

# Special EOSARDA Board Meeting

Tuesday, 02 June 2020

7:00 - 10:00 pm

**ON-LINE MEETING**

## Potential Attendees:

Jacques Chesnais

Gavin Currie

Gerry Johnson

Arlo Speer

Geoff Clarke

Barb Englehart

Lamar Mason

Wendy VanderMeulen

Teena Clarke

Pat Gauthier

Bob Pitruniak

Dave Western

## 1. Call to Order

1.1. Opening Remarks

– Dave Western

## 2. Previous Records and E-Mail Decisions

**MOTION:** Gavin / Pat that the record of the 24 May Special Board meeting be accepted as circulated.

– Arlo Speer

**CARRIED**

## 3. EOSARDA Actions -- to date and going forward

3.1. Message to Member Clubs

- Has been sent as EOSARDA Bulletin Appendix A

3.2. Pandemic-related issues

- City of Ottawa facilities have no projected opening date or conditions
- The City of Ottawa is trying to find ways to hold blood donor clinics in its various sports facilities, but is having difficulty finding ways to properly sterilize the facilities. This could have an impact on our future use of the same facilities.

3.3. Club-related issues

- Some clubs have created tentative fall schedules in anticipation of being able to start

3.4. EOSARDA's next steps

- On-Line Dance Proposal Appendix A -- Lamar Mason
  - **Geoff** will contact the Ottawa Area Callers Association to advise of the plan
  - After a reasonable delay, **Lamar** and **Wendy** will circulate the proposal to EOSARDA member clubs as a "Helpful Hints" Bulletin.
  - Dave congratulated the Publicity Committee for the fact that their motivational Bulletins are being circulated well beyond the borders of Eastern Ontario and are being very well received.
- Communication activities and simply keeping in touch should be our primary focus.
- It is too early to talk about specific plans for the resumption of dancing.
- Although a potential survey was suggested at the last meeting (Item 3.4) the Board decided not to proceed with it at this time.
- **Council of Dancers Meeting** – The Board plans to wait until this fall when we will have more specific information to hold the Council of Dancers meeting. That meeting is likely to be on-line meeting.

### 3.5. Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation

- **MOTION:** Geoff Clarke/ Gavin Currie that Arlo, Barb, Bob, Dave be appointed as EOSARDA representatives to the Federation for the coming year. **CARRIED**
- Dave advised that he has asked Federation whether a significant reduction in the number of registered dancers will have an impact on the per dancers cost of insurance next year. Federation could not answer the question and is going to consult with Society and the insurance company and report back.

### 4. On-line Meeting Platform

#### 4.1. Selection of on-line meeting platform

– Arlo Speer

- To ensure on-line access for all Board members, the Board decided to use Cisco Webex.

### 5. **Our next meeting:** -- Sunday 16 August at 2:00 pm, using Webex

## **Appendix A: -- EOSARDA Bulletin to Member Clubs**

### **COVID-19 and Dancing**

#### **To all EOSARDA Member Clubs:**

EOSARDA's Board of Directors recognizes that these are difficult times for all of us. We are all missing our regular dancing and would all like to return to the dance floor as soon as possible. But we also have to recognize our social responsibility to our dancers and their families, many of whom are in vulnerable situations.

Therefore, the Board of Directors strongly recommends that all Member Clubs strictly follow all government recommendations as regards physical distancing, interpersonal contact, the use of personal protective equipment such as masks and gloves, limits on the size of public gatherings, etc. None of us wants to see an outbreak of COVID-19 traced back to any of our Member Clubs.

The Board realizes that it may be some time until we can resume dancing in a normal way. Over the past few weeks we have seen some very good virtual dancing initiatives which have permitted some limited dancing, albeit under very unusual conditions. As government restrictions are gradually relaxed, it may be possible to further expand the virtual dancing experience. This will be outlined in future EOSARDA Bulletins which we hope you will share with all your club members.

If there is anything that EOSARDA, as an organization, can do to support you as an individual club as you move forward with your dance decisions, do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to listen, respond and assist as needed. We will be communicating with all clubs throughout the summer to try to coordinate information and responses where appropriate.

Dave Western  
President  
EOSARDA  
613 838-5428

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## **Appendix B: -- On-Line Dance Proposal**

### **What will square dancing look like if 8 people cannot gather with a caller – One option**

This is one model to enable square dancers to dance in-person if large gatherings are not allowed come the fall.

It is understood that any approach that involves in-person square dancing, without physical distancing between individuals not of the same household, must comply with government directives on COVID-19 in place at the time.

The success of any option will depend on the willingness of dancers to take part which, in turn, will depend on each person's circumstances. Not every person will have the same comfort level with an option or ability to participate in the option. As we have already seen, dancing with "ghosts" does not work for everyone. But if we do not provide options, no one will be dancing.

Restrictions are gradually being eased. Large gatherings (halls full of square dancers) are unlikely in the near future. But limited interactions between households are now being allowed with physical distancing. When such interactions are allowed without distancing, two couple dancing (4 people) should be possible in a private home. Most Basic, Mainstream and Plus calls can be danced with 4 people.

### **One possible model for clubs**

1. The club would arrange with their caller to host weekly virtual dances for 2 couples (4 people).
2. The club would require interested dancers to pay the EOSARDA dues and Club membership to participate.
3. Club members would arrange with each other to create groups of 4 people and decide on a dance location (a private home, common room in a condo building, etc.), or decide to continue to dance as two people with a ghost couple.
4. The login information for the weekly dance would be provided to members.
5. The caller would develop the weekly program at the dance level chosen by the club. Perhaps more than one level would be covered in each weekly session or on different days weekly.
6. The club would pay the caller from the sessional fees paid by dancers.
7. If a club does not have a caller available for virtual calling, it could register its members with EOSARDA but have its members pay the sessional fee to the host club with the caller. In other words, pay the \$6 EOSARDA fee through Club X (and be a member of Club X) but pay the dance fee to Club Y. Then dancers from Club X would receive the login information along with members of Club Y.

The goal is to provide a mechanism for dancers to get back to dancing as soon as possible so that interest is not lost, dance skills are maintained and clubs survive. This approach also enables callers to maintain their calling skills. If a caller did not want to or was unable to arrange weekly sessions, or if a club did not have enough members to cover a caller's fees, then maybe they could be part of a "guest caller" approach with one of the clubs dancing regularly. Developing virtual dance sessions is not easy! So far, callers have been doing so without compensation. If dancing is to happen regularly, we must find a way to compensate callers for their efforts.

As stated at the beginning, each club will have to find an option and make decisions that work for its dancers. This option is provided to get us thinking. All options must respect health and safety directives.

Lamar Mason and Wendy VanderMeulen