermeulen

Here are the highlights of our recent Board meeting:

Registration: First of all, the information everyone wants: **registrations** are up to 609 and they are coming in regularly, which just as we expected, as it is the last dance season before Festival. We expect another surge in January, when people realize that "this year" is Festival! **Camping & RV:** We have arrangements with 3 different campgrounds – Hither Hills and Poplar Grove south of the city, and the Ottawa Municipal campground in the west end. Information is on the website. Note that the campgrounds are now closed for the winter, so reservations will now have to wait until spring. At the moment, we have not been able to find a location for dry camping – University of Ottawa was the most obvious locations, but due to the construction in the area, they could not commit. We then looked at South Keys, but they would not allow it. For now, dry camping will also be at the campgrounds. If anyone has a suggestion for another location, we'll look into it.

Publicity: We've got a good start on our **Program Book**, with an Editor, requests coming in for advertising, and a good idea on the layout and content. We have special advertising rates for anything square dance related: Clubs, Leaders, dances, festivals, associations, etc. There is also room for commercial advertising. If you know anyone who is interested in reaching out to our dancers, be sure to direct them to our **website** – which, by the way, continues to have more and more information added to it very regularly. Keep an eye on it! We expect to have **tour information** up on the site very soon, too. A local travel company is working with us to set up day- and multi-day tours around the dates of our event, to encourage people to come early and do some sightseeing in our area.

Program: We have 56 leaders registered, to date. The program group has determined that there will be approximately 300 dance/workshop time slots to fill in, so we are well on our way to a good program, as we estimate that we will have twice that many leaders in the end.

Finance: We are very excited to be working on having a "**Vendor's Village**" rather than just a few square dance boutiques on the premises. If you know someone who has a little business that square dancers could be interested in, let us know. They could do very well having a booth at our event. They can be there for 3 full days for only \$250. And, not only will square dancers be shopping in the Village, but the Public will also be allowed in (for a fee, of course). Keep it in mind, and if you know someone, or if you're at a Christmas craft show one of these days, get their business card so we can contact them.

Facilities: As always, the biggest area in Facilities is the **floor**. And the biggest part about flooring is laying it down and taking it back up. Keep in mind that volunteers do not have to be dancers! We'd be happy to have nieces and nephews and children and grandchildren and friends and acquaintance volunteer to help us.

Education: The main point to make here is about **Heritage and Decorations**. Clubs, we need your pictures, banners, photo albums, dolls, and whatever else. Heritage at Canadian Conventions is usually all about the history of square dancing. We decided to do it a bit differently and focus on the history of our own clubs. So, whatever you have – make a table-top display to show off your Club. All clubs will also be listed in the Program Book – with a note to visit your display in such-and-such dance room. Don't be the club that doesn't participate.

*Respectfully submitted,
Wendy VanderMeulen
General Chairman, Festival 2014*

h. SVSRDA Report (Seaway Valley Square and Round Dance Association) –Wendy Vandermeulen

The Association's Christmas Dance is set for Sunday Dec. 8 2013. Basic, Mainstream and Rounds beginning at 1:30 pm. In Prescott.

Sunday May 4, 2014 will be the Mother's Day Dance and Swing into Spring 2015 will be the first weekend in May.

i. Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation – Peter Courdin, President
Peter referenced the Newsletter that was recently distributed by Dave Western.

7. Old Business

a. Website Renewal- Bill Ableson-

Two sites EOSARDA and eodance. There has been some confusion as to which is the official site and which would best serve the Association going forward. In order to make a comparison Bill established a list of criteria to rate the sites. In the end the deciding factor for him was that the language PHP that is utilized on the eodance site allows for more flexibility than the HTML on the EOSARDA site.

Some costs will be involved in changing from the EOSARDA site: In order to have the address www.eosarda.com redirect to eodance.com we would have to pay for two domain names at \$42.50 for the year although we may be able to register with another company for \$30.00. eodance is not currently on a webhost but may want to consider doing so.

Bill recommended that EOSARDA move to the eodance site as their official site. With the stipulation that once the agreement to adopt is made that a backup of the site be created and left with the IT Committee, and that passwords to the site be shared between the webmaster and head of the IT Committee. The board will have oversight of their content. A procedure will need to be created to manage how updates and information will be processed and hope to give Clubs the ability to upgrade their information.

Both webmasters would be willing to continue.

Bill Ableson made the motion that the Council of Dancers adopt eodance as the official website for EOSARDA. Chuck seconded the motion. Passed by Council. Bill says that changes should go into effect by end of December. **Action item: Steps to be made to transfer information, domain names and notify webmasters.**

b. Procedures manual –Dave Western

No changes have been made to the manual and it is now at version 6. Clubs should use the manual as it will offer assistance in many areas and lessen the number of questions that Dave receives about information that is available within the manual. It be available shortly on the new website.

8. New Business

a. Financial Reports 2012/13 and Budget for 2013/14

Bruce Warner thanked all for the Trillium award that he and Linda had received. The Financial Report for 2012/13 has been audited and signed off. As part of the audit it was recommended that the equipment inventory value be adjusted for depreciation. We have a number of older items that were still fiscally accounted for at their original value. The Board has advanced that the items be depreciated at 30% of their value per year and then written off once the value reaches less than a certain amount.

There was discussion as to whether this means we no longer value the equipment. Yes, they are still used and have value that way. This is only a monetary worth for budget purposes. We will need to maintain an inventory of the physical assets.

Bruce proposed that all the assets except for the hearing assistance equipment (now valued at \$291.00) be written off as they fall below a threshold of \$200.00. Seconded by Wendy Vandermeulen.

Ziggy suggested an amendment: For financial reporting purposes equipment will be written off when it reaches a depreciated value of less than \$200.00. Seconded by Bob Summers.

Peter Courdin suggested writing it all off and Ron amended the motion to say less than \$200.00 per category. (I did not catch a seconder). This motion passed.

Bruce then went over the proposed budget for the next year. Contained in the slide presentation. Will be appended to these minutes.

Some questions were asked in regards to advertising income to Square Time, no Federation Travel expenses were required thus far.

Motion to adopt Budget and Finance Reports as reported was made by Chuck Langtry and seconded by Shelley Doucet.

b. Dance Schedule Conflicts

We have had some conflicts with a few dances recently. We cannot really do anything about dances that are organized outside of the region. We do encourage clubs to look at the events calendar on the website as they plan their dances. Please note that Council of Dancers meetings are usually held the third Sunday in November and April. The Board meets on the third Sunday of each month except June, July, August and December. Please try to schedule taking other clubs into account.

c. EOSARDA Dances

The question was raised as to whether the Association should continue to sponsor dances. Will Clubs support the dances? What can we do?

Comments from the floor included:

-Fall Fest was originally designated a higher level dance is this part of the problem? Should it be only a higher level dance? The suggestion was reiterated by another later in the conversation.

- Separate the Squares and Rounds into different dances so that dancers aren't torn. While others felt there was no competition. If separated would this might not increase overall total.
- Drop the afternoon although it was pointed out that the cost of bringing in an out of town caller for only the evening was prohibitive.
- Should we take the cost of a dance and divide this between the clubs and say this is your portion to pay? *(I have no comments on this suggestion in my notes)*
- Should we cancel Fall Fest and see if it noticed?
- Downside halls/venues, hold a dance that is closer to some of our other dances
- How do we get the word out about out of town callers to generate more interest?
- There is a portion of dancers who have danced for many years and have moved up to higher levels and now have no interest in dancing at lower levels.
- On the reverse how do you encourage people to advance and grow if you don't nurture their growth?
- If evenings are a problem to some of the population why not try afternoons to dance and workshop in the evening?
- Perhaps the area's needs are being met by the Club dances in the Ottawa Area and EOSARDA dances are in competition with them. Perhaps the Association should support one dance / club
- Advertise earlier
- Round dancers at higher levels also not interested in dancing at lower levels.
- Single dancers not feeling welcome at bigger EOSARDA dances. How can we make them feel more welcome. Encourage them to step into a square and then hold up a hand for a partner.

Dave then asked for an informal vote about dropping Fall Fest for 2014 to see how those in attendance were feeling about that possible outcome. 12 were in favour of dropping and 5 against.

d) Town Hall-What is your club doing for Festival 2014?

Village Squares: Welcoming Committee, Lotteries. Harbour Lites- Red & White Dance Feb. 12 2014, Trackers-Lottery, Individual volunteering, Lockits-Site lists names of those who have already registered, Mississippi Squares- Registration Committee, various people that are travelling are taking registration forms with them.

9. Other Business

a). Next meeting: Sunday April 27, 2014 (note change of week due to Easter).

Meeting adjourned: 4:30 p.m.

Submitted:
Mary Anne Reinhard
Recorder