

Agenda – Special Organisational EOSARDA Board Meeting

Sunday, 10 June 2018

1:30 - 4:10 pm

Pretty Street Community Centre

2 Pretty Street, Stittsville

ATTENDEES:

Gavin Currie

George Newton

June Tripp

Ann Davelaar

Arlo Speer

Dave Western

Barb Englehart

Bob Summers

ABSENTEES:

Bob Pitruniak

Wendy VanderMeulen

1. Call to Order

1.1. Additional Board Members

MOTION: June Tripp/ Gavin Currie that **Bob Summers** and **George Newton** be appointed to the board in accordance with Article 7a(vii) of our By-Laws. **CARRIED**

MOTION: Ann Davelaar/Gavin Currie that **Wendy VanderMeulen** (as the representative of the Ottawa Area Callers Association) be accorded voting status on the Board in accordance with Article 7a(i) of our By-Laws. **CARRIED**

1.2. Agenda accepted as revised

– Dave Western

1.3. Opening Remarks Attached as Appendix “A”

– Dave Western

2. Previous Minutes

2.1. Meeting Record from 28 April 2018 Board Meeting

– Arlo Speer

MOTION: Gavin Currie/ Barb Englehart that the record of the 29 April Board meeting be adopted as circulated. **CARRIED**

2.2. The record of the 28 April Council of Dancers meeting was accepted and will be circulated to those attending the Council of Dancers meeting.

3. New Business

3.1. The following members indicated willingness to continue serving in the listed positions:

- Dave Western as President
- Arlo Speer as Secretary
- Bob Pitruniak as Treasurer
- Barb Englehart as Registrar

MOTION: Bob Summers/ George Newton that the above slate of officers be accepted for the 2018/2019 year. **CARRIED**

The Board agreed to leave the position of Vice-President vacant for the year due to the reduced number of Directors.

- 3.2. Duties related to the five priorities identified by the Council of Dancers:
- **Bob Summers** offered to continue maintaining the **EoDance.ca website**
 - **Rene Dick** offered to continue editing **Square Time**
 - **Arlo Speer** offered to continue managing **EOSARDA Bulletins**

The Board accepted the above three individuals in the respective positions.

MOTION: Bob Summers/ Gavin Currie that Barb Englehart, June Tripp, as well as Jim and Jerry Sawtell be appointed as EOSARDA representatives to the Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation. **CARRIED**

- 3.3. The Board agreed to undertake the following additional tasks for the 2018/2019 dance year:

- **Dave Western** indicated his willingness to co-ordinate **Trillium Awards**
- **Bob Pitruniak** indicated his willingness to co-ordinate the **Dance Leader Training Subsidy** programme
- **Ann Davelaar** indicated her willingness to co-ordinate the **New Dancer Subsidy** programme – **George Newton** offered to assist.
- **George Newton** indicated his willingness to work with clubs to gain consensus whereby EOSARDA could take a more active role in the promotion of square and round dancing throughout the region.
- **Ann Davelaar** indicated her willingness to co-ordinate the **Dance Dangle** programme.
- **Ann Davelaar** indicated her willingness to co-ordinate **new dancer celebrations**.
- **Dave Western** indicated his willingness to co-ordinate anniversary and **special celebrations**.

- 3.4. Expanding EOSARDA's Profile – Chairman's remarks attached as Appendix B

Dave Western will contact clubs in various parts of our area to see if they would be open to co-sponsoring dances with EOSARDA with a view to holding dances in areas such as: Cornwall, Kingston, Ottawa, Pembroke, Prescott, etc. **Dave** will contact Kingston, Cornwall and Pembroke; **Barb** will contact Ottawa clubs.

- 3.5. Notifying clubs of Council and Board decisions and implications for the coming dance year.

Dave will circulate a draft EOSARDA Bulletin to explain how the increase in Board members will allow us to undertake activities beyond the minimum list established at the April 2018 Council of Dancers meeting and will provide a list of activities from Item 3.3.

- 3.6. The Board agreed that the letter included in the fall registration package sent to clubs will provide information to clubs about the revision made to Article By-Law 2.

4. **Next Meetings**

Board Meeting: ~ 1:30 – 21 October 2018 – Ottawa Citizen Boardroom

Board Meeting: ~ 11:00 – 18 November 2018 – Ottawa Citizen Boardroom

Council of Dancers ~ 1:30 – 18 November 2018 – Ottawa Citizen Boardroom

Appendix A: Chairman's Opening Remarks

Last April, out of concern for the Board's limited human resources, the Council of Dancers directed this Board to focus its attention on 5 priority items. These are:

- The Fall Registration process
- Publishing Square Time
- Maintaining the coDance.ca web site
- Issuing EOSARDA Bulletins and
- Ensuring that the Association continues to be represented on the Federation's Board

At the same time, Council approved a budget for Dance Year 2018/19 that provides for spending above that required to accomplish the five priority items, thereby providing the Board with the authority to undertake additional tasks as time and resources permit.

On the question of the number of Directors, things have improved somewhat since April. I am pleased to advise the Board that subsequent to the Council meeting, Bob Summers and George Newton have volunteered to serve as Directors for 2018/19. Since neither was elected by Council, one of our first tasks today will be to confirm their status as Directors. This we can do under Article 7a(viii) of the By-Laws which provides that:

“Additional Directors may be appointed by the Board of Directors, at their discretion, and such additional Directors shall be full voting members of the Board.”

We also have two Ex-officio Board members: Wendy VanderMeulen (the OACA Representative) and Rene Dick (Editor of Square Time). The By-Laws give the Board the authority to accord voting status to both the OACA Rep and the Editor of Square Time. Wendy has indicated that she would like such a designation. Rene has demurred but has said that will attend Board meetings from time-to-time as a non-voting Board member.

Therefore, if the Board's concurs, we will have 10 voting Directors for 2018/19. While short of the 20 Directors provided for in the By-Laws, this increase should allow the Board to take on additional challenges over and above the five priorities, should it choose to do so.

Our next step will be to ourselves organized by electing Officers for the new year. In this regard, taking into consideration the reduced number of Directors, I suggest that we consider not filling the position of Vice-President, leaving us with a four-member Executive for 2018/19 (President, Secretary, Treasurer and Registrar. We will also need to confirm who will be our representatives to Federation in the new Dance Year.

Normally the next step would be to appoint Standing Committee Chairs and assign Directors to each Standing Committee. I recommend not only that we postpone any such action until we have an agreed work plan for 2018/19, but that we give serious consideration to adopting a new - temporary - organizational structure based on work plan action items and assigned responsibilities rather than a committee structure.

Finally, there are a number of additional tasks which this Board might like to accomplish in 2018/19, and there may be some tasks which we would normally undertake which we may choose not to take on. We may make some preliminary decisions in this regard today. Other decision may have to be deferred until later in the year.

2018/19 begins now.

Appendix B: Increasing EOSARDA's Profile Across the Region

I think that EOSARDA has an identity problem. Across much of our region, it is perceived as an Ottawa based organization, which it should not be. EOSARDA is supposed to represent all of the Eastern Ontario square and round dance community. But the Association's presence in much of our area is limited to:

- occasional attendance by some Directors at various open dances;
- the presentation of commemorative certificates when requested; and
- attendance at new dancer celebrations.

Our two annual EOSARDA sponsored dances, Fall Fest and Frosty Fling, take place in Ottawa. Most of our Board meetings take place in Ottawa. When we have undertaken any kind of regional ad campaign, it has tended to be Ottawa-centric. The only exceptions to the Ottawa paradigm is our joint sponsorship of Swing into Spring and our annual out-of-town Council of Dancers meeting.

This lack of a truly regional presence has resulted in:

- Cornwall feeling closer to Montreal and the Border Boosters than to EOSARDA
- the Seaway Valley clubs feeling that the SVSRDA is more central to their existence than EOSARDA
- Kingston and Napanee having more affinity for Peterborough than Ottawa and
- A marked lack of interest in all of our outlying clubs for serving on EOSARDA's Board of Directors

Of course, some of this is due to the accident of geography. Nothing can move Cornwall closer to Ottawa and it is both normal and natural for clubs to feel closer to neighbouring clubs than to distant one.

But as a regional association, EOSARDA needs a larger regional footprint.

One way to increase the Association's regional profile might be to hold Board meetings on a regular basis at various out-of-Ottawa locations. However, such a move could lead to an increase in expenditures due to increased travel claims and, based on experience in Ottawa, there is little reason to believe that club executives or dancers would be motivated to attend such meetings even if they were held in their own town or city.

Another possibility, and one that seems to offer more potential, would be to have EOSARDA co-sponsor select regional dances at strategic out-of-Ottawa venues, along similar lines to those successfully used for Swing into Spring.

This model could see four EOSARDA sponsored or co-sponsored dances per year.

- We could begin by partnering with Cornwall to hold a Harvest Festival in the fall.
- This could be followed by a winter dance (Snow Ball ?) in Ottawa, co-sponsored with one or more Ottawa clubs and coordinated with Winterlude.
- An early spring dance could be scheduled for the Kingston area in cooperation with our western most clubs

- The dance year could wrap up with Swing into Spring in Prescott in late April/early May.

In all cases, the co-sponsoring club or clubs would look after finding a hall of suitable capacity (minimum 100 people) and hiring Callers and Cuers. EOSARDA would provide seed money and underwrite any potential loss of revenue while splitting any profits on an agreed basis with the club(s) co-sponsoring the dance. The dance program would be subject to negotiation based on regional and local circumstances - with Dance Committee representing EOSARDA in this regard.

Such a program would require relatively little effort on the part of this Board, would greatly increase EOSARDA's profile across the region, and has the potential to provide the Association with a new revenue stream thereby alleviating any immediate need to raise fees.

I would like the Board's approval to approach both Kingston and Cornwall with this proposal in order to determine whether there is any interest in pursuing this idea.

Dave Western