

**Minutes – EOSARDA Board Meeting**  
 Sunday, 14 January 2018, 1:30 - 4:30 pm  
 Ottawa Citizen Board Room, Baxter Road  
 Ottawa, Ontario

**Present:** Dave Western            Rene Dick            Jim Sawtell  
                  Ann Davelaar            Robert Dunlop        Bob Summers  
                  Gavin Currie            Bob Pitruniak        June Tripp

**Regrets:** Francois Demarais, Barb Englehart, Ron Gardner, Arlo Speer

<b>1</b>	The President, Dave Western called the Meeting to order at 1:33 PM
	<p>1.1 With the addition of the Trillium Merit Award added to Business Arising and Use of EOSARDA Sound Equipment to New Business, the Agenda was moved for acceptance by June Tripp; seconded by Jim Sawtell. Accepted</p> <p>Note: After the approval of the Agenda, the acting recording secretary pointed out that each section of the Agenda from “Previous Minutes” onward had to be sequentially renumbered. He neglected to catch the duplicate numbering for the “Call to Order” and “Previous Minutes”. Each present board member renumbered their copy of the Agenda accordingly. A revised Agenda is attached after Appendix “G”.</p>
	1.2 Opening Remarks - Dave Western - <b>See Appendix “A”</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Previous Minutes</b>
	2.1 The Minutes of the previous meeting on November 19, 2017, were moved for acceptance by Ann Davelaar; seconded by June Tripp. Accepted.
	2.2 Approval of the Minutes of the November 19, 2017, Council of Dancers meeting were deferred to February.
<b>3</b>	<b>Reports</b>
	3.1 Treasurer - Bob Pitruniak - <b>See Appendix “B”</b> Bob pointed out that the financial results have been reconciled to November 30, 2017.
	3.2. Registrar - Barbara Englehart - <b>See Appendix “C”</b> Presented by Dave on behalf of Barb in her absence.

	3.3 Dance Committee - Barbara Englehart - <b>See Appendix “D”</b> Presented by Dave on behalf of Barb in her absence.
	3.4 Publicity and Promotion Committee - Rene Dick - No written report presented The next issue of Square Time will be mid February.
	3.5 Club Liaison Committee - Ann Davelaar - <b>See Appendix “E”</b>
	3.6 Information Technology Committee - Bob Summers reported as follows, “Those who submit PDF or JPG files (eg, flyers for events) that are to be used on the eoDance website calendar or to be sent as a MailChimp bulletin now need to be aware of the size of their files. If they are over a speciic size, the file shoulc be compressed or optimized to reduce their size. Information on the "Submit an Event" page on the eoDance website provides more information.
	3.7 Ottawa Area Callers Association - François Demarais - No Report
	3.8 Swing into Spring - Arlo Speer. <b>See Appendix “F”</b> Presented by Dave on behalf of Arlo in his absence.
<b>4</b>	<b>Business Arising from the Minutes</b>
	4.1 Training Bursaries for Club Leaders, assessment, Phase 2 - Arlo Speer (Item 5.3 - September 2017) <b>See Appendix “G”</b> Presented by Dave on behalf of Arlo in his absence.
	4.2 Representation on Board for clubs outside of Ottawa area (Item 4.1 November 2017) Dave remarked that he has had no response to his article in the last Square Time from clubs outside the Ottawa area expressing their interest to be represented on the Board.
	4.3 Requirement to file financial statements (Item 4.3 November 2017) - <b>deferred to February meeting</b>
	4.4 Dance Leader Compensation (Item 4.4 November 2017) - <b>deferred to February meeting</b>
	4.5 Funding Fall Fest (Item 5.3 November 2017) <b>No Report</b>

	<p>4.6 EOSARDA Funding Formula (Item 5.4 November 2017 – revised agenda) The Board had a vibrant and enlightening discussion concerning the various options that could be available.</p> <p><b>Motion: Moved by Robert Dunlop that EOSARDA suspend Fall Fest (2018) and that the matter be taken to the next Council of Dancers for a vote. Seconded by Bob Summers. Accepted.</b></p> <p>Dave undertook to draft a notice for the next Square Time that hopefully would solicit comments from area clubs. <b>And to be on the next COD Agenda.</b></p>
	<p>4.7 Funding for New Club start-ups ( Item 5.5 November – revised agenda - deferred to February meeting - <b>deferred to February meeting</b></p>
	<p>4.8 Trillium Merit Award - Ann covered this in her report - <i>Refer to Appendix “E”</i></p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>New Business</b></p>
	<p>5.1 New Dancer Celebrations 2018 - Ann spoke about the pending graduation celebrations. The invitation letter to clubs will go out as soon as possible. And she will order extra pins.</p>
	<p>5.2 Use of EOSARDA Sound Equipment In accordance with Chapter 21 of the Procedures Manual, the EOSARDA sound equipment is not to be used on an ongoing basis.</p>
	<p>The President adjourned the meeting at 4:03 PM</p>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Next Meeting</b> <b>1:30 Sunday, February 18, 2018</b> <b>Ottawa Citizen Board Room</b></p>

## 1.2 President's Opening Remarks Appendix "A"

Opening Remarks - January 2018 Board Meeting

January 14, 2018

Happy New Year, I hope that you had a very good holiday season.

Yesterday evening, despite the intense cold, and the fact that many were still digging out from the previous day's snow storm, we, along with some 257 other dancers attended the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Mississippi Squares Halfway Dance. Mississippi was a little disappointed with the turn out which was down about 50 from last year, but it was still approximately 150% higher than the attendance at Fall Fest. More importantly, that kind of turn out, tells me that Square and Round Dancing in Eastern Ontario continues to be a alive and well.

But there is no doubt that, despite the best efforts of many dedicated individuals, our movement is facing a number of difficult challenges. These include:

- a lack of active Round Dance Cuers in our region
- the potential retirement of some of our most experienced Square Dance Callers and
- the continued loss of registered dancers.

We are not alone in facing these challenges, they appear to be endemic across North America. There are many reasons for this sorry state of affairs, but of one thing I am certain - it is not due to any lack of effort. A great many dedicated individuals have been trying very hard for many years to turn things around, with a marked lack of success.

I don't know what the answer to the problem is, if indeed any answer exists. I do know that we have to keep on trying.

But there is no denying that the reduced number of dancers is having a negative impact on this organization. With a smaller pool of dancers to draw on, we are having difficulty finding enough volunteers to carry on the work of this Board. We are also experiencing reduced revenues, which in turn are having an impact on the dances that we run and the programs that we administer.

I believe that it is time to take a long hard look at what we do, how we are doing it and how it is being funded. As Bob pointed out in the budget that he presented last November, our current liabilities significantly exceed our revenues to the point that if all forecast expenditures were to actually take place, admittedly not a likely scenario but still a possibility, we would be broke within 3 years.

It seems to me that unless we are prepared to let EOSARDA die, and I strongly believe that we cannot let this happen, we are faced with two alternatives.

We can cut back or eliminate some of the programs that we administer. For example, if we were to eliminate the Young Dancer Initiative, the New Dancer Subsidy program and the Dance Leader Training Subsidy program we would return immediately to a balanced budget situation. Of course the elimination of some or all of these programs would have a negative impact on the dance community that we serve, but we would be ensuring the on-going financial viability of the organization.

Alternatively we could take a long hard look at how we fund EOSARDA with a view to increasing the organizations' revenues in order to better match them to our financial obligations.

Or more realistically we could look at a blend of both options.

What is certain, is that faced with ever decreasing numbers of registered dancers, the status quo is not a viable option.

Last November, I presented to both the Board and Council of Dancers two discussion papers that suggested ways in which we could change the way in which we fund both Fall Fest and EOSARDA itself. Both papers suggest a radical departure from existing funding models. I am sure that these are not the only ways to address the respective problems. But so far no one has come forward with any alternative ideas.

Today, starting with the ideas put forward in these papers, and based on the premise that the long-term viability of EOSARDA is worth striving for, we will begin a serious discussion on the issues and possible remedies available to us. We will not finish the discussion this afternoon. Rather it will continue over the next few months with the objective of presenting Council in April with a recommended way forward.

Of course any final decision on these matters will rest with our membership as expressed through the Council of Dancers.

In the meantime there are also more routine matters such as Frosty Fling and New Dancer Celebrations to deal with. Its going to be a busy afternoon, so let's get to it.

### **3.1 Treasurer's Report Appendix "B"**

This information has been omitted from the on-line version but is available upon request.

### 3.2 Registrar’s Report Appendix “C”

EOSARDA 2017-2018 REGISTRAR'S REPORT AS OF JANUARY					
	As of Jan. 2018	As of Jan.2017	Difference from Jan.2017		
NEW SQUARE DANCERS	120	131	-11	Bay Waves	3
so far 101 are new to the activity				Grenville Gremlins	4
RETURNING SQUARE DANCERS	583	650	-67	Harbour Lites	7
NEW ROUND DANCERS	2	10	-8	Kanata Squares	6
RETURNING ROUND DANCERS	51	51	0	Limestone Dancers	6
NEW LINE DANCERS	28	28	0	Meri Squares	18
RETURNING LINE DANCERS	25	24	1	Mississippi Squares	9
<b>TOTAL TO DATE</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>-85</b>	Napanee Pioneers	8
				Ottawa Date Squares	10
				Quinte Twirlers	14
				Saturday Squares	0
				Seaway Squares	0
				Stone Bridge Squares	0
				Swinging Bs	12
				Swinging Swallows	8
CUERS, CALLERS, LEADERS AND PARTNERS	27	22	5	Village Squares	0
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP TO DATE</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>-80</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>105</b>
TOTAL CLUBS TO DATE	30	30	0		
TOTAL ASSOCIATIONS TO DATE	3	3	0		

ISSUED: January 14, 2018

### 3.3 Dance Committee Report Appendix “D”

#### DANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

##### FROSTY FLING 2018

- 1 The Frosty Fling is scheduled for Saturday, February 3, 2018 from 2:00-4:30 pm. In case of inclement weather , an announcement will be put on Eodance if the event is cancelled.
- 2 The flyers and ribbons have been sent out..
- 3 Callers: John Charman and Wendy VanderMeulen  
Cuers: Jean & Don Clingin
- 4 Ribbons: \$10 in Advance - \$12.00 at the door.
- 5 The flyers says light refreshments...Options being contemplated are variety of cookies/squares and basket of oranges and maybe bananas for those who cannot or prefer not, to eat sweets.
- 6 Dancing Princess and TaggerWear were both asked to attend, however the only confirmation received was from Taggerwear.
- 7 Please encourage the new Basic dancers to attend. The dance is for them.

Please encourage the mainstream and plus dancers to show their support by also attending.

##### FALL FEST 2018

- 1 Planning to commence shortly .

**Issued: January 14, 2018.**

### 3.5 Club Liaison Committee Appendix “E”

#### **EOSARDA Club Liaison Committee Report January 14, 2018**

##### **Club Recognition**

Francois Desmarais presented a Certificate to the SVSRDA Executive for the Association’s 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at a special dance in Prescott on December 10, 2017.

David and Marie Currie presented Richard Sharman with a Trillium Merit Award in British Columbia during the Christmas holidays. Richard was quite touched by this honour, David reports. Photos of the event were sent to Dave Western, for publication in Square Time.

##### **EOSARDA Subsidies and Federation Recruitment Bursaries**

Six EOSARDA Subsidies were awarded in 2017 for a total of \$1,135.32 out of a possible \$2,000. This means slightly more than 50% of the available funds were expended by EOSARDA in 2017. The following clubs and amounts were involved:

Grenville Gremlins	\$ 76.27
Meri Squares	\$192.94
Mississippi Squares	\$250.00
Napanee Pioneers	\$151.67
Swinging Bs	\$214.44
Swinging Swallows	\$250.00

Due to unforeseen circumstances, including vacations, adverse weather and miscommunications, the files from the six clubs which applied for a Federation Recruitment Bursary were unavoidably delayed in reaching Gerry and Jim Sawtell, Federation Directors responsible for Professional Development. However, this delivery was accomplished today at the Board meeting.

Federation Recruitment Bursary decisions will be made known after the March, 2018 Federation Meeting.

##### **Club Visit Dangle Program**

It has come to light that several Dance Dangle Applications were inadvertently omitted from the List of Dance Dangles which was ordered last fall. This situation is being investigated, and any overlooked dangles will be ordered and distributed as soon as possible, and the total changed for the record.

### **3.5 Club Liaison Committee Appendix “E” (cont’d)**

#### **New Dancer Celebrations (cont’d)**

A Club Letter will be emailed as soon as possible to determine the total number of new dancers registered by the relevant clubs since September, 2017 including January Registration and possible Open Houses. A Follow-up Club Letter will serve as a reminder to send new dancer numbers still needed, as well as asking for detailed plans, such as date, time, venue, etc.

I will order 100 CSRDS pins to add to the 38 on hand, to cover the potential total required in 2018. I will ask Beth McGifford, the Society Treasurer, to send me the pins by mail, and to deal with our EOSARDA Treasurer, Bob Pitruniak, regarding payment.

At present the free EOSARDA dance coupons are a work in progress.

On hand there are 38 information Brochures describing EOSARDA’s role and functions. Another 62 Brochures will be printed to allow for the preparation of 100 possible packages.

In February, I hope to be able to pass the packages and final chart to the participating Board members, to coincide with the destinations they will choose.

Ann Davelaar

### 3.8 Swing into Spring Appendix "F"

#### Swing Into Spring

#### Status Report for EOSARDA & SVSRDA January 2018

The last month of 2017 has been relatively quiet for the *Swing Into Spring* committee. The committee is planning for a busy 4 months between now and *Swing Into Spring 2018* to be held at the South Grenville District High School in Prescott Friday to Sunday, 04 - 06 May 2018.

The committee has established a bank account dedicated to *Swing Into Spring* to facilitate the transparent and accurate management of funds related to the event.

Starting in January, the Swing Into Spring committee will begin an outreach to EOSARDA and SVSRDA clubs, as well as other nearby square and round dance groups to provide information about *Swing Into Spring 2018* and to encourage registrations. The committee asks for SVSRDA and EOSARDA assistance in spreading the word. Our webpage ([http://www.eodance.ca/SIS\\_home\\_page.php](http://www.eodance.ca/SIS_home_page.php)) and FaceBook page are both up and running (<https://www.facebook.com/PrescottSIS>) to keep everyone up to date with the most current plans for the 2018 event.

Registrations for the event typically begin in earnest during January. So far this year, we have received about a dozen and a half registrations, so we're off to a positive start for *Swing Into Spring 2018*.

Submitted January 2018, by  
Regina Gerhard, Liaison to SVSRDA & Arlo Speer, Liaison to EOSARDA

## **4.1 Training Bursaries for Club Leaders, Assessment, Phase 2 Appendix “G”**

### **Training Bursaries for Club Leaders, Assessment, Phase 2 Follow-Up to the Action Item 5.3 from 17 September 2017 Meeting**

In June 2017 the EOSARDA Board agreed (Item 6.5) to provide, on an experimental basis, a training subsidy to two members of a member club who wished to complete a Communications Workshop offered by Volunteer Ottawa. The Board agreed to provide the training support on the condition that the members who attended the workshop agreed to complete a 3-phase assessment of the impact and benefits of the workshop.

The 3 phases of the assessment include reviews of: (1) course content and procedures, (2) members' progress in applying the course's objectives to their work at the club, and (3) how their club has benefited from knowledge and skills gained from the training. The results of the first phase of the assessment were reported to the September Board meeting (Item 5.3).

Both workshop participants have now completed the second phase of the assessment. Overall, they report that the training has helped them with their work at the club. Detecting and appreciating the communication styles that are most effective for dealing with specific individuals and listening fully to alternate ideas before creating a response (rather than beginning to formulate counter arguments while listening) were cited as two skills that the participants were working on and that had provided some success in their club work.

The participants also identified that the limited amount of supervised practice during the workshop followed by working essentially on their own to apply the new skills has made for slow mastery of the course skills.

All in all, when asked to what extent the course has helped them in their club work (and given a choice among: “a great deal”, “somewhat”, “less than I had hoped”, and “hardly at all”), both club members reported that the course has helped “somewhat”.

The third phase of the assessment is scheduled for near the end of the 2017/2018 dance season.