

EOSARDA Board Meeting

1:30 pm Sunday, 18 April 2021

Attendees:

Geoff Clarke	Teena Clarke	Gavin Currie	Barb Englehart
Ron Gardner	Pat Gauthier	Gerry Johnson	Lamar Mason
Bob Pitruniak	Arlo Speer	Wendy VanderMeulen	Dave Western

Regrets: Jacques Chesnais

1. Call to Order

1.1. Opening Remarks Appendix A – Dave Western

2. Record of 21 February 2021 Meeting

– Arlo Speer

MOTION: Speer / Currie that the record of the 21 February Board meeting be accepted.

CARRIED

3. Committee Reports

3.1. Financial Report	Appendix B	– Bob Pitruniak
3.2. Registrar Report	Nil Report	– Barb Englehart
3.3. Dance Committee	Appendix C	– Wendy VanderMeulen
3.4. <i>Swing into Spring</i> Report	Appendix D	– Arlo Speer
3.5. Publicity Committee Report	Appendix E	– Lamar Mason
3.6. Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation Report	Appendix F	– Barb Englehart
3.7. Club Liaison Group	Nil Report	– Geoff Clarke

3.8. **MOTION:** Mason / VanderMeulen that the reports be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

4. Business Arising from the Past Record

4.1. Council of Dancers (Annual General Meeting) – Dave Western

The Board confirmed 27 June as the date for our Annual General Meeting (Council of Dancers).

Potential agenda:

- Election of new Board
- Approval of 2021/2022 budget
- Dave will prepare a discussion paper on returning to dancing
- Publicity Committee will provide information about potential promotional activities
- Questions clubs need to answer in order to resume dancing

4.2. Budget for 2021/2022 – Bob Pitruniak

A draft budget will be prepared based on a January return to dancing.

4.3. Return to Dancing – Dave Western

There was a general discussion about returning to dancing. The consensus was that it is unlikely we'll be able to start before January.

5. New Business

5.1. New EOSARDA logo

– Lamar Mason

The Publicity Committee presented a design for a new EOSARDA logo (Appendix G).

MOTION: Mason / Johnson that the new logo be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

Lamar will co-ordinate with Gerry (Square Time), Geoff (Club Liaison), Arlo (eoDance and EOSARDA Bulletins) about promoting the new logo.

5.2. Chapter 20 -- EOSARDA Procedures (Dance Manual) – Wendy VanderMeulen

- Dance committee will create a list of changes to the document
- Chapter 20 will be presented for approval at the next Board meeting.

5.3. EOSARDA using "Square Dancing - Eastern Ontario" Facebook page – Lamar Mason

The "Square Dancing-Eastern Ontario" Facebook page is prepared to post dance information from EOSARDA. That Facebook page contains the statement "*This page represents the love for dance, the Eastern Ontario Square & Round Dance Association "EOSARDA" and all member clubs.*"

Wendy volunteered to set up an EOSARDA Facebook page.

Lamar and Wendy will coordinate to establish procedures for the operation of the Facebook page.

5.4. Slate of nominees for the 2021-2022 Board of Directors – Dave Western

Teena, Pat, Bob have indicated they will not return to the Board next year.

5.5. Next Square Time Edition -- Gerry Johnson

While the proposed publication date is not yet firm, Gerry is seeking material for a spring online edition.

6. Next Board Meeting

Board meeting ... **Sunday 16 May, 13:30**

Approval of Chapter 20 of Procedures Manual

Finalise Council of Dancers agenda

Finalise budget

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84894137415?pwd=bXdHbVVCK041bDVEUIVhR2VUUbGErQT09>

Meeting ID: 848 9413 7415

Passcode: MayFlowers

Council of Dancers: **Sunday 27 June 13:30**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81362330832?pwd=WXXJvSlJmZVJlV0VtQzVMcGlZb08zZz09>

Meeting ID: 813 6233 0832

Passcode: Dancing

Appendix A: Opening Remarks

We are now 13 months into the COVID-19 pandemic and the end is not yet in sight. While it is true that vaccines are beginning to get into more and more Canadian arms, it is also true that we are in a race with the new “variants of concern”. For now, the variants are winning with hospitals and ICU’s filling up with COVID patients. The road to recovery continues to be long and elusive.

As a result of the “3rd Wave” of infections, the resumption of dancing this autumn is becoming more and more problematic. A start date of January 2022 seems more likely, but even this may prove optimistic. All we can do is wait and see how events will unfold.

Over the past year, this Board has worked hard to keep the spirit of dancing alive in Eastern Ontario. Thank you for your dedication and perseverance under difficult circumstances. I know that we are all eager to get back on the dance floor, but it looks like these efforts will have to continue for a while longer.

We are now nearing the end of Dance Year 2020/21 - the Dance Year that never was. This Board’s term of office will come to an end with the election of a new Board at our Annual General Meeting, currently scheduled for June 27. I have enjoyed working with all of you over this past year, together we have made a strong team. I would like nothing more than to continue our working relationship in the year ahead. But I know that for various reasons some of you have decided not to serve again next year. To those individuals, on behalf of the dancers you have served so well, I thank you for your service. You will be missed

To those of you who are prepared to serve for another year, thank you for your on-going service and dedication. The presence of experienced Directors on the Board is essential for the on-going health and viability of this association.

But we also need to recruit some new Directors who will bring with them new insights and ideas to help us meet the challenges ahead. The task of recruiting new Board members may be made easier by our on-going use of Zoom which looks like it is going to be with us for the foreseeable future. If you know of any likely candidates, please reach out to them and try to convince them to join EOSARDA’s Board for 2021/22.

The year ahead will be a challenging one, but I am confident that together we will meet and overcome the challenges.

Dave Western

Appendix B: Financial Reports

1. Current results

I include a summary of activity since 01 July 2020 and including results up to 16 Apr 2021

Since we have essentially shut down for the fiscal year, there will be little change to the results you see here between now and the end of June. What you see in this report will be very close to our year-end results.

The office expenses reported in April are for finally reimbursing David Western for his mailing expenses incurred sending out the Trillium awards.

Again, print this report in landscape mode.

2. Financial compliance

No change.

3. Online access to bank account

The next step with online bank account access will be to setup the acceptance of e-payments. I will work on this during the summer and report back. The primary motivation for this is to allow SquareTime advertisers who do not use cheques to easily pay their advertising bills. No change since last report.

4. Streamlining EOSARDA financial management

During the past 2 years the Treasurer and Registrar have been working together to make the management of chqs received more efficient. In the past the Treasurer and Registrar were close enough together that chqs received by the Registrar could be passed to the Treasurer for deposit. Now the two are 70km apart and who knows what the future will be so physical passing of chqs is not practical.

We have enabled to the Registrar to make deposits at the nearest TD Bank branch and that has worked much better. The next step will be to obtain an EOSARDA TD Bank card for the Registrar so she can

- identify herself and the account at a TD Bank branch when making a deposit
- make TD ATM deposits
- make mobile deposits

This will happen at a convenient time in the future. No change since last report.

Bob Pitruniak
Treasurer, EOSARDA

NOTE: Additional information has been omitted from the on-line version but is available upon Request to Secretary@EOSARDA.ca

Appendix C: Dance Committee

Dance Manual

When Barbara Englehart retired from the Dance Committee, her recommendation to Wendy was to start with a revision of the Dance Manual (Chapter 20 of the EOSARDA Procedures Manual). This task was undertaken, and the final version of the Manual was approved by the Committee after their meeting on 14 April 2021. It is attached to this report.

Frosty Fling

With Frosty Fling being the only EOSARDA-sponsored dance currently being held, the Dance Committee confirmed that the dance must continue to be arranged in a format that focuses on our NEW dancers, be they round dancers or square dancers.

However, with the assumption that dancing will NOT be back to normal before January 2022, the Dance Committee came up with the idea that the 2022 version of Frosty Fling be an open dance that focuses on REVIEW for all returning dancers. We understand that Clubs will be holding their own reviews, but we also believe that dancers will be looking forward to getting together at an open dance with their friends from across the Association. We will keep the idea in mind and see how the return to dancing transpires. In that regard, we will look again at the idea sometime in the fall.

Committee Members

With Barbara no longer on the committee, we would like to fill her spot with another volunteer. That person may or may not be on the EOSARDA Board. We will consider possible additions to the committee and ask that you all keep the thought in mind, as well (or volunteer yourself! 😊).

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy VanderMeulen
Dance Committee Chair

Appendix D: Swing into Spring



With COVID restrictions still in place, the *Swing into Spring* Committee remains hopeful of operating an event in 2022 but has no further news to share since our February report.

We will keep you up to date with Square Time articles, information on www.SwingintoSpring.ca and posts on www.facebook.com/PrescottSiS. Please keep watch!

Be safe, Stay well!

Submitted April 2021, by
Arlo Speer, Liaison to EOSARDA & Simone Cyr, Liaison to SVSRDA

Appendix E: Publicity Committee

Activities:

1. **Masks:** With one exception, all ordered masks have been delivered. The Publicity Committee ordered a few extra masks in the event of late orders and have sold two from these extras. A few square and round dance masks still remain.

Some people have had difficulty with the “toggle” attachment but, with guidance, have either converted the masks to one with ear straps or found a comfortable way to use the original design. Overall, people seem pleased with this initiative.

2. **Staying Connected:** The Publicity Committee continues to issue informative ebuletins. We hope to move into a “reconnect” mode soon as the focus shifts to restarting dancing now hopefully sooner than later.
3. **Social media initiatives:** The Publicity Committee believes that EOSARDA’s social media presence needs modernizing if we are to be ready to attract people to dance when they start looking to get back to social interactions. We are therefore following the very useful weekly (and monthly) webinars being hosted by the BC Square and Round Dance Federations and looking at ways we might enhance our online presence. We will be reaching out to our Technology Committee once we have concrete suggestions to discuss and work on together.
4. **Future EOSARDA-sponsored recruitment events:** The Publicity Committee is looking ahead to major events in 2022, including restarting the previously planned demonstration in Kingston and the International Plowing Festival in Kemptville.

Submitted by Lamar Mason
Chair, Publicity Committee
for Carole Lauzon and Gloria Bateman

Appendix F: Ontario Square & Round Dance Federation

The Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation held both their board meeting and AGM on Saturday, April 17, 2021.

It was all agreed that these are challenging times due to COVID 19. The past-president couple, Wayne & Sharron Hall announced their retirement from OSRDF as well as from T&D association. Wayne may continue to do some calling here and there.

The financials show a slight loss as of March 31, 2021. This is largely due to the revamp of the Federation website which the Board approved at the meeting April 17, 2021. Since there is no dancing there is no money coming in from registrations however overall, between what is in the bank and GICs the overall financial status is good.

Anyone who was registered for the convention should have received refunds by now. Plans are still underway for Convention 2022. So far there are at least 222 registrants. The Crown Plaza Hotel is accepting reservations. It is located right across from the convention center. The Hilton Hotel will not be accepting reservations until July 21, 2021.

Regarding insurance for COVID related incidents, it has been determined that there are no insurers that will take on that risk. If dancing commences while COVID is still a threat, the organizer will be on the hook for anything that happens as a result.

Three of the four associations submitted reports each basically with the same messages of staying in touch with the dance community, dancing via zoom, and providing links to information available from across the country as to what other areas may be thinking in terms of getting back to dancing.

Arlo has spent many hours to revamp the Trillium Award process, forms and guidelines in an effort to make it all easier for people to submit their nominations. This is all available on the OSRDF website.

There have been comments made that the website content is outdated. The board feels that this is most likely in reference to the Insurance and Membership sections. Nothing was done with them since dancing was not something that was being done for the last year however those sections will be updated so that they are ready should dancing resume by Fall 2021.

Federation will be looking at the Ontario government plan with respect to financial assistance through the Trillium Foundation set up to assist non-profits recover from COVID-19 by offering grants. The hope is that they would qualify and would then be in a position to share any benefits among the registered clubs to help them get back to dancing.

The next Federation meeting will be held August 29th, 2021.

Barb Englehart,
Secretary, OSRDF

Appendix G: Proposal for new EOSARDA logo

EOSARDA Publicity Committee

Rationale

The Publicity Committee believes that the end of the pandemic is a perfect time to revitalize EOSARDA's social media and online presence to attract new dancers. Part of that effort involves ensuring that the organization has a modern, attractive logo. A new logo has been discussed as recently as in 2018-2019 but no concrete proposal was presented. Following on that earlier discussion, the Publicity Committee is bringing forward a new logo for consideration by the Board of Directors and Council of Dancers (if required).

Proposal

Below is the proposed logo. It was developed by a professional graphic designer following input from the committee and research on existing square dance logos for the Ontario Federation and Canadian Society, as well as other organizations.

The new logo:

- Modern
- Colourful but clear
- Clearly identifies the organization
- Reflects the desire for common branding by using the Live Lively logo
- Reflects our presence in Ontario by using the trillium symbol
- Is more representative of EOSARDA's membership by removing the Parliament Buildings, which is specific to Ottawa
- Works well in both large and small format
- Is uncluttered but can be combined with additional information, if required (see examples)

Considerations

We looked at including "EOSARDA" as part of the logo but felt it just made the design more cluttered. In small format, the lettering would be almost unreadable if added, for example, below the green swoop or across the top with the organization's full name underneath but in smaller font. While current dancers refer to the organization as EOSARDA (and many do not even know what it stands for), it is important that all dancers, especially new ones, come to know the organization by its correct name. It would be possible to add the website, for example, below the logo if contact information was needed, but the logo clearly represents the organization.

Cost

Cost for this design is \$50 if we purchase it. Modifications would be a slight extra. The final version would be provided in an ai, jpg and pdf file.

Action

The Publicity Committee is seeking the input of the EOSARDA Directors on this proposal, and hopefully its approval of this design. We would then bring it to the Council of Dancers, if required, at its next meeting.

The proposed logo



Examples of how it could be used:

FOR POSTERS, WEBSITE,
ADVERTISING



www.eosarda.ca

Letterhead/Ebulletins



Your Publicity Committee, working with you
to promote square, round and line dancing