

EOSARDA Board Meeting

1:30 pm Sunday, 16 May 2021

Zoom

Attendees:

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

1. Call to Order

- 1.1. Opening Remarks Appendix A – Dave Western

2. Record of 18 April 2021 Meeting

– Arlo Speer

- 2.1. **MOTION:** Speer / VanderMeulen that the record of our 18 April 2021 meeting be adopted. **CARRIED**

3. Committee Reports

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| 3.1. Financial Report | Appendix B | – Bob Pitruniak |
| 3.2. Registrar | Nil Report | |
| 3.3. Dance Committee | Appendix C | – Wendy VanderMeulen |
| 3.4. <i>Swing into Spring</i> | Appendix D | – Arlo Speer |
| 3.5. Ottawa Area Callers Association | Nil Report | |
| 3.6. Publicity Committee | Nil Report | |
| 3.7. Technology Committee | Nil Report | |
| 3.8. Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation | Nil Report | |
| 3.9. Club Liaison Group | Appendix E | – Geoff Clarke |

- 3.10. **MOTION:** Mason / Currie that the committee reports be accepted. **CARRIED**

4. Business Arising from the Past Record

- 4.1. Approval of Chapter 20 of the Procedures (Dance Manual) – Wendy VanderMeulen
Item 5.2 from 18 April meeting – Circulated 01 May by Wendy

MOTION: VanderMeulen / Currie that the revision to Chapter 20 of the Procedures (Dance Manual) be approved. **CARRIED**

- 4.2. Return to Dancing (Dave's Draft Discussion Paper) – Dave Western

Item 4.3 from 18 April meeting Appendix F

Dave will revise the paper to shorten it for distribution to club presidents

The Paper should begin with a clear statement that EOSARDA provides no direction to clubs but offers items to be considered by clubs; the paper should end with information about what we expect of clubs at the coming Council of Dancers meeting.

- 4.3. Status of EOSARDA's Facebook presence – Lamar Mason/ Wendy VanderMeulen

Item 5.3 from 18 April meeting

Subject to Publicity Committee agreeing to the initiative, Wendy will undertake the development of a new EOSARDA Facebook page.

- 4.4. Slate of nominees to be presented to Council of Dancers – Dave Western

Item 5.4 from 18 April meeting Appendix G

We will circulate this list to Council of Dancers through a call letter providing the time and place of the meeting, along with requests for additional nominees.

In the hope of attracting more volunteers, the Board agreed that the majority of its meetings will be held through Zoom even when face-to-face meetings become possible again.

5. New Business

5.1. Registration of our new logo

– Gerry Johnson

Registration of the logo is likely to take up to 2 years to complete and would likely cost in the neighbourhood of \$2,000.

The Board agreed that minimal value would be gained from registering the logo and therefore, the Board agreed not to proceed with registration of the logo at this time.

5.2. 2021/22 Draft Budget

Appendix H

– Bob Pitruniak

MOTION: Pitruniak / Currie that the Board accept the budget as presented. **CARRIED**

The Board agreed to circulate the budget to those who have confirmed attendance at the upcoming Council of Dancers meeting.

5.3. Council of Dancers Potential Agenda

– Dave Western

The Board confirmed Sunday 27 June as the date for the next Council of Dancers meeting, with the following agenda:

- Reports from committee chairs
- Election of new Board
- Approval of 2021/2022 budget
- Potential promotional activities
- Return to Dancing
 - Discussion paper on returning to dancing
 - Questions clubs need to answer to resume dancing

NOTE: The newly elected Board will meet immediately following the Council of Dancers meeting to assign officers and committee chairs, and to set the schedule of future meetings.

All Board members are requested to use their contacts to encourage participants to attend the meeting.

We will ask dancers attending the meeting to register by 20 June; Committee Chairs agreed to provide reports to Arlo on 20 June. Arlo will provide meeting information to participants as soon as possible after 20 June; hopefully by 24 June.

6. Next Meeting

Council of Dancers, unless circumstances require a Board meeting sooner.

Meeting adjourned at 14:49.

Council of Dancers: Sunday 27 June 13:30

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81362330832?pwd=WXJvSlJmZVJlV0VtQzVMcGlZb08zZz09>

Meeting ID: 813 6233 0832

Passcode: Dancing

Appendix A: Opening Remarks

It's been 14 long months since the current nightmare began and there is still no end in sight. Vaccines are finally rolling out in significant numbers as the supply increases, but Canadians are continuing to die from COVID-19 (over 24,600 at the latest count) and the ICUs across the country continue to be seriously overcrowded. The possibility of returning to dancing this September seems unlikely, but not impossible. January 2021 is looking like a better bet, but some people are looking towards September 2021 or even later. No one really knows.

It's going to depend on how quickly a large majority of Canadians can get fully vaccinated. As the old saying goes, "Time will tell."

Through all of these trials and tribulations, this Board has worked hard to keep dancing alive in the hearts and minds of our members. It hasn't always been easy. I'm sure that there have been times when each of us has wondered if we will ever dance again. But your dedication and perseverance have been exemplary. I am proud to have served with you all over these past two years. I am confident that together we will see this unprecedented crisis through to a successful conclusion.

Dave Western
President
EOSARDA

Appedix B: Treasurer's Report

1. Current results

I include a summary of activity since 01 July 2020 and including results up to 14 May 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 misc revenue is what Publicity netted on the sale of masks. 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, EOSARA

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

Appendix C: Dance Committee Report

The Dance Manual has been completed and sent to the Board members under separate email. Upon final 'Okay' it will be sent to the Web Master so the online version can be updated. As well, a Bulletin will go out advising EOSARDA clubs of the new edition.

You will notice that the 2021-2022 budget has Revenues and Expenses listed for Frosty Fling. The Dance Committee is proposing to host a "Get the Rust Off" dance on the usual date of Frosty Fling. This assumes that dancing will begin again in January and dancers will be eager to visit with dancers outside of their own clubs. We will see what the reaction is when it is brought up at the Council of Dancers Meeting.

Wendy VanderMeulen
Dance Committee Chair

Appendix D: Swing into Spring Report



As we said last month, 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 on behalf of the *Swing into Spring Committee* February 2021, by
Simone Cyr, Liaison to SVSRDA & Arlo Speer, Liaison to EOSARDA

Appendix E: Club Liaison Group Report

Committee Chair remarks re: Budget 2021-22

After discussions (by email) I've had with most members of the committee, the general consensus is that for the 2021-22 dance season, the majority of the portfolios do not see the need for any funding because of the anticipated 're-start' date of Jan/Feb 2022.

Further, as all our 'efforts' in that shortened time frame (Jan to May) will be towards getting our 'regular' dancers back on the dance floor, the specific Club Liaison portfolios (#3, 4, 5, 7 below) that would normally be 'active' (& requiring funding) will be dormant. The one possible exception is that of 'New Dancer Celebrations', and the rationale for 2020-21 budget is contained below.

1. New Dancer Celebration – Teena Clarke

Rationale: - It is possible that Square Dancing may resume in either late 2021 or early 2022. In that eventuality, I would like to have in the budget sufficient monies available for "Celebration of New Dancers". This may not be needed, but if it is in the budget then it will be available.

Presently I have on hand approximately 75 CSRDS pins. I would like to keep on hand 100 pins. I would not purchase these pins until the spring of 2022 and only if needed.

Proposed Budget for New Dancer Celebrations for 2021-22

1. Purchase of 25 CSRDS pins @ \$3.50 ea. + \$25 postage	= \$112.50
2. Office materials, postage, etc.	= 50.00
3. Travel expenses to the clubs for presentations	= 500.00
TOTAL	= \$662.50

2. Square Time - Gerry Johnson

So far, I have only received one item, an obituary. I know I can get updates from Publicity but little else. I will be sending out a request after our board meeting. We may do a small issue in early June, and perhaps another in August.

NIL REPORTS from the following portfolios:-

3. **Recognition & Awards** - Helen MacCallum/Ron Gardner
4. **Dance Leader Training** – Ron Gardner
5. **New Dancer Recruitment Subsidy** - Jacques Chesnais
6. **Scheduling Conflicts** - Geoff Clarke
7. **Dance Dangles** – Helgi Goodman/ Geoff Clarke

Submitted by: Geoff Clarke, Chair - Club Liaison

Appendix F: Return to Dancing (Draft Discussion Paper)

Post COVID Return to Dancing

A Discussion Paper

At some point, hopefully in the not-too-distant future, we are going to be able to return to the dance floor. But when that day comes, starting up is not going to be as simple as re-booking a dance hall and inviting people to come and dance.

Whether managed by a dance leader or a club executive, long before the first dancer steps onto the dance floor, clubs are going to have to take a number of factors into consideration and make a lot of hard decisions. The following is a list of some of the issues that club executives will have to address. It is not an exhaustive list. Local conditions may require other factors to be taken into consideration.

1. Provincial and Local Health Authority Requirements

These are arguably the single most important items that clubs must take into account when considering starting dancing again.

The executives of any club that commences dancing in contravention of local or provincial health ordinances or that fails to fully respect all applicable conditions imposed by any level of government could find themselves facing criminal and civil penalties ranging from large fines up to and including incarceration.

Furthermore, in the event of a COVID outbreak resulting from a club's failure to respect all health guidelines, club executives could be sued for damages by the facility owner and/or by a dancer who has suffered personal injury as a result of the club's negligence. There is no COVID-related insurance available in Canada at this time, therefore, the payment of any damages assessed by the courts will fall on the club executives as will the cost of defending themselves against a law suit unless a court decides otherwise.

2. Facility Availability, Cost and Rental Conditions

Even after governments permit the resumption of dancing, it may be some time before facility owners are willing to begin renting their facilities to outside groups. Schools in particular may be particularly hesitant to do so. Clubs will, therefore, have to determine well in advance of any proposed start-up date whether their facility of choice will be available when needed.

Post-COVID rental costs may also be significantly higher than they were previously, since facility owners may be faced with higher sanitization costs. In addition, facility owners may impose conditions or restrictions on renters that go beyond those imposed by local and provincial health authorities. Such conditions may include capacity limits, physical distancing requirements and sanitizing protocols. In light of the inability to purchase COVID insurance, a security deposit may also be required.

All of these factors could result in higher per dancer costs which will have to be taken into account when setting club fees.

Clubs must be thoroughly familiar with any facility-related restrictions or conditions and must be prepared to ensure compliance with them since failure to do so could result in the cancellation of rental agreements and the imposition of financial penalties.

3. Discretionary Protocols

Externally imposed restrictions or conditions constitute the minimum requirements that a club must respect in order for dancing to resume. Clubs may also choose to impose additional requirements on their dancers. These could include such things as:

- \$ COVID Questionnaires
- \$ Vaccine requirements and vaccine certification
- \$ Residency requirements
- \$ Capacity limits
- \$ Temperature checks at the door
- \$ Mask mandates
- \$ Physical distancing requirements
- \$ Sanitization requirements and washroom protocols

a) COVID Questionnaires

These are used by many hospitals and businesses to identify people who may constitute a risk of infection. They may be completed orally or in writing.

If a club chooses to make use of such a tool, it will have to determine:

- what questions to ask
- when the questionnaire will have to be completed (in advance and/or at the door)
- how to gather and review the information
- the frequency of completion (weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually?)
- who will have access to the information
- how the information will be protected
- how the information will be used

b) Vaccine Requirements and Vaccine Certification

Unless vaccine requirements are mandated by the health authorities, clubs are going to have to determine what approach they wish to take to this contentious issue. Options include:

- not imposing any vaccine requirement on dancers
- requiring all dancers to have received at least one dose of an approved vaccine within a specified time frame
- requiring all dancers to have received the full recommended dose of an approved vaccine within a specified time frame
- providing for a health-related exemption from the vaccine requirement
- allowing dancers to opt out of any vaccine requirement for certain specified reasons

Where a vaccine requirement is imposed, clubs will also have to determine how to verify compliance with that requirement. Options include:

- simply asking dancers to comply with this requirement (the honour system)
- requiring an oral or a written statement of compliance
- requiring proof of vaccination issued by a competent medical authority
- requiring written proof of inability to comply with the vaccination requirement for medical reasons

c) Residency Requirements

Authorization to resume dancing may be granted on a province-wide basis or by specified regions. A province-wide authorization may be open-ended or may impose restrictions on out-of-province travel. This could cause some difficulty for clubs located in border regions such as Cornwall and Prescott, which may have to advise club members residing outside of Ontario that they cannot begin dancing until a later date.

This problem becomes more acute in the event of a regional-based authorization to resume dancing since, as we saw in February and March, some regions may open up before adjacent areas. In such an eventuality, clubs will have to decide whether they are going to verify members' residency and impose attendance restrictions accordingly, or leave the decision on whether to dance or not up to individual dancers.

d) Capacity Limits

The most likely source of facility capacity limits is government health regulations. However, in the absence of a government-imposed capacity limit, after many months of physical distancing, some dancers may not be comfortable in crowded areas and may wish to see a cap on the number of people who may be in the dance hall at any one time.

e) Temperature Checks at the Door

Many Canadian employers, some medical facilities, some specialized retail outlets and even some American dance clubs require attendees to undergo a temperature check before they are allowed to access the premises. Anyone with a higher than normal temperature is refused admission.

Unless government regulations require temperature checks, this is an option which clubs may not wish to implement as it requires the purchase of proper equipment and the presence of someone who knows how to use it. However, it can provide an increased level of comfort to club members and provides club executives with further proof that they have exercised due diligence in the planning and running of the event.

f) Mask Mandates

As with capacity limits, the lead on mask mandates is most likely to be taken by government health authorities. Where masks are mandated, there is a strong onus on club executives to make sure that masks are worn when and as required. This may include having to dance while wearing a mask.

Unfortunately, mask mandates have become a political hot potato and consequently they are being abandoned in some jurisdictions against the advice of medical experts who are urging that masks continue to be worn where physical distancing cannot be maintained, particularly indoors. That is because, while not yet conclusive, medical evidence indicates that vaccinated individuals may still contract COVID, albeit apparently a less serious version, and may pass it on to other people.

In the event that mandatory "mask mandates" become voluntary "mask protocols", club executives will have to determine what the club's mask protocol will be. Options include:

- no formal mask protocol, leave it up to individual dancer to decide whether to wear a mask;
- require masks to be worn by dancers when entering or leaving the dance hall;
- require masks to be worn at all times while in the dance hall, except when dancing;
- require masks to be worn at all times when in the dance hall, including when dancing;

Whichever option is adopted other than the first one, clubs will also have to decide whether to make an exception for those who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons, and if so, how this exemption will be managed.

g) Physical distancing requirements

When it comes to restarting dancing, physical distancing rules can be a deal breaker, and the impact of these rules on the various types of dancing varies significantly:

- \$ Line dancing can be done with fairly large dancer separation
- \$ Round dancing can also be done with adequate separation between dancing couples, although dance partners would likely have to belong to the same social bubble and changing partners would probably be prohibited
- \$ Square dancing, as traditionally done, requires close dancer proximity and frequent interpersonal contact among 8 people who are unlikely to belong in the same social bubble, making the maintenance of any degree of physical distancing difficult if not impossible.

Like wearing masks, the requirement for maintaining physical distance among individuals, particularly indoors, is most likely going to be a matter of public policy. The challenge for a club that wants to start dancing while physical distancing rules are in place will be two fold:

- the club will have to determine whether dancing is possible under the rules; and
- if so, how physical distancing can be maintained on the dance floor.

In the absence of public health requirements for indoor physical distancing, club executives will have to decide whether the club should impose its own physical distancing rules, and if so, what these rules should be.

h) Sanitization requirements and washroom protocols

Where sanitization requirements impose an obligation on the lessee, facility operators will have to include them in their rental agreements. Club executives will need to fully understand all such requirements and take whatever steps are necessary to ensure compliance.

But the peculiarities of the dancing environment may require additional sanitization requirements, such as:

- \$ Will hand shakes and hugging be either prohibited or discouraged?
- \$ Will hand sanitizing between tips be compulsory?
- \$ What happens if a dancer coughs or sneezes into his/her hands?
- \$ Will there be formal restrictions on the sharing of dance leader microphones?
- \$ Will washrooms be available and with what conditions, if any?
- \$ Will hand washing/sanitizing after using the washroom be compulsory?

4. Communication

Whatever the club rules, whether externally imposed or internally adopted, it is essential that all dancers, whether regular or occasional, have a full understanding of what the club rules entail and what the consequences of non-compliance will be.

To that end, clubs may wish to publish their rules in an easily understood document and ensure that copies are given to all their regular dancers prior to restarting dancing. Copies of the club rules should also be available at the door for occasional dancers or anyone who has not previously received a copy.

Clubs may also wish to consider requiring all dancers, prior to being allowed into the hall, to sign a document indicating that they have read, understood and are prepared to abide by the club rules.

5. Compliance

In a perfect world, there would be no need to talk about compliance with the rules. But this is not a perfect world. It is replete with misinformation, particularly about COVID, and society is becoming increasingly divided over issues where in the past common sense and good judgement would have ruled the day. Whatever rules a club may choose to adopt, even ones that are the least intrusive and allow a maximum of personal choice, someone is going to object.

The first and best way to deal with such objection is to ensure that club members are consulted on the proposed rules well in advance of dancing starting up again; that they are given ample opportunity to comment on any and all proposed rules; and that they understand what rules are being adopted and why. It should also be clear who is to deal with dancers who disagree with the club's rules and how such disagreements will be resolved.

But inevitably someone who is not prepared to follow the rules is going to seek admission to a club event. The time to decide how to deal with such a refusal is not at the time it arises. By then it is already too late,

Club executives must decide in advance:

- what action to take if someone refuses to comply with the club rules
- how to deal with an escalating incidence of non-compliance
- when to get the police involved
- who will be responsible for taking each action
- what the consequences of non-compliance will be

I realize that this is a lot to take in. But if dancing is to resume again, these are things with which we are going to have to deal. We all want to get back to normality. But it may be a very long time before post-COVID reality bears much resemblance to the reality that we all knew and loved prior to the pandemic. If we are to survive, and I am convinced we can, then we are going to have to adapt as necessary.

Dave Western
President
EOSARDA

Appendix G: Preliminary List of 2021/2022 Nominees to Board

The following preliminary list of nominees for the coming year's Board is based on the understanding that 3 Directors will not be returning next year: Teena Clarke (who will continue to serve as a volunteer on Club Liaison), Bob Pitruniak (who has offered to help the new Treasurer), and Pat Gauthier.

The following Board members have indicated their willingness to stand for nomination to next year's Board:

Jacques Chesnais
Geoff Clarke
Gavin Currie
Barbara Englehart
Ron Gardner
Gerry Johnson
Lamar Mason
Bob Pitruniak
Arlo Speer
Wendy VanderMeulen
Dave Western

Additional nominations may be put forward until the Association's Annual General Meeting, currently scheduled as an online meeting at 1:30pm on Sunday, June 27, 2021.

Appendix H: Preliminary 2021/22 Budget

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

Budget Assumptions

for budget dated 2021-05-14

1 General

Dancing will resume in January 2022. Thus, expenses will be for half a year of operations.

2 Revenue

EOSARDA Dues: We have been losing dancers every year due to old age/dropouts. This year we must expect the same plus dancers who choose not to return until things are more stable. The assumption here is that we get 85% of our dues paying dancers back. This could be a high first guess because there might be clubs who cannot return because of reduced numbers or space that has become unaffordable. Pick a percentage of returning dancers - 85% is an opening and optimistic number.

Note that dancers who return will pay full EOSARDA dues because these dues cover the insurance costs which are on a calendar year basis. The club fees paid by dancers would be for only the winter dance session.

Complicating the calculation is the secondary assumption that there will be no recruitment of new dancers. Clubs and returning dancers will have enough to do learning how to manage dancing in new times without trying to introduce new dancers at this time. Open for quibbling on this one.

Dance revenue: There will be an EOSARDA winter dance this year.

SquareTime: There will be fewer dances advertised so reduced income here.

3 Expenses

OSRDF Dues: As per the revenue assumption, 85% of what we last paid.

Board meetings: We pay for Zoom again

Office expenses: All stamp purchases lately BUT added \$200 here to account for expenses to become compliant with Province of Ontario corporate reporting requirements,

Publicity: By the end of 2020/21, publicity will begin promoting the 2021/22 dance year to get new dancers interested for September 2022