



EOSARDA Board Meeting

Sunday, 16 February 2020

1:30 - 4:30 pm

Pretty Street Community Centre

2 Pretty Street, Stittsville

Attendees:

Jacques Chesnais

Teena Clarke

Lamar Mason

Barb Englehart

Gavin Currie

Wendy VanderMeulen

Cathy Whitty

Geoff Clarke

Pat Gauthier

Dave Western

Absentees:

Gerry Johnson

Bob Pitruniak

Arlo Speer

1. Call to Order

1.1. Opening Remarks

Appendix A

– Dave Western

1.2. Review of the Agenda

– Dave Western

Item 2.1 was revised to show the correct date of the January Board Meeting.

2. Previous Records and Decisions

2.1. Record of the 19 January Board meeting.

MOTION: G. Clarke // Mason that the record of the 19 January 2019 Board meeting be approved as presented. **CARRIED**

3. Committee Reports –

3.1. Operations Committee

3.1.1. Treasurer's Report

Bob plans to generate the latest financial report, and will then circulate it the week ending Feb. 23/2020. No major changes are expected.

3.1.2. Registrar's Report

- Barb Englehart

Barb Englehart advised there is no registrar's report at this time; there will be an updated report made available for the March 2020 meeting. She noted that there was a change in the number of registered dancers, at last count, up to 862 from 854 (per last report).

3.1.3. Trillium Awards

- Dave Western

Dave reported that we were finally able to present:

- a Trillium Merit Award to Geoff and Teena Clarke at Lockits on January 29, and

- a Trillium Merit Award to Bob and Marguerite Summers at Frosty Fling 02 February

- all our Trillium Award recipients for 2019/2020 are now in possession of their Awards.

In addition, an EOSARDA Bulletin seeking nominations for this year's Trillium Awards was sent to all clubs and subscribers on January 3.

- 3.2. Dance Committee - Barb Englehart
 - 3.2.1. Frosty Fling - Pat Gauthier

Pat Gauthier provided a report on the Frosty Fling dance held Feb. 2, 2020. She noted that 45 purple hearts given out, and that some dancers may have attended in order to earn this dance dangle. The dance had a profit of approximately \$400.
 - 3.2.2. *Swing into Spring* Appendix B - Wendy VanderMeulen
 - 3.2.3. Ottawa Area Callers Association - Wendy VanderMeulen

Wendy VanderMeulen advised that an information meeting for dancers who may be interested in becoming callers is planned for Feb. 29/2020, and that several people have expressed interest in attending.
- 3.3. Publicity Committee - Lamar Mason –

Lamar Mason advised that a meeting is scheduled for March 28/2020 in Prescott. Notices have gone out to clubs, requesting representatives from each club to attend.
- 3.4. Technology Committee Appendix C - Geoff Clarke

Arlo Speer did call in from Mexico during the meeting. The telephone set at the Pretty St. Community Centre is not suitable for conference calls; the sound quality is poor.

The telephone number for the Pretty St. Community Centre is 613-831-0336.
- 3.5. Club Liaison Appendix D - Geoff Clarke
- 3.6. **MOTION:** VanderMeulen // Currie 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

Subsequent to the meeting, Bob reported that he is in email contact with our TD Bank representative about getting him online access to our bank account.
 - 4.2. Revision to Chapter 13 of our Procedures Manual - Geoff Clarke

(Item 4.3 from 19 January) Appendix E

Geoff Clarke and Jacques Chesnais, explained the report (and the two options) presented in Appendix E. There was a general discussion about the proposed amendments to Chapter 13.

MOTION: G. Clarke//Englehart that Option 1 from the Discussion Paper be accepted and Club Liaison is to re-draft Chapter 13 as per the Board's decision, circulate a copy of the revised chapter to the Board, post a copy on EoDance.ca and advise clubs of the change in policy via an EOSARDA Bulletin.

CARRIED

- 4.3. Trillium Award Nominations - Dave Western

To date, we have two Trillium Award nominations: one for a Long Service Award and one for a Merit Award.

The two nominations that we have received have been circulated to the Board electronically for review by all Directors. Any additional nominations will be treated similarly. The Board's decision as to which nominations to forward to Federation will be made at the March Board meeting.

4.4. Dance Committee issues

- Barb Englehart/Pat Gauthier

The Frosty Fling for 2021, is to be held the first weekend in Feb. 2021 (date to be confirmed once a venue is found).

The Board reviewed and approved the draft Co-sponsored Dance Application form with a minor change to the Budget page, to include sharing with EOSARDA all fund-raising activities, such as "share the wealth" ticket sales; silent auctions, etc.

Pat Gauthier will prepare a revised version of the form which will be circulated to the Board for review and approval. Once approved, the form will be incorporated into the Procedures Manual, a copy will be posted on-line and a Bulletin will be sent advising clubs of the new form.

The question of Dance Leader remuneration at EOSARDA sponsored dances is still under review by Dance Committee. The Committee hopes to make recommendations to the Board at the March Board meeting.

4.5. Harvest Hoedown Proposal

- Pat Gauthier

MOTION: VanderMeulen / T. Clarke that, based on the Business plan submitted by the Grenville Gremlins and the recommendation of Dance Committee, the Board co-sponsor with the Gremlins' the Harvest Hoedown Dance in Kemptville on October 24, 2020.

CARRIED

Dave Western will contact the club to advise them of the decision. Pat and Jack Gauthier plan to wear old-time costumes and visit various clubs to promote this dance.

5. New Business

5.1. Dealing with Trillium Long Service Award nominations

- Dave Western

Appendix F

The Board agreed that the criteria outlined on the Federation's Nomination Form will be used by the Board when evaluating nominations for Trillium Long Service Awards. The deadline for receipt of nominations is March 1 in any calendar year. In a calendar year, we are limited to submitting to Federation a maximum of 2 nominations each for Trillium Long Service Awards and Trillium Merit Awards.

Lamar Mason has raised the question with Federation, as to whether it would consider a long service award for a nominee who had already received a merit award. The Federation response was unclear, although Lamar pointed out that a nominee may be deserving of both awards. It was agreed that EOSARDA should review each nomination as stand-alone, without regard to previous awards given.

Dave Western noted that when a couple is being honoured, the Long Service Award includes a lapel pin and/or small brooch for each recipient. On the other hand, the Merit Award includes both a gentleman's bolo tie clip/scarf slide and a lady's pin. Unfortunately, the "bolo tie clip/scarf slide" will not fit a bolo tie and very few male dancers wear neckerchiefs to dances these days. A pin that men could wear would be more appropriate than the "bolo tie clip/scarf ring".

5.2. 2020 New Dancer Celebrations

- Teena Clarke

- Teena Clarke has replies from all clubs but one (the Date Squares), confirming the dates of their New Dancer Celebrations.
- As per the work plan – Teena has sent an email to all Basic clubs in EOSARDA that have registered any "new" (to the activity) dancers requesting information from them about their New Dancer Celebrations - i.e.: date; # of dancers; wishing an EOSARDA representative on hand.
 - At this point in time, she has heard (or received information) from 13 of 16 clubs. There is one club celebration in March and the rest of the clubs are celebrating in April & May.
- After several emails from Carole Lauzon of the Glengarry Tartans, Teena has clarified that they are celebrating the new dancers that have stayed with them this season. These dancers will not have completed the Basic program due to the 'design' of their dance program. Initially it seemed that 'this was a problem'; however, after checking with the Liaison Chair & reviewing Chapter 10.1 & 10.2, we've determined that "having completed the Basic program" is NOT a criteria for celebrating a new dancer. We in EOSARDA are welcoming those new dancers that the Club want to recognize at the end of their first season.
- A list of Representatives from EOSARDA who will present at each club's New Dancer Celebration has been finalized. Teena distributed the EOSARDA materials to be presented at these celebrations, to EOSARDA Directors who will be visiting clubs for this purpose.
- This year, the EOSARDA representatives will be handing out a white envelope with a Welcome Letter from the EOSARDA President. There will also be a "new" Society Pin stapled to the envelope. This is a change from previous years & thus at some point, Chapter 10.2 will have to be updated to reflect that change. As well, because the only EOSARDA dance we have left is Frosty Fling, there will be no 'free' coupons (to an EOSARDA dance) given to the new dancers as they will automatically get free admission to Frosty Fling.
- Lamar requested that phone numbers and contact information for the individual clubs be added to the packages.
- Dave Western will send out a suggested text, which Directors may choose to use at the various celebrations.
- Since Teena will be away in March (but still available by phone or email), the following are in place:-
 - Bay Waves Celebration is March 20th & Pat Gauthier has agreed to be the EOSARDA rep. for that night.
 - Pat Gauthier has also agreed to hold onto all the Club packages (letter & pin).
 - Pat will give out any packages to EOSARDA reps at the March Board meeting.
- Teena said she was grateful for the willingness of our Board members to step up & be a representative to our clubs on their celebration nights. She hopes to have everything in place by this Sunday's Board meeting.

5.3. Challenge Dangles

Appendix G

- Dave Western

Based on a discussion paper circulated by Dave Western prior to the meeting, there was a lively discussion about the possible use of dangles to encourage dancers to attend EOSARDA sponsored and co-sponsored dances. The Board deferred a decision on this issue pending the circulation of a more detailed Discussion Paper by Dave Western.

6. Future Meetings

Next Regular Board Meeting

Sunday 15 March 2020 – 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Pretty Street Community Centre, Stittsville

**Budget will need to be approved in time for presentation at the April ;
Council of Dancers meeting.**

**[Board members are asked to bring their proposals for the 2020-2021
Budget to the March Board meeting.](#)**

April Board Meeting and Council of Dancers Meeting

Sunday 19 April 2020

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Hall in Prescott

Planned schedule for the day:

11:00 – noon – Board meeting

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

7. Adjournment

MOTION: / that the meeting be adjourned (3:15 pm).

CARRIED

Appendix A – President’s Remarks

Churchill once said:

“This is not the end, it is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.”

As of today, this Board is a little over 2/3 of the way through its term of Office. In 2 short months we will be meeting with the Council of Dancers to report on what we have accomplished this year and outlining our plans for the year ahead. At that time, a new Board will be elected to take us into Dance Year 2020/2021.

While there is a good leavening of experienced Director on this year’s Board, for many this was your first time on the Board. Furthermore, many Directors, both experienced and new, took on new or expanded duties this year. In these cases that often meant starting from scratch, with no on-going program in place to fall back on. That in turn meant that some initiatives had to be deferred until plans had been formulated and put in place.

A good example of this is Publicity:

- \$ Due to a lack of volunteers, there was no Publicity Committee last year;
- \$ As a result, there was no plan in place to support the 2020 Fall Recruiting Drive;
- \$ By the time a committee was formed, had a chance to meet and began formulating a publicity strategy, it was too late to assist meaningfully with this year’s Drive;
- \$ Publicity Committee is also faced with a timing problem in that the window for recruiting new dancers, especially square dancers, is a small one.
- \$ Any major publicity initiative aimed at recruiting new dancers has to be closely tied to the clubs’ ability to integrate new dancers into their training syllabuses;
- \$ No useful purpose is served in spending time and money to attract new dancers who have no place to dance;
- \$ As a result, rather than undertaking a number of publicity-related events this year, the committee has had to focus its effort on finding ways to support the 2021 Fall Recruiting Drive.

There is a lot to be said for multi-year terms of office. They provide continuity from one year to the next. They allow for planning over a longer event horizon. They avoid having to start fresh at the start of every new Dance Year with an attendant loss of momentum.

When most of you volunteered to serve on the Board last April, you were thinking in terms of a single term of office. But with so much planning already done and with so much already underway, I sincerely hope that this April you will all volunteer to come back for another term of office.

That will enable us to build on what we have already accomplished and truly put the end of the beginning behind us.

Appendix B – Swing into Spring Report



As of Friday 50 dancers registered for this event; higher than previous 2 years (only tracking 3 years) SV are in correspondence with them (Arlo/Dave) and they have advised them that ESOSARDA has followed the procedures to the letter; waiting for response from SV. We are now within 3 months of the 8th *Swing into Spring* dance weekend – Friday 01 May to Sunday 03 May 2020 at the South Grenville District High School in Prescott, Ontario. **Phil Gatchell** of Melrose, Massachusetts and **Marilyn Rivenburg** of Ocean Park, Maine and will cue and teach round dances; square dance callers will be **Todd Felleg** from Meriden, Connecticut and **Tom Miller** from Chest Springs, Pennsylvania.

Dancers have been registering for this spring's event in larger numbers than in past years. By this time in 2018, 26 dancers had registered; last year, the number was 34. We now have 45 dancers registered for the event – one-third more than last year and three-quarters more than in 2018. We hope that the increased registrations to date will foreshadow increased total attendance for 2020. Indications are that Plus and Advanced dancers are responding to the programme revisions introduced for this year; these dancers account for much of the larger registration numbers at this point.

The committee has been promoting and will continue to promote the event actively through outreach to individual clubs, items published in Square Time, and EOSARDA Bulletins. We have also reached out to past attendees as well as to neighbouring square and round dance clubs and associations.

We are especially encouraging new dancers to attend the event. Doing so requires that our senior dancers talk about the weekend event to beginning dancers in their clubs and encourage basic and mainstream dancers to attend the event on Saturday and/or Sunday. It will also require that our more senior dancers help newer dancers by serving as angels at the event. Together, we can (and must!) attract more basic dancers than we have in past years. The good news is that it should be easy to increase the number of basic dancers to above the 2% or 3% that we've seen over the history of the event.

As we get closer to May, you can expect members of the Organising Committee to reach out to SVSRDA, EOSARDA, member clubs and local dancers to assist with the various chores necessary to let the dance weekend happen. We will be looking for help setting up the dance halls on Friday evening, assistance keeping the event flowing during the weekend, and clearing the halls after *Swing into Spring* and SVSRDA's Mother's Day Dance is over Sunday afternoon. We hope that both associations and area dancers will offer their assistance when we reach out.

Submitted February 2020, by
Wendy VanderMeulen, Treasurer & Carole Lauzon, Liaison to SVSRDA

Appendix C – Technology Committee Report

Further to item 4.6 of the January meeting agenda (**Teleconferencing for meetings**)

- landline speakerphones run from ~\$110 to \$469.
- To be honest, the \$469 unit is the best for a meeting whereby 2-way conversations can be held in 4 different directions within the meeting room (i.e., unit in the middle between the tables). But that's a single landline unit and probably too expensive for our needs.
- coupled with the need for a 'speakerphone', we'd also need the capability to handle more than one incoming caller simultaneously - a 'conference call' is usually 'more than one' on the line at one time. If it's ONLY one, then that's simple, but we're most likely looking at "one or more" callers to be able to call in to the meeting.
- the telephone in the kitchen at Pretty St., will probably suffice for a 'single' user call, but it MAY have a 'conferencing' feature - we'd have to check with the city. I don't recall even seeing a phone number on that phone, so we would need to determine the number for members to call to connect through that phone line.
- for the February meeting, Geoff will bring along an 25' extender to bring that kitchen phone into the meeting area to see how it would 'perform' if we needed it.
- using a Bluetooth speaker with a cellphone could work for 'hearing' the incoming voice, but may give problems for the outgoing voice as the microphones on smartphones are designed for 'close proximity' usage. More work needed in that direction.

Further to ongoing work with respect to **Hearing Assist equipment**:

- The creation of a dancer survey is still planned with no progress to this point in time.
- We now have TWO dancers using a Bluetooth transmitter simultaneously to send the Caller's voice directly to their hearing aids.

Appendix D – Club Liaison Report

- **New Dancer Celebration Work Plan Update for EOSARDA Board Meeting - Feb 16th, 2020**

See Item 5.2

- **New Dancer Recruitment Bursary Program - Jacques Chesnais**
 - Revisions to Chapter 13 have been tabled at this meeting for discussion & approval.
- **Dance Leader Training Subsidies - Wendy VanderMeulen**
 - The information session will be on Feb 29 and it seems like there will be a decent turn out! Keeping fingers crossed.....!!
- **Dance Dangle Program - Helgi Goodman / Geoff Clarke**
 - Although we've explored expanding the program to create a "gold" level, we've decided that it may not be an ideal direction to go right now as nobody else (other than Robert & Rosie) went beyond 9 visits, so creating an even higher achievement level may be more work than reward. We believe that for right now, the effort & focus should be on 'promoting' the visitations to generate more dancers striving for bronze & silver medals.
- **Recognition & Awards - Helen MacCallum / Wendy VanderMeulen**
 - Helen & Wendy are working on a Club Recognition Award certificate. We have some ideas but nothing concrete yet.
- **Scheduling Conflicts - Geoff Clarke**
 - Chapter 26.4 has been revised again & the updated version has now been published on the website. The latest addition to the grand-fathered list is the Quinte Twirlers Apple Blossom dance who approached the Board to add their dance. We now have 11 grand-fathered dance dates.

NIL REPORTS from the following portfolios:-

1. Square Time - Gerry Johnson

Appendix E – Proposed Changes to Chapter 13 of our Procedures Manual

We are presenting two options for the Board’s consideration. Both options are based on the principle that EOSARDA should not use its new dancer recruitment program to provide financial support for what is traditionally called Open Houses. Most clubs, if not all, have Open Houses. Open Houses are not a promotional activity in themselves. Rather, they are the result of the promotional efforts that occurred previously (flyers, ads, demos, word of mouth, etc.). We also feel that EOSARDA funds are best spent publicizing square, round and line dancing in general, rather than funding activities that member clubs already carry out routinely.

Option 1: Do not allow any subsidies for dance leader fees and hall rentals.

- Pros: - the rule is simple and clear;
 - does not require defining what an Open House or an eligible event is;
 - is the same as what EOSARDA used to do before we modified the rules last Fall
- Cons:
 - it means that EOSARDA will not support some of the caller fees or potentially hall rentals that are incurred for promotional events that take place before a club's dance year, such as those occurring in Spring or Summer for clubs that start dancing in the Fall. In most cases, however, dance leaders volunteer for those events and are not paid, or the club only gives them a small fee to cover their transportation expenses. Also, these events often take place on the street or in the premises of the interested institution, so there are no hall rental expenses. As a result, dance leader fees and hall rentals associated with these promotional events are relatively small. No longer reimbursing a part of them should not have much of a financial impact on the clubs.

Option 2: Modify Chapter 13 to *exclude some events that are the same or similar to Open Houses.

** Excluded events: any dances that are for the expressed purpose of bringing in new dancers, and that take place one to three weeks immediately preceding the start of the club's regular dance season or session.*

- Pros: - EOSARDA would continue to reimburse the clubs for any caller fees and hall rentals associated with promotional events other than the above.
- Cons - this option is not as clear-cut as option 1 & could lead to different interpretations and to the same issues as those generated by the Date Squares application. There can be many variations about the rules for exclusion of such events (based on their date, the nature of the event, what fees are paid to dance leaders, etc.) but they all have similar problems and might require a lot of work to verify that rules have been applied as intended.

Recommendation: - For the above reasons, Geoff and I recommend the use of Option 1

Jacques Chesnais and Geoff Clarke

Appendix F – Ranking Trillium Award Nominations

A question has arisen as to how, in the event of multiple Trillium Award Nominations we would rank them.

My first response to the questions was:

“I don't recall that we have ever had to choose among multiple Trillium Award nominations.

“On those occasions where more than 2 Merit Award Nominations were received in the same year, not all met with the Board's approval. Therefore, to the best of my knowledge, over the past 12 years we have never had to choose among more than two qualified nominees. (Obviously that is no guarantee that the situation will never arise.)

“As for Long Service Awards, I don't think we have ever received more than two nominations in any given year. But with an aging (i.e., more experienced) dancer population, the situation could easily arise.

“Should we receive more than two Merit Award nominations for candidate judged qualified by the Board, we would have to collectively decide which two were the most meritorious, based on the information contained in the nominations. Not an easy - or even pleasant - task, but "do-able".

“However, with Long Service Awards the task is more challenging since the only true criterion is that the nominee has danced for over 25 years. Does that mean that a dancer with 35 years experience automatically gets precedence over one with 29 years dancing experience? Does a couple with 47 and 30 years respectively beat another couple with 35 and 36? Danced if I know.

“It seems to me that for Long Service Awards only, where the Board agrees that the nominees meet the Award criterion, we should adopt a "**first come - first served**" approach, the date of the application, for qualifying purposes, being that on which the Board approves the nomination.

“This can be justified on the basis that all clubs received the same notification on the same date, so they are all starting from the same starting position. They also all know that we can only send two Long Service nominations to Federation. And honestly, I don't know how else we could ever find a better way to rank Long Service Award nominations.

Appendix G – Challenge Dangles

Following the success of the Purple Heart initiative at Frosty Fling it was suggested that we consider reviving the concept of Fun Dangles which would be presented to dancers who perform a defined activity, eg dancing on a beach.

This was followed by an exchange of e-mails in which it was ascertained that Fun Dangles exist as a tool that Callers can use to make square dancing more fun. However their use in the National Capital Region is either extremely limited or non-existent.

Further discussion revealed a problem with the use of the term “Fun Dangle” which since it is already in use conjures up certain limits or constraints on the program based on pre-existing conditions.

It was therefore suggested that since our interest lies in encouraging attendance at our Open Dances, including co-sponsored ones we initiate a new concept of Challenge Dangles that could, if desired, be part of any such dance if desired. These dangles would be awarded to dancers who perform a pre-announced challenge at a specified dance.

An EOSARDA Challenge Dangle would be different and distinct from other fun dangles
Earning an EOSARDA fun dangle should involve a reasonable amount of extra effort
An EOSARDA fun dangle should be attainable by any dancer regardless of their dance level.

Rather than rejecting the idea because "that's not how it's done" or because "it won't work" let's see if collectively we can come up with some good ideas of how this could work.