



EOSARDA Board Meeting

Sunday, 15 March 2020

1:30 - 4:30 pm

Pretty Street Community Centre

2 Pretty Street, Stittsville

Attendees:

Barb Englehart

Gavin Currie

Pat Gauthier

Gerry Johnson

Bob Pitruniak

Arlo Speer

Wendy VanderMeulen

Dave Western

Absentees:

Jacques Chesnais

Geoff Clarke

Teena Clarke

Lamar Mason

Cathy Whitty

1. Call to Order

1.1. Opening Remarks

Appendix A

– Dave Western

1.2. Agenda updated to include Item 5.9

– Dave Western

2. Previous Records and E-Mail Decisions

– Arlo Speer

2.1. MOTION: Speer/Currie That the record of the 16 February Board meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

2.2. MOTION: Pitruniak/Currie that the board reimburse with thanks Wendy and John for the cost of the Caller Information Session held 29 February 2020.

CARRIED

3. Committee Reports –

3.1. Operations Committee

3.1.1. Treasurer's Report

Appendix B

– Bob Pitruniak

3.1.2. Registrar's Report

Appendix C

– Barb Englehart

3.2. Dance Committee

3.2.1. *Swing into Spring*

Appendix D

– Arlo Speer

3.3. Publicity Committee

The Publicity Committee has been working on a marketing video for all clubs and a major demonstration at Confederation Park, Kingston for Sunday, August 23, 2020 from 11:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The March 28 Publicity Club meeting in Prescott will be cancelled because of COVID – 19.

3.4. Technology Committee

– Arlo Speer

Work on phishing e-mail has been concluded.

Replacement cables and accessories as well as repairs have been completed as needed for our sound equipment.

Hearing Assistance campaign is progressing with plans for a survey later in the year.

Additional work on teleconferencing will not proceed until specific direction is received to move forward.

Budget submissions for 2020/2021 will be the same as for 2019/2020.

- 3.5. Club Liaison Appendix E – Wendy VanderMeulen
3.6. **MOTION:** VanderMeulen /Englehart That the reports be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Past Record and Reports

- 4.1. On-Line Banking (Item 4.1 19 January) – Bob Pitruniak
- Bob will contact the Bank to determine the final actions.
- 4.2. Registration Information – Barb Englehart
- We have been having difficulty identifying the correct points of contact that our clubs have established for various purposes.
 - Dave will prepare a letter to club presidents asking clubs to identify contacts.

5. New Business

- 5.1. Trillium Award Nominations – Dave Western
- We have received 4 nominations for Trillium Awards – 2 for Merit Awards and 2 for Long Service Awards
 - The Board approved all 4 nominations and will forward the associated documentation to the Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation for its consideration.
- 5.2. 2020/2021 Budget – Bob Pitruniak
- Budget Proposals from Committee Chairs and Board Members
- MOTION:** Pitruniak/Johnson that the 2020/2021 budget included in Appendix B be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**
- 5.3. New Dancer Celebrations
- The proposed Schedule for EOSARDA Club Celebrations is attached as **Appendix F**. Given the situation with COVID – 19, that schedule is subject to change. If New Dancer Celebrations cannot take place this spring, the Board agreed that we need to explore another way to recognise and celebrate our new dancers, perhaps in the fall.
- 5.4. Next year's Board – who's willing to return? Nomination List – Dave Western
- At this point, most board members appear willing to return next year.
- 5.5. Dance Leader compensation – Barb Englehart
- Deferred by the Board awaiting a recommendation from Dance Committee.
- 5.6. Challenge Dangles **Appendix G** – Dave Western
- The Board continues looking for a detailed plan, including a clear objective.
- 5.7. COVID-19 (Coronavirus) ... Should we take any action? – Dave Western
- The Board agreed to forward an EOSARDA Bulletin encouraging member clubs that have suspended dancing to contact the eoDance webmaster to ensure that their cancellations are shown on our website and indicating EOSARDA's support for their decisions.
- 5.8. Agenda for April Council of Dancers
- A Draft Agenda is attached as **Appendix H**
- 5.9. April edition of Square Time – Gerry Johnson
- The Square Time Editor has received only a few general items and no particularly timely articles. With the current COVID situation, distributing printed editions could be difficult.
 - Options include: **(i)** forego an April edition, **(ii)** publish a web-only version for April, **(iii)** provide the usual printed and web editions, or **(iv)** delay publication.

- The Board agreed to continue as normal, requesting information from clubs, with a plan to produce an April edition, accepting that it might be a smaller than usual edition.

6. Next Meeting

Given the current situation with COVID, the following plan could be delayed.

Sunday 19 April 2020

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Hall in Prescott

11:00 – noon – Board meeting

1:30 to 4:30 – Council of Dancers meeting

Appendix A: ~ President's Opening Remarks

Good afternoon, thank you for coming out under the current circumstances.

The country is in a state of turmoil, with an attendant impact on this association and our members. Most (probably all) clubs are shut down for at least the next three weeks and we do not know at this time if they will be re-opened any time soon, we could lose the rest of this dance year.

There is also an undercurrent of panic spreading through the community as witnessed by the frenzied rush to buy toilet paper for what is a pulmonary not a digestive disease. Again, we are not immune for this reaction. On Friday morning, I received a phone call from a dancer who was out of his mind with fear over the idea that we would even consider dancing at this time. There was no reasoning with him. All I could suggest is that if he didn't want to dance, he should stay home. That was not good enough. It seems that I had the responsibility to protect the entire population of this province by shutting down all dancing immediately.

As things turned out, that is precisely what happened but for reasons beyond our control.

At the present time:

- as far as I am aware, all dancing is suspended for an indefinite period
 - Publicity Committee's planned meeting with club reps has been cancelled
 - the second co-sponsored dance of the current dance year has been cancelled
 - Swing into Spring 2020 is in jeopardy
 - the April Council of Dancers may or may not be held as scheduled
 - the future of this year's New Dancer Celebrations is uncertain
- and
- the long-term impact of the coronavirus on square and round dancing remains to be seen

I'm not sure how much we can do about all this today, but at the very least we need to start thinking collectively about where we go from here.

Dave Western, President

Appendix B: ~ Treasurer's Report

1. Current results

I include a summary of activity since 01 July and including results up to 12 March 2020. Note that I do include revenue from Frosty Fling but I have not yet received all the claims for expenses so the financial status of Frosty Fling is still not complete. Again, print this report in landscape mode.

2. Financial Compliance

No change.

3. Online access to bank account

I am in email contact with our TD Bank representative about getting me online access to our bank account.

Bob Pitruniak
Treasurer, EOSARDA

[NOTE: Additional information has been omitted from the on-line version but is available upon request.](#)

Appendix C: ~ Registrar's Report

EOSARDA 2019-2020 DANCE YEAR								
Registrar's Report as of March 7, 2020								
	As of April 2019	07-Mar-20	Difference March 2020 vs April 2019		New Dancers by Club (new to the activity)	SQ	RD	LINE
NEW SQUARE DANCERS	135	125	-10		Bay Waves	2		
new to activity 123					Capital City Lines			0
RETURNING SQUARE DANCERS	634	607	-27		Glengarry Tartans	5		
					Got Lines			20
NEW ROUND DANCERS	14	0	-14		Grenville Gremlins	11		
					Harbor Lites	2		
RETURNING ROUND DANCERS	34	34	0		Kanata Squares	6		
					Limestone Dancers	11		
					Meri Squares	12		
NEW LINE DANCERS	36	20	-16		Mississippi Squares	8		
new to the activity 13					Napanee Pioneers	8		
RETURNING LINE DANCERS	29	52	23		Opeongo Squares	1		
					Ottawa Date Squares	2		GLBTQ
TOTAL TO DATE	882	838	-44		Quinte Twirlers	22		
					Stone Bridge Squares	9		
					Swinging B's	2		
CUERS, CALLERS, LEADERS AND PARTNERS		23			Swinging Swallows	8		
					Village Squares	14		20
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP TO DATE		861			TOTAL	123		
TOTAL CLUBS TO DATE		29						
TOTAL ASSOCIATIONS TO DATE		3						
<i>Note: Numbers are based on registration information received at the beginning of the dance season and new members that joined up to the issue date of this report. Members that left the activity during the season and those not registered are not reflected in the numbers.</i>								
ISSUED: March 07, 2020								

Appendix D: ~ Swing into Spring Report



It's just a month and a half until *Swing into Spring* 2020 – **Friday 01 May to Sunday 03 May** at the South Grenville District High School in Prescott, Ontario. **Tom Miller** and **Todd Fellegly** will look after the square dance programme while **Marilyn Rivenburg** and **Phil Gatchell** will provide rounds.

Expenses for the event continue to be within budget while registration numbers are on par with those from the same time in past years. We have already received registrations from youth dancers.

Promotional campaigns continue through the usual media. Now is the time for SVSRDA, EOSARDA and their member clubs and dancers to promote the event within their clubs – especially to new dancers and to those dancers who have not attended *Swing into Spring* in the past.

Some dancers have told us that they don't think they're ready to dance outside of their home clubs; others have told us that they don't feel able to dance to out-of-town callers and cuers or at large events. As a dance community, we all need to remember when we first started venturing out of the learning environment in our own clubs. We need to do what we can to encourage our new dancers to join in the fun. To make our new dancers feel welcome and comfortable at *Swing into Spring* (and other open dances), experienced dancers can offer to help as “angels” and just be generally supportive of newer dancers. In that way, we will be able to attract newer dancers to this and other events.

Members of the *Swing into Spring* Committee will soon be approaching dancers and clubs to help with some of the weekend chores such as setting up halls on Friday evening, keeping the event flowing during the weekend, and clearing the halls after *Swing into Spring* and SVSRDA's Sunday afternoon Mother's Day Dance. We hope that both associations and area dancers will offer their assistance when we reach out and that all dancers will help us promote the event to dancers we know.

As always, up-to-date information is available from our website and Facebook page.

Submitted March 2020, by
Carole Lauzon, Liaison to SVSRDA & Arlo Speer, Liaison to EOSARDA

www.swingintospring.ca

<https://www.facebook.com/PrescottSIS/>

Appendix E: ~ Club Liaison Report

Dance Leader Training Subsidies - *Wendy VanderMeulen*

- A successful Caller Information Session was held on February 29, with 4 potential callers in attendance (and 2 spouses). All four seem interested in giving calling a chance. We have also heard of two others who could not attend this session but who are interested in giving calling a try. So, John Charman and Wendy VanderMeulen are planning a training session. Dates are to be confirmed, but planning is set for early June. These dancers will be reminded of the bursary that EOSARDA offers to offset their cost to attend the training session.

2. Recognition & Awards - *Helen MacCallum / Wendy VanderMeulen*

- Upon seeing that Clubs are already doing their own “Dancer recognitions” – as witnessed in the last Square Time where two different clubs highlighted special awards for club members - this Committee has decided to withdraw that suggestion from their ‘duties’.”

NIL REPORTS from the following portfolios: -

1. **Square Time** - Gerry Johnson
2. **New Dancer Celebration** – Teena (full update given at Feb board meeting) See also Agenda Item 5.3
3. **Dance Dangle Program** – Geoff/Helgi
4. **Scheduling Conflicts** – Geoff
5. **New Dancer Recruitment Subsidy** - Jacques

Appendix F: ~ EOSARDA Club Celebrations

NEW DANCER CELEBRATIONS - 2020

CLUB	BOARD REPRESENTATIVE**	CELEBRATION DATE	# NEW DANCERS
BAY WAVES	Pat Gauthier	March 20	3
GLENGARRY TARTANS	Lamar Mason	April 5	8
GRENVILLE GREMLINS	Wendy VanderMeulen	April 20	8
KANATA SQUARES	Teena Clarke	April 30	3
LIMESTONE DANCERS	Lamar Mason	May 14	10
MERI SQUARES	Bob Pitruniak	April 28	10
MISSISSIPPI SQUARES	Teena Clarke	April 21	4
OTTAWA DATE SQUARES	Pat Gauthier	TBA	1
NAPANEE PIONEERS	Wendy VanderMeulen	May 29	7
QUINTE TWIRLERS	Club President refused to have a Board Rep attend &, as in the past, requested the envelopes be mailed. Package mailed on Feb 21st	April 22	18
OPEONGO LITES	No new dancers		0
HARBOUR LITES	No new dancers		0
SWINGING B'S	No new dancers		0
STONEBRIDGE SQUARES	Gerry Johnson	April 17	4
SWINGING SWALLOWS	Barbara Englehart	April 23	3
VILLAGE SQUARES	Dave Western	April 8	8
TOTAL DANCERS BEING CELEBRATED >>			87

**** A reminder to the EOSARDA representatives attending the Club New Dancer Celebrations.**

This year the envelopes are different. They only contain a Welcome Letter from our EOSARDA President and the "new" Society Pin. Please also refer to President Dave's email regarding "words of Welcome" that can be used at each Celebration. It is your responsibility to contact the Club representative to get any further details that you require, other than those included in your "package" that you've been already been given (or are getting at the March 15th meeting).

Teena Clarke, EOSARDA Director
New Dancer Celebrations.
March 2020

Appendix G: ~ Challenge Dangles

Issue:

Should EOSARDA initiate a new dangle program designed to encourage attendance at EOSARDA sponsored and co-sponsored dances (EOSARDA Dances)?

Background:

Following the success of the Purple Heart initiative at Frosty Fling 2020 it was suggested that, to encourage attendance at EOSARDA Dances, we consider issuing other special dangles.

This was followed by an exchange of e-mails in which it was ascertained that Fun Dangles exist as a tool that some Callers use to make square dancing more fun. Where they are in use, Fun Dangles are presented to dancers who perform a defined activity, eg dancing on a beach or in the snow. The use of Fun Dangles in our region is either extremely limited or non-existent.

Further discussion revealed a problem with the use of the term “Fun Dangle” which, as an existing program, comes with its own general rules and guidelines. It was suggested that since our interest lies in encouraging attendance at EOSARDA Dances, we initiate a new program of EOSARDA Challenge Dangles that could, when desired, be used to encourage attendance at an EOSARDA Dance.

Program Outline:

Challenge Dangles would:

- \$ Be awarded to dancers who perform a pre-announced challenge at a specified dance;
- \$ Have a unique design related to the theme of the dance;
- \$ Be attainable by any dancer regardless of their dance level;
- \$ Require a reasonable amount of extra effort to earn;
- \$ Not be presented for simply attending an EOSARDA Dance

Analysis:

Pros:

- \$ New and different
- \$ Inexpensive
- \$ Fun
- \$ Exciting
- \$ Encourages attendance at dances
- \$ Promotes dancer retention

Cons

- \$ Increased cost
- \$ Need to have sufficient inventory on hand
- \$ May not appeal to some dancers
- \$ Difficulty in establishing challenge criteria
- \$ Need to be inclusive (no one overlooked)
- \$ EOSARDA already has a program in place (The Club Visit Dangle) to encourage attendance at Open Dances

Risks and Risk Mitigation:

Inventory

It would be difficult to know in advance how many dangles to order. This is not a problem with generic dangles such as Purple Hearts which can be used for multiple events. It becomes much more critical with one-off designs intended to be used at a single event, particularly if dangles were to be handed out at the time they are earned. There is a risk both of not having sufficient quantities of dangles on hand and of ordering too many dangles.

These risks could be mitigated by presenting dangles after the fact, which would permit the number of dangles ordered to match the number of qualified dancers.

This would result in a loss of immediacy as dangles would be distributed after the dance was over and it would be necessary to create a written list of those who qualify for the dangle with their contact (or club) information. On the other hand, post-dance presentation of dangles, if handled properly, could become a promotional opportunity at the club level for the Challenge Dangle Program and, in turn, attendance at EOSARDA Dances.

Cost

Where a Challenge Dangle is included in a dance sponsored solely by EOSARDA the cost of the program should be included in the cost estimates for the dance and, to the extent possible, be paid from dance revenues.

In the case of an EOSARDA Co-sponsored Dance the decision to include a Challenge Dangle should be made jointly by EOSARDA's Dance Committee and the co-sponsoring club. Where both agree to the inclusion of a Challenge Dangle, the cost of the program should be included in the cost estimates for the dance and, to the extent possible, be paid from dance revenues.

Equity

It is possible that qualified individuals could either be overlooked or not be given the opportunity to participate in a Challenge.

If it is the responsibility of designated individuals to identify those who have met a particular Challenge, there is a risk that some qualified individuals could be overlooked. This risk could be mitigated by placing the onus on individual dancers to register their success at a designated desk or table during the dance. This would also facilitate the collection of contact information, but would require the services of one or more volunteers and would mean that there would be no independent verification of a dancer's success.

If meeting a Challenge was dependent on a dancer being in a square configured in a particular manner (eg 3 Callers in the square), it is possible that some dancers would be unable to meet the qualifications for a Challenge Dangle through no fault of their own. This risk could be mitigated by establishing Challenges that can be met by every dancer on the floor independent of the configuration of the squares.

Care also has to be taken to ensure that the criteria for meeting a particular Challenge either

are tied to the lowest dance level in the dance program or have multiple Challenge levels.

Challenge Level

Perhaps the greatest difficulty with a Challenge Dangle Program would be establishing achievable Challenge levels while maintaining a reasonable level of difficulty. This requires a delicate balancing act. In theory every person in attendance should be eligible to earn the Challenge Dangle for the dance but the dangle should not be seen as merely a recognition of attendance. The nature of the Challenge should also be tied in some way to the theme of the dance.

To ensure consistency of application, proposed Challenges would require approval of EOSARDA's Dance Committee.

Evaluation:

The Challenge Dangle program would increase the cost of a dance by approximately \$2.00 per person receiving the dangle. Assuming not all dancer earned a Challenge Dangle, the increased cost would be largely offset by a small increase in attendance.

An increase in attendance of 12 people at \$10 per person would offset the cost of 60 dangles

An increase in attendance of 20 dancers would offset the cost of 100 dangles

But it is possibility that a dance could incur a deficit as a result of the increased cost of the Challenge Dangle Program.

It is difficult to say whether the dance community in Eastern Ontario would embrace the concept of Challenge Dangles. However, the experience with the Purple Heart Initiative at Frosty Fling 2020 would seem to indicate that there is some appetite for this kind of program.

Recommendation

That consideration be given to incorporating a Challenge Dangle into an up-coming dance on a trial basis to determine the level of dancer interest, with the cost of the pilot project being borne by EOSARDA.

Dave Western

Appendix H: ~ Initial Draft Agenda for Council of Dancers Meeting

- Call to Order** - Dave Western
- Barbara Englehart
- 1.1 Confirmation of a quorum
- 1. Opening Remarks** - Dave Western
- 2. Review of agenda** - Dave Western
- 3. Approval of Minutes 10 November 2019 Council of Dancers** - Arlo Speer
- 4. Reports**
- 4.1. Operations Committee
- a) Financial statements - Bob Pitruniak
b) Registrar's Report - Barbara Englehart
- 4.2. Dances Operations
- a) Dance Committee - Barbara Englehart
b) Swing into Spring - Regina Gerhard
- 4.3. Club Liaison, Recognition and Awards - Geoff Clarke
- 4.4. Technology Committee - Arlo Speer
- 4.5. Ottawa Area Callers' Association - Wendy VanderMeulen
- 4.6. Seaway Valley Square and Round Dance Association - Gerald & Marlene Casselman
- 4.7. Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation - Barbara Englehart
- 4.8. Acceptance of Reports
- 5. Business Arising from the Minutes**
- 5.1.
- 6. New Business**
- 6.1. Approval of budget for 2020/2021
- 6.2. Election of 2019/2020 Board
- 6.3. Club Contact Information
- 6.4. Post COVID – 19 operations
- Resuming dancing in the fall
 - New Dance Celebrations
- 6.5. Publicity Committee's Video
- 6.6.
- 7. Round Table**
- 7.1.
- 8. Next Council of Dancers Meeting**
- Date:** ??? 15 November 2020 ???
- Location:** ??? Pretty Street, Stittsville ???