



EOSARDA Board Meeting

Sunday, 19 January 2020

1:30 - 4:30 pm

Pretty Street Community Centre

2 Pretty Street, Stittsville

Attendees:

Jacques Chesnais

Gavin Currie

Lamar Mason

Wendy VanderMeulen

Geoff Clarke

Pat Gauthier

Bob Pitruniak

Dave Western

Teena Clarke

Gerry Johnson

Arlo Speer

Cathy Whitty

Absentees:

Barb Englehart

1. Call to Order

1.1. Opening Remarks

Appendix A

– Dave Western

1.2. Review of the Agenda

– Dave Western

2. Previous Records and Decisions

- Arlo Speer

2.1. Record of the 10 November Board meeting.

MOTION: Speer // Gauthier that the record of the 10 November 2019 Board meeting be approved as presented. **CARRIED**

2.2. Record of the 10 November Council of Dancers meeting.

MOTION: Speer // G. Clarke that the record of the 10 November 2019 Council of Dancers meeting be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

The Board advised that the record should be posted on eoDance.ca for the review by dancers.

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

- Dave Western

3.1.3. Trillium Awards

- Dave Western

Two Trillium Merit Awards will be presented soon:

- Teena and Geoff Clarke at the Lockits dance 29 January.
- Marguerite and Bob Summers at Frosty Fling 02 February.

The deadline for EOSARDA receiving nominations is 31 March so that we can forward nominations to the Ontario Federation by its deadline of 30 April. EOSARDA can submit up to 2 nominations for the Long Service Award and 2 nominations for the Merit Award. [Chapter 12 of our Procedures Manual](#) provides further information.

- 3.2. Dance Committee
- 3.2.1. Frosty Fling Appendix D - Pat Gauthier
- 3.2.2. *Swing into Spring* Appendix E - Arlo Speer
- 3.2.3. Ottawa Area Callers Association Appendix F - Wendy VanderMeulen
- Geoff stated that he was aware of at least 3 individuals who have asked what is involved in becoming a caller.
- John and Wendy will set up an information session.
- Publicity Committee Appendix G - Lamar
Mason
- 3.3. Technology Committee Appendix H - Arlo Speer
- 3.4. Club Liaison Appendix I - Geoff Clarke

3.5. **MOTION:** VanderMeulen // Gauthier that the reports be accepted. **CARRIED**

4. Business Arising from the Past Record and Reports

- 4.1. Signing Authority (Item 3.1 15 September) - Bob Pitruniak
- Signing authorities have been updated with our bank.
- Bob is in discussion about online banking with the bank's representative.
- 4.2. "Sponsored" advertising - Lamar Mason
- The Board agreed that there would be no conflict if EOSARDA arranged with private sponsors for advertising.
- If the Publicity committee becomes uncertain of the appropriateness of any sponsor, the committee will bring the matter to the board for a decision.
- 4.3. Ottawa Date Squares application for New Dancer Recruitment Bursary – Jacques Chesnais
- MOTION:** Mason // Speer that we accept the reimbursement proposal from Ottawa Date Squares AND that the Club Liaison group is to review the wording of Chapter 13.3 d) of our Procedures Manual to clarify which dances are eligible for reimbursement.
- CARRIED**
- 4.4. EOSARDA Recognition of club volunteers - Wendy VanderMeulen
- Wendy will work with Helen MacCallum to develop an appropriate certificate that EOSARDA can use to recognize deserving dancers and dance leaders who may not qualify under the Federation's Trillium Awards programs.
- 4.5. Identify steps to deal with future phishing e-mail occurrences
- Action taken so far by the Technical Committee is sufficient for the time being.
 - The Technical Committee should consider this Work Plan item closed.
- 4.6. Explore potential for teleconferencing meetings
- Face-to-face meetings are the preferred option.
 - An ideal situation would be for most members to be present in one location with the possibility of some members attending remotely.
 - Remote access by telephone could be a reasonable way to start.
 - Pat and Arlo both have unlimited calling packages on their cellular telephone packages and each has a telephone that is capable of conference calls along with an external speaker.
 - Geoff will explore locating a speakerphone that can be used in the Pretty Street facility and other meeting spaces that have a telephone line available

- As situations present themselves, we will experiment with connecting by telephone with members who cannot attend future meetings.
- No further action is required from the Technical Committee until after we have experimented with telephone options.

5. New Business

- 5.1. St. Patrick's Day Dance – Kingston - Dave Western
 Kingston's Limestone Dancers has proposed a co-sponsored dance in mid-March 2020. The Dance Committee outlined the proposal and asked for a board decision to accept or reject the proposal.

MOTION: Chesnais // T. Clarke that EOSARDA accept the Limestone Dancers' proposal and co-sponsor the March 2020 St. Patrick's Day Dance in Kingston. **CARRIED**

Dance Committee is developing a package containing more detailed criteria, guidelines and a sample budget form to assist member clubs that wish to co-sponsor dances with EOSARDA.

- 5.2. Updates to Procedures Manual - All
 Currently, the only chapters with plans for revision are:
- Chapter 13 ([Financial Assistance for Recruiting New Dancers](#)), and
 - Chapter 18 ([Bereavement Notices](#))

- 5.3. National Square Dance Day - Lamar
 29 November 2020 is "National Square Dance Day"
 The Promotion Committee will explore potential activities around that time.

6. Future Meetings

Next Regular Board Meeting

Sunday 16 February 2020 – 1:30 - 4:30 pm
 Pretty Street Community Centre, Stittsville

May be cancelled if we do not have sufficient business to discuss

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.

Council of Dancers Meeting

Sunday 19 April 2020

Dave will contact SVSRDA about reserving 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

Cathy has indicated that she will be able to keep the meeting record for the February meeting since Arlo will be absent from the February meeting.

Appendix A: Chairman's Opening Remarks

Here we are at the start of a new year and a new decade.

2020 ! OMG!

Wasn't it only a couple of years ago that we were welcoming in the start of the 21st Century? Remember Y2K? How about 9-11? Will any of us ever forget what we were doing on that fateful day? Even 5 years ago, would the headline "RTG fails to properly maintain the LRT" have made any sense to any of us? As Bob Dylan said, "The times they are a changin'."

But are we changing with the times? Are we dinosaurs doomed to extinction? Or are we an oasis of calm in a sea of confusion? Do we have a place in the 21st Century or should we fold up our tents and quietly steal away into the night?

As an optimist by nature, I tend to favour the more positive outlook, although there are times, such as the unexpected passing of Paul Adams, when it can be difficult to maintain that point of view.

I truly believe that square and round dancing not only can, but must, survive in the 21st Century. In my opinion, our continued survival is essential for our society which needs a place where human beings can put down their smart phones and interact with each other face-to-face in a friendly and mutually supportive atmosphere. Can you imagine how different things would be if Donald Trump and Nancy Pelosi met once-a-week in a square on the dance floor?

But if we are going to survive, we need to be ready to adapt to changing circumstances. Now, more than ever, the phrases "That's not how we do it" and "We tried that once and it won't work" can have no place in our vocabulary. We have to be open to innovation, to new ways of doing things.

At the same time, we have to be prepared to fight to keep those essential values that make square and round dancing such an enjoyable and worthwhile activity.

As Kenny Rogers said, "You got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em. Know when to walk away and know when to run." And that ain't easy.

This Board has set itself an ambitious agenda for the current dance year, an agenda that is aimed at contributing to the survival of square and round dancing in our region. The main part of our agenda today consists of comparing what we have done so far this dance year to the goals that we set for ourselves back in September. Let's see how we are doing.

Appendix B: Treasurer's Reports

1. Current results

I include a summary of activity since 01 July and including results up to 15 January 2020. We are now at the point in our year where the majority of our revenues have been received. 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 (as of 12 January 2020)

EOSARDA 2019-2020 DANCE YEAR							
	As of April 2019	01-Jan-20	Difference January 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 117				Capital City Lines			0
RETURNING SQUARE DANCERS	634	606	-28	Glengarry Tartans	8		
				Got Lines			15
NEW ROUND DANCERS	14	0	-14	Grenville Gremlins	9		
				Harbor Lites	2		
RETURNING ROUND DANCERS	34	34	0	Kanata Squares	4	-	
				Limestone Dancers	11		
				Meri Squares	11		
NEW LINE DANCERS	36	15	-21	Mississippi Squares	s		
new to the activity 13				Napanee Pioneers	8		
RETURNING LINE DANCERS	29	51	22	Ottawa Date Squares	2		LGBTQ
				Quinte Twirlers	22		
TOTAL TO DATE	882	831	-51	Stone Bridge Squares	7		
CUERS, CALLERS, LEADERS AND PARTNERS		23		Swinging B's	2		
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP TO DATE		854		Swinging Swallows	8		
				Village Squares	14		
TOTAL CLUBS TO DATE		29		TOTAL	115		15
TOTAL ASSOCIATIONS TO DATE		3					

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.



Appendix D: Frosty Fling Report

The dance is on target for February 2, 2020 from 2:00 to 4:30pm at St. Mother Teresa's Catholic High School on Longfields Dr. in Barrhaven. Dave Hutchinson and John Carman will be calling with John doing Easy Rounds as well. Both have confirmed and signed contracts.

All clubs were sent an email bundle of Flyers, free New Basic Dancer tickets and regular tickets for sale. There have been some problems with club contacts not printing and making the tickets available which is being sorted out as we find out about them. If anyone hears of this from a club, please let me know and I'll resend the tickets immediately. Jack and I are visiting 4 clubs this week to announce the dance and 3 more next week. I visited Harbour Lites last week. Gavin has visited Capital Carousels and Lamar is visiting Crazy As, Sunshine Squares and both levels of Meri Squares. Geoff & Teena are announcing to Lockits and visiting Mississippi Squares. Peter & Geraldine Matthew are visiting Swinging Bs which will also get the message out to the Charmin' Promenaders. Janet Lockyer and her sister Debbie will visit Skirts 'n Flirts. To my knowledge the only clubs we won't get to are Nappanee Pioneers and Limestone Dancers. If anyone can visit them I would appreciate the help.

30 purple hearts were purchased and have been received. We'll use them first and if we run short we'll borrow from the callers and replace later.

The Grenville Gremlins have been very supportive in volunteering to help at the dance along with Teena Clarke and Bob & Kathleen Petruniak.

I've purchased a few decorations to bring a more festive ambiance to the welcome area and snack table.

Refreshments will be purchased during the week before the dance. **Gavin, do I need to purchase tea and coffee or do we have a supply somewhere?**

Taggerwear will be attending. We have been in touch and will provide tables and chairs as needed.

I am \$49.60 higher than my projected expense bringing my projected profit to \$193.90.

Appendix E: *Swing into Spring* Report



Friday 01 May to Sunday 03 May 2020 will see *Swing into Spring* 2020 held at the South Grenville District High School in Prescott, Ontario. **Tom Miller** from Chest Springs, Pennsylvania and **Todd Fellegly** from Meriden, Connecticut will call square dances and provide workshops at the event. Round dance teaching and cueing will be by **Phil Gatchell** and **Marilyn Rivenburg** from Melrose, Massachusetts and Ocean Park, Maine.

With nearly 4 months remaining before the event, registration numbers are higher than they have been at this point in past years – approximately double the 2018 figures and nearly half again the 2019 registrations. As in past years, plus and advanced dancers seem to register early while basic and mainstream dancers tend to register closer to the event.

The Committee will launch a promotional campaign between now and May. In addition to giving general information about the weekend, we will direct some advertising specifically to basic and mainstream clubs and dancers and other advertising to plus and advanced dancers and clubs. Promotional activities will make use of posters and flyers, EOSARDA Bulletins, Square Time, and visits to area clubs. There will also be promotional material directed to round dancers, outlining the range and scope of round dancing that will be available. We will also reach out to other nearby associations to promote *Swing into Spring* outside of eastern Ontario.

As a dance community, we need to do all we can to attract new and young dancers and make them feel welcome and comfortable at *Swing into Spring* and other open dances. The committee is trying to reverse the trend of decreasing numbers of basic and mainstream dancers through changes we have described in our last two status reports. Beyond those actions, we need the help of long-time dancers from both of our sponsoring associations to explain to all dancers (including those dancing basic and mainstream) that they are welcome, that they really can feel comfortable at open dances, and that experienced dancers will be more than willing to help as “angels” at *Swing into Spring* and other open dances.

The committee hopes that our two sponsoring associations will help get the word out and encourage all dancers to attend *Swing into Spring*.

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

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

www.swingintospring.ca

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

Appendix F: Ottawa Area Callers Association Report

With the loss of Paul Adams, the numbers of callers in the OACA is reduced to 14. Of the 14, 11 are actively calling, although 1 plans to “pull back” from calling in the near future. This really brings to the forefront the need for more callers in the EOSARDA area. We would encourage all Board members to keep their eyes and ears out for dancers who could potentially become callers. If you think of someone, mention it to them; “put a bug in their ear” as that may be all it takes to get them moving. Sometimes people don’t think about it until someone else mentions it to them!

The OACA meets on the first Sunday of the months of October, November, December, February, March, and April. As you know, our February 2020 meeting was cancelled to accommodate the need to reschedule the 2020 Frosty Fling. Although we were happy to do this for EOSARDA, under the circumstances, we also want to be clear that this is a “one time” accommodation. This is not to be taken as permission to book a conflict with the OACA meeting in the future assuming we’ll cancel our meeting again. It would be helpful if the Scheduling Conflict Procedure also include a note asking that dance events NOT be booked to conflict with OACA meetings.

Submitted by Wendy VanderMeulen

Appendix G: Publicity Committee Report

Activities:

1. November 2019 meeting with club publicity representatives cancelled due to short notice and lack of ability of representatives to attend. Interest expressed by several people unable to attend. Some club promotional ideas/materials provided to PC for sharing.
2. Meeting with club publicity representatives tentatively rescheduled to Saturday, March 28, 2020 in Prescott, from 11 to 2 pm.
3. Continuing to identify location/time of major promotional event for August 2020 and potentially smaller event.
4. Exploring social media options for providing promotional materials to EOSARDA members and, in particular, examining possibility of establishing an EOSARDA Facebook page.
5. Working to provide concrete input for new dancer materials and publicity materials for EOSARDA webpage.
6. Considering advertising options for promoting square, line and round dancing in Eastern Ontario in general.
7. Will be examining options for showcasing National Square Dance Day 2020.

Appendix H: Technology Committee Report

Committee Composition:

Geoff Clarke

Arlo Speer, Chair

Bob Summers

In general, work is progressing according to the committee's Work Plan, approved in September 2019 and should be completed by the end of the current dance year.

There are two items for which I seek direction:

1. *"Identify steps to deal with future phishing e-mail occurrences": ~*
 - This item was added to the work plan in the wake of some instances of Board members' computers having been attacked and e-mail messages being sent purporting to come from Board members.
 - A number of Board members expressed concern over having their e-mail addresses listed on eoDance.ca .
 - In response, e-mail addresses for all members (except the executive) have been removed from our website. For members of the executive, the e-mail addresses listed are now e-mail forwarders operating through our Internet Service Provider so that personal e-mail addresses are no longer listed for members of our executive.
 - **Is this action sufficient, or is further work required?**

2. *"Explore potential for teleconferencing meetings": ~*
 - Several options exist: some are relatively inexpensive while others are more costly
 - One option would involve having Internet access at out meeting sites, allowing a group of us to meet while providing the opportunity for some members to join the meeting remotely
 - Another option would involve a system whereby all members could join meetings from their computer at home without the need to travel to meetings
 - Before further effort is expended, I seek confirmation:
 - that the Board still sees a need to pursue teleconferencing options for our meetings, and
 - if Board wishes the work to continue, I need to understand whether the intention is to (a) have all board members stay home and meet from there or (b) continue meeting as a group while also accommodating those who are too far away to travel to the meeting place.

Appendix I: Club Liaison Report

1. New dancer recruitment bursary program - *Jacques Chesnais*

- As of January 6, 2020:
 - 8 club applications have been received and processed
 - Expenditures to date amount to \$1,233.98
 - The total budget for the dance year is \$2,000
 - One additional application was received on January 1, 2020 and is being processed

2. Dance Leader Training Subsidies - *Wendy VanderMeulen*

- The open letter about the availability of bursaries was sent out via the eBulletin system on January 4th. Time will tell if anyone responds. I will approach Gerry Johnson about publishing the letter in Square Time, as well.
- Earlier, we got a request from someone in Kingston about whether or not there was any financial assistance available for a person attending a Callers' School. The request was sent to Dave Western, who passed it on to me. I responded to the person with a personal message and a copy of the open letter on December 18th. I have not heard back from that person.
- With the loss of Paul Adams, it is vital that we all keep our eyes and ears open for dancers who have the skills that could translate into being a caller. We NEED callers – and cuers and other dance leaders. Remember, sometimes a person just needs to be prompted think about being a leader. It may lead to some concrete results.

3. Scheduling Conflicts - *Geoff Clarke*

- Chapter 26.4 has been revised & the updated version has now been published on the website. The webmaster has already posted the grand-fathered dates to the Events Calendar through 2021. An e-bulletin will be issued shortly to advise the clubs of the update.

4. New Dancer Celebration - *Teena Clarke*

- It has been brought to my attention that last year's New Dancer Celebration envelope did not have a 'free coupon' to the next year's Frosty Fling. (in 2020).
 - This year's 2020 package was to contain the Society Pin plus a welcome letter from the EOSARDA President which also included a 'free coupon' to the 2021 Frosty Fling. That was the plan!
 - But, it seems the new Basic dancers (that started this past September) will already be admitted "free" to the 2020 Frosty Fling in February. So, now it's obviously redundant to hand those same dancers another "free coupon" to the 2021 Frosty Fling, when at that time they are no longer 'new' Basic dancers!!
 - Perhaps the New Dancer Celebration envelope that will be given to those dancers completing at the end of this season should only contain the 'Welcome Letter' from our President and the 'Society Square Dance Pin'?
- ***Before I move forward on this, I am open to any suggestions or ideas for the contents of the envelope beyond what is presently planned.***

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

- Helen has created a spreadsheet that captures the 'Debut Year' of all EOSARDA Clubs and their 'upcoming' Anniversaries so that they can be 'recognized' at the appropriate times.
- This spreadsheet also identifies the leaders of those same clubs and captures their 'Calling Debut' so that their 'next' anniversary will be recognized.
- This is a 'work in progress' as there's a couple of clubs that have not yet responded, or provided the details requested. However, we do have most clubs/callers information captured so that the appropriate recognition can take place at the right time!
- "Recognition of Club Members" (that go above & beyond) is still under discussion as to how this can be done. The question is: How do we help individual clubs to recognize the people who are doing those little extra things to make the club run smoothly?
- More discussion is needed on how we (EOSARDA) can be more 'inclusive'? (eg: Opeongo; Lakeshore, Otonabee, etc.)

NIL REPORTS from the following portfolios:-

1. **Square Time** - Gerry Johnson
2. **EOSARDA Dance Dangles** - Helgi Goodman/Geoff Clarke