

**E.O.S.A.R.D.A. Board Meeting Minutes
Feb 15 2015
Citizen Newspaper Conference Room,
Baxter St., Ottawa**

In attendance:

Dave Western, Bruce Warner, Bob Summers, Jim Sawtell , Richard Sharman, Charlene Gardner and Ron Gardner

1.1 Call to Order

1.2 Regrets

- Dave Western

Barbara Englehart, Andy Himberg-Larsen, Bill Abelson, June Tripp, Gavin Currie,
Pierre Reinhard, Mary Anne Reinhard,

We had a Quarum.

1.3 Approval of agenda

Add Agenda items

6.3 Trillium long service award

- Dave Western

2. Opening Remarks

- Dave Western **See Attached #1**

3. Previous Minutes

3.1 Approval of Minutes - January Board Meeting - Ron Gardner

Passed

Action: Send final copies of last board meetings and COD to Bob Summers – Ron Gardner

4. Reports

4.1 Operations Committee

4.1.1 Treasurer's Report

- Bruce Warner – **Available on request**

4.1.2 Registrar's Report

- Barbara Englehart **No Report**

4.2 Dance Committee

4.2.1 Committee Report

- Pierre Reinhard **See Attached Report #3**

Action: Dave Western Points to consider for next year

- 1) **Alternate facilities, maybe sports venues**
- 2) **Should the Dance be only focused for new dancers**
- 3) **Should it be replaced entirely?**

Comment: Merry squares did not receive enough tickets.

Action: we should make sure our ribbon list is up to date

Any issues or concerns should be brought up with Dance committee

4.2.1 Swing into Spring 2015

- Andy Himberg-Larsen **No Report**

4.3 P&P Committee

- Dave Western **See Attached Report #4**

4.3 Club Liaison Committee

- Richard Sharman **No Report**

Square time went out with insert to Swing into spring.

Mail chimp has been working, maybe some issues still

Chuck and Billi are having problems with receiving flyers, they are cut off some times.

ACTION: Investigate to why this is happening.

- 4.4 I.T. Committee - Bob Summers **See Attached Report #5**
Discussion group setup
There has been a number of garbage users created by bots. Trying new ways to stop bots.
- 4.5 OACA - Bob Summers **See Attached Report #6**
- 4.6 RDTA - Jim Sawtell **See Attached Report #7**

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

- ~~5.1.1 Eodance Listing of Directors (4.4 October Minutes) - All Directors **Done**~~
- ~~5.1.2 High lighting action items in Minutes (4.1.1a November Minutes) - Ron Gardner~~
- 5.1.3 Communications Project (4.3 November Minutes)- Dave Western
Sign up instruction and discussion group started on Eodance

ACTION: Representatives need to get Recommendations from their clubs let members know.

Reasons: A) there is a discussion group

B) Proposed discussion are open to everyone

Need to get non-Ottawa groups to contribute to this discussion

- 5.1.4 EOSARDA's 60th Anniversary (6.4 January Minutes) - Dave Western

ACTION: We need to hear about ways we can celebrate this event,

Logo on website, historical write-ups, who can we get that knows everything or has archives of pictures and information. Nancy may have some articles.

Maybe a fall afternoon dance?, diamond Jubilee Need to pick a date

- 5.1.5 Testing eodance Discussion Forum (4.4 January Minutes) - All Directors
- 5.1.6 Review of Procedures Manual (5.1.4 January Minutes) - All Directors

ACTION: Review and feedback

- 5.1.7 EOSARDA Dance Dangle
 - .1 Revise Procedures Manual (5.1.5 January Minutes) - Dave Western

ACTION: Will be reviewed and re written and posted to the web

~~.2 Present 2014 dangles at Frosty Fling (5.1.5 January Minutes) - Dave Western **Done**~~

~~.3 Printing dance dangle applications (5.1.5 January Minutes) - Mary Anne Reinhard **Done**~~

- ~~5.1.8 Trillium Award Nominations (6.2 January Minutes) - Dave Western **Done**~~

6. New Business

- 6.1 Graduation 2015 - Billi and Chuck Langtry

See Attached Report #9

Action: Email the Board members to find out who can make it to which club.

- 6.2 Federation Finances - Bruce Warner

Federation has some money we need to come up with a plan to get new dancers out

See Attached Report #8

7. Other Business –

Next meeting March 15 , 2015 1:30 pm

Next COD will be in Prestcott in April

Reports:

Attachment #1

2. Opening Remarks

- Dave Western

What a difference a year makes.

Last year at this time:

§ we were concerned about the poor attendance at Frosty Fling;

§ celebrating our new web site; and

§ looking forward to Festival 2014.

This year, we are:

§ pleased by attendance at Frosty Fling;

§ making ever increasing use of our web site; and

§ looking forward to Swing into Spring 2015.

And of course, as in 2014, we are beginning to turn our attention to this year's Graduations where it looks like we will be celebrating the achievements of another bumper crop of new dancers.

But the challenges that we face are significant. We continue to be faced with the aging of our current membership; the lack of significant youth participation; the long-term viability of some of our clubs and an aging Caller and Cuer population.

We will not resolve these problems by dissension and in-fighting. Whether we are round or square dancers, novices or old hands, Callers or Cuers, we are all in this together. If we are to succeed we need to set aside our differences and make sure that we are all pulling in the same direction. With unity of purpose and a willingness to be creative and innovative, we will overcome.

Attachment #3

4.2.1 Committee Report

- Pierre Reinhard

On Saturday, February 7th, EOSARDA held Frosty Fling at St Patrick High School. This year, the dance was held in the afternoon and by number of dancers who signed in, I would say that it was a success. The final sign-in numbers were 160 including the callers and cuers and 13 self-identified as new basic dancers. The number of new basic dancers may not be accurate and the number of new Mainstream or Round Dancers was not taken into consideration.

Because of the change of venue, there were some complaints from the round dancers about the music crossing over at the back of the gyms making difficult to hear the cues. This was resolved by reducing the volume in the square dance gym and reducing round dance area in the round dancing gym.

The overall dance was a success both monetarily and by the number of dancer's attending both the round and square dancers. I think that EOSARDA should look at having the Frosty Fling 2016 in the afternoon as well.

Pierre Reinhard

Attachment #4

4.3 P&P Committee

- Dave Western

Report - Publicity Working Group

February 15, 2015

As previously reported, a Working Group has been established with representatives from all of our member clubs except the Cornwall Carousels.

Over the past month, I have been working with Bob Summers to set up a discussion group for the wpg on eodance.ca. As of this morning, that group is fully operational.

This morning I sent out log-in instructions to all members of the wpg and also invited them to begin discussing ways in which EOSARDA can help clubs with their annual recruiting drives. Deadline for this first round of comments is March 1.

I remain hopeful that the working group will have recommendations to present at the April Council of dancers.

Attachment #5

4.4 I.T. Committee

- Bob Summers

IT Report to EOSARDA Board meeting – Feb 15, 2014

Over the past month, more work has been done on the Discussion Group linked to the eoDance website.

Initially, the security measures had a “CAPTCHA” system -- a graphic display of letters and numbers where you had to type the same letters and numbers to be authenticated. This was to make it hard for “bots” to post garbage on the Discussion Group. That failed miserably, apparently “bots” have become very sophisticated at handling “CAPTCHA” displays and we had many bogus posts as well as many bogus user registrations.

The security system was changed to a simple “Question & Answer” challenge (“What’s the next number in the sequence: 2,3,4,5”) and this seems to have stopped the “bots” from posting and registering. Go figure...

A dedicated “Forum” has been set up for the Publicity Working Group to brainstorm and discuss ideas of for publicizing square and round dancing in our area instead of just using emails. The rationale for this:

- It will promote use of the Discussion Group in general
- ALL dancers can see the discussions that are taking place,
- (and maybe some will be encouraged enough to add their own ideas as well), and
- It will be a visual repository of all the ideas, rather than being lost in a myriad of emails.

Attachment #6
4.5 OACA

- Bob Summers

OACA Report to EOSARDA Board meeting – Feb 15, 2014

The Ottawa Area Caller Association met last month and had some very distinguished visitors: our own David Western and Toronto area caller couple, Barry and Pam Clasper. Barry is the Chair of CALLERLAB, an international organization that fosters the art of square dance calling and improving caller skills.

From Barry's talk and handouts ...

Until recently CALLERLAB actually had a policy stating competition should not be a part of square dancing. Over the past few years that attitude dissipated enough for the policy to be revoked.

Recently the CALLERLAB Board Of Governors did some research to get a feeling for how many competitive square dance events might actually be out there. This research identified a dozen or so competitions that are still active. This research turned up some interesting facts:

- Most are aimed at young people
- Most are based on Traditional square dancing (i.e. entire dances are known and may be practiced in advance of the competition).
- Most are judged more heavily on presentation factors (e.g. appearance, synchronicity, styling, etc.) than accuracy (e.g. dancing what is being called, reacting to unusual situations, puzzle solving).

It's often said that we have too much focus on "Puzzle Solving" to the detriment of losing dancers. If so, then the people who remain in MWSD must really enjoy puzzle solving and might enjoy competition. As mentioned above, most square dance competition is found in forms that do not emphasize puzzle solving over movement and presentation factors.

One thing that the investigation demonstrated clearly is that competitive formats attract younger people. If we are trying to attract younger people to our activity, some element of competition would seem to offer appeal.

As well as showing youth at the the Pennsylvania Farm Show, Barry emphasized his talk with a video of young dancers taking part in the Pacific North West Competitions. Teens from Washington State and British Columbia are heavily involved in these competitions. Barry was the "mystery caller" recently for those competitions, calling some fairly complex and unusual choreography,

What Is The Value of Competition To MWSD?

Suppose we were to work at increasing the presence of competition in square dancing. What benefits could we expect to flow from that?

- We would increase our appeal to younger people; competitions seem to help counter the "square dancing isn't cool" attitude.
- The desirable qualities of good execution would become well documented and understood.
- We would learn how to measure, judge, mark, and compare those qualities. We have few widely agreed-upon standards against which to compare most performance elements.
- Competition provides a benchmark for good performance that is visible to all dancers, not just competitors. If we have a set of standards against which to evaluate execution for competitive purposes, those same standards can provide guidance for everyday dancers and callers.
- Competition would provide a focus or objective for those who are looking for something more than a weekly social outing. The existence of competitions would afford the more goal-oriented among us something to shoot for.
- Competitions can provide an appealing public demonstration of what square dancing is like and how it can be fun. A study by ChorusAmerica indicates that participation in choirs has increased more than 40% (to over 32 million) since shows such as American Idol, The Voice, and Glee made singing competitions popular.

So the conundrum appears to be: we need younger dancers to have competitions and we need competitions to attract younger dancers.

Attachment #6
4.5 RDTA

Report missing

Attachment #8

6.1 Graduation 2015

- Billi and Chuck Langtry

Club	Date	Time	#	Location	Contact	Directors
Bay Waves	24-Apr	7:30pm	3	Constance Bay CC 262 Len Purcell Dr	Ron Gardner 613-832-7759	Bruce & Linda Warner
Grenville Gremlins	20-Apr	7:30 PM	4	Leslie Hall Clothier St. West, Kemptville	Ray Isabelle	Bob Summers
Harbour Lites	22-Apr	7:00 PM	1	St Andrews Presby Ch	Regina Gerhard - 613-925-4318	
Kanata Squares	23-Apr	7:30 PM	8	Dick Brule Comm Ctr 170 CastleFrank Kanata	David Currie	
Limestone Dancers	30-Apr	7:15 PM	7	Polson Park Pub Sch 165 Robert Wallace Dr.	Judy Mercer 613-766-4476	
Meri Squares	28-Apr	6:30 PM	15	Westminister Presby Ch	Anne Davelaar 613-728-2985	Chuck & Billi Langtry
Mississippi Squares	21-Apr	7:30 PM	9	Black's Corner	Jane & Jim Trach 613-592-0962	
Napanee Pioneers	TBD	7:30PM	4	Southview Pub. Sc.	Donna McHale	
Ottawa Date Squares	TBD		7	1238 Parkway Dr. Ottawa	Richard Sharman 613-820-8858	
Seaway Squares	20-Apr	7:00 PM	1	Dunbar Rec Ctr 3444 Marcellus Rd Dunbar, On	Harold Moore 613-543-2341	
Stone Bridge Squares	24-Apr	7:00 PM	4	Mother Teresa School 1035 Concession St Russell	Dean Benson 613-445-2073	
Swinging B's	10-Mar		0	Knox St.Paul's United Church Hall. 800 12th St E. Cornwall, On	Iris Swerdfeger, 613-937-3455	
Swinging Swallows	23-Apr	7:00 PM	3	Wesley Un. Ch. 275 Pembroke St E	Renton Patterson 613-735-5069	Ron & Charlene Gardner
Village Squares	2-Apr	7:30 PM	0	Roy Hobbs Comm Ctr 109 Larch Ave, Orleans	Dave Currie, 613-521-5292	
Total			66			