

**EOSARDA – COUNCIL OF DANCERS
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD APRIL 27th. 2014 –
St Andrews Presbyterian Church Hall, Prescott**

In attendance:

Bay Waves	Charlene and Ron Gardner
Capital Carousels	Gavin Currie*, Ziggy Segstro
Date Squares	Richard Sharman, Benoit Renault
Got Lines	Dave Western*
Grenville Gremlins	Gail Buttler
Harbour Lites	Gerald and Marlene Casselman, Regina Gerhard, Pearl King, Alfred Marin
Limestone Dancers	Bob Summers*
Lockits	Geoff Clarke , Barb _____
Meri Squares	June Tripp, Ann Daveland
PJ's	Peter Courdin, Karen Remy
Round Tuit Dancers	James Sawtell, Gerry Sawtell
Seaway Squares	Harold Moore, Marion Moore
Sunshine Squares	Ian Cuthill
Swinging B's	Roger Frappier*
Swinging Saints	Ted Moore
Take-A-Step	Jean and Don Clinging
Trackers	Mary Anne Reinhard*, Pierre Reinhard*

EOSARDA BOARD MEMBERS: Barbara Englehart, Billi Langtry, Chuck Langtry, Nancy Morgan, Pierre Reinhard, Mary Anne Reinhard and the above identified with an *.

1. President David Western called the meeting to order at 13 h 40.

2. President's Opening Remarks - Dave Western

Welcome

Good afternoon and welcome to the April 2014 Council of Dancers and EOSARDA's Annual General Meeting for 2014. If any of you have not yet signed in, please do so now and if representing a club, make sure that the name of the club is clearly indicated. Please print legibly, Roger has to try and read it later.

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

A few house-keeping items before we begin.

\$ Under the Constitution and by-laws, any registered dancer may attend and speak at this 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 EOSARDA Board of Directors is bound by any decision or direction issued by this Council.

When addressing Council, please keep in mind that, no matter how bad your reputation may be, 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 knows 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 for the first time today, please clearly state your name and club affiliation before contributing to the discussion.

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

We will take a fifteen minute break around 2:45 at which time we will have tea/coffee and snacks. Please resume your seats promptly at the end of the break.

To enable this Council to make decisions and to elect a new Board, a quorum of 25% of Member Clubs is required. We currently have 34 clubs registered as Members of EOSARDA, so a quorum is 8 clubs. Madame Registrar, can you confirm that we have enough Member clubs present to allow us to continue?

Registrar Barbara Englehart confirmed that we had **a quorum with 17 clubs represented.**

3. Agenda approved as submitted.

4. Moved by Peter Cordin and seconded by Billi Langtree that the minutes of the November 2013 meeting be approved as circulated and amended.

5. Reports

5.1 Operations Committee

6.1.1 Financial Report - Bruce Warner

Information available on request

6.1.2 Registrar's Report - Barbara Englehart

New square dancers	198
Returning square dancers	658
New round dancers	5
Returning round dancers	67
New line dancers	39
Returning line dancers	11
Total	978
Cuers and callers	42
Total membership	1020
Clubs to date	34
Associations	4

5.2 Publicity, Promotions and Publishing Committee – Nancy Morgan

Nancy presented and explained the Organizational Chart which will be included in the Procedures Manual.

5.3 Dance Committee - Gavin Currie

It was recommended that the Fall Fest Dance not take place in 2014 because of low attendance last fall.

The procedures Manual will be amended to provide a method of cancelling a dance in case of inclement weather as well as posting the information on the eodance web site.

5.4 Information Technology Committee - Bill Ableson
Dave Western read the following report provided by Bill:

Last year at this time I volunteered as the IT Director for EOSARDA, and was immediately presented with the problem of determining which web site to use: the EOSARD.CA site then supported by Pat Gauthier, or the newer eoDance.ca developed by Bob Summers.

At that time both sites had a small number of errors, and the data was inconsistent between them. Also there was real confusion among dancers and club representatives as to which site was really the authorized site for the EOSARDA organization, and they did not know if they should be sending update information to Pat, Bob or both.

There was little to choose between the two sites in terms of content, but a more complete analysis indicated Bob's was based on a more flexible technology than was the EOSARDA.ca site, and Bob would be able to provide a higher level of maintenance at no cost to EOSARDA than could Pat.

The decision was taken by the board to select eoDance.ca as the official web site for EOSARDA, and with the gracious co-operation of Pat Gauthier, the changes were made to point the EOSARDA.ca and EOSARDA.com URLs to the eoDance.ca site. This was completed in Jan 2014.

Since then there have been a number of enhancements to the site.

The home page contains articles on recent dance events and reminders of upcoming events as well as other articles of interest to the dancing community.

Under the 'More' option, there are copies of all bulletins sent out by EOSARDA to clubs, there are editorial pages, there are discussion forums where users can post comments on any topic of interest, plus pictures, videos and other info for new and current dancers and clubs. There are even jigsaw puzzles!

As you can see, the site has become more complex, with changes required on an on-going basis to update club information, advertise special events, and to

keep dancers current with news of interest to those in the square, round and line dancing communities.

In order to reduce the load on the webmaster, our project for the current year is to implement a database behind the site, and provide clubs with means to enter most of their changes directly. We realize this will not be possible for all clubs, but if even the majority can take advantage of these features, it will free up Bob's time for work on enhancements.

The database required for this has already been designed, but a number of issues related to security need to be resolved before we can begin the implementation. This will proceed in three phases.

First, the database will be created and populated with the current data, and the affected pages will be converted to load their info from the database instead of having it typed in directly to create the page.

Second, input forms will be developed to make entering data into the database more efficient. These forms will initially be used just by the webmaster and a few others until they are thoroughly tested.

Third, these forms will be made available to club representatives so that they can enter their data directly in the future. This will require that we issue a user ID and password to a representative from each club which will allow them to access these special pages on the site to edit their own club's information.

Although work can begin on the project immediately, I do not expect anything major to be done until after Festival 2014.

6.5 Club Liaison, Recognition and Awards Committee - Nancy Morgan

- Mary Anne Reinhard gave some explanations on the Trillium Award, all the information is also in our Procedures Manual.
- New dancer's recruitment: Financial assistance is available and information required for submission of material can be found in the Procedures Manual.
- All forms are also on the Web Site.
- Billi reported that 124 new dancers participated in New Dancers Celebrations throughout the region.

- This year, we had 255 subscriptions to the Square Times.
- Nancy reported on the Mail Chimp:
 - 37 broadcast messages have been sent since September
 - Only 61% open the emails
 - Over 8000 were opened in the last year
 - 300 recipients clicked on the links
- There is no spam, only material related to EOSARDA is sent.
- Nancy thanked all her committee members.
- Nancy and Dave also reported on our awards recipients for this year.

6.6 Ottawa Area Callers' Association (OACA)

Report forthcoming.

6.7 Round Dance Teachers' Association (RDTA)

RDTA still does not have representation on the EOSARDA Board.

Jean Clinging, at the chair's request reported that the Mississippi Squares will be holding a spring workshop with 30 couples already registered.

On September 5th. A new teaching session will begin in Cornwall at the Knox-St Paul United Church on 12th. Street East (same location as the Swinging B's).

6.8 Festival 2014 - Dave Western

Registration is up to 906 dancers and they are coming in at the rate of 3 or 4 per day. Day passes will be available and this is now being publicised.

Numbers for our region are low in comparison to our membership. Thirteen vendors have confirmed their presence and more to come.

The fashion show is on track and will hopefully attract outside visitors. Friday will be a good day for visitors.

Dave gave us a preview list of the vendors which have committed.

There is an outstanding problem which remains to be settled for the transportation of the flooring.

6.9 SVRDA - No report

7 Old Business

7.0 Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation - Peter Courdin

ONTARIO SQUARE & ROUND DANCE FEDERATION
REPORT TO
THE COUNCIL OF DANCERS MTG.

April 27, 2014

Ontario Federation Report:

1. Ontario Memberships:
The total membership for Ontario this year as at March 31, 2014 is 3229 vs. 3295 for last year. This is an overall decrease of 66 members or 2%.
2. Recruitment Grants: The Federation has approved a recruitment bursary as submitted by 1 EOSARDA club. Mississippi Squares was awarded a bursary of \$200.
3. Recruitment & Promotion: The Federation is currently researching ideas from other regions throughout the country and beyond to determine if there are new ideas and methods that exist that have not been tried locally and could be implemented within the province of Ontario. The idea is to share these ideas with Associations and clubs for their use in Recruitment and Promotion. The results should be available in the near future.
4. Society Membership & Insurance for 2015: There is currently discussion going on between the Society & the Provinces in regard to insuring new dancers who join between July and Sept. and from Sept. to Dec. B.C. is proposing that there be a pro-rated membership fee for these two periods. Ontario is against any fee for new dancers joining between Sep. and Dec. We do not have new dancers join between July and Sept.
5. The Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Federation normally held in May each year at the T&D dance was held this year on April 12th in Peterborough at the Spring Spree dance after the regular mtg. of the Federation. There is no membership fee change for the upcoming year.
6. Teleconferencing: The Federation mtg. held in Nov/13 was via a teleconference. With reduced membership and revenue at all levels, and a need to reduce expenses, the Ontario Federation is trying to utilize teleconference calls for meetings that do not require in depth discussion. The previous Fed. Mtg. held in Aug/13 was an emergency mtg. to deal with the Society insurance and membership issue and was held in Guelph, Ont. with the expense absorbed by the Federation.
7. Association representation on the Ontario Federation Board: Each Association is allowed to have 4 representatives on the Federation Board. However, the board can have 2 Directors at Large to represent dancers not with an association. Anyone interested in serving on the Federation board can contact the President.

Peter Courdin & Karen Remy
President Couple
Ontario Square & Round Dance Federation

7.2 EOSARDA Procedures Manual – Dave Western

Dave mentioned that it is now available on the Web Site and that it has been sent to all club contacts.

He also reminded that it is available in different formats which should meet any requirement that respective clubs may have.

8 New Business

8.1 Organizational Chart

Was presented by Nancy Morgan and shared with everyone

8.2 Elections of Board Members for 2014-2015

The following sitting board members who have indicated that they are willing to remain on the board be confirmed in their position as board members:

Bill Ableson	Gavin Currie	Billi Langtry
Chuck Langtry	Nancy Morgan	Barbara Englehart
Mary Anne Reinhard	Pierre Reinhard	Bruce Warner
Dave Western		

The following members have accepted their nominations for the new season:

Andy Himberg-Laren	Richard Sharman	June Tripp
Charlene Gardner	Ron Gardner	

Welcome to all new members.

8.3 Elections of Federation Representatives

Karen Courdin	Peter Courdin	Billi Langtry	Chuck Langtry
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8.4 Town Hall Meeting

What can/should EOSARDA do to help your club with its Fall Recruiting Drive?

- We could have a corporate add throughout the region
- Identify what clubs accept single dancers
- Links to the web site
- Provide a map of region at Festival 2014 with dots to show where all the clubs are located
- Emphasize that we use contemporary music
- Explain that calling in done in English world wide
- Use local TV Cables

It was moved by Bruce Warner and Seconded by Nancy Morgan that EOSARDA purchase s booth at Festival 2014. **Motion carried.**

9. Meeting adjourned at 16 h 30.

Next meeting will be November 16th in Ottawa.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Frappier